

The Wagnerian

Wagner College

Friday, March 2, 2007

Staten Island, NY

This is a screenshot of Brian Toberman's profile, as discovered by students who passed it via e-mail, finally reaching the administration. Explicit photos and language have been censored. The profile remained up, with the photos of genitalia removed, for days after Toberman left campus. It is no longer posted on the ManHunt.net site.



Towers thefts spur action

By LAURA GARDNER
Wagnerian
Entertainment Editor

A string of thefts in Parker Towers over the President's Day weekend holiday topped off the highest concentration of campus thefts in 11 years and has prompted a security crackdown in the dorms, Director of Public Safety Tony Martinesi says.

Since August, 15 laptops have been stolen from the dorms, Martinesi says, adding that in his 11 years at the college, he has never seen such a high concentration of thefts on campus, the majority of which occurred in the Towers residence hall.

"We live in the real world and there's a thief stealing our property," Martinesi announced at the Town Hall meeting held earlier this week. "We have to take necessary precautions."

Students and administration alike are alarmed at the reports, with the latest epidemic of thefts taking place over the President's Day weekend in mid-February. "It's upsetting for the students and it's upsetting for all the staff whose job it is to see to the safety and security of the campus," says Dean of the College Anne Love.

Since returning from break and in response to the high concentration of burglaries, extreme measures are being undertaken. "We are holding floor meetings on every floor, we are hanging signs and we are holding a 'lock your door campaign,'" says Tristan Tosh, acting director of Residence Life. Mandatory floor meetings were held over the past week, and consisted of resident assistants warning fellow students of the frequent high incidences of theft.

Although it may seem as easy as always locking your door, the majority of the students who were victims of theft claimed that their doors were locked. In addition, administrators shared that there was no signs of forced entry in these rooms—no broken locks or damaged doors, and no rooms left ransacked. This has led many to conclude that the thief may be in possession of a master key, but no key has been reported missing.

Over winter break, the Residence Life staff attempted to find connections among the burglaries, but, "couldn't establish any patterns,"

Online identity catches up to administrator

Res Life head leaves campus after explicit profile is linked to him

By ALEX JACOBS &
LAURA GARDNER
Wagnerian Editors

After only a semester on the job, Director of Residence Life Brian Toberman left Wagner in January. His departure came shortly after a sexually explicit online profile discovered by students reached the administration's attention. The profile, which featured nude photos and sexual preferences, was posted on ManHunt.net, a popular gay men's Web site.

Only two days into resident assistant training for the spring semester, RAs were told that Toberman was "under investigation" and would not be returning, according to several RAs who requested anonymity. He was later seen moving out of his Grymes Hill apartment, one of the RAs said.

"Brian Toberman is no longer working at Wagner College. We have started a search for a new Director of Residence Life, with an anticipated start date of June," Dean Anne Love said. She added that she "can't clarify" if Toberman resigned or was terminated.

Dean Love refused to comment about what role the online profile

played in Toberman's departure, saying only, "It's inappropriate to comment on personnel issues."

According to Human Resources Director Tanya Rossini, while the college does conduct criminal background checks on all employees, they do not conduct checks of potential employees' "online personalities."

Students discovered the profile just a few weeks after Toberman began his job, and some passed it around via e-mail.

The Wagnerian obtained a copy of his original Web page. Next to photos of genitalia and references to sexual fetishes was identifying information, including photos of Toberman's face and references to places where he formerly lived. His location was listed as Staten Island.

"Mass to Alaska to Illinois to New York City," the profile, screennamed "Xxtofer," was headlined. According to a biography of the then-new Res Life director written in the summer 2006 Wagner College Student Development newsletter, Toberman came to Wagner with experience at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, and Western New England College in Springfield, Mass., and earned his bachelor's degree from Millikin University in Decatur, Ill.

The profile remained up for days after Toberman left campus, with only the photos of genitalia removed. As of this week, it is no longer posted on the ManHunt.net Web site.

Though the college's employee handbook doesn't specifically ban inappropriate online behavior, it does specify under "Codes of Conduct: Professional Expectations," "Employee conduct has a direct bearing on the general public opinion of the College; therefore, it is imperative that you respect the rights of others and conduct yourself in a professional and business-like manner."

Dean Anne Love confirmed that Assistant Director of Residence Life Tristan Tosh is taking Toberman's place for now as acting director.

"All I know is that he's gone and I'm working with what we have," Tosh commented.

Tosh said that Res Life has hired a temp, Cheryl Denard, to help students while he and Leticia Romero, the department's administrative assistant, pick up Toberman's work.

Rumors that Toberman approached students sexually are so far unsubstantiated, although a Wagnerian investigation has revealed that at least two students created online profiles of their own in the hopes of chat-

ting with, embarrassing and even extorting the Res Life director.

One disgruntled student, who had been kicked out of the Grymes Hill Apartments for a housing violation, did just that, according to friends he e-mailed the online conversations to.

Another student says he gained some leverage over the administrator for his fraternity. The frat member, who wishes to remain anonymous, told the Wagnerian he chatted with Toberman and then revealed he was a Wagner student. He claimed that a few weeks after the online encounter Toberman let him and other fraternity members off the hook for an alcohol violation.

Brian Toberman's attorney indicated that his client was "not surprised" about some students' possible intent to blackmail the Res Life head through chats. Through his lawyer, Toberman refused to comment for this article. The Wagnerian attempted to reach Toberman twice via e-mail, but got no response.

Toberman had earned some ire from students with the implementation of stricter policies within Residence Life in the first few weeks as head. "He won't be missed," one RA concluded.

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Wagner goes wireless in 8 spots -- but not in dorms

By MICHELLE VARGA
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Wireless Internet has started to pop up around parts of campus this semester. According to Pat Schoknecht, the Director of Information Technology, wireless internet is available in about eight locations, including Horrmann Library, the Oval, the Union and Patio, most of Trautmann Square, the Coffeehouse, Spiro Hall and Spiro Sports Center and the Main Hall Government and Politics offices.

"We tried to pick areas where students congregate in," according to Schoknecht, especially the outside spaces where students meet to "do projects during the nice weather."

The Sports Center was made wireless because of various board meetings that are held there every year and to make it easier for the journalists who come in to cover games to get their stories in on time, said Schoknecht.

While it is "easier" to put wireless in academic buildings, "dorms are a problem because there are a lot of walls, and the [wireless] waves can't penetrate walls" very well, said Schoknecht.

Setting up wireless in the dorms would require a lot of wiring and be very expensive to complete, she explained.

Schoknecht explained an experiment that began over winter break, and will be picked up again during spring break, to place high capacity antennas outside the dorm buildings, maybe on the roofs that could possibly send wireless signals to the building next to it, such as an antenna on Towers that would send wireless signals to Harbor View, through the windows.

"It is a much cheaper solution, and it is easier for the signal to penetrate

windows than walls," Schoknecht said, "it is the metal and concrete that causes problems."

"We fully recognize that wireless dorms are very important," she added. They are trying to get it done in the most "cost-effective manner."

There is no set date for when Wagner will become completely wireless, but they are hoping to finish the academic buildings, outside spaces where students like to meet, the Commuter Lounge and the second floor of the Union over this semester.

To set up Wagner's wireless network on your computer, follow the instructions at: www.wagner.edu/info/tech/network.

Moodle is "a way for faculty and students to communicate," said Pat Schoknecht, not a way for faculty to check up on students, as some feared.

"You can see when students last logged in, if they logged in repeatedly, how long they were in the section, and see the sections the student went to. You cannot say 'this file was opened' or 'this file was not opened,'" she said, but it is used for the most part "as a communication tool."

It's a place where faculty can put documents up for their classes to read and to post grades. The library can also e-reserve readings and students can read them online instead of going to the library.

The big feature on Moodle is the discussion board, where faculty and students "can put in thoughts on a topic and read other thoughts," said Schoknecht. There is also a blog feature where students and faculty can read individual postings, but not comment back. You can see the class list online, which makes communication easier.

Professors can also give tests through Moodle, and there is an email feature that allows professors to email the entire class.

In the name of freedom

How a Muslim Army officer was wrongfully accused after serving in Guantanamo

Capt. James Yee speaks to students

By NIVEN ABDELHAMID
Wagnerian Staff Writer

A crowd gathered at Wagner on Feb. 12 to hear former Muslim army chaplain Captain James Yee discuss the injustices he endured at the hands of the United States government.

The crowd quieted as Yee was introduced and took the podium. He told of his 14 years of service in the U.S. Army, and how it all came to an end when he was interrogated, secretly arrested, held in solitary confinement and investigated for possible espionage and treason. 76 days later, after much media speculation, all charges against Capt. Yee were dropped. No wrong doing was found on Yee's behalf, and his record has been cleared. Yee believes that the absence of evidence, as well as the increased suspicion of Muslims during the War on Terror support his claim that he was targeted because of his Islamic faith.

The question at hand is no longer of Yee's loyalty to the U.S., but of our country's loyalty to one of its founding principals: freedom of religion. Was Yee targeted because of his beliefs?

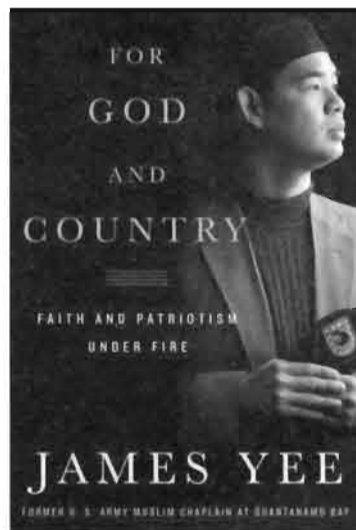
As a partial answer to that, Lee posed another interesting question: "Are we becoming the enemy by trying to defeat the enemy?"

Yee is quick to note his patriotism by highlighting that he is a third-generation Chinese-American, and all the male members of his immediate family have served in the U.S. Army. Yee, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, is part of a line of military service within his family. His father served in World War II, one brother attended West Point, and another brother is an Army doctor.

Yee converted to Islam after being provoked by an intense conversation about religion. Raised as a Lutheran, and not knowing a great deal about Islam, Yee began to read about it shortly thereafter. "Immediately this was something I rejected, 100 percent," he says of Islam.

But further reading led him to a great epiphany: Many of the Islamic beliefs he read about were identical to that of Christianity. "It was the same Noah. The same David, same Abraham... There was one simple message: to believe in one god," Yee says.

Feeling that Islam reinstated his monotheistic beliefs, Yee converted to Islam. Five months later he was deployed to the Middle East, the center of the Muslim world, following the first Gulf War. Upon arrival in the



Capt. James Yee wrote a book, above, about his ordeal.

Gulf, Yee discovered that the U.S. Army was allowing soldiers a four-day leave to visit Mecca, organized and paid for by the Saudi Royal Air Force and the Saudi Cultural Center.

Having decided that he wanted to be a "simple Muslim," not strictly following the rules of Islam, Yee had made no plans to make the holy pilgrimage to Mecca, which is one of the pillars of Islam. But after consideration he decided to take the opportunity which was presented to him.

"The first large group of Muslim pilgrims that we saw [at Mecca] were Asian...I saw this diversity in Islam, where all the people there were connected by one factor, their belief in one God." Yee was so inspired by what he saw that he decided to immerse himself in Islam, moving to Syria to study Islam and Arabic for four years.

Upon his return to the U.S. Army, in January of 2001, Yee was made one its first Muslim chaplains. During his time as Muslim chaplain, Yee was asked to educate soldiers about Islam, post-9/11 in order to create understanding. The U.S. Army then had Yee speak on their behalf about Islam to various media outlets. Yee received multiple awards for his outstanding service.

Yee was then stationed at Guantanamo Bay in early 2003. "I was to advise on how religion affected the detention of the prisoners," Yee says of his duties.

As Muslim chaplain, Yee faced a difficult job, "I would learn that there was a secret weapon down at Guantanamo: the use of Islam against the prisoners," he says. Interrogators force Muslim detainees to sit in satanic pentagrams drawn on the floor and proclaim, "Satan is my God now, not Allah," Yee says. He was also informed of interrogators urinating on the Koran, and torturing the detainees by chaining them to the ground in uncomfortable positions.

"The Holy Koran is respected and revered by Muslims all over the world [and] I will confirm that the Koran was being desecrated, even being urinated on," Yee says, adding that such actions "caused utter chaos in all of the cell blocks [including] hunger strikes and suicide attempts." Yee worked with the detainees, guards and interrogators to ensure more respectful treatment of detainees and their religion. "I was praised and recognized for building bridges," he says.

In September of 2003 as Yee was returning home from Guantanamo Bay to make a routine two-week visit with his wife and daughter. Upon arrival at the naval air station in Jacksonville, Fla., he was thoroughly searched and then secretly arrested. His family was not informed of his whereabouts until 10 days later, by a leak in the media.

Officials searched his home in Olympia, Wash., as well as his office in Guantanamo Bay. During his 76-day imprisonment Yee was held in solitary confinement at a super maximum security prison and even threatened with the death penalty. After no wrongdoing was found on Yee's behalf, he was released and his record cleared. Yee decided to leave the Army, and was honorably discharged.

"For God and Country" is the motto of the U.S. Army Chaplain Corp, as well as the title of Yee's new book on his experience. Yee believes that it was his God, his belief in the Muslim faith, which caused him to be targeted. Yee believes that what happened to him was, "a gross miscarriage of justice" and that it is the result of "the American Muslim community being under extraordinary scrutiny."

"It points out to the world that we are targeting a specific faith or ethnicity... Our civil liberties are being eroded," Lee warns.

IT Tip #6 – Reducing Spam

Almost all spam messages are from someone you do not know. Usually it will contain offers about moneymaking, cheap prescription drugs, or other free stuff that seems too good to be true (it is!). Spammers want you to interact with their message in some way so that they can confirm that your e-mail address is real and active. E-mail addresses that have been confirmed active are frequently exchanged by spammers around the world.

So, do not:

- > Respond to the message in any way
- > Click on a link to a Web site within the message
- > Follow procedures to unsubscribe from the list
- > All of these are simply ways to get you to confirm the validity of your email address.

Today's spammers are using images in e-mails to get around well-known spam filters. These messages may contain misspelled words and colored specks over the body of the e-mail. This is an easy way to tell whether the mail is spam or not.

Wagner's spam filters reject over 75,000 spam messages every day that you never see. Much of the spam that gets through is not flooding the campus, but is because your e-mail address was sold by some company to spammers. Reducing spam starts by decreasing the number of sites where you register and provide your e-mail address. If you must give an email address create a "throw-away" e-mail account for this purpose. Call the Helpdesk (x3410) for more information about any of the above.

—Frank Cafasso

Dorm thefts spur safety crackdown

Continued from Page 1

Dean Love comments.

Martinesi shared that there is an apparent trend: Student athletes taking trips for away games seem to be targeted. But for the most part, the victims of theft have been completely random.

In addition to the floor meetings that have already taken place, Public Safety has boosted its staff with security patrolling Towers 24 hours a day. In addition, Public Safety officers have been sitting in as desk attendants in the Towers entrance, double-checking student IDs.

"We don't know if it's students, we don't know if it's RA's, we don't know... and we're not ruling any-

thing out here. We're also not making any accusations," college President Richard Guarasci stated at the Town Hall meeting. While students may hold certain suspicions, administration shares that it really could be anyone—and more than likely, it's someone students know.

"Be a nosy neighbor—it's your house," Martinesi warns, telling students to be extra cautious, locking doors at all times, and also to be aware of any suspicious behavior.

RAs are participating in a "lock your door" campaign, which involves leaving an orange warning note in the room of an unlocked door. The 'lock-out' process will also be changing, with stricter access to keys. The process already requires that an RA

swipe their card to obtain the key in the first place. Tosh shares that from now on, copies of keys will not be made in the event of a lost key. "If you can't produce a key [after a lock-out] we will order a lock change," Tosh shares. This will require a completely new key for the door's new lock, and insures that no one can use a lost key to break into a student's room.

In fact, the entire Towers dormitory is being re-keyed, with all new locks placed on the doors within the next few weeks. The process should be completed by the end of March.

"In the sort run, you have to look out for each other," President Guarasci warns.

"My vagina is like..."



Celebrate Women's History Month with 'Vagina Monologues'

By AMANDA HOOSHANGI
Wagnerian Staff Writer

March is a time to remember women's achievements through Women's History Month. This is a month full of celebration and awareness of womanhood. Nothing celebrates a woman more than the play named for her most intimate part, "The Vagina Monologues."

"The Vagina Monologues" will kick off a series of events that are part of the V-Day campaign. The campaign is a year round project that puts together events to raise funds, awareness and prevent violence against women. "Instead of one event, we wanted to make it a culture revolving around the show" said senior and board member of the V-Day campaign, Laura Gardner.

The show, which has been performed at Wagner for several years, will provide a colorful array of monologues that celebrate the female spirit and anatomy. The show began as a series of interviews by the creator, Eve Ensler, with different women on topics of womanhood. Wagner College's production will include 12 monologues, performed by female students, a majority of whom are underclassmen.

Each year the "Vagina Monologues" has a theme. This year it examines how women are affected by war.

"We think that it is an important topic to cover because we never really think of how these women are so dramatically affected by war," said one of the directors of the show, senior Erin Feehley-Maus.

"The Vagina Monologues" will begin to run on Friday, Mar. 2 until Sunday, March 4. On Friday and Saturday the shows begin at 8 p.m. with

a matinee on Sunday. Students as well as others attending will have to pay a small admissions fee of \$7 (\$5 for anyone sporting a Vagina T-shirt). Donation boxes along with a colorful selection of T-shirts and sweets will be available to buy during the show.

The goal of the month is not only to increase awareness, but to raise money that will be donated to organizations that help women. "100 percent of the money you spend will go to support the cause," said Feehley-Maus.

This year the show is being directed by students Erin Feehley-Maus, Sarah Flanagan, and produced by Jacob Shoemith-Fox. Despite the fact that Shoemith-Fox is one of the only men involved in the show, all men are encouraged to support the cause.

"It's really important to us that everyone on this campus and in the community feels welcome at the show. If you have a woman in your life that you care about, this is the show for you!" expressed Feehley-Maus.

Students, both male and female can support the campaign in multiple ways. Aside from the Vagina Monologues, Wagner will also have Take Back the Night, a demonstration held at night, on campus, where female students read statistics about violence and harmful situations against woman that occurred during the night. Take Back the Night will be going on later in the semester, but until then there will be ample opportunities such as fun fund-raisers that will raise awareness throughout the month.

"It's one thing to say stop violence against women. It's another thing to find a way to bring those goals into something tangible that will make a difference." said Feehley-Maus.



Left: The new refrigerator makes the dining hall feel more like home. Right: The new cereal bar uses cookie jars to give the area a warm feel

Chartwells aims to please with new Dining Hall additions

By AVALON MASON
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Hardly a day passes that one doesn't hear a complaint against Wagner's food service groaned by a fellow student. Whether it's the absence of marshmallows, a particular seasoning, or the occasional legitimate dietary obstacle, it seems Chartwells can't quite win. But the Chartwells staff, headed by Mitchell Shenker, isn't giving up the battle to keep the people happy.

There have been a lot of changes made in the Dining Hall over winter break, including new stations, a fresh layout, and a staff of unfamiliar faces. One of the most striking additions is the new action station, which replaced the cereal/condiment bar. It's no coincidence that the action station is this first thing you see when you walk down the stairs. According to Al Marter, director of operations, the new setup brings a fresh sense of excitement to the meal.

Chartwells' newest endeavor is what Marter refers to as "My Pantry." Marter hopes that 'My Pantry' will make students feel more at home in the dining hall. It includes the addition of a refrigerator which is stocked with student-requested items, as well as a counter space with cookie jars. Students will be glad to hear that Chartwells has finally managed to get chocolate milk, which has been

stocked in the fridge by the half-gallon. The chocolate milk has been a huge hit, and reportedly Hershey's has been struggling to keep up with Wagner's chocolate milk order.

The improvements aren't limited to the dining hall. The Hawk's Nest has introduced breakfast sandwiches and burritos, as well as low fat muffins and whole-wheat bagels. In addition to change in the food department, the staff itself has experienced some shifts and reassignments. You may be surprised to find that Lucy is now working in the Wag.

According to Shenker, Lucy's move wasn't the corporate muscle of Chartwells flexing against a poor, sad woman. According to Union regulations, each staff member selects their position every year or so based upon seniority. When her previous position was unavailable, she chose the Wag for its relaxed atmosphere and flexible hours. While it may get a bit lonely in the low-traffic basement, bear in mind that if she wasn't down there, someone else would be. Lucy was our staple card-swiper, but her new position allows for longer chats. Go visit her, appreciate that the mechanics of the system are entirely just, and start eating more cereal.

Despite the already sizeable improvements, Chartwells looks forward to continuing to bring more to the students this semester. SGA and Chartwells will be meeting monthly

to discuss possibility for improvement.

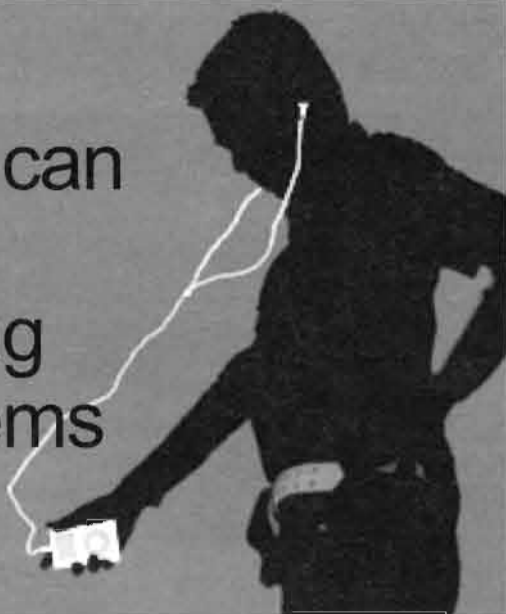
A small selection of the topics covered at the last meeting were the new cereal/bagel jars, which limit the waste of cereal through spillage and keep the bagels fresh longer, the impossibility of a microwave because of student misuse in the past; and the new one-piece-of-fruit-to-go policy. Additionally, they are seeking a transfer plan that will keep everyone happy.

"I just want everybody to be happy," said Marter, "and without people coming and talking, we don't know what you want."

The second meeting of the semester will be held March 15 at 5 p.m. in the faculty dining room. If you cannot attend, you can always give your request to Al Marter or Dina Sanchez in person. They both are eager to learn how they can better your dining experience. Chartwell's site, www.dineoncampus.com/wagner, also has an anonymous comment form. You can also drop by the SGA office and talk to Harry Jackson, head of SGA's Chartwells committee.

Remember, all students are encouraged to attend SGA meetings and to contact Chartwells with any thoughts or suggestions. Student opinion is a helpful and necessary means of improvement for all campus services.

Loud iPods can cause hearing problems



By NICK POLLUTRI
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Music lovers know they can drown out just about anything with their iPod. But the excessive loud noise from personal music devices can lead to a hearing condition which no iPod can drown out—a constant ringing sound in the ears.

In fact, according to the American Tinnitus Association (ATA), an estimated 50 million Americans have some degree of tinnitus. Of those, 12 million go through treatment and about 2 million find it more difficult to function.

There may be times when you hear ringing in your ears, or a whooshing sound as if you're underwater. It all comes from our loud surroundings.

Wagner student Jonathan Pigno says he has lived with tinnitus for several years. He hears hissing or high-pitched rings varying in severity throughout the day, and adds that shouting and mood can magnify it. Pigno believes his tinnitus came from excessive loud noise from personal

music players.

"Stress, school, society: these are all synonyms for the excuses to increase volume. But, what many fail to realize is that those minutes of exposure can yield a constant sound that may *never* subside or leave," Pigno says.

"Protect your ears, Wagner. You're not worth falling victim to trends," he added.

Take your own lifestyle into account. How often do you listen to loud music? Do you party hard? Do you constantly go to shows and watch crappy bands blow out a nice PA system? According to the ATA's Web site, "Exposure to loud noises can damage and even destroy hair cells, called cilia, in the inner ear. Once damaged, these hair cells cannot be renewed or replaced."

So turn down that iPod, not just to save us from your bad music—just to salvage your hearing while you still can. Preventing long-term hearing damage is as easy as turning that clicker in the other direction.

For more information on tinnitus, check out www.ata.org.

My alarm clock didn't go off... because THE POWER WAS OUT

I'm sorry I missed the test... MY GRANDMA DIED (sniff)

I had "female problems."

Students get creative with excuses

By ALEXANDRA MATULONIS
Wagnerian Contributor

"My dog ate my homework." "I overslept." "I'm sick." Teachers and students alike have all heard this routine excuses for missing class or being late time and time again, I mean who wants to get up for an 8 a.m. after getting in at 2 a.m.? Or who wouldn't love to extend that long weekend just one more day to get some extra shut eye?

Students are still using the old excuses that we know and love, yet have come across some new and interesting ones with a creative twist. I mean the simple "I forgot" will just not work (unless you're a college football star). You must be graphic, brave, and sincere. Oh, and remember to never tell the truth.

Nowadays college students seem to be taking their excuses to a new level. They have mastered the art and seem to become more in depth when telling their tale.

They conjure up an elaborate story with unwarranted detail capturing the professor's attention and then losing him or her somewhere in the middle

stuck to say anything but OK.

Dr. Stahl, an English professor, says she "finds it common, of course that grandparents happen to die on the day a paper needs to be turned." This is an old favorite and only a heartless professor would refuse the excuse and not allow a make up exam to the student who has lost their grandparent. Dr. Stahl has also noticed "that if I mention a particular medical issue that's acting up- toothache, asthma- the next day a student will be sure to use that condition for an excuse, hoping for some sort of empathy?"

When you look at it, it sure seems that way. Students seem to be getting straight A's when handling this subject. Students conjure up a ton of stories about why they have to miss class. Car wrecks, flat tires, "personal" problems, deaths, and illnesses are all common place excuses. Yet they have got it down to the "nitty gritty" thinking in advance of the proper, or rather the most believable, somewhat sympathetic tale.

A sophomore arts administration major, missed class because he had pink eye and made the professor believe he was "highly contagious." He has also used "the alarm clock didn't

go off excuse" but added a creative edge stating that the reason for this was that the power went out.

"And he believed me, both times," the student said.

Another arts administration major, decided to tell her professor she couldn't make it to class one week because she was going to be on a reality TV show. Go figure?

I guess not because he once again, believed and excused her.

While many students spend the night pondering what crazy excuse they can think of for missing class, the same number have trouble thinking of them and stick to the norms.

Through it all we still come to find a few of those "I never did that" students, just as sophomore Arts Administration major and Spanish minor Courtney Perez has stated.

And then there are the students who do skip class but don't make up excuses.

Next time you hear that awful buzzing of the alarm, what will you do? "Wait what alarm? I didn't have power."

The Wagnerian

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Like to write? Design? Edit? Take photos?
COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING!
WEDNESDAYS, 8:30 p.m., UNION 204

Seniors spend ski internship on the slopes

WAGNERIAN REPORT

Two Wagner College students have begun an unusual internship. Instead of spending time inside a Manhattan office, they are spending their winter outside-- on ski slopes.

Seniors Thomas Vendittelli and Lisa Perosi, both arts administration majors, are completing a three-month internship with the Eastern Ski Writers Association (ESWA), an organization of professional newspaper, radio and television writers and editors. The special internship program allows them to see exactly how journalists gather their material from ski resort public relations people.

As part of the unique program, Vendittelli and Perosi attended weekend monthly ski writer meetings at Smugglers' Notch ski resort, Vt.; Gore Mountain, N.Y., and Wachusett Mountain, Mass. In each case, they were assigned ski-related stories to research and write. The completed work has appeared or will appear in two daily newspapers and on a ski-related Web site.

"When you have a deep passion for something, that passion tends to come through in your writing," says Thomas, who is an avid snowboarder, and who has already written two snow-sports stories. "I never realized there is a whole group of people

whose job it is to write about the great wide world of winter mountain sports."

The Eastern Ski Writers Association has 300 members from Virginia to Canada. In addition, ski resorts and ski product manufacturers hold membership in the organization.

"We were students in the Audience Development class last semester that was taught by Prof. Robert Williams, and we were invited to a few Manhattan press parties, hosted by ski resorts, to see firsthand how public relations people set up special events for the press," recalls Perosi, who attended two fall press parties, and is interested in going into public relations after graduation.

Prof. Williams is a longtime ski journalist who has reported on news of skiing from around the world. He is an ESWA board member. Throughout the course of the semester, Prof. Williams learned that both students loved snowboarding. So when nominations for the single ESWA internship opened, he nominated them. The internship committee was so impressed that it accepted both.

Thomas and Lisa attended their first ESWA meeting the weekend of Jan. 4 at Smugglers' Notch. While there, they met and mingled with ESWA members, attempted to snow-

board in the rain with summer-like weather and gathered information for their first journalistic assignments.

"I wrote my first story on Winter Walking, which is a new activity that the ski resort offers as an alternative to typical skiing," says Lisa. Thomas' first assignment was to write a story on the Nordic Quest, another new activity at Smugglers' Notch.

Both stories are being published in the Vermont Times and South Central Sentinel and are already up on the ski Web site Snow Chronicles (www.snowchronicles.info).

For their second assignment, which took them to Gore Mountain Ski Area in the Adirondack Mountains, Vendittelli researched and wrote about environmental initiatives implemented at Gore Mt. and Perosi penned a piece on a special women's ski clinic designed to attract more women to the ski area.

As a result of their participation in the ESWA program, the students say they have discovered a wealth of new opportunities.

"Working with seasoned writers, editors and publishers to produce professional quality journalistic work has been an unforgettable and life-changing experience for both of us," Thomas says.

(how) waggish {trans.} adjective:

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

Groundhog to be executed for inaccurate forecast

On Feb. 2, Punxsutawney Phil, the world's most famous weather forecasting groundhog, clawed out of his humble burrow to give his prediction on the upcoming weather. Looking at the ground and not seeing his shadow, Phil promised an early spring.

Nearly a month and a few dozen blizzards later, many American's are calling for the execution of the furry specimen, some even going so far as to hold violent demonstrations of protest against the rodent. Such demonstrations have included rioting, obstruction of large sections of urban streets, and mass burnings of alfalfa, dandelions, twigs and small berries.

"That little bastard," says local rioter Daniel Chordata, "While the rest of us are out here freezing our asses off, he's enjoying a nice, cozy evening cuddled up in his underground nest! What a trickster! I bet he told us the

wrong forecast just so we would go out underdressed and get frostbite!"



Punxsutawney Phil

The protests got out of control when a frigid cold front moved over the East Coast, bringing several dozens of inches of snow to much of the NorthEast.

"Wow, what a good weatherman," says Richard Marmota, shouting above the howling wind, "It's beginning to look a LOT like spring isn't it? Look at that snow bank over there, you can almost see the daisies break-

ing through the two inch sheet of ice on top."

The Indiana Supreme Court recently oversaw the case of Punxsutawney v. Indiana, an official lawsuit against the animal, and ruled in favor of the prosecution, with a minimum penalty of death.

"I can't wait to burn that little sh*t," says Supreme Court Justice Ash Croft. "Every once in a while you come across a case as a judge where you really want to see the convicted fry, this is definitely one of those times. The worst part was, he didn't even offer a defense, he just stood there looking all smug and checking for his shadow on the ground repeatedly, showing no remorse for his blatant lying whatsoever."

Punxsutawney Phil will be put to death by way of being burned at the stake next Tuesday at 2 p.m.

Classic Unfinished Quote of the Month:

"The major part of the work of a President is to increase the gate receipts of expositions... oh and to increase your waistline as well. Don't we get cake at this banquet?" -William Howard Taft

Other Items that should be banned from crosswalks!

With talk of iPods being banned in major city crosswalks, (thank goodness our government is tackling the major problems in America) Wagnerian humor thought up some other products that are just too dangerous for pedestrians to be using while crossing the street.

Chewing Gum: This tasty rubbery substance, previously perceived as innocent, has become one of the deadliest killers in America. The repeated chewing noise and occasional sound of a bubble popping, can actually interfere very slightly with ones hearing, causing them to step out unsuspectingly into oncoming traffic... since most pedestrians clearly enter the crosswalk using only their auditory skills, not looking at the much more subtle "walk/ don't walk" sign.

Light Up Shoes: This former footwear trend should be banned alongside gum and iPods. The light that the wearer creates with each step can potentially blind drivers who are stopped at the stoplight, causing them to flail wildly and likely slam down on the accel-

erator, then undoubtedly careening into said wearer of light up shoes. So no more L.A. gear in the street, you hear that the three of you still stuck in 1994?

Earmuffs: Cold? We don't care. Your ability to hear the oncoming traffic at a stopped light comes first. We don't want any lawsuits coming against the people who can afford a car.

Chords: These pants have been annoying to our ears for years, what better time than now to make them illegal? And while we're at it... let's ban those windbreaker pants that old ladies wear with the matching jackets.

Red Rubber Clown Noses: These squeaky objects have become far too prevalent amongst pedestrians in major city crosswalks. It's hard to go an entire day without hearing hundreds of squealing blasts contributing to the noise pollution that is killing thousands every day, by stealing their common sense of how to cross a road safely.

Football Helmets: Although one might think the use of a football helmet would con-

tribute to greater protection for the pedestrian in the case of an accident, it really is a lot more damaging on the car's body in the event that ones head smashes into the hood during a collision. Car damage would contribute to rising insurance rates, which nobody wants.

While the above items should definitely be banned, we suggest that the lawful use of unnecessarily loud subwoofers that may deafen drivers to the surrounding world (not to mention other drivers and pedestrians within a four block vicinity) be upheld. Also, pedestrians may use Tape players, CD players, handheld radios, old school boomboxes, and Zune or other non-iPod mp3 players, because let's face it, they are losers who aren't cool enough to be like the rest of the music listening world and probably should be hit by a car anyway (at least that's probably the stance of those pretentious jerks who made those new Apple commercials).

LAUGH BAKED



By JESSE HAGEN
Wagnerian Humor Editor

I'm ridiculously exhausted, but I wouldn't dare miss a column: not when Wagnerian Humor has flocks upon flocks of loyal fans. That having been said, this is for you (you may be singular in this case). This week there's only one subject since this particular subject has grown to become something I despise more than country music, more than steamed carrots, more even than an Ashlee Simpson cover of a Beatles song:

Starbucks:

I know I'm not the first person to jump on the Starbucks backlash train, but I'm probably the most pissed off. In recent times it has become the pinnacle of all things that I hate. I would rather drink a glass of blended toenail shavings than to have any of their crappy overpriced beverages ever again. I'm not a coffee drinker, so my visits to the store were few and far between up until last week when my friends dragged me along on Starbucks trips, twice. The first time I didn't get anything, so all I got was judgmental stares from the customers who thought I was taking up their precious laptop/ego space. However, the second time, I was thirsty so I thought I would order something. Once at the counter, I let the clerk know that I was quite unknowledgeable with the whole Starbucks menu, and I asked him politely to just bear with me. It was then that his condescending demeanor rose to record heights, and he slouched with his head tilted, his eyes narrowed and his hands on his hips annoyed at the mere presence of a Starbucks rookie. The order went as follows:

Me: "I once tried something from here that tasted like a vanilla milkshake"

Him: (sneering in that distinctive patronizing Starbucks employee tone), "We don't have milkshakes (taking extra care to accentuate the sleaziness of that

word), YOU (taking extra care to make the 'you' as accusatory as possible) must be referring to the Vanilla Bean Frappacino."

Me: "Umm sure, that doesn't really help me since as I mentioned before I don't know any of your 'cool' lingo, but yeah I'll take the vanilla thing."

Him: "Okay..." (sighs repeatedly, waiting for me to catch on to something, while jutting his chin out and widening his eyes at me)

Me: (stone cold silence)

Him: "What size do you want?"

Me: "Oh umm Medium is fine, (under my breath): I kind of want you to just blend the stuff and throw it in a cup and I'll walk away feeling like less of an idiot, I'll even pay you for the concoction, can we please just end this transaction?"

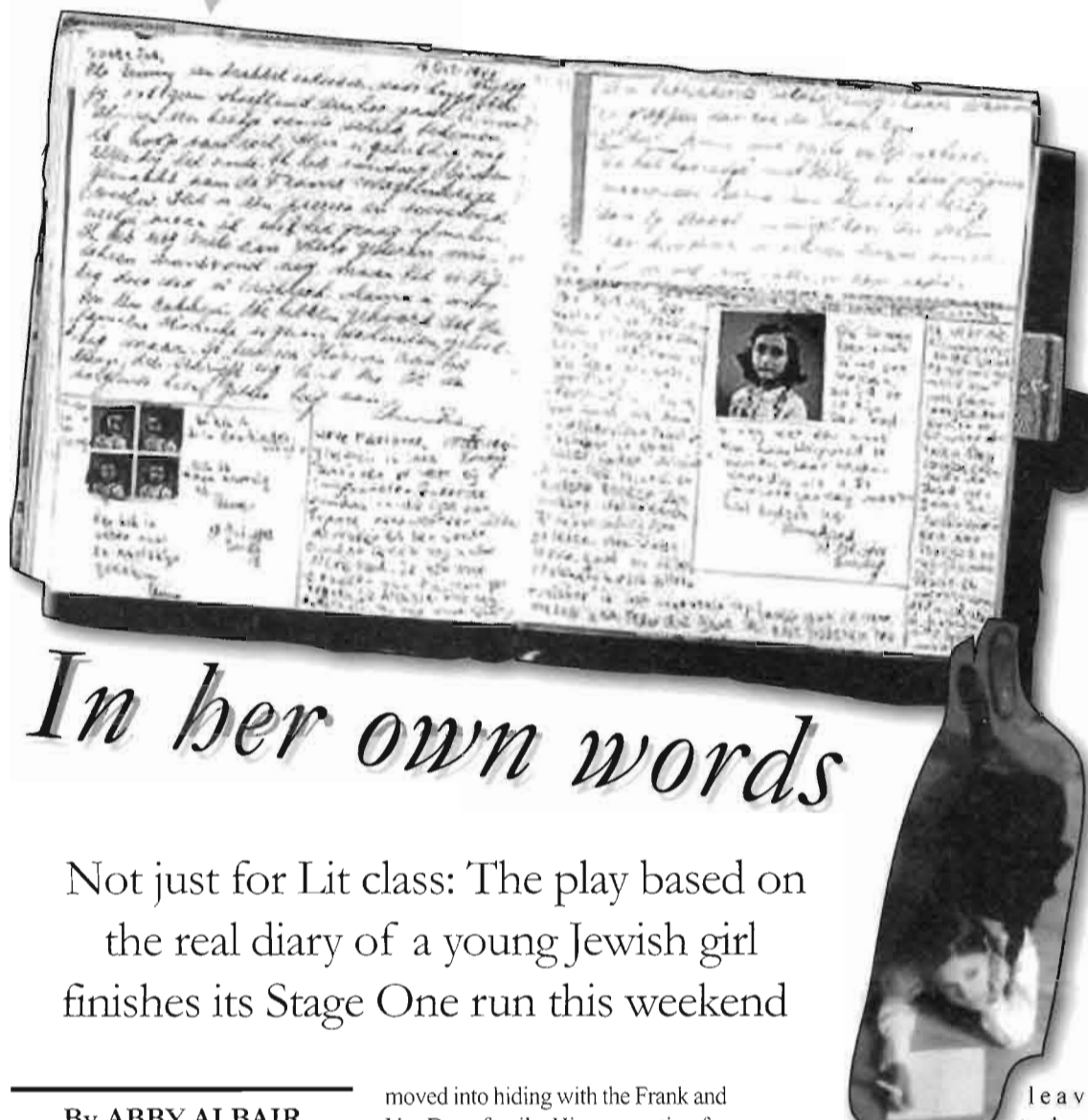
Him: (Folding arms): "You mean a GRANDE Vanilla Bean Frappacino."

Me: (sounding like a total idiot) "Oh umm yeah that's what I want (under my breath): Listen you ponytailed, faux enlightened, coffee sipping, fake meditating, piece of crap, I will punch you in the face if you so much as utter one more cool Starbucks slang word at me. Plus, last time I checked, 'Grande' means 'Large' in Spanish and Italian, not Medium, so you and your faulty sizing system can go to hell and sip on the absolute worst brand of lukewarm instant coffee crystals for all eternity. Furthermore, why is it so trendy to say everything in English except the size of your order? I guarantee you nowhere else in the world do they do this. I am 100% positive that in Mexico they do not giggle and smile smugly because they used basic English when ordering a "Large" quesadilla. I hate hate hate hate hate hate hate hate hate Starbucks."

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

That's Entertainment

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



In her own words

Not just for Lit class: The play based on the real diary of a young Jewish girl finishes its Stage One run this weekend

By **ABBY ALBAIR**
Wagnerian Staff Writer

The opening night performance of Wagner College's studio production, "The Diary of Anne Frank," was a moving and memorable experience. Lead by junior Kerry Anderson in the lead role, the cast did an impressive job of conveying the emotions of characters in a situation unthinkable to many today.

The entire cast displayed great dedication to their roles of Jewish mothers, fathers, children and friends spending two years during World War II in hiding from the Nazi's, locked away in a small annex above an office building. Anderson gave undoubtedly the most moving performance of the evening. Her portrayal of 13-year-old Anne was not only convincing but heart-wrenching. Audience members hung on each word as she described her journey through adolescence occurring in close quarters with seven other people.

Among those in the annex was 16-year-old Peter Van Daan played by freshman Brett Radek. Although Radek seemed detached in a few moments from the other actors on stage, he showed great promise in his emotional connection to his own role.

Playing Peter Van Daan's parents were senior Rebecca Cox and freshman Tim Komblum. While Cox gave a committed and moving performance, Komblum shined as the headstrong Mr. Van Daan. He was able to expose both the angry and gentle side of the character with ease.

Senior Jake Smith played Mr. Dussel, a dentist and single man who

moved into hiding with the Frank and Van Daan family. His preparation for the role was evident in his performance. He showed a great understanding of his character and his struggles as a Jewish man who left his Christian lover to protect himself from persecution.

Junior Alla Bronskaya and freshman Nathanael Harting played Meip Gies and Mr. Kraler, the two people who protected the families during their time of seclusion. Bronskaya brought the light of her character onto the stage each time she entered. She showed the audience what brief happiness the character of Meip brought to the Frank and Van Daan families as well as Mr. Dussel each time she came. Harting also showed an emotional commitment to his character who so desperately tried to save the families from exposure.

The rest of the Frank family was played by freshman Caitlin McGee in the role of Anne's sister, Margot, and senior Kayla King and freshman Michael Hickie as Mr. and Mrs. Frank. McGee convincingly portrayed the 16-year-old Margot and her difficulties growing up in the shadow of an outgoing younger sister. King also gave a moving performance of the tormented Mrs. Frank who so desperately tried to protect her children and stay hopeful for them.

Hickie's performance in the final moments of the show was breath taking.

The Nazi's, played by freshman Peter Marinario, sophomore Jon Cardenas, and junior Armand Valdez, come to take the families away and

Junior Kerry Anderson holds the title role.

only one that survived in the concentration camps until the end of the war. Hickie reappeared to give Frank's final monologue about the fate of his family and friends. The audience was left speechless in darkness once he had finished.

The performances not only were evidence of a thoughtful and well done directing job by adjunct professor Barbara Brandt, but were also nicely accented by a well-designed set, done by set designers junior Will Schuler and Professor Josh Sturman. The costumes, by senior Erin Stomieroski were brilliantly designed in the period of the show, and helped to make the age differences of the characters clear. The lighting design by junior Tyler Trofatter, as well as the sound design by junior Nick Mustakas complete with original audio of Adolf Hitler and Dwight D. Eisenhower added to the effectiveness of the show.

The show is a must see not only because of its quality but also for its historical nature. It was impressive and memorable, a reminder of the dangers of prejudice and the devastating effects it has on lives. The Stage One production of The Diary of Anne Frank is definitely one of the more notable Wagner College performances this year.

Leave the annex where they had spent the last two years destroyed. Mr. Frank was the

By **ASHLEY FOLEY**
Wagnerian Staff Writer

It's a new semester on the main stage at Wagner College and it's just about check in time for "Grand Hotel." "Grand Hotel" is the third show in Wagner's season this year, and unlike "42nd Street" and "Oklahoma," this musical will probably be a new experience for most of its audience.

"Grand Hotel" originated from the Oscar winning movie made in 1932. The musical then debuted on Broadway in 1989 and ran until 1992. The famous Tommy Tune directed and choreographed the show and won the Best Director and Best Choreography Tony awards for Grand Hotel. The show won three other Tony's as well. The only star in the show with whom most people would recognize was Jane Krakowski, known to many as Elaine on the hit show, "Ally McBeal."

With a title like "Grand Hotel," the show obviously takes place within a fabulously rich hotel in Berlin, Germany. Set in prewar times, the hotel is filled with guests coming and going and the workers of the hotel watching as the rich float by them without care. This show is truly an ensemble show; with every character's lives intertwining with another's.

"Each character's story is unique and intriguing, it draws you in," says Brett Figel a member of the cast. Julianna Gutierrez also in the show adds, "It is really great storytelling, it gives a reflection of what is happen-

ing and about to happen in Germany during this time period."

The show is smart and filled with wonderful music, a comedy as well as a drama, it offers a little bit of everything for all its guests. Yet, typically with a show that has done well on Broadway and at the Tony's, people will at least recognize the title of the show or one song that stands out, but it is almost a guarantee, that the majority of the audience will be experiencing this show and all it displays, for the first time.

Michael Dunn, a sophomore theatre major playing the role of Sandor says, "It's great to be a part of a show that so many people are unfamiliar with, because we as performers get the chance to create something from scratch to show them." Of course, with a show many don't know, it may be tough for them to be interested or fully understand and enjoy it. The cast doesn't seem to think this will be a problem.

"I think the Wagner audience will really like the show. It's different and dark," says Junior Alicia Magliaro. Magliaro plays the role of Flaemmchen, the role originated by Krakowski.

Wagner's cast of "Grand Hotel" consists of 33 students all eager and excited to premiere this show in two weeks. John Saunders, a theatre professor at Wagner is the director of the show along with Dr. Lauri Young, also a professor in the theatre department. "Grand Hotel" I guarantees its guests a great stay along with a lot of fun for all those that come and visit.

IT'S SHOWTIME!

This weekend: Come support your fellow students at these productions:

GRAND HOTEL: Fri. 3/2 - 8 p.m.
Sat 3/3 - 2 & 8 p.m.
Main Stage Wed.- Fri. 3/7-3/9 8 p.m.
Sat. 3/10 - 2 & 8 p.m.
Sun. 3/11 - 2 p.m.

ANNE FRANK: Fri. & Sat. 3/2-3/3 - 8 p.m.
Stage One

VAGINA MONOLOGUES: Fri. & Sat. 3/2-3/3 - 8 p.m.
Sun. 3/4 - 3 p.m.

Gatehouse Lounge



Left: Stage One, located behind West Lot, was formerly an area for the wrestling team. Middle: The doors to Wagner's Main Stage theatre used to be the entrance to Main Hall's gym/auditorium. Right: A broken stool and old piano are characteristic of the Gatehouse performance space in Harbor View Hall.

Performance spaces don't match up to talent

By KATE GIANNETTINO
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Have you ever gone to a Main Stage show and wondered why you can't see the stage past the tenth row? Or why you feel as if the actors on stage are competing with the orchestra? If you answered yes, you're not alone. In fact, many students here at Wagner share in these complaints, as well as others about Stage One and Gatehouse Lounge.

Associate Professor and Head of Acting, John Jamiel, helped to shed some light on the situation: As it turns out, the Main Stage hasn't always been a theatre. In fact, it was the college's "gymnasium" which was later converted into the college's theatre. This explains many of the problems with the theatre: for one, it is why we do not have stadium seating in the theatre. It is also the reason that the

orchestra is directly next to the audience (in most theatres they would be directly in front of the stage). A less noticeable problem with the Main Stage is the lack of fly space (The area above the stage out of sight of the audience. It is usually at least as tall as the stage and is where scenery for scene changes is hung up on cables and lowered by pulleys for a scene changes). Not only is it an extremely tight space, but the fly system is outdated: the Main Stage uses a hemp system (ropes and sandbags) when most theatres today use the more complex counter-balance system. Due to the limited fly space, it is not possible for the theatre to upgrade to this newer system. Does this put students at a disadvantage? Sophomore Technical Theatre major Ed Haddican had this to say: "It would be amazing to have a state-of-the-art system so we could learn both ways -- the more you know, the more valuable you are in the field."

"The facilities should be better... simply because we are a theatre school and it is necessary."

--JUNIOR STEVEN WITT

But what of Wagner's other two performance spaces? Stage One (located behind the football field) is also a converted space: it was originally a room used by the Wagner wrestling team. According to professor Phil Hickox, the Director of Production, although Stage One is a good place for performance and technical theatre majors to learn, it still isn't up to standards. Ideally, the ceiling should be about 8 feet higher than it actually is,

for lighting purposes. Stage One also lacks necessary electrical power; the simple use of the air conditioner drains power from the lighting system.

It should be noted, however, that albeit all these problems with the college's performance spaces, the Princeton Review bestowed Wagner College with the very prestigious "No. 1 Theatre Program" award in its 2004 edition of the "Best 357 Colleges." Although Professor Jamiel acknowledges that the performance spaces at Wagner could be better, he noted the performance and technical Theatre majors' have the drive to succeed, saying, "Our students come here to learn and do whatever it takes to do it; they don't dwell on the conditions that they are working in -- their focus is becoming better at what they do... If they can create here they can create anywhere."

According to both Jamiel and Hickox, if Wagner wants to keep up

with their competition (schools such as New York University, MaryMount Manhattan, Montclair State University and Muhlenberg) they would be wise to invest in acting labs (spaces similar to Stage One) with micro-stages, where students would learn everything from acting techniques to stage lighting and sound.

"In an ideal world, we would have four to five performance and technical classrooms," says Hickox. The previous administration had planned to build a block of classrooms devoted solely to the performance arts, but those plans have been put off indefinitely due to Wagner's need for a new dormitory building.

Perhaps Junior Performance major Steven Witt puts it best when he says, "The facilities should be better, not even because we're the number one theatre school, but simply because we are a theatre school and it is necessary."

The Stone stands alone

The LES club relies on the creativity of its musicians alone to fill its



avant-garde space

By EVAN JAGELS
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Today's jazz scene in New York City is greatly defined by \$20 to \$30 cover charges and \$10 drink minimums. The great pioneers from half a century past now line the walls in picture frames and watch as waiters balancing \$9 cocktails and equally expensive dinners maneuver among the audience.

These aged centers of cultural and musical innovation now cater to a different demographic -- definitely of a higher class than those who would have seen Coltrane blow a "Love Supreme" or Miles strike a smoke in front of the Village Vanguard. New to the scene as of April 2005, however, is a venue defying the precedents of the jazz club scene. The Stone is focused solely on the music -- no drinks, no food, no merchandise.

Located on the bleak corner of Ave. C and 2nd St. across from a Mobil station and a small bodega, The Stone is a not-for-profit performance space working to offer experimental and avant-garde jazz musicians a vehicle for their art.

There is no neon sign, billboard, or awning outside advertising -- simply the word stone in little white letters on the glass doors, making it easy to miss.

"The purpose is all about the music," said Carol White, one of the venue's volunteer workers, as she collected the \$10 suggested donation from an eager jazz fan. "All the workers here are volunteer... tonight just happens to be my night," Carol said smiling. "It's definitely very unusual."

In fact, all of the Stone's expenses are paid for by the music itself. John Zorn, the independent composer/saxophonist and artistic director of The Stone, has created a unique environment in which a tight-knit community of performers and fans work to maintain a free and pure performance space. Monthly benefit concerts and an annual benefit Stone CD series (sold online under Zorn's label Tzadik) support the venue while 100 percent of the nightly revenue goes directly to the musicians.

Although Zorn may be the founder and artistic director, he leaves even the position's most basic responsibility to the musicians. Each month, he

chooses a different curator musician to organize the entire schedule for that month. Demos are not accepted and all music is booked purely on the curatorial basis of that particular month's curator.

While this kind of venue is definitely unique to New York, it may be one of the only of its kind in the world. Paul Berberich, a 21-year-old music student from Germany, feels The Stone to be a very special place.

"I haven't seen anything like it," Berberich commented. "It gives the visitor a good feeling to know that the charge is given completely to the musicians. It's nice to not be disturbed by waitresses running around like in any other club you have in the city... the people are not there for the menu or someone's popular name, they just know that some really special guys will play there."

The interior setting of The Stone complements its minimalist attitude and pure musical focus. Its atmosphere is that of a well-furnished cellar with no leaks and a grand piano. The brick walls are painted white and only three two-inch bulbs hanging from the ceiling illuminate the musicians. Fold out chairs are used in order to in-

corporate as many audience members possible depending on the performance space required, seeing as there is no stage.

"Seats are set up close," Carol White said. "This provides intense audiences and musicians."

By coincidence, White was volunteering the same night that her son, Tim Keiper was performing a solo drum and percussion act. There were 23 audience members, one performer, one drum set, two broom brushes, one set of long, curved bicycle handlebars littered and bound with bells, whistles, horns and ratchets, a slew of African percussive instruments scattered about the floor, and a curiously placed microphone in the bathroom behind the drum set.

Keiper began his set by simply throwing small change and other odd items at his drum set from the open door of a small closet to the side of the drum set. Then, after some time, he appeared and introduced himself in front of a giggling audience and proceeded to play a breathtaking drum solo in 13/4. However, right when the mood of the audience had changed from laughter to focus and

intrigue, Keiper shifted to his bicycle handlebar contraption and displayed a virtuosic ability to honk, crack, whistle, and spin melodies out of what once might have been his childhood ride.

All throughout his set, an energetic Keiper danced, sang, drummed, and whistled -- he even experimented with the microphone in the bathroom. Although his performance was a bit unorthodox, his musicality and command of the instruments were professional and inspiring.

It is apparent that John Zorn's artistic dream has ripened in The Stone. Musicians play and people come -- not for food, drinks or history, but to quench their love of music. The setting forces innovation, inspires musicians, and fulfills listeners. All the while, it remains completely funded by the music and the audience. "Whatever you want to donate is basically where we're at... ten dollars max, no less than zero," Carol White replied to a young woman's inquiry about a student discount. "But don't go to those other clubs, the best music is here."

IN OUR OPINION..

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

A DOSE OF SOUL

Celebrating womanhood

By E. FEEHLEY
Wagnerian Opinions Editor

The "Vagina Monologues" has taken over my life. I've been getting home each night consistently around midnight after rehearsing all day, and I've started smoking again because of the stress of putting together a show in 5 weeks. But I've never been in charge of something so meaningful.

This is my third year being involved with the production, and it has gotten more and more powerful for me each time I have participated. In February of 2005, my friend Jenni was directing the show and asked me if I would run the lights for it. I thought I'd do my friend a favor, and help out a good cause, so I said OK—I never realized that by saying yes I would change the course of my next two years so dramatically.

I'm not going to pretend it wasn't extremely uncomfortable at first, hearing what people's vaginas would wear or say, and talking about touchy subjects like periods and what a vagina smells like. But I found that under that initial feeling of uneasiness there was a beautiful message about the strength of women and the necessity of respecting them.

So last year, I auditioned for the show and was cast. Working on the show for a longer period of time let me experience more than just the presentation on opening night. I learned that it wasn't just the audience members who were affected by the performance—what happened behind the scenes was just as important. And this year, as a director, I can observe this even more effectively.

All of the women who perform in the show are there for their own reasons. Some have had experience with sexual assault or some kind of abuse, some have seen it happen to friends or relatives, and others just want to be involved in something fun and meaningful. The latter group is always the most interesting

to watch develop—they start out as timid college students involved in a play, but through overcoming their inhibitions and embracing their femininity, they become strong, confident women who are dedicated to a cause.

But what I love most about the show is that it pushes the boundaries of what is considered "socially acceptable" to talk about in public. People don't like to hear about rape, or acid burning, or the spoils of



war when they go to a play—but what is essential about this particular play is that it is so much more than just a piece of theater. The "Vagina Monologues" is a movement, a cause that aims to stop the aforementioned atrocities from happening, and the first step towards achieving that goal is making people aware of just how serious these issues are in today's world.

But don't get me wrong, it's not going to be two hours of gross vagina details, or tear-jerking stories. The show is fraught with laughs—from visits to the gynecologist, to tampons, to vagina fashion shows, to sex moans—even the most conservative spectator is bound to find the humor in it.

And I find that balance so appropriate. Women all over the world have to deal with terrible atrocities every day, some of them with no support and no one to talk to. But it is overcoming these obstacles that allows us to realize that we are resilient and strong—and after we understand the bad things that can happen to women, we can more fully appreciate the good things that women embody every day. We can celebrate that good, and call attention to it, even if only for three special nights in March.

"We forget the vagina- all of us. What else would explain our lack of awe, our lack of reverence?"
-Eve Ensler

VIEWPOINT

Thoughts on immigration

By JONATHAN GOODISON
Wagnerian Contributor

America has always been a country of immigrants; we are one of a few, if not the only country in the world that does not have one dominating ethnic group. We are indeed a melting pot of immigrants from all over the world. As our country has grown into a world superpower, the desire to come to this land has only increased. This has brought a flood of illegal immigrants, mostly from Latin America, in search of work to support themselves and their families back home.

While I feel strongly that this country should be open to anyone who wants to live here and to be a productive part of our society, it must be done in a legal way. Continuing to let the 8 million illegal, primarily Mexican, immigrants grow and expand truly compromises our homeland security and lawful integrity. In his State of the Union Address last month, President Bush unveiled a comprehensive immigration plan to finally tackle this long-standing problem head on.

Let us look at President Bush's 3-part plan. (1) Strengthening our Border Patrol. Since taking office, Bush has increased border funding 60 percent, allowing the extra 1,900 border police to apprehend over 4.5 million illegal immigrants coming into this country, 350,000 of those

with criminal records. He is ending the previous administration's plan of "catch and release," through which illegals were caught and given a court date. (75 percent did not appear for court.) (2) Border Security. Next, the President unveiled and got passed by Congress, a 2000-mile wall along the Mexican border—something that a majority of Americans support. Finally, (3) Bush has proposed a temporary guest worker program in which illegal Mexican immigrants will be permitted to work in the U.S. for a period of time (3-6 years) as long as the job cannot be filled by an American worker.

Bush's plan will make for a safer and more lawful America. How? First, let us look at his plans for the construction of a 2000-mile wall on the United States' border with Mexico.

Post-9/11, this country has taken measures unprecedented in American history to combat foreign terrorism. If millions of Mexicans are able to illegally get into the country every year, then it is clear that there is nothing stopping a person intent on hurting our country from doing the same. The wall will secure the borders by physically stopping the flow of immigration into the country. But it is imperative to note that this wall does not mean no illegal Mexicans will be able to enter the country.

The wall, in conjunction with President Bush's guest worker program, will allow good, hard-work-

ing Mexican people to enter our country to work and provide for themselves. An additional accolade of the guest worker program is that it will allow the United States Border Patrol to stop spending time worrying about innocent Mexicans who want to come to our country; thus allowing them to focus their time on keeping harmful people from entering our borders. In addition, the guest worker program will allow business owners to find workers to do jobs that they cannot find an American worker for. Allowing hardworking laborers into our economy will help the worker who will make more here than at home, as well as American small business owners.

Realistically, we cannot stop Mexican immigrants from trying to enter our country. For example, the per capita income in the United States is over \$30,000—versus a mere \$4,000 in Mexico. This fact alone should be enough to convince anyone that the drive to enter the U.S. will not stop. With this in mind, instead of throwing millions of dollars into ineffective border security every year, it is time that we spend money on an effective way to process and keep an eye on everyone who wishes to enter our country. It allows hardworking immigrant workers to provide for themselves and their families while at the same time keeping the United States safe and true to its immigrant origins.

What's up with that?

Branchless campus tree...



Photo Editor Larissa Randall takes a critical lens to campus.

What happened to the tree in front of Main Hall? As I was walking to class one day I was stunned to see the oddly-cut tree standing there, sans branches. Why did it have to be chopped down anyway? It seemed perfectly healthy to me the last time I saw it.

I'd also like to know who did the chopping. When cutting down a tree, I thought it was customary to make it "stump" size, not to castrate it of its branches and leave it standing there like a piece of artwork.

EDITORIAL

Maintenance hang-ups in Harbor View

By **AMANDA FRECHETTE & MOLLY JUDGE**
Wagnerian Staff Writers

Harborview Hall is the largest residence hall on the Wagner campus. That would make you think that it would receive the most attention in general, correct? Wrong! I talked with students throughout the building and asked specifically what issues they had with the building.

BATHROOM BLUES

One of the other bigger problems I came upon was the bathrooms. I live on the seventh floor of Harborview, and our bathrooms always have something wrong with them. Currently, there is a toilet out of service and a stall still remains without a lock on it. Girls can be very touchy with how their bathrooms are kept-- and with three working toilets, only two of them which have locks on them, it is understandable why we would disapprove with these standards.

And we are not the only ones who did disapprove. Two friends who I spoke with expressed their



One of the unusable toilets

concerns with the bathrooms. Emily Blumen mentioned the frequently clogging of the private showers. "I don't want to bathe in my own filth, or anyone else's for that matter," she told me. Many students prefer the private showers to the communal ones, not only for the privacy reasons, but because of the size and efficiency it provides. However, when the private showers do clog, maintenance does get it fixed pretty quickly. Problem is, they do not stay unclogged for long.

ELEVATOR INEFFICIENCIES

The elevators in Harborview are often temperamental, leaving students annoyed and even apprehensive as they are known for their slow trafficking and periodic malfunctions. In the eyes of many students, the elevators need to get fixed... NOW!

Installed in 1971 when the building was first built, Harborview relies on only two elevators to traffic students around the 15 floor high rise structure that currently houses approximately 596 students. Students are frustrated that the elevators do not accommodate the amount of traffic flow in the building as the number of students living in the residence hall has vastly risen over the years.

Elevators become idle on certain floors while the doors fail to open immediately on others, often leaving students in a bind as they must constantly guess how long it will actually take to get to the lobby from the upper floors.

"It's hard to know what time to leave for class because the elevators are unreliable. Sometimes I can get to the lobby quickly and other times there are just too many people taking the elevators— it can take up to 10, 15 minutes just to get downstairs" says Jenn Hendrickson, a 14th floor Harborview resident.

Sometimes the elevator will climb to the requested floor but fail to open its doors, often tak-

ing up to three minutes before opening. Other times students must push their floor number repeatedly so the elevator will not hibernate on a certain floor, or even worse, overlook their floor only to take the student on a trip up and down for additional minutes.



A missing lock from a bathroom stall

Jimmy from Maintenance explains the hibernation as such: "The elevators park on the 12th floor and the lobby. If I come into the building and I go into the lobby and push to go up to the 9th floor, the 12th floor elevator will automatically come down while I'm going up in order to balance it out."

But something is not adding up because hibernation is just one of many inconveniences. When sophomore Brandy Barnett, a 14th floor resident, was asked about any problems with the elevators she replied, "Problems with the elevator, are u kidding me? All the time! Sometimes they skip my floor destination, making me walk up flight of stairs, and other times they stop on every floor opening and closing a bunch of times before moving on to the next, only to repeat again. I have given up taking the elevator down; I just walk from the 14th floor because it is such a pain."

How it is that so many students have gripes with the elevators and nothing is being done to change it? It is most likely due to a long line of miscommunication. Wagner College does not deal with the complications of the elevators because it is state law that an outside company such as Richmond Elevators, take

full responsibility by performing routine maintenance calls once a month.

Richmond Elevator representative, Andy Duffy, said "We're notified by Wagner College itself, the facility director, and it is my understanding that we are not aware of any of major problems at this time."

Director of Operations, Dominick Fontano, who receives word from housing regarding elevator issues also says, "I haven't had a lot of service calls on them so I don't see where the problems are."

It is no secret that students have issues with the elevators, it seems to me that they are just not being reported correctly. Unfortunately, there is not a complaint or suggestion box for the elevators, which would be very helpful in detailing the inconveniences the elevators cause daily. Rather, students must report to their RA who in turn will report to housing of the complaints. Housing must then go to Dominick Fontano who will call Richmond Elevator.

It is a long and complicated process during which students' concerns are likely to fall by the wayside— and it should not be tolerated. I encourage students to

keep informing their RA's in hopes that constant reminders will highlight the immediate need for action to better accommodate Harborview residents.

WHERE'S THE HEAT?

Since it is mid-February, one of the problems I came across was lack of heat, which I experienced myself. According to the Wagner website, all rooms in Harborview are individually climate controlled, including heat and air conditioning.

Since before Christmas break my roommate and I had been experiencing very little heat out of our heaters. It seemed as though we could adjust the flow of heat, but no matter if it were on high or low, the same minimal amount would come out. The only way we could feel the heat was if we placed our hands just above the vents. We thought that perhaps the problem would be fixed when we returned from break. Low and behold, when we got back, the heat was still not up to par.

There is a sign on our floor telling us where to contact maintenance. I sent them my first email on Jan. 26, at 8:16 am. After there was no response, both my roommate and I wrote emails on Feb. 6 at 10:04 am. No response was ever received, but

on Feb. 13 we received notice that our side of the floor would be experiencing maintenance on our heating system.

Recently I have not complained about how cold our room has been, so perhaps the problem is solved. If you live in Harborview and are also experiencing some sort of maintenance problem, you can contact them at harborview@wagner.edu.



A sign in the 7th floor lobby.

EDITORIAL

Dating is dying out in college settings

By **ARIANNA IMPERATO**
Wagnerian Contributor

In today's society, it seems as though the term dating has lost its validity. Men and women are choosing to marry later in life, or simply deciding not to marry at all. Many women have established professional careers in the workforce, and a large portion of men have forgotten what it's like to open the door, bring flowers and pay the check at dinner. But what's the dating scene like in college? Are students looking for love or lust?

In an article titled "Dating Thoughts" by Ian McNeice, The author argues that "the purpose of dating is to meet someone we like on a romantic and personal level, but dating can also mean casual sex too.

There are plenty of people of both sexes for which dating is nothing more than physical contact."

In college, drunken nights have been notoriously linked to one night stands. These encounters among students rarely lead to dinner and a movie, which leaves the concept of dating nearly nonexistent. In McNeice's opinion, "Dating for the sake of it is becoming more widespread, almost like a sport." The younger generations, particularly college students, are participating in this competitive game of pure passion.

The Independent Women's Forum (IWF) conducted a study called "Hooking Up, Hanging Out, and Hoping for Mr. Right." It surveyed college students across the country about their opinions on relationships. According to the study, 75 percent of participants agreed

that the term "hook up" refers to "when a girl and a guy get together for a physical encounter and don't necessarily expect anything further." This study shows that most college students don't have high standards when it comes to relationships on campus.

For college students, a physical encounter can mean an array of things, from making out to sexual intercourse. The term "hooking up" leaves many young people, including college students, confused about their romantic relationships. It's a vague term that has a different definition to different people.

Hooking up also puts traditional dating on the back burner. Many college students will hook up for a certain period of time before they will consider formally dating someone.

Here at Wagner, with approxi-

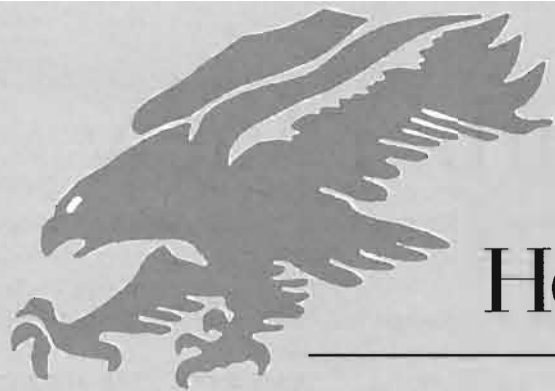
mately 1900 undergraduate students, there seems to be a larger portion of single girls than guys. Based on a poll asking fifty guys and fifty girls their relationship status, 60 percent of guys said they were single, while 40 percent said they were in a relationship. As for the girls, 68 percent said they were single, while 32 percent said they were in a relationship.

Patricia Ednie, a single freshman at Wagner, has a strong opinion on this topic. In her view, a lot of students at Wagner are single but don't go on dates. She claims, "Not a lot of guys at Wagner want a relationship. They want to date around." For most college students, dating around refers to making out in the local bars or dorm rooms. Ednie also said that college students would "rather go out with friends and see people casually rather than exclu-

sively." She thinks this because Wagner is so close to Manhattan and there are plenty of places for students to meet even more people.

For those single college students, the Web site CampusHook.com is a great place to connect with other singles for free. The Web site currently has 40,000 registered users from 30 countries, including Bulgaria, India, Poland, and Malaysia. According to CampusHook.com, users should "create a profile, browse locations worldwide, stare at thousands of hot profiles, and well, hook up!"

When it comes to college romance, the options are endless. In fact, there are almost too many options, which is probably why so many students don't want to be "tied-down." Until the beer stops flowing and expectations are raised, most people in college will remain



SEAHAWK SPORTS

HOME OF WAGNER COLLEGE ATHLETICS



Disappointing end for strong swim season

By **BILLY HOELCK**
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Wagner College's swim season was officially capped at the NEC Championships that took place on Feb 14-17.

They finished the regular winter season on top with more wins over losses, but the Championships in Landover, Maryland for some, left a bitter taste in their mouths.

The Seahawks wrapped up the 2006-2007 campaign in the top third of their conference, finishing fourth out of fourteen teams competing. Though the team's top swimmers may not have achieved their personal best times, their ranking portrays the potential they have and the bright future of the Wagner's program.

Senior and co-captain Brigitta Roser had an epic final year at Wagner. Earlier in the season, she set the school record in the 200 freestyle event at 1:52.94. She along with teammates Kate Wilson, Jess Radka, and Alex Tomlinson took second place in the 800 free relay which qualified them for the USA Swimming Spring Nationals. Unfortunately the athletes have conflicting schedules and won't be making an appearance. Roser finished fifth at NECs in the same event which broke the school record earlier in the season. Her 1:55.11 time for the 200 free was not her best, she explained "It was the worst I did all season, NECs wasn't a great meet for our team in general." Despite falling short in what they had projected to accomplish at the Championships, Roser thoughtfully responded "in life, it's about the journey, and we had a good season overall."

Though her career swimming in Wagner green and white is complete, she intends on competing unattached in the Speedo Sectionals which take place the second weekend in March. She'll be swimming the same events as she competed in at the NEC Championship; 100, 200 and 500 yard freestyle, in hopes of avenging the disappointing showing in Landover.

Junior Jess Radka returned to the NEC Championships this year as the defending champion in the 200 butterfly the last two seasons. She racked up the points for the Seahawks in Maryland, as she earned second place in both the 200 and 400 fly, fourth in the 200 individual medley and helped her relay team to an impressive second place touch in the 800 free relay, good for a qualification to the USA Swimming Spring Nationals.

As far as the championships went, Radka mentions it not "as good as the last couple years." Radka is the current school record holder in the 200 IM, 100 and 200 butterfly and a couple of relay teams too. Not knowing what to attribute the plateau to, she looks forward to "closing out the last year at Wagner with fast times".

Sophomore Alex Tomlinson, who also plays water polo at Wagner, had a promising showing at the NEC Championships. She took second place in 1650 yards of freestyle; also known as the mile, swimming it in 17:09.51. Tomlinson also grabbed third in the 500 free, subbing a minute in each hundred yards. This master distance swimmer will play a key role in tallying up points during the next couple years. This spring she can still be found downstairs in the pool, only this season with a yellow ball.

Rounding out the gradient of Wagner's stellar swimmers is freshman, Melanie Rodriguez-Lapman. She had an excellent debut in her first NEC Championships claiming the Wagner record in the 400 IM, good for second place at the meet at 4:34.31. Her swimming repertoire includes a hodgepodge of abilities in the individual medley, breaststroke and distance events. With such a vast array of expertise Rodriguez-Lapman will act as a utility player in filling the shoes of seniors leaving.

The Wagner College swim team is much like a diamond in the rough. Their potential is skyrocketing as the program ages and their good looking fourth place finish at NECs was only a glimpse of what they as a team can do.

By **ANDREW MINUCCI**
Wagnerian Sports Editor

While Wagner College students griped and moaned about having to walk across the icy paths to retrieve their pizza or chinese food orders at the public safety gazebo, the mood on the ice of the drafty Staten Island War Memorial Ice Rink was one of excitement and celebration as the Seahawk hockey team prepared to play its final home game of what has been a phenomenal season.

The Seahawks finished in first place in the Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Hockey Association and are ranked second in the American Collegiate Hockey Association behind rival University of Miami Ohio.

This past weekend the Seahawks won the MACHA championship, beating UMBC by the score of 6-4. Nick Zaires was named the MVP with 2 goals and 3 assists.

"We had a very successful season" said Head Coach Charlie Crispino, who is trying to lead his team to its first national championship under his direction.

Last season the Seahawks placed fourth in the national tournament and two years ago the squad made it to the semi-finals where they suffered a heartbreaking loss to Michigan State.

"We have a very good shot at winning" said assistant captain Dayne Gluting, adding "We have already seen everyone we are playing."

The team's success this season can be attributed to the depth and strength of every position. The team's goal-tenders have been extraordinary all season as each has averaged less than one goal against per game. Crispino also noted the presence of a deep defense and the amazing offensive play of Nick Benedetto who has 33 goals

Hockey team wraps up winning season, prepares for national tournament



Charlie Crispino talks with the Seahawk hockey team on the season.

When asked about who he considered the most valuable player of the regular season Crispino stated "I don't think this team has an MVP. We are a balanced team and don't really rely on anyone."

For all the positives the team is heading into the postseason with, they know there are weaknesses, that if not corrected could send them home early.

"Our biggest weakness is we are

not ready to play" said Gluting on the teams often lack of pre-game preparation, adding "We come out real flat in the first period."

As the team prepares to enter the postseason they look poised and determined to bring a championship to Grymes Hill.

"This is the best team we have had since I've been here because of our strengths and the way we play as a team" said Gluting, adding "I'm pretty confident we will win."



For updated results during the ACHA national championship tournament visit
www.achachampionships.com

It's almost here!



Monday, April 2
vs. Tampa Bay
YES - 1:05 p.m.



Sunday, April 1
@ St. Louis
ESPN2 - 8:05 p.m.



The Wagner Seahawk pumps up the crowd at a Jan. 21 men's basketball game.

Students pack men's basketball games, leave women's stands empty

By LINDSAY ANASTASIA
Wagnerian Contributor

It's a Saturday night. The gym of the Spiro Sports center is packed. Spectators fill the bleachers, steps, and floor, all awaiting the start of the game. This is a typical game night for the men's basketball team. Sold out stadium, hyped up fans, and television crews on hand. According to Amanda Polidoro, ticket manager, the men's basketball team has an average of 580 people in attendance each game.

When thinking about the average attendance in relevance to how many students attend Wagner College, it may not seem like all that much. But compare it to the women's basketball team, who gets an average of only 185 people attending each of their games. Big difference for the same sport.

Why the preference for men's basketball over women's? You would think, "Same sport, same excitement, same attendance." Wrong. And this preference doesn't end at the college level. For the 2005-2006 season, the NBA averaged 17,558 in attendance, while the WNBA averaged only 8,397. The differences don't end there. The team payroll cap for the WNBA is \$700,000, while the

Knicks payroll is \$104,657,559.

Why the difference? Why do men playing the same sport as women bring in more fans and make more money? According to Senior Jackie Mercandetti, she prefers attending men's games because "it's more exciting... Also, I think it goes back to the stereotypes that sports are a men's activity as stupid as it sounds. Plus all the games on TV and in the NBA are all men." Sounds sexist doesn't it? Unfortunately, this is the general consensus among students.

Not only do the fans prefer watching men play, but the cheerleaders also would rather cheer at a men's game over a women's. Junior Captain Larisa Aliseo enjoys the men's game because of the "big crowd, and everyone gets into the game. The men's games are more important to the conference and the school hypes up the boy's games more than the women's."

Is the school to blame for not advertising the women's games as much as they should? Are the students at fault for viewing basketball as a mainly men's sport? Either way the numbers don't lie. So maybe next time you're sitting around in your dorm room on a game night with nothing to do, go check out the girl's team. They'll appreciate the support, and you might even enjoy yourself.



The bleachers in the Spiro Sports Center are largely empty for women's basketball games

Water polo team aims for championship

By ANDREW MINUCCI
Wagnerian Sports Editor

Still reeling from a heartbreaking loss to Marist in last years Mid Atlantic Athletic Conference championship, the Seahawk water polo squad is prepared to fight their way back to the top of the rankings and earn a berth to this years NCAA tournament.

Going into the season the Seahawks are ranked second in the MAAC water polo coach's poll with 29 points behind Marists 35.

"Preseason polls are a joke" said head coach Patrick Beemer "I don't care, our expectation is to win."

Many key components of last year's team are returning this season including senior Stacey Travous, who was named MAAC preseason player of the year.

Last season Travous was ranked 10th in the nation in goals scored with 72 and was named an All-American honorable mention, making her the first Seahawk water polo player ever to pick up the honor.

"A lot of our offense this year is focused on Stacey" said Beemer.

Also returning is junior Billy Hoelck who has already gotten off to a hot start this season, leading the team in scoring. Last season she netted 84 goals, ranking her sixth in the nation in goals scored. Hoelck joined Travous as a selection on this years All-MAAC preseason squad.

"She's a pure shooter" said Beemer, adding "Billy knows we expect a lot out goals out of her."

The Seahawks contribute much of their success to the many hours of work and practice they put in. The team can often be practicing as early as 5:45 a.m. Mon. through Fri.

"We like to think we are one of the hardest working teams on campus" said Beemer adding "Practice builds discipline within them."



The 2007 Seahawks water polo team in California.

Along with these key players returning, Beemer feels the team has improved in many other aspects.

"Already our team speed has gotten faster...the girls from year to year have gotten faster." he said.

With a current record of 6-4 the Seahawks are prepared to embark on their MAAC schedule.

Their next outing will be at Harvard University, on March 3-4, where the Seahawks will meet their division rivals Marist for the first time since last years championship loss.

The Seahawks lone home game of the season will be on March 30 in the Spiro Sports Center. At this game the team will take the time to honor the seniors who are playing their last season in the green and white of Wagner College.

Beemer encourages all students to attend the game and support the team.

"There are not a lot of successful sports teams here at Wagner" he said "A lot of people in the Northeast don't know what water polo is...its exciting, brutal, fun to watch."

2007 Results

Feb 3. vs CSCB
Win- 13-12 (OT)

Feb. 3 vs. UC San Diego
Loss- 11-5

Feb. 4 vs. Whittier
Win- 14-9

Feb. 4 vs Redlands
Win- 13-6

Feb. 10 vs Harvard
Win- 10-9

Feb. 10 vs. Brown
Loss- 10-8

Feb 24 vs Bucknell
Loss- 11-6

Feb. 24 vs G.W.
Win 13-5

Feb. 24 vs. Maryland
Loss 11-9

Feb. 24 vs. Grove City
Win 9-4

Track team holds its own in championship meet

By JASON PADERON
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Early February is a time when students are just getting adjusted to getting back into the swing of classes, but for the track team, however, it has been over a month of training in preparation for one meet: The Northeast Conference Indoor Championships.

Unlike any other of the season, this meet held the most pressure since every schools recruits just to beat each other at this meet. The unique atmosphere could cause an athlete to peak or crack under the pressure.

February 10 & 11 saw the conference's best and Wagner held its own placing eighth in the Women's team score, and 10th in the men's.

"A lot of you have the opportunity to do well in this meet," stated Head

Track Coach Joe Stasi in a pep talk before day one of the NEC's. "This is what we've been working for all winter."

Junior Mouhamed Halwani peaked at the right time taking sixth in the 3000-meter run and seventh in the 5,000. On the women's side sophomore Breken Drager finished fourth in the 3000.

In the long jump, junior Peter Czech's college best jump of 21-3.50 earned him a surprising 8th place finish in his secondary event to add to his fifth place finish in his specialty: the triple jump.

"I really didn't feel too well," said Czech, "but I'm happy with how I did."

Despite a heel injury, freshman Amanda Gland took eighth in the women's triple jump.

Freshman James Johnston's gutsy 4:28.95 mile qualified him for the

final after finishing second in his preliminary heat.

Sophomore Alaina Alfano had a busy weekend. After coming in third in the long jump with a 17-11.50 leap, and third in the high jump (5-3), she set a personal-best time in the 60-meter hurdles qualifying for the final and taking fourth in 8.97 seconds.

Two Colorado seniors, Noemi Wilson and Katie Callihan found their form, qualifying for the finals in the 60-meter hurdles and the 60-meter dash respectively. Wilson tallied a seventh place finish.

Ashley Simon finished eighth in the weight throw.

"A lot of people finished on the borderline of scoring. It's one thing to make the finals, and another thing to score. Hopefully we could use this as a learning experience and build for outdoors," said Stasi.

We Asked...

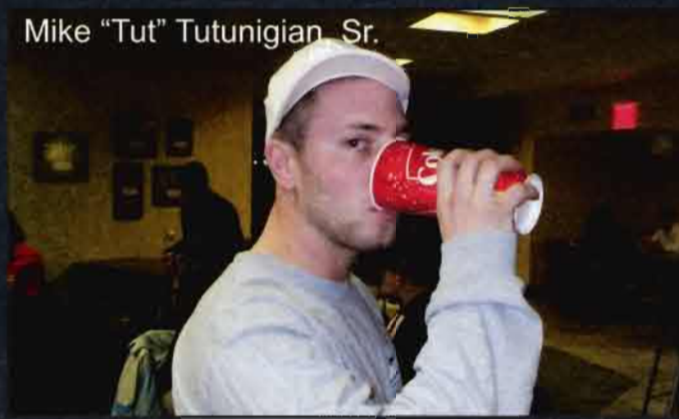


What's your pick for "Best Picture" this year?



Angela Kahres, Sr. Lee Chayot, Sr.

- "Pan's Labrynth"



Mike "Tut" Tutunigian, Sr.

- "Beerfest!"



Jesse Edwards, Frosh

- "Blood Diamond"



Nicole Filippazzo, Sr.

- "007: Casino Royale"



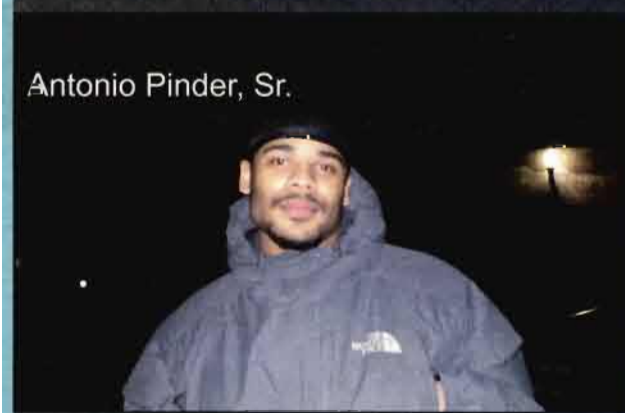
Kim Simek, Sr.

- "Alpha Dog"



Chris Allen, Sr.

- "The Departed"



Antonio Pinder, Sr.

- "Pursuit of Happyness"



Maggi Crotty, Frosh.

- "The Prestige"



Sarina DeStefano, Sr.

- "Little Miss Sunshine"