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## Fords Protest Border Bill In Philly

By **L.K. Adriaansen**  
NEWS EDITOR

The recent furor in Congress over the status of illegal immigrants or undocumented workers reached Haverford over the last few weeks. Students attended demonstrations in Philadelphia and hosted a forum on the issues facing border security.

Roughly fifteen students went into the city to join protests over Representative James Sensenbrenner's (R-Wisconsin) bill (HR 4437) to criminalize many actions of Americans and illegal workers in the United States. This proposal, which has been passed by the House of Representatives, would make a felon of any undocumented immigrant as well as those who aid them in any way except emergency medical care and a few other provisions.

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Lena Rodriguez-Winters HC '06, spoke of the personal nature of the debate for her. "My mom was a migrant worker," she said adding that her mother rents apartments "to undocumented immigrants" as a way of giving back to the community, an "act of solidarity."

"If this bill were passed, my mother would be going to jail," she stated.

The protests in the city included various workers holding signs stating that no person is illegal and "Si se puede," a phrase meaning "It can be done" from the farm workers unionization movement of the late 1960s.

Organizers spoke to the crowds in English and in Spanish, urging confidence in the future and solidarity.

The forum spoke about new perspectives on border issues in the United States. Liz Booth HC '07, said that the panel made her "look at the immigration issue in a number of different ways."

Rodriguez-Winters sees the situation as "a human rights issue." She continued saying "I don't know why our system...is becoming anti-immigrant...It seems anti-American."

With the new vote of confidence for the Sensenbrenner bill from Senator Bill Frist (R-Tennessee), the future of immigration in the United States is uncertain.

Rodriguez-Winters urges students to "at least be aware about" the issues, as they are "going to effect everyone."

Some immigrant groups are urging American Hispanics to participate in a nation-wide boycott of work or shopping, in an effort to show the importance of these communities in American life. The boycott is scheduled for May 1st. No public plans for action among Haverford students and employees have been announced.

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