



ARTS & CULTURE

THANKS, THOM!

Fans pay what they will for Radiohead's latest release, "In Rainbows".

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NEWS

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Security Services at Fordham explain emergency procedures and give advice on updating contacts.

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UNDERGRAD GENDER GAP

Fordham Community Reflects on Male to Female Ratio



CRAIG CALEFATE/THE OBSERVER

A female student sits in the Quinn Library on Oct. 20. Grimes states that FCLC will not alter admission standards to narrow the gender gap.

By CASEY FELDMAN
Staff Writer

FCLC—"There were lots of things about Fordham that made me want to come here, but the prevalence of hot, straight guys was definitely not one of them," said Cassie Foote, FCLC '10. Statistics support Foote's judgment, indicating that Fordham College at Lincoln Center (FCLC) has become in-

creasingly male-deficient: females constitute 58.8 percent of the student population.

This trend, however, doesn't end with FCLC. By 2010, 60 percent of all college students nationwide will also be female. In response to this, a number of universities, fearing that an unbalanced gender ratio could reduce applicants, have lowered standards of admission for males, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education.

This trend has gone so far that college counselors "have begun advising boys to emphasize their maleness," reported the U.S. News & World Report. This includes recommending that boys send in pictures of themselves and tout their athletic achievements.

U.S. News & World Report included Fordham in its feature "Girls Need Not Apply", a list of 18 schools, including The College of

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Transfers Attempt to 'Catch Up'

Students Express Frustration Over Policy

By LAURA SHIN
News Co-Editor

FORDHAM—Among this year's incoming classes at Fordham College at Lincoln Center (FCLC) and Fordham College at Rose Hill (FCRH), 12 percent of new students were transfers, according to Donald Gillespie, associate vice president for Institutional Research at Fordham. While this year's freshmen can roughly anticipate graduating in the spring of 2011, many transfers have less certainty in determining when they will graduate. Students say Fordham's required core curriculum and credit-transferring policy may be to blame.

"They tell me 2009, but I have a feeling they're going to try to hold me longer," said Sherri Eldin, FCLC '09, who transferred to FCLC this semester from Manhattan College. Eldin said she was able to transfer 60 credits, but lost 17. "I worked hard, took summer classes at my past school and lost it all," she said.

Sixty credits is the maximum number of credits accepted by Fordham, said Jason Greif, assistant dean for juniors and transfers at FCLC. Greif said he does not know the policies at other colleges, but he said, "Most schools want you to take half of your classes with them so that it's their degree."

In terms of which courses are transferable, Greif said courses should be three or more credits, be similar to a course offered at Fordham and must have a grade of C or better. Transfer students meet with Greif and review course descriptions and course syllabi to determine if a course can be transferred.

see **TRANSFERS** pg. 4

Out of Sight, Out of Your Hometown Bedroom?

Renovated Rooms Create Tension at Home for Some Students

By GABRIELLE LINZER
Asst. Features Editor

Elissa Dauria, FCLC '10, returned home to visit her father during her freshman year of college with the expectation of a relaxing weekend in her room. Instead, she found her bedroom littered with male paraphernalia and a small, unwanted guest. "My dad converted my room at his house into a room for my little brother without my permission,"

Dauria said. This shocking transformation left Dauria with nowhere to put down her bags and get comfortable. "No joke, I sleep on a futon in the living room," she said.

Though the melodramatic tears gushing from your parents' eyes as you leave them behind for college may be partially sincere, for some parents, the moment the kids are out of the house, the HGTV bug bites. While some parents retain their college student's room as if it were a

shrine, other parents are increasingly turning beloved childhood bedrooms into Martha Stewart-esque masterpieces or passing them on to younger siblings.

A recent article in The New York Times indicates that drastic changes to a college student's bedroom at home can make the transition into college life a lot more difficult. According to the article, with so many

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Inside

SPORTS
SPICE UP YOUR HALLOWEEN STYLE

Sick of wearing a lame Halloween costume? Hit up the best parties in a get up that just might insult a few people.

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SUPPORT PINK

On your next shopping spree, buy products that support National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

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Briefs

METRO

Teachers to Get Bonuses Based on Student Tests



MCT

The Bloomberg administration and the New York City teachers' union announced an agreement on Oct. 17 on a plan that would give teachers bonuses based largely on test scores of students at schools that have high concentrations of poor children. The bonus money would go to schools for overall performance, and then would be distributed to teachers.

Food Bank for New York City in Short Supply

Food Bank for New York City, the largest distributor of free food in the city, is facing its worst food shortage in years. Instead of distributing 5.5 million pounds of food a month to food banks and soup kitchens, the Food Bank now offers three million pounds. Officials at the food bank say that the shortage stems from a decline in federal emergency food aid.

NATIONAL

Stalled Health Tests for Storm Trailers

Three months after FEMA halted the sale of trailers to survivors of hurricanes Katrina and Rita over possible risks from formaldehyde and promised a health study, none of the 56,000 occupied units have been tested. David Paulson, FEMA's administrator, said the agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention "are scheduled to begin Phase 1 of the study in the Gulf Coast next week."

House Upholds President's Veto

On Oct. 18, the House upheld President Bush's veto of a bill that would expand health insurance coverage to 10 million children. Democrats said they will send the bill back to President Bush with minor changes. The vote was 13 short of the two-thirds majority needed to pass the measure over the president's veto.

INTERNATIONAL

Honors and Praise for the Dalai Lama



MCT

Over China's protests, the Dalai Lama received the Congressional Gold Medal and was praised by President Bush and Congress as a Tibetan hero. The Dalai Lama said he "felt a sense of regret" over the sharp tensions with China unleashed by his private meeting on Oct. 17 with Congress. In a protest over the award, China pulled out of a multi-party meeting this month to discuss Iran.

Iraq Awards Power Deal to Iran and China

Iraq has agreed to award \$1.1 billion in contracts to Iranian and Chinese companies to build a pair of enormous power plants, the Iraqi electricity minister said. Word of the project prompted serious concerns among American military officials, who fear that Iranian commercial investments can mask military activities at a time of heightened tension with Iran.

Compiled by
Natasha Pascetta

Emergency Alert System in Place at FCLC

Students Need to Update Emergency Contacts to Ensure Notification

By CALLY SPEED
Staff Writer

FCLC—In light of recent school shootings on college campuses around the country, many colleges are intensifying and improving their campus security. One of the biggest challenges that colleges face is contacting everyone on campus in an emergency situation. Many schools have added cell phone alerts to their emergency plans. Fordham University had this method in place before the mass shooting at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) in April, according to Maggie Blakeley, operations assistant of security services at Fordham.

Fordham has implemented several methods of mass communication to be used in the event of an emergency. Students, faculty and staff will receive text message alerts on their cell phones. In addition, each student's designated emergency contact will also receive the text message, Blakeley said.

Security will send an email to every Fordham email account, as well as any alternate email address given to the university. Group voicemail messages will be left on campus phones for residents of McMahon Hall, as well, according to Blakeley. These messages will state that a serious incident has occurred on campus and instructions will be given. The messages will also encourage students, faculty and staff to call 877-375-HELP for information and continuous updates, Blakeley said.

The phone number, which plays a recorded message, is used exclusively by Fordham and would be consistently updated in the event of an emergency.

Amanda Vega, FCLC '08, had her doubts. "In theory, it is a great plan, but this is the first that I have heard of it. Will it really work in an emergency?" she said.

According to an article in the New York Times, John Carroll, director of safety and security at Fordham, said, "Administrators at Fordham can send 40,000 text or voice messages within 10 to 30 minutes of

an incident."

According to Blakeley, safety and security supervisor Ken McCarthy runs a test of the text messaging system every week within the Security Department. The Security Department also consistently uses both the email and voicemail systems to spread information. Blakeley said there have been no problems so far with any of these systems.

Jonathan Chang, FCLC '09, said, "I think it's a great idea. I always carry my cell phone with me and it's probably the fastest way to spread the word in an emergency situation."

In addition to mass messaging, public addresses will be made. Every building on campus has a public address system and announcements will be made if necessary, according to Blakeley. Security may also use blow horns to address those areas that are out of reach of the public address system. Security also has the ability to cut through the cable television system in McMahon. The televisions that were recently added around campus were put in place to be used as message boards, but in an urgent situation, security will use them to post alerts, Blakeley said.

The effectiveness of the alert system relies on students. A letter was sent this summer urging students to update their contact information on OASIS, but an informal survey of 22 students in a class showed that nearly 50 percent of students never received a letter. Of the students who did receive the letter, only 25 percent updated their information.

Recently, Fordham has instituted "table top exercises," which are drills that simulate an emergency situation. Each department of the university has a representative that must attend these training sessions, according to Blakeley. The exercises provide faculty with a simulated emergency situation such as a campus shooter or power outage and require participants to develop and explain how they would act in such a crisis. "[These simulations are] how we fine-tune our reaction to it so we were constantly looking at the plan and making sure that it works," she said.



CRAIG CALEFATE/THE OBSERVER

Fordham has taken steps to strengthen its emergency response plan.

UPDATING OASIS

Fordham has several security measures in place to deal with emergencies, but students must ensure that the University has the correct contact information for them and their parents. To check and update your information in case of an emergency:

► Log on to OASIS at <http://oasis.fordham.edu> using your Fordham Identification Number and PIN

► Go to Personal Info when logged in and check to make sure the "Addresses including Emergency Contacts and Next of Kin" is updated

► Also check to make sure that your "Personal Phone Numbers" are updated to include your cell phone

Gender Gap Will Not Affect Admission Standards

ADMISSIONS FROM PAGE 1

William & Mary, Boston College, and the University of Richmond, where the "difference between the male and female admit rate has been especially pronounced," presumably to even out the disparate on-campus gender ratio. According to this report, four percent more males are admitted to Fordham than are females.

Fordham's administration, however, said the admissions office chooses students based on academic merit, not gender. "Don't [admission practices favoring males] strike

rates across gender is modest and could vary from cycle to cycle for any number of reasons," said Patricia Peek, associate director of admissions at FCLC.

Peek continued, "[FCLC] seeks to recruit, admit, and enroll the most talented and interesting class possible. Throughout this process, we monitor a variety of factors, including gender balance, in shaping the final makeup of those offered admission. Gender, ultimately, is only one factor among many that are weighed in our review."

Peek said the admissions office is "pleased that a larger group of men

attract more men than women." Grimes also said the university's well-known dance and theater programs are typically bigger draws for women than for men.

Eva Patton, theater faculty and theater program manager, said approximately 38 percent of the students in the theater program are men. Patton said the theater program also does not admit less-qualified males for the sake of equalizing the gender ratio.

Some experts believe that a highly unbalanced gender gap could negatively affect an institution, according to the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. A university with a 60 to 40 gender gap could lose its attractiveness to both males and females, stated one official.

Francis Pastorelle, FCLC '10, said he believes that fewer guys are interested in FCLC because it isn't the traditional college experience.

"When guys think about college, they want the complete experience. They want to go to frat parties, get drunk, and hook up with lots of girls," he said. "A guy will see that FCLC doesn't have that 'Animal House' feel and get turned off," he continued.

Sam Hubler, FCLC '10, also cited the lack of the typical "stupid macho crap" at FCLC that characterizes the atmosphere at most colleges.

In the opinion of Samantha Ku-

BY THE NUMBERS

1,646

Number of male applicants for FCLC class of 2011

4,211

Number of female applicants for FCLC class of 2011

40.2%

Percentage of male applicants accepted for FCLC class of 2011

36.8%

Percentage of female applicants accepted for fall FCLC class of 2011

mar, FCLC '10, not much can be done to attract more males to FCLC. She said, "I feel like you would have to fundamentally change FCLC to make it more appealing to your average 18-year-old guy."

"The office of admissions does not have any gender-specific recruitment/admission campaigns," Peek said.

Grimes said he does not foresee the FCLC gender gap closing anytime soon. "It has been this way for the 11 years that I have been here," he said. "Unless something radically changed, like we suddenly became the country's greatest men's football team, I think it is an impossibility."

A university with a 60 to 40 gender gap could lose its attractiveness to both males and females.

you as unfair?" asked the Rev. Robert R. Grimes, S.J., dean of FCLC. "I wouldn't want to bring in more men just to help with the gender gap," he continued.

Statistics provided by Donald Gillespie, associate vice president for Institutional Research, show that approximately 40 percent of the males who applied for a place in the FCLC class of 2011 were accepted, versus 36.8 percent of females.

"The [difference] in acceptance

are represented in the class of 2011." FCLC's class of 2006 was 32.9 percent male, whereas this year's class is 37 percent male.

"[Equalizing the gender ratio] is not something that really concerns me," Grimes stated. Grimes also said that he does not find the unbalanced gender ratio surprising. "It is a result of the nature of the college—there are no athletics...no business or engineering programs," he said. "Historically, those things