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TECH AND THE ELECTION

The world is changing quickly. Can John McCain keep up, or will the maverick be left in the dust?

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CRAIG CALEFATE/THE OBSERVER

New York City Flows into Fall

As summer skies give way to the changing leaves of autumn, New Yorkers see their city in a whole new light.

Bloomberg to City: Drop Dead

The Mayor's Sneaky Scramble for a Third Term

By YELENA AMBARTSUMIAN Staff Writer

New Yorkers overwhelmingly voted in support of term limits in 1993 and 1996. Now Mayor Bloomberg thinks that he is entitled to run for a third term without voter consent.

The deadline for adding the term limit question onto this year's ballot has long passed. One option is to have a special referendum, just for this issue.

Rates of Binge Drinking Among College Females Increase

Experts Attribute Increase to Low Self-Esteem and Media

By CASEY FELDMAN News Editor

The rate of binge drinking among young women is increasing, according to a recent study on underage drinking, and Fordham women, some of whom seem to be part of the trend, are wondering why, along with the experts.

"You now hear that phrase 'Oh god, I was THAT girl at the party

last night," said Cassie Foote, FCLC '10, who turned 21 in September. "The one who's fall-down drunk, smeared make-up, making out with everyone until she vomits. Instead of the frat guy, it's 'that girl'—I think the stigma [regarding women and drinking] has definitely changed," she said.

While the rate of binge drinking among underage college women is increasing, the rate of binge drinking among underage college men has remained relatively constant, according to a study on underage drinking released this year by Georgetown University's Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth.

James S. MacDonall, a professor of psychology at Fordham who has conducted research involving addiction and substance abuse, cited the "women's liberation movement" as a major reason for the increase in the number of women who binge drink.

"Women used to drink less and be drunk less often in public. [Women] are no longer treated differently than men," he said.

Gerry Russo, a licensed clinical social worker who taught psychology classes on addiction at Marymount Manhattan, compared modern women's drinking habits to those in the 1960s.

"I know that there were girls drinking when I was in high school, getting [trashed]," said Russo. "But nobody talked about it; it was all hidden. I think there's always been a tremendous amount of drinking among females of all ages; they just hid it better [when I was young] because it was so socially unacceptable."

Experts and students alike also largely attributed the change in female drinking habits to media influences.

"Drunkenness in the media has definitely made women drink

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HOWARD SCHNAPP/MCT

Bloomberg wants a third term without voter consent.

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Technology takes a front seat in student/teacher communication, but professionalism may be falling by the wayside.

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"SLEEPWALK" WITH MIKE BIRBIGLIA

The comedian discusses his new off-Broadway show, Woody Allen and being in denial.

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Economic Downturn Makes ROTC More Appealing to Struggling Students

By ANDREW VACCA Staff Writer

With a soaring cost of higher education and a rising unemployment rate, the benefits offered by the ROTC may cause more students to enroll in the program. Capt. Richard Gomez, recruiting operations officer for the New York City branch of the Reserves Officer Training Corps, said that he expects more students to turn to ROTC as the economy continues to struggle.

enrollment tends to grow," he said.

The enrollment numbers for ROTC provided by Powell show a steady increase in the past five years. In 2004, the New York City branch of the ROTC, which is housed at Fordham's Rose Hill campus, had 92 participants. By the 2008 school year, the number grew to 114; today the number stands at 160.

The current unemployment rate, 6.1 percent in September, has grown nearly 30 percent since the same month in 2007, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. The cost of

college continues to increase as well; according to the College Board, the average annual tuition for a private university stands at \$23,712, up 6.3 percent from last year.

According to Lt. Col. Randy Powell, professor of military science at Fordham and chair of the New York City ROTC, members are eligible for full tuition scholarships as long as they meet the proper physical and medical requirements and maintain at least a 2.0 GPA. Students are also given a \$600 credit for books each year, as well as a gradually increas-

see ROTC pg. 4

## Briefs

## METRO

**Two Men Arrested in Newark Shootings**

The AP reports that arrests have been made in connection with a series of drive-by shootings in Newark that caused two fatalities and at least one casualty. Two men who remain unidentified were taken into police custody on Friday night. The shootings occurred in three separate locations but are believed to be related.

**Prominent Architect Chosen for New York Public Library Renovation**

According to New York 1 news, "a prominent British architect has been chosen to oversee the renovation" to the New York Public Library's main branch, a city "landmark." Norman Foster's architectural firm will "transform" the building, which "will feature new circulating collections and more computers, as well as new reading rooms overlooking Bryant Park," and is expected to cost approximately \$250 million. The project is slated to be completed by 2013.

## NATIONAL

**Oscar Winner's Mother, Brother and Nephew Found Dead**

The mother and brother of Jennifer Hudson, Academy Award-winning actress and former contestant on American Idol, were found dead in Hudson's home in Chicago on Oct. 24, according to Reuters. Three days later, her previously missing 7-year-old nephew was found dead in a stolen SUV.



MCT

**Obama's Lead Over McCain Remains Steady**

According to a CNN poll, Barack Obama has an eight-point lead over Republican opponent John McCain. Many other national polls show Obama with a lead "ranging between five points and double-digits." CNN also stated that since 1956, only two candidates who were frontrunners a week before the election ended up losing the popular vote on Election Day.

## INTERNATIONAL

**Asia and Europe Working Together Toward Ending the Financial Crisis.**

According to Reuters, leaders from Asian and European countries are working together to "try to bolster confidence among investors who fear that a global credit crunch has ushered in a deep and damaging world recession." Various world governments have promised over \$4 trillion in order to revive money markets and support further growth of banks.

**New Governing Coalition Formation Called Off in Israel full 2 lines or 3.**

The Foreign Minister of Israel, Tzipi Livni, has abandoned her efforts to form a new governing coalition in Israel, according to Reuters. The decision by the designated successor to the position of Prime Minister means elections will be held in early 2009, which Reuters says may "kill off already slim chances of meeting Washington's objective of a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians before President George W. Bush leaves office in January."



MCT

**Floods in Yemen Leave Many Dead and Missing**

Severe flooding in Yemen following torrential rains has left at least 41 dead, while 31 others remain missing, according to Reuters. After more than 30 hours of heavy rain, hundreds of families have been displaced in one of the poorest nations of the world. The eastern provinces have been declared a disaster area.

Compiled by Ashley Tedesco

# Increase in Drinking Has Many Causes

ALCOHOL FROM PAGE 1

more," said Anne Bobrick, a licensed clinical social worker in New York City who treats college-age individuals with drinking problems.

"I have a lot of young patients who watch 'Sex and the City'—and they drink a lot on that show," she said. "On 'Sex and the City' it's like, 'I have a problem, I need a drink.'"

MacDonall said, "When women are drinking and other women see them be more outgoing and see that that behavior gets rewarded and that they get more attention, other [girls] will imitate [the behavior]—" whether the role models in question are roommates or celebrities.

"The whole madness with [T.V. shows like] 'Gossip Girl' and 'Sex and the City' makes girls want to drink more," said Foote. "I think everyone is responsible for him- or herself, but [those shows make the idea] of getting dressed up, going out and getting smashed look cool."

Some experts attributed the increase in binge drinking among young women to their easy access to alcohol. "The availability of liquor is an increasing problem," said Celia Fisher, a psychology professor at Fordham who has conducted studies on college students and alcohol use.

"Not a lot of places are carding," said Megan Siemers, assistant director for programming at Fordham College at Lincoln Center (FCLC). "It's easier if you're a girl in New York City, because women can get into [bars] easier than men."

Foote said, "In New York City as opposed to a campus, it's a lot easier to put on your high heels and makeup and a [sexy] outfit and look older... I think at certain bars as soon as you start talking sweet to the bartender, they stop carding you."

Another reason girls drink? Insecurity. "Girls with lower self-esteem drink more," Bobrick said. A study from Saint Francis Xavier University indicates that girls who are unhappy with themselves drink in order to avoid—and escape from—their insecurities.

The influence of media appears to be two-fold. Girls not only see drunkenness being normalized, according to the experts consulted for this article, but the media emphasis on beauty leads to a loss of self-esteem, which can then result in excess binge drinking. Bobrick said, "I'm working with so many women who feel ugly... some respond to it with alcohol."

"When I'm getting ready [to go out], I'll drink. I don't worry about what I look like as much when I drink," said Kelly Whelan, FCLC



KISHA CLAUDE/THE OBSERVER

Experts suggest that young women binge drink more than ever because cultural factors have made female drinking more socially acceptable.

'10. Whelan said she believes girls get drunk "because then all their insecurities are gone."

Erin\*, FCLC '10, classified her self-esteem as "low to average" and said that she drinks before going out to "loosen up." She stated that she "definitely feels more attractive" after she's been drinking because being drunk enables her to feel better about her looks and not focus on her flaws or on her weight.

"Girls with low self-esteem cannot walk into a bar or a party and talk to a guy. Drunk girls with low self-esteem can walk into a bar or party and talk to a guy," said Yasmine Kamel, FCLC '11.

"You get self-esteem by being successful," MacDonall said. Girls with low self-esteem may drink because they feel that they will then be more socially successful.

Demma said that he attributes

the increasing numbers of girls with low self-esteem to changes in family structure and in society. "There is a lack of guidance... lack of parental supervision, lack of positive affirmation. [We see] severe amounts of depression, low self-worth, lack of confidence and low self-esteem."

These psychological issues—and the idea of drinking to self-medicate them—are more prevalent in females, according to multiple sources. Fisher said that females are more likely than males to drink to "allay anxiety and depression."

Anthony Demma, a New York City psychologist who works in an outpatient drug and alcohol rehab center, said that he sees the increase in female drinking partly as a result of a "need to fit in with their peers." He continued, "Girls will do it for the need to be accepted and loved..."

"We're conditioned [to drink]," said Sandra Choy, FCLC '09. "We see everyone doing it, and it's not a big deal anymore."

"There's a lack of shame involved," Demma said. "They say, 'Isn't everybody doing it?'"

Foote said, "I think a lot of girls drink to go out and flirt and hook up with people. They think that to be the 'cool girl' is to go out to the bar with a bunch of guys and be the crazy party girl. They think that that is what defines fun in the eyes of other people."

Russo suggested that, because of the "everybody's doing it" mentality, girls are less averse to getting fall-down drunk, behaving badly and being labeled a "slut."

"No one's worried about being ladylike anymore," Foote said. "Respect for yourself is dead. Now, it makes you a prude."

## Forum Examines Abortion, Catholicism and Politics

By YASMINE KAMEL  
Contributing Writer

"[Abortion and Catholicism] has been my obsession since the 2004 election. This subject has created a great amount of polarization within the Catholic community," said Amelia J. Uelmen, the leader of a discussion entitled "Abortion and the Catholic Vote," which was held on Oct. 16 in Fordham's School of Law.

Uelmen, who is the director of Fordham's Institute on Religion, Law and Lawyer's Work, began by reading an excerpt of her essay "It's Hard Work: Reflections on Conscience and Citizenship in the Catholic Tradition." According to her essay, a large Catholic "apologetics" organization called Catholic Answers Action (CAA) published the "Voter's Guide for Serious Catholics" in 2004. (An apologetic is one who explains and defends aspects of the Catholic religion, according to catholicapologetics.net). Uelmen explained that the CAA guide identifies five "non-negotiable" issues in

the Catholic faith: abortion, euthanasia, fetal stem cell research, human cloning and homosexual marriage, which are all classified as "intrinsic evils." The guide asks the voter to first inquire about where the candidates stand on these issues and, second, to vote for the candidate who has the "correct view" on these matters.

CAA expects that serious Catholics will not compromise on any of these issues, which are, in its view, inarguably evil or immoral. Uelmen said that the mere recognition of "intrinsic evils" is not enough to diminish them. "Defining abortion as an intrinsic evil does not answer the question of how we can reduce abortion in our society," she said.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued a statement on Catholic social teachings in relation to politics in 2003, entitled "Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility." Uelmen said, "For the bishops, voting is not a two-step process," referring to CAA's guide in comparison to the bishops'

document. "For the bishops, decisions about voting require intense reflection," she continued. "I'm not endorsing anybody. Both parties have a lot of work to do. That said, there is still a lot that we as citizens can do." Uelmen said that the voter must ask, "What will be this candidate's capacity to influence the issue [of abortion]?"

"The voter is wrong if their intent is to recognize abortion as a right," said a student audience member. Uelmen replied, "I think that's right. The language of pro-choice in itself is wrong. If you really believe that this is a human right, then you should be horrified."

"I think there is a sort of trend lately where the discussion isn't about whether [the fetus] is a human being or not, but rather that it is about the woman's right," another audience member stated.

"Last election, I was tired of hearing about this single issue, and [I was] upset that it overshadowed other issues which are more important to me as a citizen and as a Catholic," added

a third student. "In my experience, Catholics don't talk about these [other] issues."

"How do I balance whether [something] is a greater moral issue [than abortion] that would justify voting for a candidate who is pro-choice?" a student asked Uelmen.

"I think the bishops were walking a tightrope," Uelmen stated. "It's hard to sift through the issues and figure out what is important. We're a society that does cost-benefit analysis and throws human life away based on that." She continued, "If someone has a perfect pro-life policy but has zero experience in foreign policy, for example, is that enough? The category of intrinsic evil is limited. Just because something does not fall into that category doesn't mean that it is less important."

Uelmen said that there is still hope of figuring out how to reduce abortion in American society "if we start from the premise that there is an agreement on the fact that abortion is a horrible thing for humanity."