

## Wagner's own Jamie Macchia crowned Miss Staten Island

By **CAROLINE LATORRE**  
Managing Editor

When junior arts administration major Jamie Macchia was growing up her dream was to one day become a "princess."

On Nov. 12, Macchia came one step closer to that dream when she was crowned Miss Staten Island at the 46th Annual Miss Staten Island Scholarship Pageant.

Macchia began doing pageants three years ago and placed as second runner up for her first pageant, and first runner up for her second pageant. She took last year off from pageants in order to "grow" so she could return this year with hopes of finally reaching the top.

"I was never a pageant girl," Macchia explained, "But this is a scholarship pageant so it's not technically a beauty pageant. It's based mostly on your interview and being a well-rounded girl, not being beautiful."

Macchia's platform is the Make a Wish foundation, an organization that grants wishes to children with life-threatening diseases. "I'm involved with make a wish because my best friend Dominique was diagnosed with Leukemia," Macchia said. "He passed away five years ago but I still



Photo: Staten Island Advance

Junior Jamie Lynn Macchia hopes to use her new role as Miss Staten Island as a way to make connections to further her fundraising efforts for the Make a Wish Foundation.

try and keep his memory alive."

The night's theme was "Celebrating the Spirit of America" and consisted of the 10 contestants showing off their active wear, swimsuits, and evening gowns followed by answering on-stage questions and performing one of their talents.

For the talent portion of the competition Macchia performed an original lyrical dance piece to the song "Permanent" by David Cook. She dedicated the dance to her late friend Dominique. "It's a very emotional

Continued on **Page 2**



Photo: Adena Ershow

Last year, the Dance Team placed ninth at a national competition in Disney World. This year, they plan to do even better.

## Dance Team pirouettes its way to Disney World

By **LAURA DELLAVILLA**  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

If you happen to be walking by the aerobic studio in Spiro Sport's Center on Sunday night from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., you'll hear the competition dance team warming up to "The New Workout Plan," by Kanye West.

The team is preparing for their eighth annual trip to the College Cheerleading and Dancing National Championship in Disney World at the ESPN Wide World of Sports.

Last year, the 2010-2011 dance team sent in a try out video to the

Universal Dance Association (UDA) to compete in the open division category. Green and White placed 12 with their try out video of 32 other teams.

"Open division is for schools that are smaller and don't get much funding for their dance team. It's mostly for schools that are in division two and three," said Sophomore Emily Sayre, returning for her second year.

At the competition, the team danced their way to ninth place in the nation with a lyrical performance to "Gotta Get Through This" by Daniel Bedingfield. They wore a flowing

Continued on **Page 11**

### in this special edition

How will your professors be spending their winter breaks?

PAGE 3

Growing up with Christmukah: How Stephanie Hinkes juggles two religious holidays

PAGE 5

Deck the halls (with gifts people actually want)

PAGE 7

Christmas trees, kicklines and shopping: Things that will keep you in the holiday spirit in New York City

PAGE 8

Wagner coaches speak out about Penn State controversy

PAGE 11

## Cracking the code: Converting units to credits

By **KRISTEN HAGGERTY**  
Copy Chief

Unlike many other colleges, Wagner elects to use a system of "units" to measure a student's academic progress. Most schools, including Cortland University, Hofstra University and Penn State, use a more universal system of credits, which may make applying to graduate school or transferring to another college difficult for students at Wagner.

Units seem to complicate the application process, as students struggle to convert their accumulated units to credits in an attempt to ensure the next school understands exactly what coursework a student has completed.

"It took me a really long time to transfer my units to credits when I started applying to med schools," said senior Brandi Adduce. "Lucky for me, the pre-health society gave us all of the transfer information we needed so it was n't too hard to figure out," she added.

Wagner's system of measuring units instead of credits may not be very common, but there is no cause for alarm when applying to another school.

The amount of credits assigned to a class varies by topic, level, and the amount of time spent in that class. For example, using the credits system, a student could take an advanced math class for five credits, a basic art class for two credits, and a science lab for three credits. The student will be taking three classes, but ten credits.

Up until 1998, when the Wagner Plan for Experiential Learning was implemented, Wagner followed the credit system as well. The graduation requirement for students was 128 credits, averaging out to approximately 42 classes taken over four years. The system was also linked to class times with students spending 150 minutes in class each week.

However, with the addition of the Wagner Plan, the system was restructured, and became the unit system that is used today. Each class was either assigned one or one half of a unit,

and 36 units are required to graduate. Class times were also lengthened to 180 minutes of instruction a week. Dr. Jeffrey Kraus, senior associate provost and registrar, explained. "Wagner wanted longer classes, so that students could learn in greater depth, and have a greater breadth of knowledge about the class subjects."

While Wagner's system of units is rare, it is not the only institution practicing weighing classes by units rather than credits. Vassar College has used a unit system since the 1960s. The school's motivation for its implementation was based on the fact that all courses had the same intellectual value, and should not be graded on a scale of usefulness. Kraus stated that this outlook fits nicely into the Wagner Plan, although it was not the main motivation for Wagner's switch.

Although units are not widely used, Kraus stated that to his knowledge, there has never been a problem with classes transferring to other schools, or being recognized by grad-

Continued on **Page 2**



By VIOLETA CAPRIC  
SGA President

## Message from the 'Oval' office

# Students say good-bye to fall and look forward to spring

The fall semester seems to have flown right by us, however we, as a campus, have accomplished and changed so many things throughout the fall. From the experience Hurricane Irene provided, to the numerous Wagner members who ran the Tunnel to Towers run, the largest Fall Fest we have had to date, and the first ever Week of Winter, ending with SGA's Winter Mixer.

This year SGA members decided to put a twist on the traditional semi-formal event held on campus. Instead of holding the event in the fall, we created a winter-inspired event called Winter Mixer, which was held on Friday, Dec. 2. The event was held in Faculty Dining Room from 7:30-11:00 p.m. and SGA proudly provided students with desserts, a cash bar and a night filled with music and dancing. Lackmann dining services worked with SGA in providing the food and cash bar, while junior Christopher Luner was the DJ for the evening. The event was a success, with donations collected for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA) in honor of the Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Week, and a fun time was had by all who attended.

As the fall semester comes to a close, SGA is anxiously looking ahead to the spring semester.

Senators have also been moving forward with their proposals and working with members of senior staff in order to get things going. Thanks to everyone's hard work we have been able to make several improvements and are looking forward to some immediate changes next semester. One of these immediate changes includes how our late night shuttle will be run, which will now

include graduate student drivers. The late night shuttle will still run during the same hours, which are 11:40 p.m. - 1:40 a.m.

Along with this change to shuttle system, we will also continue to work on our other proposals, as well as improve upon our registration systems and reimbursement system for clubs and organizations. We will be continuing our electronic policy and all clubs will be required to submit updated registration and roster forms by Feb. 7 for the spring semester.

SGA will also be updating our reimbursement processes and will hopefully make the process more carefree and convenient for students. Finally, we will also be instituting a new registration and ticket payment process to allow students to reserve tickets to our Big Name Act, Gym Class Heroes, on April 21. We hope to keep everything electronic and continue to build upon the communication between clubs and SGA as a whole.

I truly hope that we have continued to serve you, the student body; to the best of our abilities and that we have represented you appropriately throughout the semester. We have several activities and events to look forward to in the next semester, including the Big Name Act, Wagnerstock, community service events, Songfest, tickets to Broadway shows and most importantly: SGA elections. By continuously asking for your feedback, we hope to make all of these events even more enjoyable than the last. I truly look forward to working with all of you next semester. Good luck on all of your finals. Wishing you all happy holidays and a happy new year, see you in January.

## Cracking the code: Units vs. credits

Continued from Page 1

uate programs. Tiffany Gaines, a senior at New York University, transferred from Wagner as a sophomore. She stated, "For me everything transferred successfully except the freshman year writing tutorial course."

Each unit has a value of 3.3 credits without a lab and 4.4 credits with a lab, allowing students to simply multiply the number of units they've taken by this number to gauge how many credits they have.

"Schools are also moving away

from a one size fits all approach," Kraus explained. Some schools use trimesters or quarters instead of semesters. Others use numerical grades instead of letters, Kraus indicated.

The key to working with such a fluid approach to recording a student's success is communication. As long as potential schools know exactly how a student's transcript should be interpreted, multiple recording methods do not become an issue.

If you are facing problems with your transcripts, contact the registrar's office at (718) 390-3173.

# Wagner junior Jamie Macchia named Miss Staten Island

Continued from Page 1

song because it was written by David Cook about his brother who had cancer. So I had people crying."

The Miss Staten Island pageant is unique because unlike other pageants across the country it's the only pageant that gives each contestant their own coach to work with prior to the competition. "Every Sunday we would have practice together and the coaches helped us with our interviewing skills and approved our out-



Photo: Staten Island Advance

Macchia said she never considered herself a "pageant girl" but encourages all girls to give it a chance, as it gave her a lot of "self confidence."

fits." Macchia explained. "The coaches would guide us along because no one who competes in Miss Staten Island really is a pageant person."

The Staten Island pageant is an official Miss America preliminary. The annual winner of the pageant is to compete in the Miss New York State Scholarship Pageant at the St. George Theatre come June. "It's terrifying I'm going to compete in Miss New York because if you win Miss New York you go on to Miss America and it's on TV, so that's scary!" Macchia said.

As the newly crowned Miss Staten Island, Macchia is excited to begin her year with the title. "I make appearances at different events all over the Island. I've already had a radio interview, attended a March of Dimes fundraiser and the Women of Achievement Luncheon."

Also on her agenda are tree lightings and visits to Staten Island schools where she talks with kids. "I want to be a good role model for young ladies. I think that there are so many negative role models for them in today's world...they need some positive role models."

The response Macchia has received from the community has been very eye opening for her and she is eager to start making a difference. "I can't believe how much power having a crown gives you. It's good because it will help me raise money for my cause," she said.

Macchia hopes to accomplish all

the goals she has set for herself over the next year as Miss Staten Island by meeting new people and spreading her message. "I think in a year I'm going to be so much further into reaching my life goals and my career goals that I'll be able to make connections now and move further into my dreams."

She encourages other girls who are unsure of what they want to do to look into pageants. "Anyone who wants to learn about themselves and how to represent themselves well should do it. Even if you don't win we learn so much in those few weeks that helps you forever," Macchia said. "When I first started I was completely a mess. I didn't know what I was getting into I was like, 'ooh yeah I'll try a pageant that sounds fun.' Then when I got second runner up my first year I was like, 'this is cool, I want to do it again.'"

The most important thing Macchia has taken away from her years as a pageant girl is "self confidence." She explained when she first started doing pageants she had "zero confidence" in herself. "I think now it's easier for me to believe I can do something. Because after however many times trying to do this I finally achieved my goal, so clearly I can do what I set my mind to."

You can read all about Jamie's experiences as the newest Miss Staten Island by visiting her official blog at <http://missstatenisland2012.blogspot.com>.

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# How will professors spend this winter break?



Dr. Nicholas Richardson  
Professor of  
Chemistry and Physics

Dr. Richardson will be traveling to Baltimore for a convention, where he'll be working on conflict simulation board game designs. He will be working on two game designs, one ready for publication on the Battle of Bir Hacheim, and a second on the German invasion of Crete, including working on translating some German maps and reading the Greek historical accounts of the battle. He'll also be measuring some chemical properties of complexes for a few days, and finishing a manuscript incorporating those data.

Dr. Eshleman will be traveling to Michigan to visit family and friends. She likes to indulge her nephew and two nieces, whom she wishes she could see more often. She looks forward to running a relay race in early January with members of my running team, the Richmond Rockets. The race starts in Miami and finishes about 190 miles later in Key West. Each of the team members will run three times, with each run being between three and nine miles. She also hopes to finish an article she is co-authoring with Dr. Jean Halley on the last names chosen for children when parents have separate last names. She also promised her nine-year-old niece she would read another book in the Harry Potter series so they can discuss it.



Dr. Amy Eshelman  
Professor of Psychology



Dr. Ann Hurley  
Professor of English

Dr. Hurley will be traveling to Seattle in January to interview candidates for two new faculty positions in the English Dept. They interview at the annual MLA conference, and this year the conference will be meeting in Seattle. She will be on sabbatical for the spring semester, and will be getting back to work on a critical edition of two plays by the 17thC dramatist Elizabeth Polwehe. She will also be working on an article on John Donne's poetry and early modern globalization. Lastly, she hopes to get in lots of skiing, both downhill and cross country.

Prof Asare will be traveling to Istanbul, Turkey where her in-laws live. She is looking forward to daily Turkish lessons with her husband's grandmothers, as well as lots of laughter, delicious food, and stories about Istanbul life throughout the 20th century. She is currently working on a book about a truth and reconciliation commission in Ghana, West Africa, and hopes to make progress on a number of different articles related to the book over the break. She will be reading will be the newest books about empire, imperialism, human rights, and global history to prepare for classes next semester. She also looks forward to spending time with three of her favorite little people; her nephews Bediako (age 3), Kwaku (age 2) and her little niece Satya Velankanni (age 2).



Prof. Abena Asare  
Assistant Professor  
of History



Dr. Jean Halley  
Associate Professor of  
Sociology & Anthropology

Dr. Halley will be travelling to Albuquerque, NM for ten days to visit her mother, sister and other family members there to celebrate both Christmas and Hanukkah. She will be anxiously trying to complete her book, and of course, preparing for classes next semester. She will be reading and rereading a lot of books about the meat industry and a lot of the social theory by Michel Foucault.

## Family holiday traditions



Emily Stein,  
Senior

Emily and her family celebrate Hanukkah. They say prayers and light the candles of the Menorah on each of the eight nights. She and her siblings plays dreidel with chocolate gelt (coins). They exchange gifts on the second or third night of Hanukkah after lighting the menorah. Contrary to popular belief, they don't get gifts on every night of Hanukkah.

Monique loves making tamales at her grandma's house. It has been a tradition in her family for a long time. Her grandma has been making them since Monique was five.



Monique Martinet,  
Junior



Kelsey Brown,  
Sophomore

Kelsey spends the holidays at home with her family, celebrating both Christmas and Kwanza. She plays a lot games with her family that focus on unity and trust within the family, such as scavenger hunts. Her family cooks traditional Christmas food, including turkey and sweet potatoes.

Amanda and her family gather at her house for dinner and dessert, celebrating both Christmas and her aunt Joan-Noel's birthday. They separate the gifts and then open them together at the end of the night. To decorate for the holiday, they trim a Christmas tree with white birds and a train with a wintery scene circling the base underneath. Sometimes her own real birds even go for a ride!



Amanda Arcieri,  
Senior

-Reported by Danielle Lucchese



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**(how) waggish** {trans.} adjective:

like a wag; roguish in merriment and good humor; jocular:  
i.e. Fielding and Sterne are waggish writers.

## the world according to GOOCH

### My sincerest apologies

So first thing is first...

I'm sorry. I'm sorry for a few things.

I am sorry for being too busy for you, the person who is currently reading this article.

I am sorry for not having time to share with you all of the unfortunate events in my life this semester or the awkward encounters, you better believe, I most certainly had. There were some funny one's mind you me.

I am sorry for saying yes to everything that is ever asked of me. Like I probably should've found it odd that I related so closely to Jim Carrey in *Yes Man*. Of course, I didn't have time for the spiritual revelation on the bridge nor the sexual topping experience with the male equivalent of Jennifer Aniston nor did Snap!'s *I've Got The Power* play behind me as I walked down the street, should've known it then, when none of that was going on that I was not in the movie nor that I was even describing the right movie, that's *Bruce Almighty*, I don't think I've ever seen *Yes Man*, I was probably too busy saying yes to other things.

I am sorry for just spending 30 minutes of my life Facebooking. But just so you know my best friends and I have some great plans ahead for New Year's Eve, I **liked** a new picture my mom put up of herself glowing and smiling and beautiful as ever, I made a heartfelt status about being inspired by my talented friends and I stalked my middle school best friend's sister who just had a baby... she's just so disgustingly happy, I just couldn't stop myself.

I am sorry for all of my articles in this past semester for possibly being horrible and unacceptably not funny. I probably was not funny when writing them nor awake enough to even make a clear line of a sentence. I have no excuse other than I'm tired and the late nights of coffee and Cheez-its didn't make the cut as far as serving you, my readers, just bear with me, to the best of my ability.

I'm sorry for constantly having a dead phone because you know, being as busy as I am it's very hard to find time to plug in my phone.

I'm sorry that the other day when I was walking out of the bank in the city with a muffin, cup of Starbucks in my hand and new great puffy tube parka on, on one of the most winteriest days of the year and a woman asked me for money that I said no. I really did have it, I just was too busy to stop and was really enjoying my coffee and I mean... banana nut is my favorite.

I'm sorry that I wrote this instead of writing about my really entertainingly ridiculous Thanksgiving extravaganza where not only did the Gooch clan and the Hoffmeister clan

battle off for the best leg of the turkey but it was spent in a restaurant with some of the classiest elevator music playing ahead with laughs provided by my Grandfather, Merle Gooch and my Grandmother, Peggy Hoffmeister which between Merle's comments about my fluctuating weight and Peggy's commentary on her adoration of jellied pig's feet, each and every one of you would've been jealous. Ask me about it though. The comments are sadly numerous.

I'm sorry because I love everyone here and this wasn't very nice of me BUT I'm sorry I'm not really THAT sorry. Because it's ok if you don't have time to read this right now, I mean not that I don't care because I do but it's a give-and-take relationship and you've just been giving me so much lately and I've just been taking advantage of that and that's just not fair, you know? So things will change I promise. We'll make this work.

But if you really want to know the truth of it, it's all Wagner's fault. They have bred us to be the Iditarodesque raging presidents and doctors and movie stars of tomorrow. College has been a constant sprint. I am literally running from the moment I get up to the moment I hit the hay...yup, the cliché is and was necessary but also it just took up a little more space in which would allow me to go to sleep soon and wake up to press repeat to my day of craziness starting with waking up to my great new Tone Ranger's inspired *Good Morning* ringtone. ask my roommate and ringtone enthusiast, Heather, she would tell you the same.

Any who, I feel as if when I got to Wagner, the college of opportunity, I learned very quickly that it was going to be a sprint to the end. And baby, I'm tired. It is the college where EYH is not just a referential term to those that want to study abroad but is a lifestyle for about 92% of the students. We, as a whole, are encouraged to go. Go, go, go and don't stop for a second to ponder. I have thought about this a lot. Wondering if this is a New York thing? Maybe. I am from Virginia where speech and mood and driving tempos are by far way slower. They don't call it a Southern drawl for nothing. And then I really think its New York because literally every single person I meet here is in the same shoes as I am. Busy, wanting to talk but can't, tired but not able to sleep.

Our little college of opportunity has placed each and every one of its students in the race to become the MOST successful, the MOST talented and remain with the MOST views on Youtube. Welp, here's my vow for the next years in the semester to come. I have one semester left of my school life (I really like saying



that). And as much as I doubt my attitude and constant insane busyness will be calming down anytime soon or that I will be able to stop, I promise that with the semester coming up, I will be funny...well maybe not funny, but I will be as honest as possible and be the most truthful about my life, being myself cause as we all know it's definitely a life I live, DEFINITELY.

I truly hope you accept this apology. It's very heartfelt, very, scout's honor. Cheers to your bloody brilliant month of a break. I hope you do nothing; nothing at all. I hope you grow sores on your body and have to be bulldozed out of your house from ALL of the nothing you will not be doing.

In the words of Merle, go back home and bite it by the balls. (And no, he did not mean bite the bullet) he meant bite it by the balls. Hold that very close to your heart....I know you will.

Cheers, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year kids!

#### JOKE OF THE WEEK

A young blonde was on vacation in the depths of Louisiana. She wanted a pair of genuine alligator shoes in the worst way, but was very reluctant to pay the high prices the local vendors were asking.

After becoming very frustrated with the "no haggle" attitude of one of the shopkeepers, the blonde shouted, "Maybe I'll just go out and catch my own alligator so I can get a pair of shoes at a reasonable price!" The shopkeeper said, "By all means, be my guest. Maybe you'll luck out and catch yourself a big one!" Determined, the blonde turned and headed for the swamps, set on catching herself an alligator. Later in the day, the shopkeeper is driving home, when he spots the young woman standing waist deep in the water, shotgun in hand. Just then, he sees a huge 9 foot alligator swimming quickly toward her. She takes aim, kills the creature and with a great deal of effort hauls it

on to the swamp bank. Lying nearby were several more of the dead creatures. The shopkeeper watches in amazement. Just then the blonde flips the alligator on its back, and frustrated, shouts out, "Damn it, this one isn't wearing any shoes either!"

#### LAUGH BAKED

## Finals week: Stress rears its head again



By **ANDREW KORNFELD**  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to tell you stress is painful. It doesn't take a brain surgeon, either, although a brain surgeon is probably better qualified. (Hope I'm not offending any rocket scientists.) Anyway, as finals sidle up to us like some dude wearing Affliction posted up at a bar, we are going to have to face it and we're going to have to come to terms with it. And we are also *not* going to give it our number.

Stress, pronounced *stress*, is that feeling you get when you have to do a zillion things in twenty minutes and you feel like most of them are pretty dumb. When people refer to "crunch time", they probably mean a time like finals, when stress levels rise so high they threaten to choke you. They also might be talking about abdominal exercises, though, or a candy bar, so don't rule those out.

The purpose of this week's column is to discuss the origin of stress so you can understand where these feelings are coming from. The story is often overlooked but worth knowing for a multitude of reasons, one of the most pressing being that I made it up so it will be way funnier than if it were true.

In 1893 Bartholomew Jeremiah Stress, an American entrepreneur known for his supernatural haggling abilities, had a premonition that the man who invented dynamite would be born in mid-December of 1896. He began to work feverishly to make it happen first, traveling the world over to visit all manner of scientists. Military, civilian, some kook

peddling a "love elixir": it didn't matter. Stress was in a hurry and he refused to pause for even a minute to give the unborn Alfred Nobel any ground.

By March 1896, Stress was in a pickle. (Not literally.) He was nine months away from the birth of the Swedish chemist who would scoop him and take all the glory for himself. Stress had been unlucky enough to be prescient. He had seen history to come and he didn't like the look of it.

Calling a conference for all the nations' top chemists, Stress began to work even harder in pursuit of the elusive explosive. One day he became dangerously close (this time literally) and chose to test it himself. He stalked over to the tube of proto-dynamite, scowling all the way. He lit the fuse, crossed his arms, and waited. The seconds seemed to tick by forever, until at last it detonated.

Stress hadn't expected this. He was obliterated in the blast.

When the surviving scientists returned home and their spouses and children asked what the atmosphere was like in the room when they finally hit on the solution, historical record is unclear on exactly what the response was. Still, we know at least one person, a medicine woman from Biloxi, Mississippi, told her girlfriend, "He exploded. I'd say the feeling in the room was pretty Stress-ful."

Thus, a legend was born.

In the wake of the tragedy Stress's recipe was lost. On Dec. 10, 1896, Alfred Nobel would be born. Wait, actually, he would die. I was looking at the wrong part of Wikipedia.

Stress's plan was futile all along. I'm so sorry, Fake Guy I Made Up and Killed. *Not*. You're fake and I made you up.

Anyway, the lesson here is never to forget Bartholomew Jeremiah Stress's sacrifice. He may have been literally blown to bits, but if it weren't for him what would we feel with finals underway? Sadness? Anger? Elation?

So good luck out there, Wagner. And try not to get yourself killed.

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meditations  
of a  
*loquacious*  
nerd

## Farewell, gift obsessing monsters

*My quest to end the materialistic craze of the holidays*



By **MISTY ROSSO**  
Opinions Editor

It is that time of year again. Hanukkah and Christmas are fast approaching, and the present shopping mania has officially begun. It is disgraceful in my opinion that our society has seemingly forgotten what the holidays represent and has in turn, transformed them into a materialistic competition for the 'perfect' gifts.

I love the holidays, although, not because of the presents I know I will receive on Christmas. Instead, I look forward to the end of the semester and subsequently, winter break, as well as spending time with my loved ones. That is, after all, what the holidays are about.

Regrettably, the holidays evoke deranged madness to buy the 'perfect' gift for every single person you know. My sister, for instance, metamorphoses into one of these gift hunting monsters, repeatedly demanding to know what you are getting her for Christmas and what you in return would like to receive. My response usually consists of three words: "I don't know."

In my experience, shopping for Christmas presents leaves me overwhelmed with anxiety. Anxiety is not the warm gooey feeling the holidays are supposed to evoke.

In my opinion, there are several issues with gift giving for Christmas and Hanukkah. 1) There is way too much pressure to spend \$\$\$.

2) People tend to feel trapped into buying someone a present because they have been told by this person that he got them something or he got them something last year (which, I must say, I have fallen vulnerable to, and let me share this advice with you, do not buy a present for someone because you expect he will get you one, more times than not, he does not get you anything).

3) The focus should be on family, friends and Jesus (if you are religious), not material objects.

I think our society's values have become skewed.

I propose that this year instead of running rabid to the mall to amass holiday presents, you devote your time to handmade presents; think of it as a DIY project. For example, I make or buy holiday cards almost every year. You can also cook or bake something, draw or paint something, write a poem, create a collage of family photos, sew something, and so on. The options are endless, and better yet, inexpensive.

This year, I am buying only a couple presents and relatively inexpensive ones. My other Christmas presents for my loved ones consist of hand-made Christmas cards and for my boyfriend, a poem.

The point I am driving at is that the only two ingredients necessary for a good holiday gift are love and creativity.

If you do not feel the inclination to make something, dedicate time to those you deem important in your life. Making an effort to spend time with someone will show him how special he is to you. For example, I try to go to church Christmas Eve to watch my mother sing in the choir (one year I even joined the choir).

I apologize for popping some of your bubbles, but a Rolex watch or a designer purse do not equate love. Nor do iPhones or jewelry from Tiffany's. Materialistic objects may bring joy to your loved ones face, however, it does not show him how much you care about him and how blessed you are to have him in your life. Material objects just cannot articulate something as personal and intricate as love.

I believe that simple, thoughtful actions speak louder than expensive presents. I hope that this article has reminded you of what the holidays are about - family, friends and religion. Shove the anxiety and consumer-hungry desire for materialistic items to the side, and embrace the simplicity and joy the holidays can become if you keep in mind what I have told you.

With that, I wish you a great end of the semester and a very happy holiday season.

## Growing up with Christmakah: Wrapping culture into the holidays

By **STEPHANIE HINKES**

Assistant Opinions Editor

"So that means you get double the presents?!" became a common phrase made by my peers to me around the holidays. I grew up with a Jewish father and a Christian mother, and as a result, celebrated both Hanukkah and Christmas. I never saw this as confusing or exhausting, or even as double the presents. I believe I have been very lucky to have two opportunities to celebrate every December surrounded by friends and family, and to experience two different cultures.

Surprising to most, I never received double the gifts. In fact, I probably got less presents compared to those around me. I would get one small gift the first night of Hanukkah and a bigger gift on the last night. As for Christmas, there would be a small assortment of presents under the tree consisting of books, clothes, and one toy I had asked for. Celebrating both holidays did not mean anything over the top in the gifts department.

My focus was always the simple enjoyment I received from celebrating both holidays. I loved the fact that Hanukkah typically arrived a week or so before Christmas because it al-

ways seemed like a weeklong celebration leading up to Christmas.

I loved knowing the Hanukkah prayers to say every night as my Dad lit the Menorah. As the youngest child in the family, that was my job. I loved watching the candles burn down throughout the night and looking at the designs the colorful wax made all over the base of the gold menorah, or on occasion, my mother's best tablecloths.

Growing up as both a Christian and a Jew has made me more culturally aware than many of my peers. I understand this is common among many kids these days as society cares less about marrying someone with the same religion. When I was younger, though, I felt as if I was the only one who grew up in a culturally diverse household, and this not only made me feel special, but more knowledgeable and appreciative of the holiday season.

As much as I love the decorations and the songs, I know the true meaning of both. I know the full stories and the details to go with each holiday, and that is something I will never forget and will always be proud of. I would love to share all that I know and allow everyone to be culturally aware, but I know that may not be of interest to many of you. Rather, I en-

courage you to go out and learn for yourself. Even if you grew up with just Christmas, buy a cheap Menorah, light the candles, and watch them melt down; I promise it is an experience worth your time. Furthermore, I challenge you to reach outside of just Christmas and Hanukkah and look at any of the many other holidays that surround us throughout the holiday season.

Mark your calendar for these other holidays to make you aware of when they are taking place and find what exactly will be celebrated so you can properly give them a holiday greeting. Having this slightest bit of knowledge will show you are culturally aware and not blinded by the commercialization of Christmas and the holiday season.

Being culturally aware has more benefits than one may think; whether a job interview or small talk with a superior, this knowledge will always make you seem like a more well-rounded and diverse individual.

Celebrating both holidays while growing up created experiences I will never forget. I will always appreciate the fact that I had parents of two different religions and ignore the assumption of others that I had double the presents, because in my opinion, I had so much more.

## Paterno goes from headcoach to scapegoat

By **STEPHANIE HINKES**

Assistant Opinions Editor

In today's society, it is unfortunate that the media dictates the decision making for humanity, regardless of the accurate information available for us to read. Penn State University has been one of few universities to avoid humiliation in the press until the Sandusky Scandal broke out.

For 46 years, Joe Paterno has been the respected head football coach for the Nittany Lions. Unfortunately, the reputation of both Penn State and "JoePa," all came crashing down with a child-abuse scandal involving former defensive coordinator of the Nittany Lions, Jerry Sandusky.

The media has portrayed Paterno as a man who cared more about the football team than the abused children simply because he did not contact the police directly. This asinine assumption by the media was made solely out of ignorance. First of all, McQueary was the one who witnessed the abuse, and therefore should have been the one to call the police. If it was deemed acceptable

for him to pass information up to Paterno, why was it so frowned upon for Paterno to pass it up to Curley and Schultz? In my opinion, the finger got pointed at the wrong man.

Sandusky had been investigated for sexual abuse in years prior, yet nothing was filed against him. If there were suspicions of him sexually abusing boys, Sandusky's program, a program for young troubled boys, should have been shut down. This matter could have been prevented had this case been handled properly the first time around.

I feel as though the media chose Paterno to blame because of his fame; they saw it as a way to draw people into the news, and as a result, took down a significant man in Penn State history.

Consequently, students were at Paterno's home days later in support of his reputation. Paterno stated the remorse he felt for the boys in the situation and that we should all pray for them, and furthermore went on to state his resignation at the end of this year's season.

I saw this as an admirable step by Paterno; the Board of Trustees felt differently. The board announced

later that they decided to fire Paterno and he should leave immediately. I was appalled by this measure taken by the board and I am not even a student there.

The horrific acts of Sandusky were unforgivable and all the blame should rest with him. It was not Paterno who touched these boys, and it was not as though he tucked the information in his pocket and kept it a secret. It makes me sick that on top of such a horrendous scandal, a model to the entire Penn State University lost his golden reputation and everything he worked to stand for throughout his career. From remorse for the young abused boys, to losing his tremendous career, to now suffering with lung cancer, Paterno's life has taken a turn for the worst. He did not deserve any of this.

I think that the media has bereated the wrong man, making Paterno the scapegoat for the Sandusky scandal. As students, we should take into consideration the facts of every situation, and hopefully, never experience something like Penn State has. Sandusky and the boys he abused need to be what we focus on.

# LIFE & STYLE

## Cultural celebrations of the world

Everyone has their own holiday traditions, but what is more interesting are those that are completely different from your own. Check out how the holiday season is celebrated around the globe in comparison to yours. Happy holidays!

By **ALYSSA AHERN**  
Life and Style Assistant

### Christmas in Africa

Preparation for Christmas in the Congo begins when groups are designated to prepare the annual Christmas pageant. Christmas day begins with groups of carolers walking through the village, singing holiday songs. They then return home to dress for their Christmas service which celebrates the birth of Jesus.

The most important part of their Christmas worship service is the love offering, or a gift in honor of Jesus. Around 8 o'clock everyone makes their way to the celebration and lays down their gift upon the raised platform near the Communion table. Not one person will attend the service without giving a gift.

### Christmas in Mexico

In Mexico the Christmas celebration is called La Posada, which is a religious procession that reenacts the search for shelter by Joseph and Mary before the birth of Jesus. During the procession, the participants go from house to house carrying symbols and images of Mary and Joseph looking for shelter.

Santa Claus is not a tradition in Mexico; however the bright red suit is represented in the traditional flower of the season. This flower is the poinsettia, which has a red star-shaped bloom. One similar tradition that is similar to ours is the opening of presents on Christmas, yet afterwards they are blindfolded to break open a Christmas piñata. Once broken, all the children rush to pick up the candy that was inside.

If you are a good child during the year you will also get a gift from the Three Wise Men on January 6. Mexicans attend a midnight mass service which is called la Misa Del Gallo or "the rooster's mass," and at the mass they sing lullabies to Jesus.

### Christmas in Sicily

In Sicily, natives fast from Dec. 23 at sunset to the Dec. 24 at sunset. After sunset they have a great kindled Yule log in celebration of their fast and what it stood for. After prayers and songs are done around the Presepio, another name for the crib, the feast begins. Traditional foods include eel, lark, boiled pasta, fish, sweet bread and Torrone, a type of nougat. The children are then visited by La Befana on January 6. She



Photo:riveria-maya-holidays.com

The Mexican Christmas Pinata was said to have been so busy cleaning her house that she missed out on going with the Three Wise Men to Bethlehem. Children hang up their stockings so that she will fill them with toys and gifts.

### Christmas in New York City

Many of the department stores put together exquisite window designs to celebrate the holiday season, offering a key holiday tradition for most New Yorkers. Macy's in Herald Square is of the most famous. There is a two-mile walking tour you can do on your own to see six of the department stores window displays.

The Christmas tree at Rockefeller

Center is also a popular sight, every year a minimum size of 65 feet with the record being 100 foot tree will be put up and decorated in the area.

Ice Skating is also a holiday favorite in New York, this being seen as one of the most romantic and typical holiday activity found in the city. Other than Rockefeller Center there are several rinks in Central Park as well as Prospect Park. The popular Radio City Christmas Spectacular featuring the Rockettes is also seen around this time of the year. The New York City Ballet also annually performs The Nutcracker at Lincoln Center. There are also hundreds of local Christmas shows and events at the local churches. One that is guaranteed to fill you with holiday cheer is the West Village Chorale: Messiah Sing and Caroling Walk, this occurs mid-December.

### Hanukkah Around the World

Cultural celebrations of Hanukkah vary throughout the world depending on where the person lives. Here are a few examples of different traditions around the globe.

**Tunis, Tunisia:** Families attend Synagogue on the seventh day of

Hanukkah, commemorating Biblical heroine Judith's brave acts during the period of Syrian-Greek rule. Women file past and kiss the Torah, while men study the Talmudic tractate containing the Hanukkah story.

**Avignon, France:** Following the Shabbat during Hanukkah, Jews in the town of Avignon town go house to house, opening and tasting new flasks of wine.

**Yemen:** Children go house to house collecting wicks for the Hanukkah Menorah. They sing (in Yemenite): "O father Salim, give us a present." If they receive wick-ends with fruits, candies and coins, they would respond in Hebrew, "Sleep well." But if they didn't get anything, they would respond in Yemenite, "You miser, may your wicks be as dry as your bones!"

**Germany:** German Jews have great bonfires after Hanukkah with the leftover wicks and oil.

**Israel:** The fifth night of Hanukkah is sacred in remembrance of the expelling of the Jews from Tel Aviv and Jaffa by the Turks in World War I. Hanukkah presents are de-emphasized in Israeli Hanukkah observance.



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# Family matters: how to avoid holiday disaster

By ALEXA LYONS  
Life and Style Editor

The holidays can be stressful, and rightfully so. Between a gaping black hole referred to as a wallet and turning into an elf building that toy truck you got for your little brother because it falsely advertised “no assembly required,” every person is more likely to come to their wits ends during this time of the year. But I heard, as well as seen, that throwing a public tantrum in an upscale department store or slapping your sister-in-law because she forgot the prized apple pie does no one any good (although it does provide some extra entertainment for the suburban cops). These

tips should help those in stressful times avoid holiday trauma and spare the cringing onlookers.

**Baste that giant slab of meat commonly referred to as the centerpiece**

Helping out can go a long way. Unfortunately around the holidays chauvinism seems to be in full swing, your mom typically taking on the demanding title of “host” and making dinner while your dad makes his major contribution of starting a fire in the fireplace and staying out of the way by lounging on the couch watching football (how manly). De-stress your mother by lending a helping hand and taking some of the workload off of her shoulders. Not only will you have some valuable, and free

might I add, cooking lessons, but you’ll also up the ante on who is the best child in the family. Who doesn’t want that title?

**Give the gift of heavily diluted eggnog**

Everyone knows that a little spike in your drink eases the nerves, and around the holidays the nerves typically need to be eased a little more heavily. So go ahead, wrap that bottle in red and green paper (after you’ve taken a sly sip of course) and make sure to spread it around the dining room table. Along with the favorite child, you’ll now be the favorite relative.

**Plaster on a smile**

Everyone knows that you’re prettier when you smile, so do just that!

It’s supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year so suppress those traumatizing memories of your mother and Santa naughtily playing under the Christmas tree and your uncle bringing up all of those hideously embarrassing childhood memories after eating too many potatoes and act like it is the best day of your existence.

**Spin that dreidel**

Family games always leads to communal laughing (a full proofed plan) not to mention its a guaranteed way to get rid of family stress due to the fact that the featured game piece turns into the new thing that houses current family aggression. Stock up on games made for multiple people, teams for larger families, and let the

competition begin. It’s also a good way to connect with relatives you have nothing in common with, like that weird uncle that always wants to talk about different types of cats. Just please stay away from “never have I ever,” that won’t end well.

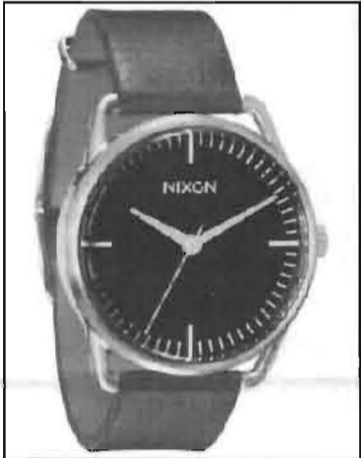
**Sit the irritating in-laws in front of the food**

Although our young souls are not fully able to grasp the concept of the horrid in-laws, we should be empathetic towards those who do. Place the nuisance in the middle of the couch right in front of the food table so they are fully occupied and therefore unable to complain. Your parents will thank you.

## Deck the halls with gifts people actually want

Out of gift ideas? Out of money? Can't relate to half of your family members and therefore cannot decided between the sweet smelling candle and that heinour blue polyester sweater you're holding in your hand (please put that down)? These gifts will be sure to do the trick.

**For Your Boyfriend or Brother:**



Nixon *The Mellor* Watch- \$100.00 @ nixonnow.com More Colors Available



Multi-Stripe Sock- \$7.50 @Gap More Colors & Patterns Available



Marc by Marc Jacobs *Stardust* I-Pad Case-\$48.00 @ Nordstrom



West Avenue Jewelry *Swirly Initial* Necklace-\$160.00 @ maxandchloe.com



Brooks Brothers *Flannel Shirt & Pant Set*- \$98.00 @ Nordstrom More Colors & Patterns Available

**For Your Girlfriend or Sister:**



Skull Candy *2011 SK Pro Carbon* Headphones-\$149.99 @ skullcandy.com



Ugg *Sequin Short* Boot-\$170.00 @ Bloomingdales More colors available



Philosophy *Sweet Kisses and Merry Wishes* Set-\$36.00 @sephora.com



Slatkin & Co. 14.5 oz. Candle- \$19.50 @ Bath and Body Works More Scents available



Essie *Winter Collection* Mini 4-Pack- \$17.00 @ Nordstrom

**For Your Mom:**



Lacoste *Fair Isle* Scarf and Beanie- \$55.00-85.00 @Bloomingdales



Steve Madden *BDEVON* Wallet- \$44.00 @ steve-madden.com



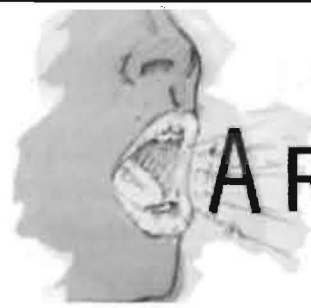
*Cupcake Bath Bombs*- \$5.50-10.50 each @ feelingsmitten.com



Coach *Crosby Slim Textured* Card Case- \$88.00 @ Coach.com



Gap Men's *Marled Cotton* Gloves- \$19.50 @Gap - Antoinette McCarty



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



## Christmas trees, kick lines and shopping

*Fun events to do in the city this holiday season*

By **CHELSEA FODERO**  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

During the winter season, there is much to do in New York City. Theatres, flashing lights everywhere, Macy's and SAK's window displays, ice skating in Central Park, shopping on 5th Avenue and even the street cart smells of roasted chestnuts, can put anyone in the holiday spirit. With so much available to do, these holiday events are a must for the upcoming season:

The **Rockefeller 79th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony** was held on Wednesday, Nov. 30 from 7 p.m. till 9 p.m. The Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree is a world-wide symbol of the holidays in New York City.

As is tradition, the tree was a Norway Spruce, was light up by roughly 30,000 environmentally friendly LED lights on five miles of wire, and was crowned by a Swarovski crystal star that has been on the tree since it was made by

Michael Hammers in 2004. This year, 400,000 fans crowded around the streets of Rockefeller Center to take part in this annual holiday tradition that was broadcasted live across the globe. Though the event has passed, there is still plenty of time to visit the tree and see its beautiful, colorful lights all through December.

For over 75 years, the Rockettes have become a NYC tradition during the Holidays. With up to four shows per day, these world-famous high kicking dancers perform choreographed numbers celebrating the holiday season and the man himself, Santa, in their performance of **A Christmas Spectacular**. The show will be running through to the new year, so be sure to see it during your holiday trip to the city.

From Nov. 25 through Dec. 31, the **Nutcracker Ballet** at Lincoln Center is a must see for the holidays. With tickets ranging anywhere from \$40 to \$225, everyone is able to be transported into the magical place where wicked mice

roam the earth, toy soldiers come alive and Christmas trees never stop growing!

However, Christmas events aren't the only events going on in the city at this time of year. For some of the best holiday shopping in NYC during the Holiday season look no further than the tents in **Bryant Park** and **Grand Central Station**. These annual pop-up shops make for the perfect findings of unique one-of-a-kind gifts that everyone is sure to enjoy, Christmas or not! From cheap to expensive finds, grab a cup of hot chocolate and just wander around for some winter fun! While you're there, head over to Time Square for some ice skating and more holiday fun!

New York City is a place with much to do during the holiday season. From the beginning of Black Friday to the beginning of the New Year, the city is moving nonstop. With more crowds than ever, it's a small price to pay for experiencing the Big Apple during the holidays.

## Performance of *High Fidelity* marks ninth production by CSP

By **DOUGLAS HANSON**  
Entertainment Assistant

*High Fidelity* is a musical by Tom Kitt, Amanda Green and David Lindsay-Abaire, based on the novel by Nick Hornby. The new show being produced through Completely Student Productions (CSP), will be performed on Dec. 9 and 10 in Spiro 2 at 7 p.m.

The show chronicles the life of record-store-owner Rob Gordon after his girlfriend Laura breaks up with him. In an effort to win Laura back, he is guided by a rag-tag bunch of employees, friends, rock stars, and ghosts of girlfriends past.

The score ranges from pop music, rhythm and blues, and ballads. Each song channels a plethora of popular pop and rock artists such as Bruce Springsteen, Aretha Franklin, The Who, and many others.

Junior Max King, was eager to bring the show to Wagner after reading the book by Nick Hornby. Though he had never seen the show performed, he instantly fell in love with the music.

With no directing experience prior to this production, he felt it would be a great start by working with a small show such as this. "Since beginning, I have been loving the experience, and my awesome stage manager (slash publicist/equity deputy/swing for

every role/dance captain/beautiful human being) Chris Luner, and super-talented and beautiful music director Caroline Young, my brilliant choreographer Brendan Stackhouse, as well as my AMAZING cast have only made it better," he says with a laugh.

King also wanted to address the negativity surrounding student run productions on campus. "Much of the reputation for student run productions has been negative- that the creative team is unorganized, unprofessional, and doesn't necessarily treat their cast with very much respect. We wanted to change that perception. It sucked having to say that people in *My Fair Lady* or *Lysistrata* couldn't audition, but it was a necessary evil."

King went on to explain that, "with such a short rehearsal process before the show goes up (about a month), we couldn't afford to have rehearsals until 2 a.m. after other rehearsals got out. These are lessons I have learned from past student run productions that I have been a part of, as neither cast or production team work well after midnight."

CSP is in the midst of its fourth anniversary, and will have done nine productions at the end of the year. It is a creative outlet and forum for people with talents ranging from performing, directing, playwriting, stage managing and more.

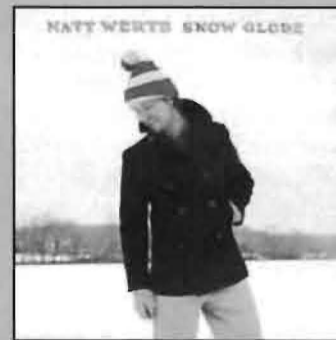
Wagner Senior and the club's President Sarah Sutliff is anticipating the upcoming production, saying, "showcasing these smaller, lesser known productions is what I think CSP does best."

Sutliff is also thrilled because of the hard-working cast and crew and their contribution toward CSP. "I am so excited that Max King took the initiative to bring this show to Wagner. It is so exciting that new people are getting involved with CSP and bringing new projects to the table. *High Fidelity* is going to end this semester on a great note for CSP and student productions campus wide," she declared.

The creative team for *High Fidelity* includes Max King, Caroline Young, Brendan Stackhouse, Chris Luner and Molly Tom. The show features Robby Haltiwanger, Alex Boniello, Anthony Freitas, Brittany Santoro, Chelsey Alfredo, Annie Dow, Greg Martins, Phil DellaNoce, Nicholas Troisi, Lauren Wagner, Chelsea Amoroso and Madison Sylvester.

Before audiences go to enjoy the show, Max King leaves us with a few words to think about: "I hope we get a good turnout for the show, and I hope that people enjoy it. The show itself is truly a hidden gem, and though it only ran on Broadway for 14 performances, I think people will see how underrated it is."

## Listen Up!



Matt Wertz - *Snowglobe*  
Label: Handwritten Records  
Release Date: Oct. 25

People love Wertz's new holiday album, entitled *Snowglobe*, speaking highly of his fun music style tied together with classical Christmas songs that are well-known crowd pleasers. Fans of Wertz even say that this may

be his best album yet, which was not unexpected. Nothing but positive reviews were given about this album, causing people to say this album is their reason for listening to Christmas music earlier than usual this year, some saying they may now listen to it all year round.

The album, with its most popular song being "Snowglobe," contains twelve songs that have blown people away. Consisting of both older and newer already existent Christmas songs, Wertz hits the high notes perfectly in every single one. Although it is a holiday album, *Snowglobe* has introduced Wertz to some of his newest fans, causing this album to be one of his most popular albums to date.

Born and raised in Liberty, Missouri, Wertz and his songs are anything but main-stream. Originally hoping to become a shoe designer, Wertz began writing his own music in college. After being a part of a Christian youth group and touring with a few other bands that were not so well-known, Wertz independently released some of his songs and was signed to *Netwerk Records* after moving to Nashville.

Wertz, who has been releasing albums since 2004, has constantly been praised for his gorgeous voice and warmhearted vibe through his lyrics. All fans of Wertz comment on his great talent and emotion throughout his songs. His first album, entitled *Twenty Three Places*, was released in 2004 and he has released multiple albums since then with a common musical style running through them all. People love the emotion conveyed through his lyrics, explaining the journey of his career.

Falling into the acoustic pop and rock genre of music, Wertz is praised by both the media and his listeners. The media describes him as a 'foot-loose young romantic' and has nothing but positive comments about his voice that is described as 'softly rhythmic.' Some of his songs are more laidback, while others are more upbeat and balmy. If you like acoustic music that is fun and has a variety of styles from song to song, you may like Matt Wertz just as much as his fans do.

**You'll love it if you like:** Josh Kelley, Jason Mraz, Mat Kearney, and Tyler Hilton

-Christine Peterson

## Check it out!

Fun, unique and alternative music to listen to spie up your holiday season

*Sick and tired of the same old holiday music each and every year?*

*Here are some unique, odd tunes to spice up your holiday season:*

"A Party For Santa Claus" by Lord Nelson

"Nwel La Rive" by Lionel Benjamin

"Santa Clause (Do You Ever Come To The Ghetto)" by Carlene Davis & Trinity

"Soca Santa" by Machel

"Noel Pou Yo" by Claudette et Ti Pierre

"Asalto Navideno" by El Gran Combo

"Deck The Halls" by Jacob miller & Ray I

"Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town" by Joseph Spence

"Quand J'entends Chante Noel (Medley)" by Eddy Gustave



## With a little bit of luck, *My Fair Lady* wows the crowd

By SAMANTHA  
KNOERZER  
Entertainment Editor



Photos: Karen O'Donnell

Cast members including, Michael D'Amico, Julia Jones, Paul Emrich, Brian Krinsky and Chelsea Vann, take their bows after a wonderful performance.

ically ill-mannered, genius. The two's interaction-inserted with the company of the comedic Colonel Pickering, played by Paul Emrich and the nervous seeming Ms. Pearce, played by Heather Rae Kirschebauer-is comedic and entertaining, causing many laughs from the audience as well as applause. Eliza's father Alfie Doolittle, played by Trevor Sideris, also generated applause, and even standing ovations, from the audience with his brief, but highly entertaining scenes.

The character of Alfie is paralleled with his rough looking, but warm hearted friends Jamie and Harry, played by Matt Sidney and Andrew Khouri, who are constantly being kicked out of the bar by the red faced, screaming bartender, played by Eric Petillo, for not paying their drink bills, and the sweet, but sassy Mrs. Hopkins, played by Susanna Gooch. They are contrasted to the wonderfully proper Ms. Higgins, played by Julia Jones, and the properly and adorably love-

struck Freddy Eynsford-Hill, played by Michael Bullard, who will go to all ends to receive the heart of Eliza Doolittle.

The simplicity of the music helped to keep the words easy to understand, as did the simple, bright lighting. The dance numbers were the most entertaining scenes of all. With flips and cartwheels across the stage, yells of approval from the audience were heard from all ends of the theater.

*My Fair Lady* is a straight forward play, filled with clear cut entertainment for audiences of every age to enjoy. "My Fair Lady captures the period perfectly!" Says Junior Cassandra Tay. "The audience is transformed to a time that is foreign to us. Chelsea Vann nails Eliza and Brian Krinsky is so convincing as Henry Higgins." The play in itself left fans with a feeling of excitement and satisfaction as they 'danced all night' right out of the theater.

## Serious issues, comedic relief

*Lots of fist pumping for Lysistrata on Stage One*

By SAMANTHA  
KNOERZER  
Entertainment Editor

Laughter could be heard from all areas of Stage One as *Lysistrata* let out a spectacularly humorous performance. When looking at the outside of the play, one sees the witty sexual innuendos and comedic rap dance numbers that the play contains. But behind the entertaining comedy, one can see the serious issues that *Lysistrata* also includes.

*Lysistrata*, which focuses around the females of ancient Greece withholding sex from their husbands as a way to find peace in the war between Athens and Sparta, also has hidden more serious realities, with the main female character Lysistrata creating the resistance as a rise in hatred over the war after losing a son and father to it. The more serious issues, mixed with the comedic relief, balance the play in such a way as to keep it entertaining for the audience.

Lysistrata, played by Bianca Vitale, was a wonderful representation of a powerful, dominating woman who used her gender as a ways for power. Vitale dominated the stage with her grace and powerful presence. Kleonike, played by Danielle Dallacco, played the comedic,

promiscuous best friend to Lysistrata followed by the innocent-seeming, proper Myrrhine, played by Olivia Puckett. The 'Jersey-shore' styled Lampito, played by Samantha DeSimone; the mute, gibberish blabbering Ismania, played by Elizabeth Miller; and the intimidating transvestite Opisthenia, played by Steve Godoy, represented the Spartan women while making great contrasts to the Athenian women they fight alongside. The women in the play perform together as a strong united force, using their gender and good looks to stop the war.

They provide great parallels to the men they fight against, as each woman's husband is the perfect match their wife. Lysistrata, being a strong, leading female is paralleled to her husband Archon, played by Tom Althoff, who is a leading politician in Athens. Althoff is one of the main leaders against the women's movement, going head to head with his wife's opposing efforts. Kinesias, played by Seth Price, also plays a good parallel to his wife Myrrhine as they both cast as the nice, gentler acting couple. Their couple is in great contrast to the angry older couple of Phlaccidos, played by Sean Fitzharris, and Stratyllis, played by Jenny Kelly, whom nag each other and con-

stantly bicker. Another great contrast to the proper, cute and innocent couple of Kinesia and Myrrhine is the coupling of Lampito and her husband the Spartan Herald, played by Ryan Cole, who provide constant comedic relief in their 'Jersey-shore' styled acting.

The lighting and music provided a proper modernized version of the show, consisting of rap battles and pop music mixed with strobe lights. The scenery was also perfect in its simplicity of old fashioned high gates which act as the doors to the treasury in Athens. The contrasting of the modern music and lighting with the old fashioned scenery helped the audience to understand the modern style of the play, while still grasping the concept of the ancient story.

All in all, the audience seemed satisfied and entertained with the play. "I thought that it was hilarious," said Junior Kayla Thomas. "But even though it was really funny, and everyone on stage was clearly having fun with it, you still could see that it was about more than that. It was about politics and gender equality, as well."

The play ended with much cheering and fist pumping, with audience members talking about the play all the way back to their dorms and cars.



All you need to know about the latest celebrity gossip!

## Celebrities seek to keep fans in the holiday spirit

By AMANDA  
HASTINGS  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

The countdown for the New Year starts on Dec. 19, when an all-star cast comes to the big screens for to prepare for the ball to drop in the movie *New Years Eve*. The film, which follows couples around New York, was shot in Times Square last winter. Stars include many popular names, from veteran **Robert De Niro**, to Hollywood's younger *High School Musical* star, **Zac Efron**. The list also comprises of TV stars such as *7th Heaven* actress **Jessica Biel**, *That 70's Show* **Ashton Kutcher**, *Sex and the City*'s **Sarah Jessica Parker** and *Glee*'s **Lea Michele**. Other high profile names include **Fergie's** husband **Josh Duhamel**, *Knocked Up*'s **Katherine Heigl** and even the very talented **Jon Bon Jovi**! Together these celebrities will be sure fill up the big screen with their 'New Year's Eve' cheer, so you won't want to miss it!

It's that time of year again! New York City is getting ready to ring in the New Year with its annual event in Times Square with hosts **Dick Clark** and **Ryan Seacrest**. Every year A-List celebrities join in all the fun to watch the famous silver ball drop. The year 2012 will be no exception. International superstar **Justin Bieber** will be present for entertainment to over one million fans. **Selena Gomez'** boyfriend will also be performing right before midnight with another popular singer, **Lady Gaga**!

The 17 year old Bieber, who performed at the *2011 American Music Awards*, has a lot to celebrate this Christmas, as things are certainly looking up for him personally and professionally. Until recently, he was battling a major rumor that he fathered the baby of a 20 year old fan, allegedly at one of his concerts. The "admirer" finally dropped the case, supposedly due to text message saying that Bieber was in fact, not the father. To make matters worse for the woman, the "Baby" singer still agrees to take a paternity test to put all further allegations to rest. Meanwhile, 19 year old girlfriend **Selena Gomez** appeared on *The Ellen Show* and said that the situation has been hard for all involved. Beiber stated that it was wrong for people to come up with inappropriate rumor about him that could hurt others in the outcome.

The singer is also enjoying the success of his new album *Under the Mistletoe*, which is now #1 on the charts. He made a duet with **Mariah Carey** for her song *All I want for Christmas is You*. And

those aren't the only "Never Say Never" singer performances this holiday season! According to the star, **President Obama** has invited him over for Christmas because his daughters have "Bieber Fever!"

Things aren't going as smooth for everyone in Hollywood during the season to be jolly! After months of speculation about the relationship status between estranged couple **Demi Moore** and **Ashton Kutcher**, the duo is in fact going their separate ways. On Nov. 17 the 47 year old actress has filed for divorced from her hubby after six years of marriage. Rumor has it that Ashton tried everything to save his marriage, and even bought the *Ghost* actress a new car as a last attempt to make things right! In late September, the *Two and a Half Men* actor was infamously accused of having an affair with a 22 year old woman on the weekend of the celebrity couple's wedding anniversary. The mistress came up with shocking allegations that Kutcher and Moore have separated before the whole public ordeal began. Rumor has it that the two are media conscious and wanted people to believe they had the perfect marriage. The 33 year old *That 70's Show* star says he will "forever cherish the time he spent with Demi." While this divorce doesn't come to a surprise, it seemed as if the two were working things out. In the beginning of November, just a few weeks before their official split, **Bruce Willis'** ex-wife was seen visiting Kutcher on the set of his TV series, which speculated reconciliation, was in the works. It seems that plan did not work out well!

Ho-ho-ho! Happy Birthday, **Brad Pitt**! On Dec. 18, the actor turns 48, just in time for Christmas. While the *Moneyball* star has made plenty of successful movies, he has been most famous for being the center of the news around the world since he notoriously left his wife **Jennifer Aniston** for his *Mr. and Mrs. Smith* co-star **Angelina Jolie**. The actor has many fans worried since he recently stated that he wants to quit acting when he hits the big 5-0, which is just a little more than two years away! He later gave fans a little sigh of relief when he explained that 50 may not be the exact "expiration date" and will go on longer than that, but the end is near!

Get ready for a very entertaining Holiday season from your favorite celebrities! They will be sure to keep your spirits merry! Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from *Hastings on Hollywood*! See you all in 2012 because Hollywood never sleeps!



# Nation and World

... a bi-weekly review of major national and worldwide news

## Studies show stem cells can reverse heart damage

By BRITTANY BERKE  
Nation & World Assistant

In 2009, a 39-year-old man named Ken Milles lay on an exam table at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center after suffering from a massive heart attack just a month earlier that nearly destroyed a third of his heart.

"The most difficult part was the uncertainty," he recalls. "Your heart is 30% damaged, and they tell you this could affect you the rest of your life."

He was at Cedars-Sinai to receive an infusion of stem cells that were grown from cells taken from his heart just a few weeks earlier.

Such a risky procedure has never been tried by anyone before.

A few weeks later, another patient named Mike Jones went through something extremely similar.

Jones had suffered from extreme heart failure; the result of a heart attack he had years earlier.

Just like Milles, he received the same procedure— an infusion of stem cells grown from his own heart tissue.

Dr. Robert Bolli, who oversaw Jones' procedure explained what doctors have always believed and taught— "Once you reach this stage of heart disease, you don't get better. You can go down slowly, or go down quickly, but you're going to go down."

However, Bolli's group and a team from Cedars-Sinai took a great leap of faith in trying the new procedure on Monday, Nov. 21.

Fortunately, the team discovered that stem cell therapies were able to reverse heart damage without any dangerous side effects in a small group of patients.

16 patients with severe heart failure received a purified batch of cardiac stem cells. Within a year, their heart function markedly improved according to Bolli's study.

Research has shown that the heart's pumping ability can be quantified through the "Left Ventricle Ejection Fraction," or, a measure of how much blood the heart pumps with each contraction.

A patient with what is known as an "LVEF", of less than 40 percent is considered to suffer severe heart failure.

When the study first began, Bolli's patients had an average LVEF of 30.3%.

Among seven patients who were followed for a full year, it improved to 42.5%.

Bolli, acknowledges the groundwork, and says traditional therapies, such as placing a stent to physically widen the patient's artery, typically make a smaller difference.

"We were surprised by the magnitude of improvement. Prior to treatment, Mike Jones couldn't walk to the restroom without stopping for



Photo: CNN

A new study shows that heart damage can be reversed with stem cell therapies.

breath, now he can drive a tractor on his farm, and even play basketball with his grandchildren. His life was transformed."

This procedure has allowed the heart to heal itself.

The results were striking; not only did scar tissue withdraw— shrinking 40% in Ken Milles, and between 30% and 47% in other test subjects— but the patients actually generated new heart tissue.

On average, the stem cell recipients grew the equivalent of 600 million new heart cells, according to Dr. Eduardo Marban, the director of the Cedars-Sinai Heart institute, part of the team who developed the stem cell procedure used there.

Marban used MRI imaging to measure changes. By way of perspective, a major heart attack might kill off a billion cells.

"This is unprecedented, the first time anyone has grown living heart muscle," says Marban. "No one else has demonstrated that. It's very gratifying; especially when the conventional teaching has been that the damage is irreversible."

Most importantly, no treated patient has suffered from any major health setback.

One major conclusion studies have come to find is that the heart contains the seed of its own rebirth. For many years, doctors have believed that once heart cells were destroyed, they were gone forever.

In a series of experiments, researchers including Bolli's collaborator, Dr. Piero Anversa, found that the heart contains a type of stem cell that can develop into either heart muscle or blood vessel components— essentially, whatever the heart requires at a particular point in time.

The problem for patients like Mike Jones or Ken Milles is that there simply aren't enough of these repair cells waiting around.

The experimental treatments in-

volve removing stem cells through a biopsy, and making millions of copies in a laboratory.

Bolli and Anversa "purified" the cardiac stem cells, or CSC, so that more than 90% of the infusion was actual stem cells. Marban, however, used a mixture of stem cells and other types of cells extracted from the patient's heart.

Denis Buxton, who oversees stem cell research at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health, calls the new studies "a paradigm shift, harnessing the heart's own regenerative processes."

Buxton says he would like to see more "head-to-head comparisons" to determine which type of cells is most beneficial.

Although the world is relieved that these studies are showing that a process could give people back their lives, some inquiries still remain about timing.

For example, patients who suffer large heart attacks are prone to future damage, in part because the weakened heart tries to compensate by dilating — swelling — and by changing shape.

In a vicious circle, the changes make the heart a less efficient pump, until the end result is heart failure.

In a third study released on Monday, researchers treated patients with severe heart failure with stem cells derived from bone marrow.

In a group of 60 patients, those receiving the treatment had fewer heart problems over the course of a year, as well as improved heart function.

With other methods pursued, there may be a larger window of opportunity.

All in all, Bolli says he'll have to monitor his enthusiasm until he can duplicate the results in larger studies, definitive enough to get stem cell therapy approved as a standard treatment for everyone.



Photo: CNN

Police push back a crowd of Occupy protesters.

## Court upholds eviction of 'Occupy' protesters

By ELLE TRUDEAU  
Nation & World Editor

A New York Supreme Court ruled Tuesday, Nov. 15 that Occupy protesters will be allowed to return to Zuccotti Park, but they can't bring their tents and generators with them.

The Lower Manhattan property has been a home for the loosely defined group for nearly two months causing similar demonstrations in cities nationwide and around the world.

Police in riot gear cleared them out early Tuesday morning; a move that attorneys for the demonstrators say was unlawful.

Justice Michael Stallman ruled in favor of city officials and Brookfield Properties, the park's owner and developer, who have each raised health and sanitation concerns.

The owner does not prevent Zuccotti Park demonstrations, but says protesters' First Amendment rights do not include remaining there "along with their tents, structures, generators, and other installations to the exclusion of the owner's reasonable rights and duties to maintain" the area.

"It's hard to expect much else," said protester Amos Fisher. "The rules are slanted in favor of money."

New York mayor Michael Bloomberg, meanwhile, said the "court's ruling vindicates our position that First Amendment rights do not include the right to endanger the public or infringe on the rights of others by taking over a public space with tents and tarps."

"The mayor, the police have been itching to do this for weeks," said Bill Dobbs, a spokesman for Occupy Wall Street. "We're here to raise an outcry about economic conditions and not get into confrontations with the police."

The operation to clear the park began around 1 a.m., the mayor said, with police handing out notices from the park's owner that said the continued occupation posed a health and fire hazard.

"You are immediately required to

remove all property, including tents, sleeping bags and tarps, from Zuccotti Park," the note said. "That means you must remove the property now."

Police in riot gear then moved into the park, evicting hundreds of protesters.

Dozens of protesters who had camped out at the Lower Manhattan park since Sept. 17 linked arms in defiance. Many chanted, "Whose park? Our park" and "You don't have to do this".

Police arrested more than 100 people, according to Deputy Police Commissioner Paul Browne.

New York City Council member Ydanis Rodriguez was among those arrested, after he rushed down to the park when he heard police were evicting protesters, his spokesman, David Segal, told CNN.

While many protesters left without resisting, many others moved to the center of the park to an area known as the "kitchen". There, they built barricades with tables to keep the police away.

News journalists at the scene could not confirm any accounts of aggression or violence, as police kept journalists a block and a half away from the park during the raid.

By 4:30 a.m. Tuesday, the Lower Manhattan park was clear, with about 40 city crews in orange vests scraping up trash and pressure washing sidewalks.

After briefly reopening around 8 a.m., the park closed again as city officials learned of a temporary restraining order issued by State Supreme Court Judge Lucy Billings.

Several hundred protesters then marched from Foley Square, where they had gathered after Zuccotti Park was cleared, to City Hall, chanting, "We are unstoppable, another world is possible" and "This is what democracy looks like".

Since the protests began in September, the encampment at the park had taken on an air of permanency, with tents covering the public plaza from one end to the other. Protesters said they were there for the long haul.

# SEAHAWK SPORTS

## Dance Team pirouettes its way to Disney World

Continued from Page 1

dress of black and turquoise for their performance.

The 2011-2012 team started practicing in early September for their big debut. "Coming into this years competition season we began the training process earlier to build up our stamina so when we reach 'boot camp week' the week before nationals, it won't be a shock to our bodies," said second year team member Adena Ershow, "Our heads will be in the game."

They start by warming up with a team stretch and core strengthening. The team then does an exercise dubbed "across the floor." This consists of different leaps that are incorporated in the competition dance with a mixture of running.

They also have mandatory workouts in Spiro Sports Center gym at least three times a week. Requirements include at least thirty minutes of any cardio of either the elliptical,

treadmill or bike.

This year the team will be dancing to "Tightrope" by Janelle Monae. It will be a two-minute Jazz routine. A black sequenced girl "suit" will be the outfit of the night.

"A majority of the money comes from our fundraising," said Sayre.

The team had bake sales, hosted several clinics inviting Staten Island youth dancers to perform alongside them at football games, sold 50/50 raffle tickets at football and basketball games, advertised Wagner College dance team gear, distributed donation letters and sold cookie dough and wrapping paper.

The goal was to raise \$7,000 to help pay for their trip, hotel, and entry fees. Members of the team pay for their individual costume and airfare.

The team recently sent in their try out video.

Since Wagner College is a small school with little dance team funding, the competition team has always entered in the open division category.

UDA officials have recently changed Wagner College to now compete in the division one category in accordance with their other sports teams.

"They believe if we are a division one school, we should compete in a division one category. It's basically what the rules state," said Sayre.

The team of twelve has three new members on the floor with them this year.

Head Coach Emily Mihalick said, "I couldn't be more excited for this competition season. We have a very talented team, but above all they are extremely hard working. We are competing in a new category this year which is both nerve wracking and exciting but the girls have really come together to work as a team and just take it one day at a time. We can only do our best and try our hardest. I know these girls have what it takes."

The two-day competition kicks off Jan. 14, 2012.

## NEC home opener success

By AUDRIANA MEKULA

Wagnerian Staff Writer

Men's basketball dominated the St. Francis (N.Y.) Terriers by forty points, with a final score of 90-50 in their first Northeast Conference game.

"It was a great feeling to be able to get a win like this one," said sophomore Latif Rivers.

Both teams were off to a slow start with the lead flip flopping back and forth in the first few minutes. Wagner was able to take the lead by eight points three times before the end of the twenty minutes. When the clock hit 13:15, senior co captain Tyler Murray scored his first three of the night, pushing the score to 19-11 in Wagner's favor. This led to a 10-4 run by St. Francis at the 5:40 mark. The half ended with Green and White in the lead, with a score of 36-27.

Seahawks controlled the game in the second half with a 22-4 run. Senior Jonathon Williams led the scoring with a game-high 18 points and started the run off with a lay-up. After Akim Johnson scored two from the line, Rivers, Kenneth Ortiz, and Naofall Folahan, all sophomores, answered with lay-ups of their own. With 17:28 left to play, Green and White embarked on a 10-2 run, extending the lead to 46-29 for the Seahawks.

After a bucket from the Terriers, Williams answered with a three-



Williams sprints to make a basket.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

Wagner- 90  
St. Francis (NY) - 50

pointer, followed by four straight points from Rivers, a lay-up from Ortiz, and another three from Murray, causing a 10-0 run, taking the score to 58-31 with 13:53 left in the game. Freshman Mario Moody was able to be involved in the season-high 40 point lead with a one handed dunk.

The Seahawks had five double-figure scorers: Johnson with 18 points, Murray with 14 points and 7 rebounds, Chris Martin with a season-high of 14 points, Ortiz with 12 points and 6 rebounds and Folahan with ten points. Freshman Marcus Burton had another solid game for the Seahawks with a career-best 6 points and 4 rebounds.

Wagner had a season-high 54 second-half points and grabbed 44 rebounds, 12 of which were defensive. Wagner also forced 21 turnovers, which they were able to convert into 24 points. Green and White held the Terriers to only 23 points in the second half, while they shot 57 percent from the floor.

"This game was important for a few reasons. For one, we weren't to happy with our performance at LIU so it was important for us to bounce back. Two, St. Francis (N.Y.) is a good team. They beat us twice last year so we felt we had to come out with energy and play a well rounded game in order to win. We were able to do that and walked away with a win on our home court," said Rivers.

## Keepin' Fit at the Wag



Get in your 5 minute dorm room workout before heading to class.

What it's called? *Tricep dips using a chair*

What does it work? Arms and Chest

Get to work! Begin this exercise by pulling up your desk chair, placing your hands on the edge of the seat with your back facing it. Then, simply bend at the elbows lowering your body towards the ground.

## Penn State scandal sparks re-evaluation

comments Hameline.

By EMILY REKSTIS  
Assistant Sports Editor

November was a month of scandal. It was impossible to pick up a newspaper, watch the news, or go online without hearing about the Penn State Scandal. As the story continues to unfold, a month later, our own athletic department speaks out.

"Holy cow," said head football coach and athletic director Walt Hameline, to put it plain and simple.

### The Scandal

School officials of Penn State were dismissed, suspended, or charged with perjury for the cover-up of former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky's alleged child molestation. Sandusky was indicted on 40 counts of child molestation between the years of 1994-2009.

In the midst of it all, Penn State fired one of its most iconic and legendary figures, head coach Joe Paterno. Paterno had been at Penn State since 1950, and had plans of retiring after the season. On Nov. 8, students marched to Paterno's house to show support and acknowledge all of his hard work throughout his 61 years at Penn State.

### What does Wagner think?

"When something like that happens, especially with a legendary coach and a top respected program," continues Hameline, "it opens your eyes to realize that it can happen anywhere. It makes people zoom in harder on things that may have slid by, for whatever reason, and fix it."

Hameline has been at Wagner for 30 years and earns much respect from those within the Wagner community.

"The alleged victims are the first and most important thing to look at,"

Wagner College administrator, Penn State alum

Wagner College Associate Athletic Director and senior women's administrator Peg Hefferan graduated from Penn State in 1985 where she played softball. When she heard about the scandal she took it a bit more personally than others in the department.

"I am saddened and disappointed," explains Hefferan in a mellow voice. "It is not a true reflection on the institution or the athletic department directly."

She coincides with Hameline that it affected many athletic departments nationwide. "It made various departments in the country reassess the procedures in place," she states.

"It was a learning experience," Hefferan continues, "Now we're all moved on and watching the outcome of events."

### Reflections put into action

Not only did those in the department lament on the incidents separately but actually put in to action their concerns and thoughts. In the days following the scandal outbreak, the athletic department had a meeting.

Hefferan explains that Hameline, herself, and many others in the department sat down to go over the procedures in place if anything were to arise at Wagner College of the same degree.

"There are procedures within the whole campus system to follow," explains Hameline. "It becomes a whole school issue since the athletic department is just a portion of the community."

# Winter Wishes

Students told the Wagnerian about their hometowns and hopes for the holiday season.

## WAGNER'S WISH LIST



**Alexandra Paez**  
Palos Verdes, CA  
Running Shoes



**Rebecca Seigel**  
Staten Island, NY  
Yankees apparel



**Casey Cooney**  
Orange County, NY  
A computer



**Emily Stein**  
Staten Island, NY  
Time with friends  
and family



**Heather Siegel**  
Staten Island NY  
Dr. Who DVDs



**Kate Valiska**  
Danbury, CT  
Tall riding boots



**Kayla Thomas**  
Tustin, CA  
A Skip-It



**Kelsey Brown**  
Long Island, NY  
A raspberry  
tattoo in  
memory of her  
grandfather



**Lilah Souza**  
Staten Island, NY  
Xbox Kinect

