

# The Wagnerian

Wagner College

Saturday, April 1, 2006

Staten Island, NY

## After SGA shake-up, new constitution is approved

By ALEXANDRA JACOBS  
Wagnerian Co-Editor

"Life's not perfect. Government's not perfect. It's how we deal with what's thrown at us that shows our strengths," says Tad Bender, Student Government Association president.

After an SGA shake-up which pitted class senators against executive board members, the Student Government Association certainly showed its strength.

Three weeks and three versions of the Constitution later, members pulled together to find common ground and write a stronger SGA Constitution. The new constitution was approved at the March 20 meeting.

The new constitution gives students an opportunity for more participation in government, as well as providing more representation for campus organizations. It also has more checks and balances, and streamlines communication between the Senate and the Executive Board.

In many ways, this new constitution is the result of a compromise between the Senate and the Executive Board over how SGA should be run.

The debate first began when the first version of the SGA Constitution was already several weeks in the works. SGA President Tad Bender had been working with Junior Senator Matt Hedge on updating and revising the constitution. The constitution SGA had been running on was approved in 2002, and no longer reflects SGA's new legislative system, which is comprised of class senators instead of class officers.

"We wanted to make the constitution more formal, more professional and more credible," Bender says.

As that version of the constitution was entering its last revisions, Sophomore Senator Kevin Richard floated the idea of changing the set-up of SGA to his fellow senators. It sparked some interest, and senators asked Bender for permission to hold a closed session discussion.

They debated changing the elections process so that executive board



Photo by Alex Jacobs

Student government representatives work together in the SGA office. From left: Chase Girvin, Ashley Willis, Alison Hay, Harry Jackson and Kevin Richard.



*Life's not perfect. Government's not perfect. It's how you deal with what's thrown at you that shows your strengths.*

—Tad Bender,  
SGA President

*This has proven that SGA is a far more stable, professional, and effective body than the rumor mill would have you believe.*

—Matt Hedge,  
SGA Senator



members would be elected by senators and not by a popular vote. They also wanted to establish better lines of communication between the Executive Board and the Senate, by using a horizontal line of governance, with senators and vice presidents on the same level.

"We discussed how our ideas could work and who could do what. But we weren't sure the Executive Board would like the idea," Richard says. The proposed elections process changes would affect executive board members running for positions for next year.

So, he and Hedge worked with other senators to write their own version of the constitution in secret. At the March 7 SGA meeting, Bender's version of the constitution was approved. Shortly afterwards, the senators used the power vested in them by the newly approved constitution to pass a vote of no confidence

and overturn it, with a two-thirds majority. They then passed out copies of their own constitution, and after some discussion, and approved it.

Though Richard called it "one of the most interesting things ever to happen in SGA," SGA Vice President Ashley Willis says, "It was also one of the most underhanded."

"My job is to relay needs from the Senate to the Executive Board," she says. "When this happened, and they never came to me to discuss the changes they wanted to see, all I could wonder was, 'What went wrong?'"

"Was that smart? Sure, it was a brilliant move. But they did it without the consent of the student body," Bender says. "We were in shock."

"In hindsight, we proceeded inappropriately by doing that," Senior Senator Chase Girvin says, adding

that he still thinks their ideas were sound.

"I understand their fears, but it still made it look negative, like we didn't have it together," Willis says. "It also seemed to show a distrust of the student body, by not having them vote for the Executive Board. If you can't trust the people you represent, why represent them?"

"We want to make sure the most qualified candidate leads SGA," Richard says. "It was tough, but it had to be done."

Bender called a meeting with the senators to discuss their constitution and their concerns. With their approval, he used his presidential power to veto the Senate Constitution, and they discussed finding a middle ground in the set-up of SGA.

"Tad laid out what had happened, and we talked out every problem we had in student government," Hedge

says. "We went over every detail of the constitution to make it more legislative and to give the senators more representation."

The constitution they agreed upon at that meeting was later approved at the March 20 SGA meeting, and there are plans to set up a committee next year to explore making further changes to SGA's system of governance.

"The senators' ideas are interesting, but some of them need time to develop and everyone needs to agree upon it," Bender says.

The new constitution establishes a General Assembly, in order to better represent everyone. The General Assembly is made up of the Senate, the Club Congress (club representatives to SGA) and the Commons House (any Wagner student attending meetings). All ratifications, amendments, and other legislation have to be approved by a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly, with Club Congress representatives' votes counting as two, and students' votes counting as one.

It also establishes a horizontal line of governance, with an SGA president, and on equal footing below him or her a vice president and vice presidents for finance, communications, campus events and community service. This streamlines the legislative process and improves communication.

"In the end, we exposed flaws and we made the constitution better, concerning issues we didn't see until this event happened," Girvin says.

"This has proven that SGA is a far more stable, professional, and effective body than the rumor mill would have you believe," Hedge says. "It's really a triumph."

"This shows the student body how important it is to get involved. You need to know your rights," Willis says.

"Take more time and care in who you vote for. Pull some weight, show some initiative," Girvin concludes.

**Make your vote count:** Executive Board elections are April 5 and 6, and Senate elections are April 19 and 20.

### The new SGA set-up at a glance

The **Executive Board** consists of the SGA President, Vice President, and Vice Presidents for Finance, Communications, Campus Events, and Community Service.

The **General Assembly** passes all legislation. It consists of the **Student Senate** (with five representatives for each class, four elected and one appointed), the **Club Congress** (with one representative from every club) and the **Commons House** (made up of any student attending SGA meetings). Club Congress reps' votes count as two; Commons House votes count as one.

# Traffic light trigger leaves drivers waiting

By MOLLY JUDGE  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Making left-hand turns on to Howard Avenue from Campus Road can be very tricky and also very time-consuming.

Many students and local residents have found themselves waiting at the stoplight to make a left-hand turn for quite some time as the many vehicles that use Howard Avenue each day continue to cruise by. One car, three cars, fifteen cars, forty cars. When is it ever going to turn green?

Vehicles are then forced to take their chances and turn on the red light while crossing their fingers that there is not a car racing around the corner on the steep hill of Howard Avenue. Not to mention the possibility of a nearby police officer spotting that illegal move you just pulled.

Unless there is a sign posted granting permission, Staten Island does not allow right-hand turns on red. There is not a sign posted at this intersection, so why isn't it a problem for those on Campus Road trying to turn right on red; why is it only left-hand turns that are a problem?

The matter is quite simple actually. There is a trigger at this light that ironically should turn green moments after it senses a cars' pres-



Photo by Alex Jacobs

A car waits at the light at the intersection of Howard Avenue and Campus Road.

ence on Campus Road. One big flaw of this trigger is that it is predominantly on the right side of the street making it almost impossible for those turning left to trigger the sensor.

"It is a very obvious patch of darker asphalt," says Christine D'Arbanville who spoke to the Department of Transportation about the situation. "The street is pretty

wide, and the trigger is more to the right side of the road so cars will not hit it," she says. It is especially difficult if cars on the right-hand side of the road are parked close to the area making it tricky for moving vehicles to sneak up close to the trigger point.

Complaints about this problem have been called to Wagner's attention since early December by both Wagner affiliates and local residents.

"We are working with the Department of Transportation to take a look at the site and see what can be done," D'Arbanville says. "Unfortunately, Wagner can't do anything about it."

So for now, make your presence known by pulling over to the right side of the road to activate the trigger; otherwise you could be sitting there indefinitely.

*"If Songfest itself is anything like the practices, then it's going to be a good time!"*

-- Mark Pezzimenti, new  
Kappa Sigma Alpha  
member

## Songfest aims to take center stage

By ALJIE RIVERA  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

This Saturday, Wagner College will host its yearly tradition of Songfest, a song and dance festival that is open to any organization on campus that would like to participate, with a "Best of..." theme.

Each club performs a ten minute routine of singing and dancing, and is scored by a panel of five judges who base their marks on such aspects as creativity, presentation, costumes and sets.

Varying from past years, audience participation has been added as a part of the criteria this spring. "The judges will be watching how the audience yells, cheers and reacts to the routines," says Ryan Brown, this year's songfest adviser and a graduate student. "Scoring works with a points system. If you (the group) go over ten minutes, points are deducted. Or if clubs don't attend the weekly Songfest meetings, points may be deducted," he continues. Trophies will be awarded to the first, second and third placed groups.

While Songfest itself is not until April 1, the on-campus organizations have been preparing for weeks. "Usually there's practice two to three times a week for about three hours, plus the time making the backdrops and everything," says senior Libby McPike, a sociology major and member of the Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority. "Songfest is a big deal!"

"We spend a lot of time working on these," adds Mark Pezzimenti, a new member of Kappa Sigma Alpha. "But if Songfest itself is anything like the practices, then it's going to be a good time!"

This year there are eight different organizations taking part in Songfest, including Alpha Sigma Alpha, Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Omicron Pi, Tau Kappa Sigma, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Kappa Sigma Alpha, Theta Chi and the Nubian Society. "It's a cool thing, because even though everyone gets really competitive, it's a really unifying experience," adds McPike.

Songfest 2006's Royal Court is: King Brandon Riley (Kappa Sigma Alpha), Queen Ria Pontoriero (Alpha Delta Pi), First Prince Mike Clemente (Tau Kappa Epsilon), First Princess Jayne Aiello (Alpha Omicron Pi), Second Prince Derek Lightcap (Theta Chi) and Second Princess Christina Stagliano (Alpha Sigma Alpha).

Songfest will take place on April 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Spiro Gym.



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## Spring weather brings Oval activity

The recently diminished snow and warm breeze have made it official—Spring is here! With this warm weather change-up, students find themselves much more apt to spend time outdoors, basking in the sun and enjoying some fresh air, as Bill Galluccio, Michael Akula, Andrew Minucci and Amanda Axinn (clockwise from left) are seen doing here. So Wagner, put on the flip flops, kick back and bring your work and play outside to welcome spring.

## OPINION

# Wish you could register online? For now, just get in line

By **STEPHANIE LOFFREDO**  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

We've all seen it, dealt with it and detested it; that time of the year when students run around like incessant maniacs, camp out overnight at the Registrar's office or pay other students \$150 to switch spots in line. No, I'm not merely discussing effective ways to get great seats to an upcoming concert. I'm alluding to the process most Wagner students have to go through in order to tackle the simple, or as it turns out, not-so-simple procedure of registering for classes.

In fact, the worst part of this dilemma is simply the idea of knowing and not knowing; knowing all the trouble you're going to have to deal with, and not knowing if you are even going to have a secure spot in any specific class.

Another unfavorable piece to this reprehensible whole is knowing that your friends in other colleges simply woke up from glorious sleep, made themselves a cup of tea and sat warm and snug in their dorm room, registering online for classes from their very own computers. And, while you're freezing outside in the cold, impatiently waiting for the registrar's office to open and hopelessly wondering if you'll get all of your classes, a purely remarkable concept passes your head: Why in the world doesn't Wagner have online register-



ing?

Well, the answer to this question is simple. According to Wagner's head of IT, Patricia A. Schoknecht, Wagner's online database, WWAM, doesn't have the capabilities for students to register for their own classes.

"We need to buy a new module for the WWAM system," Schoknecht states. "We are, however, looking into it, and hoping to buy the new module soon. This system is a desire that we all have—students, advisers, the Registrar's office and campus life included."

With all of this said, I was eager to find out when the process of changing the system would take place.

"Things like this take time and money," states Schoknecht. "I can't

give you an exact date as to when this will take place, but don't expect it any time soon; definitely not this summer and probably not next fall either."

So there you have it. If you were holding your breath, you can let it out now, and get ready to bundle up for several more semesters of waiting outside the Registrar's Office watching Wagner employees clean up leaves with their expensive leaf blowers. Except maybe this time instead of wondering why Wagner doesn't have online registering, you can think about why Wagner spends extensive amounts of money on leaf blowers and not on a new module that allows for online registering capabilities.

## The Wagnerian

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# IN OUR OPINION...

(where you'll find columns, editorials, letters to the editor, and more.)

## A DOSE OF SOUL

### The people we choose

By E. FEEHLEY  
Opinions Editor

I only stayed at home for one day this Spring Break. My family finally finished building our house, and inside there are piles of boxes full of mementoes from our lives that we haven't seen in nearly two years.

I walked into our den and saw an old bookcase that my father built. On it was a copy of "The Prophet" by Kahlil Gibran, a book he used to read to me when I was growing up. It's full of wisdom; simple truths about how to live life in this world.

I picked it up with a smile, and nostalgically turned the pages. When I reached the chapter about friendship I stopped turning, and read a few words which I had circled years before. "Your friend is your needs answered."

I don't think it can be put any more simply, any more beautifully. A true friend knows what you need when you need it, and gives it to you. A true friend is what you need. True friends remind us who we are even when we can't remember who that is. When we feel lost they guide us home. When we are sad they cry with us. When we are happy they smile too.

One of my very good friends just had her heart broken. I know that she will be fine, and that everything will work out for the best, but it's just one of those heart-wrenching situations, and I hate to see her unhappy.

The day that this happened a friend said that I looked upset and asked what was wrong.

"I don't know," I said, "I think it's my friend. She's just hurting right now, and I guess I'm hurting for her."

It almost surprised me, but I knew it was true. I was hurting. I could feel it was sad inside, a piece of me was sad simply because she was.

Maybe that's the test of true friendship, when you can feel something for a friend as if you were feeling it yourself. When you put a friend's problems or issues or aspirations or dreams before your own from time to time, that's when you form a friendship. That's how you build character. That's how you become who you are going to be.

I was in a bad car accident when I was sixteen. It was on the way to prom my junior year of high school. There were four of us in the car, my date and I, and my best friend Laurel and her date. Laurel and I had been inseparable from the time we were

five years old; we'd been through the best and worst of everything. Nothing could shake us. Then we woke up in the hospital.

I remember waking up groggy and disoriented. I remember saying "Laurel? Where's Laurel?" from the bed, and the nurse who was passing by in the hallway came into my room. She looked at me and smiled.

"You must be Erin," she said.

"How did you know that?" I mumbled.

"Because I'm taking care of Laurel, and she has been calling for you too."

That is what true friendship is to me. Thinking about your friend's



Feehley

welfare before your own. Caring more about them than you care about yourself. That's a very rare thing in this world, and I think it's something to be valued. Friends are the people we choose for ourselves. Everyone else is chosen for us: family, coworkers, classmates, roommates. But not friends. There's something beautiful about that. There's something so pure about knowing that someone knows you, I mean really knows you, and still chooses to share their life with you. What more can we really ask for than that?

When the chips are down, and there doesn't seem like there's a light at the end of the tunnel, we need to remember that human beings were not designed to exist alone. We work better together.

I stared at that passage for a long time before I closed the book and put it back on the shelf. I remembered the friends I've had over the years. Friends I've had since childhood, friends I'm just meeting now. I remembered my friends who died too young. I wondered how different I would be if just one of them had not come into my life.

We forget, when everything is going well, how hard it is to feel alone. That's why, no matter how hard the bad times are, they have to hold some intrinsic worth. Sometimes it takes the most heart-breaking circumstances to remind us who our true friends are, how much they love us, and how much that means.

## IT'S NEWS TO ME

### A Speedo is worth a thousand words

By EVAN JAGELS  
Wagnerian Columnist

Some would argue that communication is one of the most important aspects of life. We communicate with each other on all levels, both verbally and non-verbally.

Verbal communication is most often used to express the things that we consciously want others to know, while non-verbal communication generally shows what we truly feel, all too often leaving us victims of our own transparency. There is also, however, a third level of communication. I am referring to conscious non-verbal communication. These are the things that we choose to show about ourselves without using words. This type of communication is essential in order to identify yourself; after all, it's a terrible thing to be mistaken for someone you're not.

I spent spring break at an all-inclusive resort in the Caribbean with my brother. Amid the gluttony and the sunshine, dividing our time between the bars and the beachfront, we had countless hours to observe an international slew of characters.

On the beachfront, where crashing waves and screaming children make verbal communication a near impossibility, many people choose simply to communicate with their bathing suits. For example, if you wish to tell someone that you are a European male without having to say a word, all you have to do is wear a bright colored fluorescent Speedo. If you want to also add that you are extremely self-conscious that that you yearn for some sort of unobtain-

able sexual exploration, you simply place an oversized garden vegetable in your Speedo.

My brother expressed that he might benefit greatly from the knowledge of such communicative tactics. Being that he is a Special Agent in the federal government, he has to travel to many hostile places in the world; places where Americans are especially targeted for attack. If he feels that he is in danger because of his nationality, all he has to do is wear a bright colored Speedo and apply cheap, greasy tanning lotion. Even the most cultural-

ing a football on the beach with a man in knee-level shorts and a beer gut. His sunburned gut in combination with his bland, oversized shorts made it obvious that he was American. However, no American woman would be topless on a beach. Likewise, no European woman would throw such a perfect spiral. I was utterly confused. Perhaps all the alcohol and sunshine had made her drunk and delirious and she simply forgot her top. Or perhaps she was indeed a French woman who thought that the American pigskin was in fact just a large buttered croissant that had browned in the sun.

Whatever the fact of the matter was, neither my brother nor I had the audacity to attempt verbal communication tactics with the topless quarterback. Instead, we decided to try the new language out for ourselves.

We rushed to the bar and grill wearing our knee-level shorts and ordered four servings of BBQ chicken and six beers. We needed to tell this woman with the least ambiguity, "Hello, we don't know who you are trying to be, but we are from America."

Just as it is necessary to go out and speak with people when trying to learn a new language, it is important to actively observe conscious non-verbal communication. I have elaborated on some general phrases, but globally, there are countless subcultures and dialects. Once you become familiar with the basics of the language, you should try it out for yourself. After all, the key to becoming worldly is to become familiar with all methods of communication.

*Just as men wear a Speedo to say, "Hello, I am from Europe," women simply remove their tops.*

ly savvy Iraqi insurgent will surely mistake him for a French tourist out for a sun bathie. Just as men wear a Speedo to say, "Hello, I am from Europe," women simply remove their tops. Our trip affirmed my suspicion that European law forbids the covering of thighs or breasts on any beachfront.

However clear these non-verbal cries of identification may be, there are inevitable miscommunications. Just as there can be a slip of the tongue, there can be a slip of the Speedo or bikini top. For example, I witnessed one topless woman throw-

## -letter to the editor-

Dear Editor,

Just a couple of frustrations about Wagner College:

### Complaint No. 1:

Sunday afternoon I sat in the library doing some studying, but several loud voices echoing throughout the building kept interrupting me. At first I thought it was just some students sitting at the computers chatting, but then I thought, "Why isn't anyone shutting them up?"

I went to see what all the noise was, and I realized that there was a party taking place in the new mini art gallery. I was in shock. Who would organize a party, in a library, in the middle of the day, while students are trying to study? The library closes at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, which would offer the perfect time to have a nice cocktail hour for any function imaginable. However, having this party in the middle of the day, while students are trying to study, during mid-term week no less, is completely absurd.

### Complaint No. 2:

When is the dining hall going to put all the missing tables back up? For every function they remove tables to make the area more spacious, but they never put them back. With a dining hall that is already having considerable trouble seating everyone, the last thing they should do is get rid of more tables. Bottom line: *Get more tables!*

Sincerely,  
Katherine Nepute

## letter from the editor

Dear Readers,

I am so happy that some of you have been sending in letters to the editor! I know that there are quite a few things around campus to complain about, but this section is not simply about voicing concerns, it is about recognizing the positive as well.

I'm not asking you to sugar-coat the Wagner experience; *anything* you have to say is valuable. But, we would particularly like to run a letter commending some of the good aspects Wagner has to offer.

So look around, find something you like, and tell us about it. Thanks ya'll. And as always, thanks for reading.

Sincerely,  
E. Feehley



## THE PERFECT FIT

A few of our favorite  
(and not so favorite) thingsJENNY CHAPIN &  
AUDIE McDOUGALL  
Wagnerian Columnists

Spring is here and we couldn't be happier. It is a time for Frisbee on the Oval, eating at an outdoor café, and reviving your wardrobe. So, clean out those closets and make room for a new season's fantastic fashions. Here's our list of new looks to buy and tired trends to toss:

**Buy it:**

*Skinny pants.*  
Skinny or straight legged pants are a new favorite for spring. Don't let the label frighten you, the right pair can flatter any body type.

**Chuck it:**  
*Jeans without back pockets.*

All right ladies, we are not beating around the bush—these pants are tragic and they are everywhere on campus. They do not look appealing under any circumstances. Pocket placement is key; it determines the overall look of your shape. Don't neglect your pockets!

**Hair do:***Natural tones*

Opt for a natural look this season by sticking with one hair color. Go with a vibrant shade that is more or less your natural hue. Chances are, this suits you best!

**Hair don't:**

*Streaked highlights*  
Drastic highlights confuse us; not only do they look less than sophisticated, but they keep you running back to the salon every four weeks. Or even worse, there's the late night trip to Walgreens for the box dye so your roommate can fix your roots. Speaking from experience, certain things just shouldn't come in a box, like hair color ... or wine.



McDougall



Chapin

**"Made for walking":***Peep-toe shoes*

Bring back a retro style with peep-toes this spring. Look for them in bright colors and patent leather. You'll be getting compliments all day!

**"Made for tossing":***Clogs*

It is a shame that we even have to mention this fashion faux pas. Are you that busy that you do not have time to tie a shoelace, much less put your foot into an entire shoe?

**Choose it:***Shorts*

Shorts are huge for spring in a variety of colors and lengths. We're not talking Daisy Dukes here though: Go with Bermudas or other sensible lengths. This look is incredibly versatile and can easily go from casual to classic.

**Lose it:***Cropped pants*

On a shorter gal, cropped pants create a squatty look, on a long-legged lady, cropped pants look more like high-waters. Basically, when a hem hits your leg at mid-calf, it does nothing to flatter your frame.

**Finders-keepers:***Layering long necklaces*

These funky accessories spice up any outfit. Even with a basic T-shirt and jean ensemble, your jewelry will finish the look with flare!

**Losers-weepers:***Turquoise or chandelier earrings*

Both of these pieces have

had their day in the spotlight, but now it's time to move it along.

**Pick it up:***Feminine ruffles and lace*

You will definitely want this must-have for spring. This look is simple and elegant but still has a splash of sex appeal.

**Throw it out:***Slogans on tees*

These shirts are anything but "ADORABLE" or "HEAVENLY." If anything, the slogan they should sport is "OVER."

**Love it:***Anything white*

White is the non-color for spring. From jackets, to dresses, to pants, it's all about white. Find your favorite piece, or deck yourself out from head to toe.

**Leave it:***Anything tight*

We've been over this before: The 'too-tight' look is not only unflattering, it is uncomfortable. Take extra precaution to avoid too-tight and all-white, this is a recipe for disaster.

**Make a splash:***Nautical style*

Everywhere you go, the nautical theme is popping up as a hot new trend. Look for navy blue, hints of red, khaki, and rope accents. Anchors away!

**More like trash:***The "Mean Girls" look*

Let's say goodbye to mini-skirts and stiletto heels. This look is tired and very high school. Anything you once considered "fetch" needs to be retired. We're talking about synthetic fabrics here, including jersey and spandex. If you insist on keeping this style, "You can't sit with us!"

\* \* \*

Keep these tips in mind the next time you're on a shopping spree. And if you want to complete your spring wardrobe, don't forget to pick up an oversized bag, a wide belt, and a sharp-looking trench. You'll be sure to turn heads this season and most importantly, don't forget to *work it!*

Subway stunners  
and ferry "freaks":  
*The characters we meet on NYC  
public transportation***Para-Preacher**

By Katelyn Archer

On the ferry there is sometimes a nice, elderly, African American man in a wheelchair, usually with a couple of small children hanging around, preaching and reading gospels from the Bible.

If you happen to make eye contact with him he will proceed to preach to you for the rest of the 25 minute trip.

His wheelchair is electronic and potentially hazardous to one's health as he zips around the deck of the boat.

He's not as creepy or scary as some public transportation characters, but riding the ferry with "the preacher" is definitely a uniquely New York experience.

**The Gospel Train**

By Courtney Donahue

On a recent venture into Manhattan, I was sitting on the subway and right as I was thinking that I had never really had a funny experience on New York public transportation, I had one. And it was quite amusing.

We had just left the 42nd Street platform when my fellow passengers and I were visited by the Gospel Train. Three men burst through the connecting doors of the subway car and announced they were the Gospel Train, and were going to sing us gospel songs.

They harmonized, clapped their hands, snapped their fingers, and one man shook a bag of coins for donations. One of them did a kind of interpretive dance to the words of the songs. When we reached the 34th Street stop, they thanked us all individually and took their bows as they exited the car.

**Anti-Evangelist Sermon**

By: Allie Rivera

It was an average Saturday afternoon. I had two friends from home visiting, so like any other Wagner student, I decided to take them into Manhattan. Once we had all boarded the renowned Staten Island Ferry and were all set in our plastic seats, two men approached us with a very inter-

esting fact.

"Ten out of ten people will die."

We stared at the two in disbelief. While it's true that there are not yet any cases to disprove this point, was it really necessary to remind me of this as I'm floating over a large body of water?

"Where will you go after that?" the men continued.

I simply rolled my eyes, and sat back in my chair, while my friends, used to the lifestyles of small-town Connecticut, were both enthralled and disgusted. They were obviously offended that their very liberal beliefs were being criticized, yet they couldn't take their eyes off of the two men.

The more vocal of the two was wearing jeans and an olive-colored khaki jacket, and had piercings on his face. The other man was dressed in cargo pants and a leather jacket, with black, plastic, square-framed glasses. Neither looked like they could have been older than twenty-five.

We exited the ferry, having put these events behind us, continued on our way and had a fabulous day in the city. As we reached the ferry station in Manhattan to return to Wagner, we found to our utter frustration a different man standing in the middle of the station, speaking out to anyone who would listen. After only a few minutes of hearing about our inevitable damnation, my friends learned to simply block it out.

These two experiences occurring in the same day forced me to examine my past with Evangelism. I've found myself joking with friends that we're all going to hell, and suggesting that when that day comes, we throw a party. However, at the same time, I consider myself to be a very religious person. Why is it, then, that I'm suddenly making light of my own faith?

This is where I begin to contradict myself and preach to all of you reading this: Don't listen to those people! If you don't agree with me, then don't listen to me either. Stick to your own beliefs. That's why we have them: God bless!

## The fairy tale of freedom: Lies (surprise!) in the run-up to Iraq

By ALEX JACOBS  
Wagnerian Co-Editor

It just keeps getting worse. With further proof that President Bush manipulated the facts in order to strong-arm the U.S. into invading Iraq, one can only wonder: So what are we fighting for?

The New York Times revealed the contents of a secret memo about a Jan. 31, 2003 conversation between George Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, showing the leaders' determination to invade

Iraq, no matter the proof, no matter if they gained a second U.N. resolution, no matter the findings of U.N. weapons inspectors. Bush and Blair penciled in a start date for bombing, March 10, 2003 (close enough: it actually began on March 19, 2003), acknowledged that no weapons of mass destruction had been found, and discussed ways to provoke attack in order to justify war—such as taunting triggers by flying over Iraq with a fake U.N. plane, or even assassinating Saddam Hussein himself.

Though those ideas never panned

out, another option Bush offered was finding an Iraqi defector who could give a presentation on Saddam's (non-existent) WMD—Ahmed Chalabi ring a bell? Now that we see civil war conditions breaking out between Iraq's Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds, one might wonder: Could Bush have foreseen the violent aftermath of war? Well, he considered it, might happen, according to the memo, but predicted it "unlikely."

But George W. Bush set his eyes on Iraq long before 2003 or even before September 11. According to author and journalist Mickey

Herskowitz, who interviewed Bush as a ghost writer for his autobiography, the President was already thinking about invading Iraq in 1999. "He said, 'If I have a chance to invade, if I had that much (political) capital, I'm not going to waste it. I'm going to get everything passed that I want to get passed,'" Herskowitz said. As for passing any legislation he wants, that's one dream I fear coming true.

So, three years later, with 2,323 American troops killed in Iraq (2,186 of which died after our 'mission was accomplished') and a minimum of 33,373 Iraqi civilians dead

(max 37,895), what *have* we accomplished?

Instead of building a 'beacon of democracy,' we've ignited a tinderbox, 'building' a volatile new Iraq practically at war with itself, with peace nowhere in sight.

So what are we fighting for? Invoking 9-11 and the fairy tale of freedom isn't going to cut it anymore.

This just proves that that's an illusion in the elusive happy ending to Prince George's dream-come-true war, a war built on nothing but fantasy.

The Wagnerian's pop-culture page, where you'll always

# That's Entertainment ★

find reviews, features, and NYC's hip hang-outs

## The Dance Project puts student talent 'en pointe'



Images from the dance piece "Gear," choreographed by Whitney Branan (pictured above and below).

By **ASHLEY FOLEY**  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

It was a cold Friday night as Wagner theatergoers trekked through chilling winds to go see "The Dance Project" at Stage One. Once inside, the heat and cozy intimate surroundings of the theatre warmed the freezing audience and put them in the mood for an entertaining night of dance.

"The Dance Project," which made its appearance at Stage One the first two weekends in March, is choreographed by only Wagner students. Five students, Becky Giannattasio, Whitney Branan, Kathleen Ehrman, Kira Coviello and Whitney G-Bowley put their dance training to the test and choreographed pieces that were unique and entertaining.

The show opened with "Revenge of the Nerds," a tap piece choreographed by Sophomore Physics Major, Becky Giannattasio.

This playful, comedic piece consisted of six typical high school characters; the jock, the nerd, the rich boy, the cheerleader, the pretty girl, and the average girl. Basically, the nerd wants the pretty girl to dance with him, but of course, she is dancing with the rich boy. The songs playful lyrics tell the story of the piece. Although at times it was hard to hear the taps, overall it was a fun number.

The next piece was "Purlieu," choreographed by Whitney Branan, a junior theatre performance major,



and Kira Coviello, a senior theatre major. This piece consisted of four dancers, paired up as couples. It was a very beautiful piece, with lifts that were absolutely gorgeous. Dancers Kathleen Ehrman and Garrett Olthius were especially good.

The lighting for this piece and throughout the entire show was very good as well. Lighting designer Robert Eberle used very specific lights that really embodied each piece. The lights evoked the feelings that the music and the dancers were portraying.

"I Against My Troubles," a piece choreographed by Kathleen Ehrman, a senior arts administration major,

was performed to the music of The Dave Matthews Band.

All the music in the show was really enjoyable to listen to. There was everything from Linkin Park to Yo-Yo Ma.

"12 to 3," which was an improv piece, consisted of live music played on a piano by Joe DiGiovanna, a senior Tech/Design/Management major. Adding in the live instrument aspect was a nice touch.

Each piece also had its own style and emotions that it evoked. From comedy, to romance, or drama, every emotional mood was touched upon in this show, as well as many different genres of dance, such as tap, lyrical, jazz, and modern, which brought variety to the show.

My favorite piece of the evening was "Gear," choreographed by Whitney Branan. This piece consisted of one dancer, Libby McPike, who was the Ballerina, and then five other dancers that acted like the brains and gears of the ballerina. All the parts were working together to make the ballerina dance. It was a very innovative and clever piece.

It's always interesting to see how a student choreographed show compares with that of one done by professionals. In this case, if the audiences hadn't known students choreographed the pieces, no one would have known the difference. The show was full of wonderful talent and it was great to see it displayed in this year's "The Dance Project!"

## Smart, soulful rock fuels Apple's 'Machine'

— CD REVIEW —

By **TJ TAURIELLO**  
Wagnerian Contributor

How can you forget the famous MTV Video Awards back in 1997, where Fiona Apple exposed her true feelings about this world being bulls\*\*\*.

Well, it's been over six years since her last debut and now she is back to reclaim her controversy crown. This autobiographical album has been formatted from the depths of Apple's true feelings on life, relationships, and taking a dose of confidence.

Since starting a new life out in Venice, California, Apple has been taking time to get a clear head on her song writing. Many of those songs written were collected from the aftermath of the difficult break up with director Paul Thomas Anderson.

The first track which is also the title of the album, "Extraordinary Machine," sounds like a tune that came straight out of a Broadway musical. The rolling rhythms of the dialogue have a smooth, but ironic message about her closest friend being her biggest opponent.

The first single released, "O' Sailor," delivers a merry-go-round sound with the most interesting instrumental combinations in popular music. With a touch of blues, you will feel like you are parading in a carnival full of carousels and circus clowns.

My favorite is the revenge-seeker "Get Him Back." Apple sums up her last three relationships in one song. She explains her complex situation of the lack of trust she has in men through her creative lyrics. She is promising to seek revenge yet hinting that the last guy was worth another look before quickly kicking him to the curb, "I think he let me down, when he didn't disappoint me."

The hip-hop, quirky tune "Tymps (Sick In The Head Song)" has a blend of drums and percussion that make her deep, melodic voice stand out. Bells and whistling all evolve into a stringed chorus in which Ms. Apple throws out a brilliant masterpiece once again through her lyrics.

Technically, the slowest point of the album doesn't come until the end. The lamenting ballad, "Red,



Red, Red," containing images of leaves falling down in a warm September day, casually captures the listener to hold on to Apple's soft voice during the song's duration.

The final song, "Waltz (Better Than Fine)" is probably the most influenced of them all. No wonder why Apple made sure it was the last cut on the album. It's full of hope and optimism and the idea that taking time out for yourself is probably the best medicine one can prescribe. "Go out and sit on the lawn and do nothing 'cause it's just what you must do, nobody does it anymore."

After six years, Apple has grown up to be a more confident woman as we can see through her soulful voice and the primarily piano-driven songs. The lyrics on "Extraordinary Machine" are the most creative and affecting out of her career.

From the ray of remorseful breakups, to losing faith and being scared to take initiative of something new, helped Apple to overcome and express her inner-most emotions. If anyone who witnessed these same encounters, they should take a listen because I believe this album will easily become your best friend.



# Coffeehouse hosts laughs 'Right this Second'

By COURTNEY DONAHUE  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

An awful, onion smell emanating from people, strobe lights and plenty of laughs; all in a night for the actors of Right This Second, improv performers and Wagner students.

The group, consisting of seniors Angela DeManti, Josh Key-Maginnis; juniors Jared McGrail, Molly Robertson, and sophomore Emma Clerihew, performs long form improv, which takes a suggestion made at the beginning of a performance, and is then incorporated into the scenes throughout the show.

The first suggestion taken from the audience was the word "onion," which resulted in a series of scenes that drew inspiration from that word and the scenes. The actors took turns in pairs of two, coming up with funny material that related to the word. After the actors performed these scenes off the top of their heads, they were revisited and new material was added on to them to give them an ending. This would not be seen in short form improv, only in this long form that the group performs in.

After a brief intermission the group came back out to perform a new game. This game, "Time Bash"



Photo: Courtney Donahue

"Right This Second" consists of (clockwise from left): Jared McGrail, Molly Robertson, Angela DeManti, Josh Key-Maginnis, and Emma Clerihew.

was again kicked off with a word suggested from the audience, which the group asked not to be another food item, so the audience suggested "strobe." The members took a few

minutes to think and began the scenes that included an epileptic dancer wanting to make it big on stage, an unbearable art internship with strobe lights and an awkward

movie date.

After these scenes were performed, they were again revisited, this time, in the past, as events that could have led to these scenes. After

each scene had its turn, it was again shown, this time, in the future. The audience seemed to have really enjoyed it.

Right This Second is a branch off of the Wagner Improv Club which Key-Maginnis was involved in last year.

The group got involved in long form improv after seeing the Upright Citizens Brigade perform. DeManti was already an avid improv fan and performer, and she was called on by the other members to help get the group started.

"Long form ties themes and scenes and more acting into it," says McGrail. He also adds that it's about working as teammates and getting inspiration from one another.

The group did one show earlier this semester that consisted of their improv and a band. They hope to make this a recurring event, and do an even bigger show with a band.

The group conceived their name on the day that they were going for an audition and needed to think of a name. "We were saying we need a name right this second, right this second we need a name," Robertson explained. Looks like the phrase stood out to the actors, and stuck.

Right This Second performs every Wednesday at the Coffeehouse at 10:30 p.m.

## Cult documentary inspires new Broadway musical

By BEN IZZO  
Wagnerian Photo Editor

Stop me if you've heard this one before: A woman and her mother live together in a dilapidated old house slowly crushing the life out of one another, both battling it out to see who is more mentally ill than the other.

Oh wait you haven't heard it? That's because this story is one that is completely refreshing and new but at the same time utterly timeless. I'm talking about "Grey Gardens," the new musical that opened at Playwrights Horizons on March 7, bringing with it a slew of speculation from cult fans of the documentary and musical theatre fans alike.

For those unfamiliar with the piece, "Grey Gardens" was originally a documentary about Edith Bouvier Beale and her daughter "Little" Edie Beale. The estate on which they lived was called Grey Gardens and in its heyday it was one of the most beautiful estates on the East Coast.

By the time the film maker of the documentary visited the place, it had fallen into complete disrepair and was covered in dust, dirt and fleas.

What the creators of this new musical have done is not only take the story of the documentary and dramatize it, but they have also extended the story in an effort to discover how these women became the way they did. With all the speculation and craziness surrounding the eccentric nature of the story this show has the makings of a creepy freak show or a beautiful, stirring and fulfilling piece of musical theatre.



Sarah Gattelfinger and Christine Ebersole portray the quirky mother/daughter pair in 'Grey Gardens.'

atre. Thankfully "Grey Gardens" is much more the latter than anything else.

The first act begins with preparations for "Little" Edie's engagement party. To Joseph Patrick Kennedy, Jr. with Grey Gardens decked out in all its finery. But things quickly go wrong for the Beale's and in the second act the play attempts to deal with the strange, unusual and toxic bond that mothers can form with

their daughters.

Filled with a score that is at times reminiscent of Cole Porter and Stephen Sondheim, lyricist Michael Korie and composer Scott Frankel have delivered extremely affecting numbers that completely integrate themselves into the story and at the same time, make beautiful music all their own. Paired with Doug Wright's wonderfully streamlined book that respects the source materi-

al yet expands it to fit comfortably into a theatrical setting, these aspects of the show make me hopeful that musical theatre can rise from the musical comedy morass of late and start to make serious, thought provoking shows once again.

While all the elements of the show I mentioned are superb, the cast is truly the pinnacle here. Christine Ebersole gives the performance of her and anyone else's career with her breathtaking turn as not only Edith Bouvier Beale in Act I, but "Little" Edie Beale in Act II. Ms. Ebersole gives her entire body, heart and soul, into these characters and tears into the meaty emotional aspect of the role. She is one of the strongest performers working today and her contribution to this show cannot be undervalued.

Mary Louise Wilson is very affecting in Act II as the older Edith Bouvier Beale and does her best to sidestep the caricature nature of the part and focus on the true intent of the character.

The rest of the cast turns in wonderful supporting work with notable standouts being Sarah Gattelfinger as "Little" Edie Beale in Act I equal parts charming and troubled, and Matt Cavanaugh as Jerry the goofy boy who hangs around Grey Gardens during its dilapidated days and keeps the women company.

All of this is capped by Michael Greif's careful and skilled direction which beautifully coalesces to create fascinating stage pictures and an extremely gorgeous physical production.

I would just like to take a minute and recognize the two connections to JFK noted in the piece.

The Kennedy connection is extremely important here not simply because the Bouvier Beale's were Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis's aunt and cousin and "Little" Edie was engaged to Joseph Patrick Kennedy, Jr., but because the name Kennedy signifies the social implications that are very inherent with a story like this. The house seems to be a metaphor for the kind of changes America was going through at the time. During the 1940's the country was coming out of the war and with the promise of what was coming ahead the future looked bright and so did Grey Gardens done up in all its extravagance. But in 1973, after Kennedy's death and the Vietnam War the country's future looked a little bleak, as did the sad broken down house.

With musicals like this and Bernarda Alba (currently playing at Lincoln Center) there is definitely a reason to stay upbeat for the state of dramatic musical theatre. These pieces are so strongly written and so beautifully rendered that you wish that all your theatrical experiences could be like that.

"Grey Gardens" runs until April 9 at the Playwrights Horizons Mainstage Theatre and I wouldn't be surprised with the amount of money that the company has put in and the amount of excitement it has generated, if we could see a further commercial life for this strange, quirky and utterly captivating piece.

At any rate it is doubtless a piece that will haunt you and stay with you long after you leave the theatre, that in truth being the theatre as a whole's greatest impact.



Featuring this week's columnist, Laura Gardner

# not just THE SEX COLUMN

## Sex fact of the week:

Teens are more interested in finding out about sexual relationships, such as pain after intercourse and pregnancy, than about contraception and protecting themselves from STIs, a new study suggests.

The results are based on a review of questions submitted by visitors to [www.teenwire.com](http://www.teenwire.com), a Planned Parenthood Web site on teenage sexuality and sexual health.

Source: [www.safesense.com](http://www.safesense.com)

## Risky business: Don't be afraid, be aware

By LAURA GARDNER  
Wagnerian  
Entertainment Editor

It could have easily been a scene portrayed by an episode of the popular television show "CSI": A beautiful college woman disappears from a trendy SoHo bar, her body found on the following day, wrapped in a flowered bedspread near a parkway in Brooklyn. She had been raped, suffocated and strangled. The prime suspect in the case: a bouncer at the bar.

It's been a month now since the atrocious murder of Imette St. Guillen, a 25-year-old graduate student at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, where she was ironically studying Forensic Psychology. Daily reports unfold with additional gruesome details that have occupied the media coverage of St. Guillen's rape and murder.

Attending a college in the city where this heinous crime occurred, are we taking more precautions to protect ourselves and our loved ones from a similarly horrifying scenario? Or is it just another terrifying event that we can soon forget about and shrug off with the mentality that, "It will never happen to me?"

It is a familiar weekend scene at Wagner or any college campus: Groups of students, predominantly young women dressed in miniskirts and halters, headed out for a night of drinking and dancing with friends. And who can blame them? Just the thought of a sleep-deprived week spent at the computers of Horrmann Library doing "interesting" research for a Psych paper propels me into a craving for a Friday night free-for-all. For most of us, it's the expectation of a night out that gets us through the week. But what risks are we taking for one night of decadence?

Aside from the alcohol-induced hangovers and possibilities of ruining those new pumps with a night spent hanging over a Tower's toilet, are we also putting ourselves in dan-



It is typical for college students to want to spend the night out partying with friends, but many of us don't think twice about the risks we may be taking in this behavior.

ger of far more detrimental things?

Reliant on cell phones as lifelines, we trust that help in case of an emergency is only ever a phone call away. We have no qualms about "Facebooking" total strangers and befriending interesting Myspace companions. Many of us even choose to take this internet communication one step further and meet up with a blogging buddy.

We live in a "Sex and the City," culture, entering bar scenes with a familiarity and self-assuredness of an elementary school playground. In fact, bars and night clubs have become the recess of our earlier years, but with far worse consequences than any injuries incurred from falling off the Monkey Bars. We party hard and underage. As many of us have discovered, it's not difficult for anyone under 21 to find a fake I.D. in this city.

As college students, there's a sense of fearlessness that goes hand-in-hand with many of our social behaviors. We are aware of the potential risks, but seem to suppress them after a few drinks. We tend to be overconfident, strutting the streets of Manhattan, bar-hopping until 4 a.m. while maintaining a state of intoxication that persists long after last call.

But it is typical for our generation to convey such an unconcerned demeanor: Pop culture has presented us with positive images of sexually independent and overly indulgent young men and women who live a thrilling urban life we can only hope to emulate. Hollywood has glorified swingers, one-night stands and anonymous make-out sessions. Frequent hook-ups have become the norm for a large majority of us, and we tend to give very little thought to these activities. It's what college is all about, right?

Pop culture presents our generation with a false safety net while simultaneously being a "To Do" guide to the party life. We may infer that extending the night a little longer than planned, even with the absence of our friends, is equivalent to extending the fun. We never imagine ourselves in scenarios such as St. Guillen's.

When horrific crimes such as the St. Guillen case occur, especially in the city where we live, our culture seeks to find a guilty party or a scapegoat. Aside from the perpetrator who is found guilty, there is also often a "double-blame," in these kinds of rape and murder cases. There's always the excuse, "Oh, she was asking for it." It is often easy to



spill accusations and blame the victim. In fact, a talk show host on a local Boston radio show made the comment, "As tragic as it is, your first reaction is she should not have been out alone at 3 or 4 in the morning because look at what can happen." This statement is beside the fact that it did happen, and avoids confronting the true problems that accompany the crime, such as the reality that it is illegal for bar owners to even hire ex-convicts.

In no way is a rape victim, especially in the extreme example of St. Guillen, "asking for it." Perhaps she knew the perpetrator and she left willingly with him, but this should never serve as a component of justification in a rape. Society at large holds a much greater responsibility in cases like these, where the scenario may have been avoided if only greater preventative measures were executed.

It is through these horrible but archetypical crimes, like St. Guillen's, that we can relate the similarities to our own life. After all, St. Guillen was only a few years older than us. Perhaps it can warn us not to approach a night out with the elusive philosophy, "It won't happen to me," and instead take some preventative measures to protect ourselves.

And by protecting ourselves, I am insinuating more than just having condoms ready for an unexpected hook-up. Carrying around a small canister of pepper spray in case of an emergency can help one feel safer.

When you're out, keep track of your friends, and always be aware of your surroundings. Despite what is glorified on television and in movies, some risks are just not worth it. Maybe a Brad or Angelina look-a-like invited you back to you their place for the night and as tempting as it may be, it's better to just leave your phone number than to risk a rendezvous.

Being cautious, though, in my mind has nothing to do with watching the hemline of your skirt or how much cleavage you expose, however, you always have to be aware that how you present yourself might be carrying connotations that you never intended. A rape is not dependent on your fashion choices but unfortunately, there are those who may take the way a woman dresses as a syndication of her level of sexual activity and experience. It's a myth that will continue to be fought, but there will always be those who choose to blame the victim.

The horrible things that happened to St. Guillen should not hold us back from living our lives, but serve as a public testament that crime like this does happen, and to people like us. We must learn to exhibit social responsibility, and speak up for people like St. Guillen, who have been silenced by atrocities like this. We shouldn't be afraid, but we should always be aware.

*In memory of Imette St. Guillen*





## Wagner's inspiring women

In recognition of March's Women's History Month, Wagnerian writers decided to profile some of the many hard-working women in the Wagner community. These strong women faced uphill battles in their lives and careers and they persevered. We hope their stories will inspire you as much as they inspired us!

### Wagner loves Lucy

By KINGSLEY GREIS  
Wagnerian Ad Manager

Everyone's favorite lunch lady, Lucy R. Calabrese, came to America from Italy in 1951. Lucy's story goes beyond the lunch lines of Wagner College, and begins south of Naples.

We all know who she is, serving us proudly everyday, but do we know what she stands for? Calabrese, a firm believer that hard work really does pay off, stands as a perfect example of an American woman. Her story exemplifies everything we should appreciate and celebrate during Women's History Month.

Calabrese left a very pleasant life South of Naples in 1951. She came here for better opportunities, and to her husband.

The road to America was not paved in smiles though; it was a time of sadness. "We were young and free," Calabrese says. Calabrese left her work at her family's coffee shop, where she worked with her parents. She also left two sisters, tons of cousins, and her friends. But most of all she left her youth, the times when chores were done before anything. Awaiting her in America was her husband, who was an American citizen. He came to America first, and she followed.

Calabrese found America to be more advanced and progressive than her lifestyle in Italy. She faced a major problem, though: the language barrier. But like most of life's rough situations, there was good to follow.

The biggest reward of Calabrese's life in the U.S. was when she first got the key to her and her husband's first house that they owned. "I was on cloud nine, really," Lucy remembers, as she never thought they would own their very own house. Along with the house, came the family. Calabrese raised three children, each of which are now very successful. This was probably helped by their mother's hard work ethic.



Photo by Sarah Zimmerman

Lucy Calabrese, an Italian immigrant, has worked hard to make it in America.

"You name, I did," Calabrese says of her work in America. She started out by sewing clothes that would fit Barbie dolls. She and her three children would sew about a thousand of these little shirts and they would be sold to factories for \$1 for all of them. Calabrese's sewing is still strong. She sews for Stephen Segal and his wife Kelly on Staten Island. After her factory work, Calabrese owned a luncheonette which was named by her kids, "My Mother's Place." After "My Mother's Place," Calabrese and her husband opened a disco bar, "The Moon Lounge."

The death of Calabrese's husband brought her to the join the Wagner family. Lucy loves Wagner College for the respect she gets through the happy faces that grace her as we get our cards swiped. "I'm proud to serve them as a grandmother figure," Calabrese says of the student body.

The month of March is a very proud month for Lucy R. Calabrese,

as a celebration of American women. She is very proud and honored to be an immigrant woman in today's society because she has learned and conquered the ropes of being a hard-working woman in America. As an immigrant, Calabrese feels she appreciates the U.S. even more. In America, she found protection, compared to her early life in Italy. "In America, you never felt war like in Italy. During World War Two there was blood, wounds, hurt soldiers and poverty right in front of you."

Calabrese believes that it is important that the women of America are proud of who they are in carrying out the American dream. She feels that being true to yourself is the most important thing to remember in life.

"If your dreams don't necessarily come true, have self pride and respect. That's what I believe," she says.

### From the newsroom to the classroom, she leads by example

By AMANDA HOOSHANGI  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Any well read Wagner College student should know who Claire Regan is. Professor Regan is a crucial adviser of Wagner's three student publications, and she is associate managing editor of the Staten Island Advance.

Professor Regan is the epitome of a hard-working career woman. Annie Labriola, a junior music major, said: "Professor Regan expects nothing but the best from her students. Her enthusiasm had been a source of motivation for her students."

Not only is Professor Regan a teacher of many journalism courses offered at Wagner, she is also the adviser of the Wagnerian and Kallista, and co-adviser of Nimbus with Professor Andy Needle.

"All three publications are near and dear to my heart. It's a privilege to advise the publications I was part of myself as a student here," Professor Regan said.

While the Wagner College alum isn't advising and teaching young journalists, she is busy at work at the Advance. Her job requires her to work long, hard hours in the newsroom. Professor Regan's responsibilities include overseeing content and design in the paper, supervising hiring and recruitment, as well as being in charge of the internship program.

Surprisingly, Professor Regan is an "accidental journalist." She majored in elementary education and art. Wagner did not offer a journalism minor at the time she was a student. But her involvement in Wagner's three publications helped her prepare for her career as a journalist.

While working as a substitute teacher in New York City public schools the year after graduation, she heard about a part-time job at the Advance through a connection she

had made as a student worker in the Registrar's Office.

Her first job was wedding writer. "I loved the newsroom and the creativity there," Professor Regan recalled.

Climbing to the top of the journalistic ladder in a male-dominated industry was not an easy journey for Professor Regan. As a young woman reporter in the newsroom, she had to work hard to prove herself. "But I was always positive about it along the way," she said. Her determination paid off, and she is now the top woman manager in the Advance newsroom.

As a teacher of journalism, Professor Regan is able to combine her two great joys. "I love the newsroom, but I also enjoy being in the classroom." She often brings real-life situations and decisions directly from the newsroom into the classroom.

"The students challenge me, inspire me and often help me" with tough calls, she confided.

The projects she enjoys most involve students, she said. During Spring Break, she was a presenter at a journalism conference held at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, attended by 4,500 high school journalists and their advisers.

Professor Regan's most important job at the Advance is coaching reporters and editors. "In journalism, you are always learning," she explained.

Her ambition and her work ethic have enabled her to become a force to be reckoned with in the news industry. Because of her experience as a journalist, her connections to Wagner as an alum, and her involvement in the Staten Island community, many students seek her advice and guidance.

Kelly Kaden, a junior English major said, "Professor Regan's passion for journalism has inspired students to strive for an optimal level of creativity. She is truly a mentor."

## For this Wagner role model, the world is her classroom

By KATELYN ARCHER  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Having worked her entire adult life to better the lives of others, Dr. Jean Halley of the sociology department is a role model to young women everywhere.

Born in Washington, D.C., and raised in Wyoming and Montana, Jean, as she prefers her students to call her, is truly a woman taking full advantage of the opportunities awarded her by past progressive

women.

After earning her bachelor's degree in Psychology with minors in Women's Studies and Spanish from Colorado College, Jean received a master's in Theology from Harvard University and a doctorate in Sociology from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Her extensive education is just one way in which Jean excels. Here at Wagner, she teaches compelling sociology courses like "Growing Up Female," "Sexualities and the

Social," and "Race and Gender: The Self and Society in Modern Times." She is also the faculty adviser of Allies, the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and heterosexual alliance on campus, as well as the Sociology Honor Society.

Before reaching out to the world from Wagner, Dr. Halley worked in New York City, where she ran a not-for-profit organization that helped the mentally challenged and severely drug-addicted homeless. She also gave back in Boston, where she lived in a Catholic Worker

Community that had a soup kitchen in the basement.

Dr. Halley has traveled extensively, working for social progress at every location. Most prominently, she studied street children in Mwanza, Tanzania, and worked with an organization to end state-sponsored violence in South American countries like Argentina, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

She will soon have a book published as well. Titled "The Boundaries of Touch: Social Power, Parenting, and Adult-Child

Intimacy," this work concerns ways of thinking about touching children in the twentieth century.

Evident through her selfless and joyful nature, Dr. Halley exemplifies a progressive woman of the 21st century. As citizens, we should all strive to positively improve ourselves through education, research, and experience and we can all find a role model in Dr. Halley, who says, "It's very fulfilling to me to be working in the world in a way that hopefully makes some sort of difference."



# SEAHAWK ATHLETICS

## SPRING 2006



## From Jamaica to New York

*Two Jamaican women power tennis team*

By **KIMBERLY PECINOVSKY**  
Wagnerian Contributor

For most students going away to college is a journey that can often be a few miles away or hundreds of miles to a new state, but for two women on the Wagner College tennis team their journey meant traveling to a new country.

Aartie Mahtani, a sophomore on the tennis team, was born in Chile, but moved to the island of Jamaica when she was two years old and spent her life growing up there. Maria Phillpotts, also a sophomore, was born and raised in Jamaica.

Both girls started their tennis careers while living in Jamaica. Mahtani started around the age of eight, while Phillpotts, whose father owns a tennis club, was playing since she was three. They each played on competitive teams growing up, and continued all through high school as well.

Phillpotts stayed in Jamaica to attend a private school in the area, as Mahtani came to the U.S. to attend a boarding school in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Mahtani played tennis her freshman and sophomore years in Fort Lauderdale, but never got really serious until she transferred to another boarding school in Boca Raton.

When asked why they came to college at Wagner, each woman

had their own response. "Well I liked how they were in the city, but away from the city," explained Mahtani, "they also have a good business program, and I was offered money to play on the team!" "I had applied to a lot of different schools, but ended up coming to Wagner for their business program and because I have a lot of family who lives in the New York City area," Phillpotts told me.

Mahtani and Phillpotts both miss the warm Jamaica weather and living so close to a beach. They both feel that they will one day return to live there with their families. Mahtani misses the way that everyone there is so laid back compared to the non-stop speed of people around here. "I also miss being able to walk around in my bathing suit or minimal clothing and go barefoot everywhere," says Mahtani of Jamaica. "The warm weather is so nice and allows you to relax more easily."

"I will go back someday, but first I need to finish college and get my masters. I will probably stay and work in New York City for a little while, but I don't like the cold and New York isn't for me," Mahtani explains. "But I do like New York better now than when I first moved here. I guess it grows on me as time goes by."

Phillpotts too feels that New York and Jamaica are a lot different, "they are different in a way that New York is stricter with their laws and people are not as laid back. I like when people aren't so stressed," Phillpotts will also go to further her degree to a Masters as well upon graduation, but she feels she will return to Jamaica sooner than later.



**Mahtani**

## Larkin pins competition

*Perseverance pays off for junior wrestler*

By **MATT CUMMINGS**  
Wagnerian Contributor

24-hour dieting, grueling practices, running until you feel like you're going to faint, and the occasional vomiting. These are just some of the perils that come along with being on the

Wagner College wrestling team. But then again, no one ever said being a wrestler was easy--Just ask junior Pat Larkin.

The Connecticut native began wrestling when he was in high school and has been a member of the Seahawk squad since he was a freshman. "My whole life I grew up playing soccer," explains



**Larkin**

Larkin, "but when soccer season ended I needed something to stay in shape." From there, Larkin's natural athletic ability took care of the rest. "Once I started, I realized that I was pretty good, and I really liked it."

Although Larkin had success in high school, he wasn't recruited by Wagner. "I came to the school knowing that they had a team, but I didn't know if I wanted to join or not."

However, as time passed, Larkin decided to try and see if he could make the team. "I decided to try and walk onto the team when I was a freshman," Larkin says. Eventually, after a lot of dedication and hard work, Larkin was awarded a partial scholarship.

### HIGH SCHOOL VS. COLLEGE

As many athletes have found out

the hard way, there is a big difference between the competition level at the collegiate stage compared to that in high school. "I struggled my first two years here at Wagner. Let's just say I didn't win a lot of matches."

However, the resilient Larkin never allowed his difficulties on the mat to get him down. Instead, it only motivated him to work harder. "This year I earned a starting spot on the team and have had more success as of late."

### MORE THAN JUST WRESTLING

Larkin loves wrestling because of the many physical and emotional benefits the sport offers. "Being on the team has taught me the value of discipline. I like it because it gives me a daily routine to follow, and I like having a schedule."

## Brotherly love

*Tom Lindsley on what it's like to play football alongside his brother*

By **CHRIS GOTTSCHALK**  
Wagnerian Contributor

**Wagnerian:** How do you feel about having your brother on the same team as you?

**Tom Lindsley:** Well, being on the same team as my brother is definitely a plus for me. It's kind of cool to have him there; it just makes things easier for me. I knew some of the people on the team already, which made the moving-in process and summer camp a much less hectic and gradual part of the puzzle. It also makes it easier for my family, in obvious ways.

**W:** What advantages do you have that other people don't?

**TL:** I was familiar with the coaching staff even before I came here. I knew what to expect from the practices, and I was able to prepare for that during the summer. Everyone has someone to talk to, whether it be back home, or at a different college. The fact that I have my brother here allows me to talk to him in person if I need to.

**W:** Is your brother the reason you came to Wagner?

**TL:** Definitely not. Coming into this process, I knew it was my own deci-



**Tom Lindsley**



**Ryan Lindsley**

are competing against each other in drills and such. We don't forget that we are brothers, but we have to put that on the back burner because we are both fighting for a spot on the team. We're here for the team, and if that means having brothers fighting for a spot, then so be it.

**W:** How often do you talk to him, being on the same team and going to the same school?

**TL:** Every day. Whether it is about schooling, our family, football, or even girls, he has always been there for me, and I try to be there for him as much as I can.

**W:** Who is better?

**TL:** That's tough to say, and I'm not just saying that because we are brothers. We both have our own characteristics and attributes that lead to our individual success on the field.

**W:** Have you ever played against him?

**TL:** Not really. We have played together since the fourth grade, and the only time I can think of us going against each other is in practice. In high school, I would "D" up on him because I was a D-back. But we both are competitive and hate to lose, but we have fun with it and it makes our bond that much stronger.

## Support Wagner athletics at these upcoming games:

**April 3:** Men's and Women's Golf  
Monmouth Invitational

**April 4:** Baseball at Rutgers  
Women's Tennis at Monmouth

**April 5:** Men's Tennis at Monmouth  
Baseball at Fordham

**April 7:** Women's Water Polo  
Doubleheader at Iona and at Siena  
Women's Tennis  
Doubleheader at LIU and at RMU

For complete schedules and results,  
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# First-ever World Baseball Classic is an 'out of the park' success



By ANDREW MINUCCI  
Wagnerian Sports Editor

When the inaugural World Baseball Classic (WBC) kicked off in early March, the preliminary favorites were believed to be the national teams from the United States, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic. To everyone's surprise, Japan and Cuba played in the championship round and Japan emerged as the best team in the entire world. The first ever WBC proved to be a huge success for the game of baseball and shows the importance of the game internationally.

Before the tournament even began, critics were saying it would be no more exciting than an exhibition game in spring training and that it would not be received well by the fans. This hypothesis was proved incorrect immediately as the first round began. The players performed with a passion usually reserved for the closing weeks of October during the World Series and the fans came in droves, sporting cow bells and their countries' colors in support of their teams. Most importantly, the tournament showed how baseball has evolved from an exclusively American game to an international passion.

The United States entered the



Team Japan celebrates its 10-6 victory over Cuba in the championship round.

tournament heavily favored to win because of superstars such as Derek Jeter, Alex Rodriguez, Roger Clemens, and many others. After embarrassing losses to Canada and Mexico, Team USA's reign over the sport of baseball ended and the teams from Japan,

Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Korea had the opportunity in the quarter-finals to prove their countries were the best in the world.

A surprise contender for the world championship turned out to be the national team from Cuba.

Initially the U.S. government denied the team access to American soil because of the economic and political differences between the two countries. After a generous offer by Cuban leader Fidel Castro to donate all profits to Hurricane Katrina victims, the

United States let the Cuban players participate in the tournament held in California. It has long been known the Cubans are very passionate about baseball and this is apparent from talented defectors such as Orlando Hernandez and his cousin Livan. The fact that the Cubans made it to the championship round shows their talent is far superior than most people give them credit for.

When it was all said and done, the national team from Japan emerged with the title of "best team in the world." With only one major league player on their roster, Ichiro Suzuki, Japan beat Cuba 10-6 in the first-ever championship game and proved their country is the best baseball nation in the world. Japan gets to defend their title in 2009 when the second WBC takes place.

Now that the tournament is over, the question remains: Was it good for the game of baseball? It absolutely was, because it shows the game of baseball has traveled far beyond American borders and is becoming as important worldwide as Major League Baseball is in the United States. During the WBC I was glued to my television watching teams from around the world competing for their countries with a passion I have never before seen. It sure beat watching spring training.

## OPINION

# Are some MLB teams' high payrolls 'fair play'?

By CHRIS  
GOTTSCALK  
Wagnerian Contributor

An immensely debated topic between Yankee fans (and almost every other baseball fan) is the amount of money New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner invests in his team.

With a salary over \$208 million, the Yankees have a whopping \$85 million advantage over their arch-rival team the Boston Red Sox, who currently have the second-largest payroll at \$123 million.

With the return of Alex Rodriguez and Yankees Captain Derek Jeter, the left side of the Yankee lineup could be not only considered the best combination today, but possibly the best ever. With salaries totaling \$45 million per year, these two Yankee stars exceed the entire Kansas City Royals' payroll by \$9 million.

Chris De Flora, a Bloomsburg University freshman, says, "It's a business. Steinbrenner happens to be wealthier than other owners. Who is to say how he should spend his money?"

Gerard Baratta, a Montclair State University freshman, and die-hard Mets fan, disagrees.

"The baseball commission should definitely have a ceiling cap on salaries. It's only fair to



Yankees like Alex Rodriguez and Derek Jeter (above) make more money than the entire Kansas City Royals franchise. The Mets have been paying top dollar for stars like Carlos Beltran and Pedro Martinez (below).



have everyone compete on the same financial level," he says. "The MLB should take a page out of the NFL playbook. Keeping

teams closer financially strengthens the league and makes for more competitive baseball."

People are always going to have

## 2005 MLB Payrolls

### The Top Five:

- 1) New York Yankees \$208,306,817
- 2) Boston Red Sox \$123,505,125
- 3) New York Mets \$101,305,821
- 4) Los Angeles Angels \$97,725,322
- 5) Philadelphia Phillies \$95,522,000

### The Bottom Five:

- 1) Cleveland Indians \$41,502,500
- 2) Milwaukee Brewers \$39,934,833
- 3) Pittsburgh Pirates \$38,133,000
- 4) Kansas City Royals \$36,881,000
- 5) Tampa Bay Devil Rays \$29,363,067

adhere to every one else's wishes. The New York Yankee organization measures itself with World Series victories. Making the playoffs is just not good enough, and if you can buy yourself a team to compete for that title, why not? Winning is the only thing that matters.

"In Steinbrenner's world, winning is expected, not just hoped for. Even if you're a Red Sox fan, you can appreciate the talent the Yankees put on the field everyday," De Flora says.

Over the past two years, the Mets have increased their payroll a great deal, with the addition of Pedro Martinez and Carlos Beltran, not to mention the off-season moves they made this year. This shows that other owners have money to spend and are just not willing to invest it into their team.

If you're not willing to spend the money to make your team better and able to compete, then why not just sell your team, get out, and get someone in the office who is willing to make the acquisitions needed to pull your team out of the gutter?

With Steinbrenner at the helm, and talent and money not being objects, I agree with the way he strives to make his team the best of the best.

a difference of opinion, but the fact is that the MLB doesn't have a salary cap. Keeping that in mind, Steinbrenner has no reason to





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