

Howard Avenue hit-and-run raises awareness about student safety

By **ALYSSA BROWN**
Managing Editor

Ronald RJ Tillman's tragic death has called attention to the dangers of Howard Avenue, which many Wagner students travel by foot to pick up groceries, catch a bus or reach the athletic fields. The roadway curves sharply in two places between Campus Road and Clove Road; it was at one of these curves that Tillman was killed on Sunday, Feb. 12.

There are walkways on the side opposite from campus, but they are often overgrown with weeds and impassable. To reach them, students must cross the busy thoroughfare.

Along the campus side of Howard Avenue, the sidewalk does not continue past Campus Road.

"Walking down that hill is like playing real-life Frogger and you're the frog," said senior Vanessa Lenart, a member of the women's softball team, which practices at the athletic fields at the bottom of the hill. "The sidewalk halfway down the hill is not maintained ... it goes from walking on a sidewalk to walking through bushes," she added.

Additionally, there is no crosswalk to cross the street and it is hard for cars to see pedestrians crossing.

Assistant Athletic Director for Media Relations John Beisser said



Photo: Katie Rusnock

The hill where Tillman was killed by a hit-and-run driver on Howard Avenue curves sharply. There is no sidewalk on one side of the road, and the opposite sidewalk is overgrown.

there are no organized shuttles for the softball players, but at times players with cars will drive their teammates to the field in their own cars.

According to Director of Public Safety Anthony Martinesi, the concern for students' safety is not new. Back in 2009, he and Program Manager of External Programs Alex Lojo sent letters to the Department of Transportation and to the Staten Island Community Board No. 1, asking for pedestrian crosswalks and/or a stop sign or stop light to be placed at dangerous intersections.

Lojo has walked from his Grymes Hill apartment to his job at Wagner since 2005, and always worries about being hit by a car. He thinks that it is crucial for a stop sign to be installed at Arlo and Stratford roads, and a stop sign or stop light to be put at Stratford and Howard.

In response to the letters, the Department of Transportation did a survey on the area and determined that if changes were made, the flow of traffic would be impeded. Borough Commissioner Thomas Cocola said in a letter that the reason a stop sign or

stop light cannot be placed at one of the intersections is because of the sharp curve. Lojo, however, says this is the exact reason one needs to be placed there. After three years, Lojo says there has been no solution to the traffic problem.

Lojo also wants to reach out to St. John's University, and thinks the staff should tell their students to slow down.

"You need to use caution when

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Photo: Katie Rusnock

Students donated over \$100 to build a memorial near the site of RJ Tillman's death.

Ride home turns to tragedy

By **MARISSA DIBARTOLO**
Editor-in-Chief

It was a typical Sunday night for nursing student Ronald "RJ" Tillman.

Around 9 p.m., he finished studying for an exam in the library, threw his notes and a nursing textbook into his backpack and jumped on his bicycle for the short ride downhill to his apartment in Westerleigh.

But it would be the last time he would make the trip. A hit-and-run driver slammed into the 29-year-old from upstate New York, throwing him from his bike and injuring him so critically that he died just a few hours later in Richmond University Medical Center.

Wagner students were notified of the death of a "Wagner student" Monday morning at 8:27 a.m. in a campus-wide email from Vice President and Chief of Staff Joseph Romano. For the next 74 minutes, students and faculty were concerned about the student's identity. In a follow-up email at 9:41 a.m., Romano identified the student as Tillman, and encouraged anyone in need of counseling to go to the Center for Health and Wellness.

The students in Tillman's nursing class, who showed up ready for a big exam on that Monday, were instead greeted by grief counselors, according to Liz Pesce, a close friend of Tillman's.

Pesce knew about Tillman's death before coming to class because she got a call from mutual friend and former Wagner nursing student Adam Gerber. "I parked the car and I saw people walking in crying; it was like everyone found out somehow. The whole class was just sitting there cry-

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At a solemn memorial service, a passion for nursing is honored

By **COURTNEY DUNN**
Contributing Staff Writer

When Ronald "R.J." Tillman came home from volunteering at Eger Nursing Home not long ago, close friend and former nursing student, Adam Cerber recalls, he couldn't contain his enthusiasm for spending time with the elderly, whom he worried would have no one else to talk to once his shift ended. He logged into Facebook and sent a message to Gerber, that simply said, "Patients are my love."

That's the memory students in Wagner College's nursing program held fast to yesterday during a memorial service for the 29-year-old student — they celebrated his overall goodness, compassion, and understanding.

Tillman died Sunday night after a hit-and-run driver plowed into his bicycle on a curved stretch of Howard Avenue, as he pedaled home after a night of studying in the on-campus library. As of last night, police have



Photo: Katie Rusnock

At the end of the memorial on Feb. 14, students dedicated white carnations in honor of Tillman's death.

still not found the driver.

Nearly 50 of Tillman's loved ones, including friends, faculty, and family, filled a Wagner College lecture hall to remember his accomplishments and honor his life. While slips of paper were passed around to write condolences to the family, fellow students chattered about the unfathomable thought of having to look at Tillman's empty seat in the class-

room.

After Reverend James Smith, newly appointed campus chaplain of Wagner College, welcomed everyone in attendance, Dr. Roger Wesby and the Wagner College chorus dedicated a touching rendition of "Deep River" to Tillman, which immediately provoked tears from friends and family.

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Photo credit: Danielle Lucchese

Seniors Amanda Arcieri and Daniela Sannino spend time chatting in the Commuter Student Lounge in the Union.

Commuters booted from their lounge

By CAROLINE LATORRE

Wagnerian Staff Writer

With the on-going construction on Main Hall, more than professors and classrooms are being displaced. Commuter students who regularly use the commuter student lounge to relax between classes find themselves being asked to leave the lounge because of meetings unassociated with commuters that normally would take place in Main Hall.

Senior commuter Amanda Arcieri from Dyker Heights, Brooklyn said she uses the lounge about four days a week. "I have been kicked out, and I think it is very unfair. With the construction on Main Hall, I suppose compromises need to be made, but I believe there was a time that I was kicked out prior to the project!" Arcieri explained.

The commuter lounge serves as a place where students who don't live on campus can spend time to do homework, watch TV, or meet with friends.

Sophomore commuter student Danielle Lucchese said, "I like the idea that commuters have a place to go in between classes and meetings. It gives me somewhere to connect with other commuters. The lounge is also a place I go to relax, get school-work done or meet up with friends. It is kind of like my home away from home, the resident students have their dorm rooms and I have the lounge."

As for how the administration treats the lounge Lucchese said for the most part they respect it. "Aside from the meetings that the lounge is closed off for, which has happened to me about four times, it is just tough to find somewhere to go during those times since commuters have limited access to some areas of campus like dorms."

Lucchese enjoys attending the monthly commuter student lunches because she feels "it's a great way to bring the commuter students together." She is also a member of the Commuter Student Association (CSA). She said CSA "gives us a voice on campus and allows us to feel more like we are a part of Wagner even though we are not on campus all the time."

Arcieri says what she enjoys most about the lounge is the "relaxing atmosphere" with the couches and television. "If there is anything that needs improvement, perhaps bright-

ening up the lounge a bit would help, particularly painting the walls white, light blue, or light green."

Sophomore Rebecca Siegel has an hour and a half commute to Wagner everyday and relies on the commuter lounge as a place to study when she is not in class. Recently she said "there was a sign on the door saying that commuters can not be in there from 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. because some Greek organizations wanted to use the space for recruiting new members."

Not being able to use the lounge when she needs it is a difficult adjustment for Siegel. "Of course I think it is unfair. It's the commuter lounge and this is the second time this semester I have not been allowed in there because of meetings being held in there," Siegel explained.

Junior Heather Siegel is the current president of the CSA and uses the lounge all the time. She said she is in the process of meeting with administration about this issue of students being kicked out of the lounge. They also hope to work with administration to renovate the lounge. "The lounge could be improved if it was in a bigger space, so more people could come. I think the lounge could be updated- it looks worn out and old... it could definitely be more welcoming," Siegel said.

Dallas Dowling, graduate assistant in co-curricular programs, works closely with the commuter lounge and wants commuters to know they are doing everything they can to make sure the lounge is available. "Yes the commuter students occasionally get displaced from the commuter lounge. With Main Hall being under renovation, the campus needs to share multiple rooms and space. However, it is rare that students and faculty schedule meetings during class hours when commuters might be using it."

Dowling also explained how they are working on updating the lounge by getting a refrigerator, microwave and other items for the lounge that students can use.

When the lounge isn't available for students to use Dowling said, "As an alternative, commuter students can always contact residential friends on campus to hang out in their room, if they are free and the library is also an alternative location."

For more information or questions about the commuter lounge students can contact Sabrina Slater, or Patricia Lemmerman in CCP.

Access denied: Commuters fed up with residence hall policy

By TARA KIRK
Wagnerian Staff Writer

For commuters, it is not as easy as a swipe of a card to get into the residence halls.

Though, according to Director of ResEd Jen Ciaccio, students who do not live on campus are welcome into the residence halls, commuters are complaining that they have to ask their friends to meet them at the door or wait for someone to open the door for them since their ID cards do not swipe in Harbor View, Guild, Towers or Foundation Hall.

Senior commuter student Gina Giglia, a sister of Alpha Sigma Alpha, is constantly affected by not being able to swipe herself into the residence halls on campus. She says, "Not being able to enter the residence buildings at free will makes me feel like I'm not trusted by the residence staff... I literally have to wait for someone to enter or exit the building in order to be let in because the workers behind the desk do nothing but look at you as if you're an outsider and question why you are standing between the double sets of doors."

Commuter students looking to visit friends, attend club meetings, or spend time on their sorority or fraternity floors need access to the residence halls on campus. However,

even more students are accessing the residence halls this year due to Main Hall construction. Professors and students alike are utilizing spaces in the residence halls for classrooms and offices. The theater department, for example, is using the first and second floors of Harbor View Hall as offices for all full-time professors and adjunct faculty. Spaces in Harbor View are also used as temporary locations for the main theater office, theater callboard, Main Stage show rehearsal space and dance classrooms.

Other classes outside of the theater department take place in the Manzulli Board Room in Foundation Hall and the D3 Annex in Towers.

"The policy is actually not a new one. Commuters have not normally had open access into the halls as access is reserved for residential students and staff who live and/or work in the building," explained Ciaccio.

"We do allow commuters access into the buildings in certain situations where it is appropriate to do so: i.e. first-year commuters who need access into Harborview for Learning Community and FYRE activities, commuters who are interested in the Greek community and are going through recruitment activities, and commuters who are current Greek members but who do not live on campus and need periodic access for chapter meetings and other events.

These needs are on a case-by-case basis," she adds.

Though commuters are allowed into the residence halls under certain circumstances, some feel like they are getting a different Wagner experience because they are not always able to get into the residence halls.

"We would love it if all of our students lived in our halls on campus, as living in the halls can make a positive impact on each student and on our residential community. That said, we have an important responsibility to those who do live on campus to provide a safe and secure living space, and that is what we strive to do. Also, we welcome commuters to spend time in any residential building at any time, as long as they are adhering to our community policies and are signed in as a guest of a resident."

Ciaccio does not want commuters to feel ostracized in any way, but it does not necessarily mean changes in the current residential policies.

"I think it is the responsibility of all of campus to find ways for our commuter students to feel more a part of the campus community as a whole, and we want our current Residential Education policies to allow for all students to feel like they can access our residential community without compromising the safety and security of our current residents, she said.

the wagnerian

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At a solemn memorial service, a passion for nursing is honored

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Dr. Richard Guarasci, president of Wagner College, spoke highly of the example Tillman set for the rest of the college, but also gave advice on how to cope with this sudden loss. He suggested that nursing students think of Tillman when they are with their patients. "As much as you want to block

out the moon and the sun, remember what he was to us," said Guarasci. A scholarship founded in Ronald Tillman's name was also announced by the president. He later revealed that he will be meeting with the Department of Transportation this week to make the area a safer place for students.

A song was written and dedicated

to Tillman, entitled "R.J.'s Song," that eloquently summed up Tillman's character, describing him as "a light that cannot be dulled." Students fondly reminisced about his contagious smile, recalling that it never faltered, "even when he was an hour late for an exam."

The closing hymn for the memorial was Amazing Grace, after which everyone was able to place a white carnation on a table in his honor before exiting in silence. Assistant chaplain, Father Anthony J. DeLuca, said of the ceremony, "It was one of the most beautiful tributes I have ever seen. It was so sincere, he was universally well-liked." He described the accident in general as "a brutal disregard for human life."

Reverend James Smith feels that although such a tragic incident has the potential to hurt a college community, Tillman's brief yet remarkable presence at Wagner College helped to forge bonds that will never be broken.



Photo: Justin Astafanous

Students in the nursing program place white carnations around a photo of RJ at the end of the service.

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Photo courtesy of Liz Pesce

RJ Tillman (front right) and close friend Liz Pesce (front left) enjoy pizza at L&B Spumoni Gardens with other friends in the nursing program.

After studying, ride home turns to tragedy

Continued from Page 1

ing," she said. The class immediately collected over \$100 to buy flowers to place at the site of the accident.

Tillman had only recently moved from Brooklyn to Westerleigh to ease his commute. His new apartment was a 20-minute bike ride from campus and he rode his bike to and from Grymes Hill every day.

"He moved here more for convenience sake," said Pesce. "But he was open to staying. He said, 'maybe if you can convince me that Staten Island is as cool as Brooklyn,'" he'd stay, she recalled.

Tillman previously received a B.A. in film production from Brooklyn College. However, one of his friends steered him in the direction of nursing when he recognized RJ's love of helping people in need. Taking his friend's advice, RJ began to research nursing programs online, and was accepted into the 15-month accelerated program at Wagner.

"He absolutely loved it," said his aunt, Joan Snihur.

According to Snihur, the entire family supported his decision to come to Wagner to earn a second degree.

The family last saw RJ when he was home in Minoa, N.Y., to celebrate Christmas. And some family members saw him a week before that at an engagement party on Staten Island.

According to Tillman's friends in the nursing program, he had a passion for working with geriatric patients,



Tillman family photo

Ronald RJ Tillman.

especially at Eger Health Care and Rehabilitation Center.

"At Christmas time we were all sitting there talking about how he really liked working with the older people," Snihur continued. "He was telling us so many stories about how much he enjoyed it and how much compassion he had for them."

The campus came together to mourn Tillman's death at a service in Spiro 2 on Tuesday, Feb. 14. More than 40 nursing students attended. Pesce wrote a song in honor of Tillman titled "R.J.'s Song," which was played at the memorial and drew tears from many in attendance.

"I feel like it's a shame the only time I can write a song is when my heart's broken," she said after the ceremony.

"Wagner has been nothing but supportive. My sister got a call from the president of the college and the dean of students... they've all just been wonderful," said Snihur.

Howard Avenue hit-and-run raises awareness about student safety

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you're out there; you need to be aware of what's going on," said Martinesi, advising drivers, pedestrians, runners, and bicyclists to be cautious.

According to Martinesi, there are more police officers in the area since the incident, as well as an increase in police summonses for speeding. He says that this is only a temporary fix to the growing problem.

According to Gothamist.com, more New Yorkers are killed from motor vehicle accidents than are killed by guns each year. The NYPD of NYC issued more moving violations and Criminal Court summonses to cyclists than to truck drivers last year. Of the 241 pedestrians or cyclists killed in the past year by motor vehicles, only 17 drivers responsible faced criminal charges.

Laura Barlament, associate director of communications and marketing, commutes two miles from her home near Silver Lake Park to Wag-

ner on her bicycle. One morning in June 2011 while Barlament was riding to Wagner, she was hit by a car near a sharp curve on Howard Avenue and Stratford Road. Fortunately, she was not seriously injured, but the incident sparked her to take action.

Barlament deems speeding and the discontinuous sidewalks to be two main causes of cyclists and pedestrians being hit by motor vehicles. She says, more sidewalks could help prevent future accidents from occurring. She has also written a letter to the Department of Transportation, asking them to revisit their previous conclusions. A previous letter in response to Anthony Martinesi stated, "We found that it would be dangerous to install pedestrian crosswalks." However, it is important that they install the crosswalks for pedestrians and all who use the area to be safe. She has also attended meetings with the Community Board No. 1 and its subcommittees. Although she knows the board cannot take any action it-

self, it can put pressure on political leaders and the Department of Transportation to take action.

Recently, Barlament along with Student Development Coordinator Amerika Grewal and Associate Professor of Psychology Amy Eshlemen attended an area committee meeting that covers Grymes Hill for the Community Board No. 1. Board members will present the information to a "board of boards" meeting where important decision makers will be present.

Barlament encourages Wagner staff, faculty and students to get involved. "We need to keep following up about this and keep up the pressure. We were told that attending and speaking at more meetings makes a difference," she says. Community Board No. 1 meetings take place once a month at All Saints Episcopal on Victory Blvd. For more information including a schedule of meetings visit

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/sicb1>.



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Coffee House addition no cause for alarm

By ALEX GRECO
Sports Editor

I spy: a new camera mounted to the ceiling of the Coffee House?

The camera, which Information Technology (IT) staff installed the last week of January, wowed Coffee House regulars who believed the camera was connected to a security visor.

But fear no longer. the 'mysterious' camera is the newest addition to the sound system. The Coffee House recently invested into this project with Co-Curricular Programs (CCP) as a means of recording Coffee House performances by students, staff and guests.

"It is not a security camera. It is only turned on when requested for a presentation," said Assistant Director of CCP, Patricia Lemmian.

The new unit, which faces the stage, can be accessed at any time with the control of a trained worker. And there will be no hassle to find one of those, as all Coffee House employees were thoroughly educated on the equipment. Other trained workers include Co-Curricular Program affiliates Sabrina Slater and Patricia Lemmerman and members of the IT staff.

All performances are then linked to the Wagner website. Since its installation, the camera has not been put to use yet. However, once performances start rolling throughout the semester, the link to view performances can be obtained by Coffee House manager, Melanie Valencia or IT staff.

"At first we all thought it was a security camera and we all felt uncomfortable," says sophomore Zachary Weinstein, "but now that I know it's to record performances I think it's a pretty decent idea."

#WagnerProblems



Steven Copp @StevenCopp
The construction workers working on main hall have evidently built a fortress using their building materials. #priorities #WagnerProblems



James Lee @jlsupreme
Why does the gym smell like Spam? #WagnerProblems



Katrina Schindlar @trinamariexox
I wanna take a bath. #WagnerProblems

@Wagnerproblems gives students a chance to voice concerns

By ALYSSA BROWN
Managing Editor

Social media provides a basis to make connections, share stories, and more often than not: complain.

Twitter held its very own hot spot for Wagner students to voice their concerns regarding issues relevant to students living in the Grymes Hill area. The account, @WagnerProblems, gave students a place to let off steam about the shuttle, classroom moves, and most common of all: the food.

However, the voice of the students was silenced earlier this month, when the popular twitter account appeared to be shut down. At first, students considered the possibility that Wag-

ner administration had something to do with closing the account. However, further investigation proved otherwise.

Director of Media Relations, Lee Manchester, first asked the new Director of Digital and Social Media, Anna Mule, if she knew anything about the account, but she did not.

After speaking to several members of the Campus Life staff including Assistant Vice President of Campus Life Ruta Shah-Gordon, Associate Dean of Campus Life Sara Klein, Director of Co-Curricular Programs Sabrina Slater, Associate Dean of Campus Life Curtis Wright, and Student Development Coordinator Amerika Grewal, Manchester concluded that Wagner had nothing to do with the closing of the account.

Amerika Grewal did mention, however, that the Campus Life staff was aware of the Twitter account and that it proved helpful in identifying problems that the college can try to solve.

To the happiness of many students, the account was reactivated by its anonymous user on Feb. 18 with a tweet of "back in business." Upon noticing the account was reactivated, Sophomore Brandon Catapane tweeted, "@WagnerProblems is back! Hell yeah!"

The account currently has over 530 followers, and more than 430 tweets, including re-tweets of users who added the "#WagnerProblems" hash tag in their tweets, or who sent their tweets directly to the "@WagnerProblems" account.

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(how) waggish {trans.} adjective:

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

the world according to GOOCH

All dogs go to heaven...

...Or at least mine does

This past weekend, on Feb. 17, 2012, my beloved dog Jack died. He was our Jack, officially named Yukon Jack Frost just in case he ever became a professional Itiderod-er in the big bad Alaska or somewhere where those things go down, which was looking like a pretty good option there for a while...or at least I thought so.

He answered to a world of nicknames. He was also our "Jackson Marie Henderson," our "best man," our "hake," our "we're going to get a new dog on Monday," our "Hakie," our "gurgi-gurg," (You totally liave to be there for that one), our "best friend," our "little man," my other brother, my pal, he was our Jack. Now not only is this sad because he was my first dog, the first true love of my life, but because he literally was the best damn dog anyone could've ever had.

Our love stomped out any other love out there. He was consistent, he was loyal, he was stylish, he was handsome, he was clean, his kisses were the best kisses, he was there even when I didn't know it and there when I needed him to be, he was unbelievably loving.....all the time, he was only ever annoying when he was barking or begging for food.... out of his love for us, of course, he was the absolute best man I think I'll ever come into contact with. Losing him, beats out any remorse I've ever felt for a passing grandparent, passing neighbor from church or even Ms. Houston herself.

I cannot imagine anything worse than finding out my pup is no longer with us....well, I can but this is about him right now.



He was a beautiful Siberian husky. He was all fluffy white, with a big brown nose, big paws, the cutest perky ears, the bushiest tail you've ever seen, the most beautiful yellowish-green eyes and a smile that could last for days. We got him when I was in seventh grade, he was about one-year-old. He was the rut of the family. Always ate last, because he was polite, always got picked on so his tail was

all matted, because he wanted to be loved so bad and he was a little shy, because he just hadn't found his place in this world. And then he met us. The Goochies got a hold of him and it was fate. We couldn't have been matched with a better dog. We knew we wanted him from the moment we saw him. The little rascal jumped into our hearts and we were set.

Part of a husky's nature is running and my god, he used to run away like crazy. We really had to fight to keep a part of our family too. He would accidentally get out and just start running. He was fast as hell and that didn't stop until about a year ago. There were many times where my brother, Adam, or my dad would have to run miles more around the neighborhoods surrounding ours to catch him. Adam became a hero every time he would come around the corner with Jack by his side, so clueless as to the turmoil he just put our family through. Dogs seem to have that kind of way about them. Clueless to the world and you couldn't stand to be mad at him for it.

Jack would pull my brother, Adam and I on sleds when it snowed, he would play in the sprinkler during the summer, he had the best smile, he loved being scratched in the middle of his ears, he loved to run on walks but could only go for about as long as you could or maybe just stopped when he realized you were pooping out, speaking of, he made it humorously obvious when he was going to go No. 2, no remorse there, just going with nature, he would flop down, do the "round and round" and sit and watch TV with you on the couch no matter how many times we told him "no," he would always fetch but never would bring back the toy, he loved big, fat bones, he would bark if you stared into his eyes too long, when you picked him up, despite his size, he immediately became a puppy again, these are the things that made him our Jack. I could only hope and dream of a husband as sufficient as Jack was to me.

When we first went to look for a dog there was an instant connection with Jack, like we just understood each other. I've always wondered about that, you know? Like what is it about dog and owner connections that makes it work? It's almost like that connection people say twins have or that love that is found only in *The Notebook*, it is that *Home-ward Bound* kind of love, when he's

stuck in the hole and all you can do as an audience is cry until he gets out. But tell me, the elation you feel when he is saved is way more than when you see Noah and what's her name making out in the rain on the dock. I know I'm so right. But yup, that's what we had for our Jack.



Now he was definitely a looker. All the dogs were obviously jealous of him when he walked down the street. They knew what was coming.....pure, effortless beauty and poise he possessed. I cannot express the amount I treasure him. He made every family argument into a game. Every time we were screaming at one another for God knows what he would quickly get right in the middle of it and take all of our attention away, immediately stealing the focus and reminding us of the love. A baby has half the talent that Jack had of just in a snap of a finger, changing the whole mood of the room into butterfly kisses and rainbows.

Words can't describe how much we love Jack, as I'm sure you feel about any pet you have ever lost. He made our family complete and will forever be a part of our family, of our home and mostly of our hearts. I just really really freaking loved the guy. No Jack I ever meet will ever be as cool as my Jack.

This article is a dedication to not only Jack but all dogs. All the dogs that have made our lives a little happier, a little crazier, a little bit more fun. I know how much Jack meant to me so I would like to raise a toast to the best damn dog a girl could have.

Hope you're having fun on the Rainbow Bridge, Hakie. We'll miss you terribly but I know you're stealing food, getting fat and running in the snow up there. We'll be comin' to get you soon!

Best love, Susanna

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Details:

\$5 Cover for Performers

No Cover for Audience

1 Drink Minimum for Everyone

5 minute spots, [email for advanced](mailto:email)

[booking](mailto:email).

All bookings expire at 7:10pm. So

Please! Be on time.

Visit site for more info:

<http://www.superegocomedy.com>

Critics say: "This friendly, support-

ive, booked, open-mike show is a

great place to work out your new

stuff, laugh and have a good time.

The brisk, two-hour show starts on

time at 7PM sharp and ends on time

at 9PM sharp. Prizes at the end of

the night ... cash, CDs, DVDs, T-

Shirts, the occasional severed

human head ... whatever we dredge

up. Produced and booked by

Michelle Dobrawsky and Dale

Sorenson."

Taking the Mic Thursdays at Comedy Village

Where:

82 West 3rd Street

When:

Starts at 6 p.m. on Thursdays (Sign up 5:30)

Details:

\$5 for 5 minutes

Contact: 212.802.7586

Critics say:

*Best Comic of the Mic wins a FREE spot on the Thursday Night Pro Show that night at 9:30

*Must be present to win

*Weekly comedy contest just to keep it fun and creative!

The Green Mic

Where: Karpaty Bar (a.k.a. Sly

Fox)

140 2nd Ave. between 8th and 9th

St.

When: Thursday 7 p.m to 12 a.m.

Details: Walk-ins are accepted, and will be fit into any spots remaining open first-come, first-served.

* For \$5, comics may now have their set digitally videotaped and made privately available for downloading online within 3 days. If they bring a blank tape, they can also have a VHS copy by the following week's show at no additional charge.

Just a one drink minimum for comics (and drinks are only \$4.00)! 6 minutes of stage time!

Contact: www.thegreenmic.com

JOKE OF THE WEEK WITH FUNNYMAN, TREVOR SIDERIS

On the roof of the hotel

Trying to tan in the altogether may be the stuff of private dreams. But location is everything, according to Story Jokes. An ardent traveler named Joan spent most of her vacation sunbathing on the roof of her hotel. She wore a swimsuit the first day, but on the second, she decided that no one could see her way up there, and she slipped out of it for an overall tan. She'd hardly started when she heard someone running up the stairs; Joan was lying on her stomach, so she just pulled a towel over her rear.

"Excuse me, miss," said the flustered hotel manager, out of breath from dashing up the stairs. "The hotel doesn't mind you sunbathing on the roof but we would very much appreciate you wearing a bathing suit as you did yesterday."

"What difference does it make," Joan asked rather calmly. "No one can see me up here, and besides, I'm covered with a towel."

"Not exactly," said the manager. "You're lying on the dining room skylight."

in our opinion...

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

meditations
of a
loquacious
nerd

Christian values leading the GOP

to the White House



By MISTY ROSSO
Opinions Editor

To my utter dismay, it seems as though a politician's religious beliefs (or what the citizens of this country deem as his) may or may not hinder his chances of making it to the White House.

I find I cannot hear a member of the GOP named without his religious affiliation somehow thrown in. Religion and politics shouldn't be mixed.

In horror, I've noticed how Republican candidates have turned to religious language and images in their advertisements in order to try and attain the vote of Christian conservatives. And what's worse? It's working.

Kenneth M. Goldstein, president of Kantar Media's Campaign Media Analysis Group, said that religious messages have been used previously in elections. However, "they would end up in a mail piece, a phone call, a talk show radio ad. Now we're seeing a much broader, shotgun approach on broadcast television."

I've seen everything from a former patient of Ron Paul (he was obstetrician) cooing how the politician is the exceptional type of person who can stay on the right Christian path, to former candidate, Rick Perry and his wife Anita's in-your-face Christmas festivities.

Thankfully, sonic GOP candidates have not been so overt. Mitt Romney, a member of the Mormon faith, has only opaquely referred to being a lifelong member of his church in his advertisements.

Even though Romney may not be shoving his religion into our faces, evangelicals of the United States are eating up everything he does. Romney is synonymous with a member of the Mormon faith. In the Nevada caucuses, 43 percent of white evangelical voters supported Romney. It is obvious that his Mormon faith is pushing him to the finish line.

Rick Santorum has also decided to not overtly showcase his religious beliefs. However, his latest commercials have focused on his authorship of legislation that was

intended to curb late-term abortions and the fact that his children have all been home-schooled. These are clearly topics that are pricking the ears of evangelicals.

This year, 82 percent of white evangelicals under 30 expressed support for the Republican party. In the 2008 election, it was 67 percent. A lot of Christian voters are moving to the GOP, and I can guess why.

Accusations of President Obama's religious practices were everywhere in the 2008 Presidential Election. And, unfortunately, four years later, these absurd and false rumors are still ruminating. I am going to set the record straight once again. He is a Christian. NOT a Muslim.

Obama's mother was raised in a lion-practicing Christian home, whereas his father was raised a Muslim but had become an atheist by the time he married Obama's mother. Obama's step-father was Muslim as well; however, he made allowances for animist and Hindu beliefs. He was exposed to various religions and in adulthood, was baptized in the Trinity United Church of Christ.

Obama said that too often religious leaders use faith to "exploit what divides us." The President has taken some slack for this comment, yet it resonates with me. I find that our nation is already divided in many ways. I think the beauty and the downfall of our country is all our differences. I think they divide us rather than unite us and prevents our ability to appreciate our diversity.

I'm not saying we become uniform in our beliefs and practices, but I don't think that one Presidential candidate's religious belief should charm or bewilder voters with the force it seems to.

I respect all faiths. I honestly try to not hold any judgments about religious practices that differ from my own. And I get it, voters like a candidate who shares their religious beliefs. But, let's face it, voting someone into the Oval Office doesn't mean their religious practices will spread across the country.

I want a president who can rule this country adequately. The bottom line is, yes, everyone is entitled to their own faith. Yet, I ask you this, religion and politics - do they create a whole picture of how one man, one human, is going to act and what he is then going to be able to do for our nation in four years? I say, no.

Give credit where credit is due

The hard work and talent of theater students is underappreciated

By STEPHANIE
HINKES
Assistant Opinions Editor

In August of 2011, Wagner College's theater program was ranked, yet again, at the top of the list for the best theater programs in the nation. In my opinion, this significant detail pertaining to our college and the students in the program goes unnoticed, is under appreciated, and sometimes is entirely overlooked by fellow students.

Ranked fifth on the list in the Princeton Review's annual guide, Wagner was only trailing behind Mulienbeg College, Drew University, Bennington College and Yale University. Not only is this ranking exceptional, but to be competing with an Ivy League school is simply phenomenal.

Wagner is well known as a theater school. In fact, it is also well known that we are a division one school in the North East Conference in the realm of athletics. However, even with students in both widely recognized programs, there seems to be little appreciation for the theater program and its talented students compared to the athletes.

As the proud roommate of an incredibly gifted theater performance major, I have had the opportunity to see firsthand how much these students do. I am in no way saying that other students are less important, but it amazes me how much some theater students are involved in.

I will admit that I was once guilty of thinking these students had a more enjoyable and relaxed major than everyone else. I had never been more wrong about something in my life.

It is a common misconception that these students just sing, dance and perform. Of course they do all three of these, but when it comes down to the end of the day, which is significantly later for them, I believe they do much more than the average student perceives.

In addition to the typical general education requirements, theater performance students also take numerous dance classes and voice lessons, in addition to spending hours in the practice rooms. This takes their "four or five [class] load" to six, seven,



Photo credit: Wagner College

Elizabeth Miller and fellow theater students performing mainstage after months of hard work.

When they finally finish their classes for the day, they head straight to an early dinner, because many of them have to be at a rehearsal by 6:30 p.m.

Therefore, after a long day of classes with every other student, they spend four hours in rehearsal, rather than crashing on their beds and watching TV. When they finally return to their rooms and settle in, it is nearly 11 p.m., and they have yet to start their assignments for the following day.

In my opinion, if I did not have those four hours after dinner to relax and do my homework, I would probably fail at least one course. Although this might just be my personal problem, these students never stop running, and yet they still succeed.

Fortunately, even with the long days and never ending exhaustion, these students enjoy what they are doing. Regardless of the lack of sleep and demanding schedules, they have passion for their work.

"Even though I sometimes want to sleep for three days straight, at the end of the day I wouldn't give it up for anything because there is nothing else in the world that I would rather be working this hard for," said Elizabeth Miller, a sophomore theater performance major, as she explained that this program is something worth all her time and energy.

Another common misconception results from the opinions on the courses that fill their day. Theater performance majors will have many courses that focus in theater, but they still must complete all the general ed-

ucation requirements that the rest of Wagner has to do as well.

I think people assume that since

their major is theater, they don't need to do any homework. They seem to forget that a theater student must still take a science with a lab and a writing intensive English course.

This is something we all need to remember when we come back from dinner and start our research paper; remember when you finish yours, theater students are just returning from rehearsal to start theirs.

At times, they are doing more than one rehearsal for more than one performance as a result of the numerous talented people on campus who started up organizations such as Complete Student Productions (CSP) and Student Run Musical Theater (SRMT).

For example, my roommate is tackling three performances at once in addition to her coursework. I think she is a champion, considering I cannot even handle doing only my coursework.

When it comes time for opening night and the numerous performances that follow, I think it's unfortunate that the turnout of fellow students is typically small. This leaves me dumbfounded because not only do we have some of the best performers here at Wagner, but as students we can see these amazing shows for FREE. It bothers me that so many students do not take advantage of this opportunity, let alone show their support.

I strongly believe Wagner is filled with talented students in many different majors. I think we have some amazing athletes that will have a career in their respective sports. I think we have some dedicated science majors that strive to be doctors and nursing majors that get just as little sleep as theater students. I think we have business students that will change Wall Street and education majors that will mold young minds.

Even though Wagner has a diverse group of remarkable students. I wanted to acknowledge the theater students to remind them that they are appreciated and that the rest of campus will soon realize this and recognize them just as the Princeton Review has for the past seven years.

ave
nion
Email Christina Rosso
christina.rosso@wagner.edu
to get your
heard.

Can Obama get his groove back?

Commander-in-chief is losing Democratic voters with his inability to communicate effectively.

By **JOSEPH MESSANO**
Wagnerian Staff Writer

President Barack Obama is having difficulty connecting to his voters, leaving Democrats in awe and our President stiff, tired, and without momentum.

I think that most liberals will agree if I say that the Obama Administration is bad at communicating with the public.

The President's priorities earlier in his term, like the painfully divisive Healthcare Bill, limited action on the economy, etc., have left him vulnerable to alarmists on the right. His mild responses to his critics, usually delivered awkwardly from behind a lectern, and always whittled down by the cable networks to curt soundbites, have made not helped him.

The horrified left has long been complaining that Obama needs to recapture the activist energy that rocketed him to the Whitehouse in 2008, and he's certainly trying.

A flat footed jobs bill a few months ago—a bill that might have helped the President two years ago—was abruptly killed by the House of Representatives. His attempt to end the Bush tax cuts for millionaires led to Republican threats of a government shutdown that paralyzed Congress for weeks.

More recently, as I'm sure our neighbors at St John's University will tell you, Obama's new requirements for healthcare providers mandating access to free birth control for

women, set Catholic colleges and hospitals against the White House in a very public fight.

Obama has been going out of his way to pick fights and losing every time. The thinking, one supposes, is that he's looking to paint Republicans as obstructionists—but he keeps painting himself into corners. The GOP are certainly obstructionists, don't get me wrong, but repeatedly winning very public battles has put them in a strong position to dictate legislation and generally stagnate the political process.

Part of Obama's problem is the gimmicky personality of some of his proposals, that is, those that crash and burn. They come off as obvious ploys to garner votes in the upcoming election and it's difficult to take them seriously. However, not all of the gimmicks are as insubstantial as the rest.

For example, the largely neglected youth vote may get some meaningful help from President Obama just in time for Election Day. Mostly ignored in the media, Obama has proposed balancing federal aid to colleges with their ability to control tuition costs, penalizing schools that fail to stay affordable.

He has described a plan to restructure federal student loans with a "Pay As You Earn" plan. The loan repayment plan would lower monthly federal student loan payments for Americans who owe more than they can pay. Also, the administration's plan would allow recent graduates to



Photo credit: Newsmania.com

President Obama attempting to reach voters in a speech last June.

consolidate their loans for lower interest rates.

For a generation of students whose outlook in the job market is fairly grim, these changes in the federal lending system could bring some disillusioned youth back into the Democratic fold.

But the problem remains, as it has for the last few years, that Obama can't get the message out. The charisma that once had young voters flocking to send Obama to the White House has faded and a clear cynicism has emerged on the left. Young people are more cynical, too. Having learned that all one gets for political conviction is a tent in Zuccotti Park, students may not be easily swayed by any mainstream candidate, not even by President Obama.

I believe many of my peers on the left will share these same thoughts and feelings unless Obama figures out a way to effectually communicate with the citizens of this country.

Fighting to save Planned Parenthood

By **CHARISSE WILLIS**
Post-grad Contributor

In March of last year, I wrote a column discussing the danger Planned Parenthood faced as conservative politicians attempted to cut Title IX funding. I believe that activism can radically change political rights in this country.

Planned Parenthood's commitment to helping women in all areas of health, including breast cancer screenings is the foundation of their organization.

This week, many Americans were made aware of this service provided by Planned Parenthood. We learned that the Susan G. Komen foundation provides approximately \$680,000 to Planned Parenthood each year and that the majority of that money goes to funding early breast cancer screenings for women who can't afford them.

We also learned that the Komen foundation cut this funding and, as Planned Parenthood believes, did so because of pressure from the political right.

Fortunately, with the announcement of this decision came another form of pressure - outrage. Mollie Williams, a top official at the Komen foundation stepped down. Hundreds of thousands of pro-choicers and peo-

ple who simply did not want to see the elimination of breast cancer screenings for thousands of women donated to Planned Parenthood. Mayor Bloomberg pledged to match donations up to \$250,000 and by Feb. 1, one day after the announcement, Planned Parenthood had received almost \$700,000 replacing the money they lost from Komen.

I too played a role in this show of support for Planned Parenthood. I was able to use classrooms as spaces to promote awareness and used various outlets provided by my university to make my position clear. For the first time, I realized that this ivory tower is not a prison and I can direct the abstract discussions of ethics in my courses into an engagement with real social issues. Though in previous columns I have expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of activism in higher education, this week showed me the usefulness of being in graduate school when issues like this arise.

To complete my feeling of joy, on Feb. 3, the Komen foundation reversed its decision and now the two organizations expect to work together again. This is all because American citizens refused to allow the political right to bully Komen into neglecting women's rights to all kinds of healthcare. We stood up for something and we won.

Standing by Syria in a time of need

By **CHRIS LUNER**
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Protests that rocked the Middle East a year ago calling for political change and reform still continue in several countries. The main one, currently at the center of attention, is Syria. I believe that the turmoil in Syria is uncalled for and that the U.S. should stand by the country.

The protests in Syria are not because of the call for change, but due to the violent oppression that has come with it. Dictators around the Middle East have used crackdowns to keep their people in line as uprisings have occurred. Unfortunately, Syria's has been the most violent one and I think there's no reason for it.

Syria joined countries like Egypt, Libya and multiple other large Middle East nations standing up against their government last spring calling for change in the way things have been for so long. Bashar al-Assad, the head of the Syrian government, has called for an almost complete destruction to his people who have had enough of his antics.

As of December 2011, the United Nations was reporting that over 5,000 people had been killed in the uprising and some 15,000 were believed to be imprisoned. Syria's arrest became famous when the government began using soccer stadiums as holding pens for many of those arrested in conflict.

With international powers stepping up to help in Libya, many, including myself, are wondering why no inter-

national support will step up and save Syria or its people. The international community flew to the aid of the Libyan rebels, however, the people of Syria are consistently attacked and bombarded by shells, snipers and tanks that continue to kill and injure thousands of people.

The United Nations most recently attempted to step in to help, but the bill was blocked by both Russia and China in a final vote. Why is it that the international community feels it is acceptable to stand by as a large group of people are virtually erased from the planet?

I know many people in this country don't like foreign conflict and the U.S. getting involved where it doesn't need to be. However, I feel as though this is something the U.S. must stand up and support.

No, the U.S. is not the police of the world, but they do stand as the first example of a nation supporting those against the government. This Arab Spring movement has shown how 200 years later, this tactic is still at the core of revolutions worldwide.

I believe the U.S. along with other powerful nations such as England, France and all those who came to Libya's side should now stand for Syria. You don't have to put troops on the ground, but support in other ways such as air strikes and tactics used in Libya. These other ways will not only help lead the nation to a better place, but a more peaceful place as well.

This isn't about having another democracy in the world - this is about doing what is right for another human being.

Comin together to honor and remember RJ Tillman

By **MISTY ROSSO**
Opinions Editor

When a tragedy like the untimely death of nursing student Ronald "RJ" Tillman, 29, occurs, the surrounding community should come together to mourn and celebrate the life of the individual. In the days following the tragic death, the Wagner community came together in an amazing way.

On Tuesday, Feb. 14, family, professors, nursing students and other members of the Wagner community attended the memorial service for RJ. The service began with a reading of Psalm 23: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Though I did not know RJ personally, from what I've heard, he was the quintessence of goodness. He was said to love the nursing program and community here at Wagner. He loved working with and helping people.

The memorial consisted of several beautiful poems and songs, one of which was written and dedicated to RJ.

President Guarasci said, "I want you to remember who he was and who he is to us." By honoring R.J.'s memory and remembering his goodness, we can keep him a part of the

Wagner community and in our hearts and minds.

I thought it was really wonderful when it was said that a scholarship will be created in RJ's name, especially because he was such a dedicated nursing student at Wagner College. I think naming a scholarship after him is a really great way to honor him and his hard work, as well create a level of excellence for students to strive for.

From what I've heard, RJ was the type of person everyone wants to know. He was kind, warm, hard-working and had a good heart. It's fitting that the memorial and reception took place on Valentine's Day because it's a day about love, a day for celebrating those who bring joy into your life. On Valentine's Day this year, Wagner College celebrated RJ Tillman and by the large turnout at the memorial service and the heartfelt words expressed by the speakers in attendance, it's obvious RJ touched many people.

I found it inspiring that hours after the reception took place, students walked down to look at the photograph of RJ or to grab a pamphlet from the service. I doubt all of these students knew him, yet I stood and watched student after student come to look upon RJ's smile and stop a moment to think about him. I did it my-

self.

I am really proud of the Wagner community and how they have displayed utter respect and love for RJ Tillman. Uniting together and celebrating RJ has bettered our community because this tragedy will make us thankful for the time we do have, and for those who knew RJ, thankful for the time they had with a person as wonderful as he was.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the community for coming together in such a miraculous way.

In the service, RJ was quoted as saying "Just make every day a day that works towards your dreams and there are no limits." I think we need to take this quote to heart. You don't have to have personally known RJ to be effected by him. All you need to do is listen to a colleague or friend talk about him or hear something he said or even look at a picture of his smiling face.

Regrettably, RJ doesn't get the chance to live the rest of his life. I propose we honor RJ by living our lives to the fullest every single day, being kind and helping others whenever we can, spending time with our loved ones and being the best human beings we can be.

This way, RJ Tillman can have an effect on all of us and his spirit will live on.

LIFE & STYLE

House of Toi: New York Fashion Week 2012 favorite

By **ALYSSA AHERN**
Life & Style Assistant

An audience filled with supermodels like Cynthia Bailey, Petra Nemcova and Eva Marcille, with TV personalities like Alex McCord and Ramona Singer, and other prominent audience members like Julie Macklowe, Nigel Barker, Miss USA, Miss Universe and Miss Teen USA made their way to the front row of the House of Toi's Fall 2012 runway show.

Toi's "Glamour at Gstaad" was definitely an appropriate title, matching its high profile front row.

The title "Glamour at Gstaad" is most pertinent in matching Toi's reputation among his "exquisite craftsmanship via luxurious fabrics and line tailoring."

This reputation is especially true of the Fall 2012 distinctly epic a Hollywood glamour collection. Toi's collection without a doubt signals another element of range, with the opening looks all of ivory and black work-attire and the ending looks of couture gowns.

The opening stride was on beat with Adele's "Set Fire to the Rain," which could not have been more fitting, with the previous evening, Adele being a six Grammy award winner. Adele's booming voice set the tone for the audience to know this show was going to be stunning, but did they know exactly how stunning?

Throughout the show, Toi used one



Photo: nymag.com

The form-fitting silk dress housed neon colors mixed with black to create a crowd favorite.

male model, in classy and elegant looks. Furthermore, most of the work-attire pieces were right on Fall 2012 trend, with the deep plunge blazer and mini storm coat.

The ambience in the Studio was jaunty and astonished. The models were all having fun, stopping and turning back unexpectedly, and giving winks to the photo pit. The energy from the seats was above any Fashion Week show thus far.

After 22 ivory and black colored work-attire looks, the show took its "Glamour at Gstaad" haute couture turn.

A black silk gazar palace gown-bordered with pleated organza and

tulle ruffles came slowly waltzing down the catwalk, captivating the audience. The crowd response was tomato, with a positive clamor followed by applause.

If you thought look 23 took you by surprise, look 24 was even more breathtaking; a ruby silk princess ball gown with pleated organza, tulle and ribbon ruffled borders came down the runway next. The model stopped half way to extend the dress with her arms, showing the precision, attention to detail and multifaceted layers in a ruby red hue.

After doing a 360 turn, proceeded to finish her lap, marking the beginning of couture ruby silk, black silk velvet and a brilliant brush stroke motif in silk satin gowns.

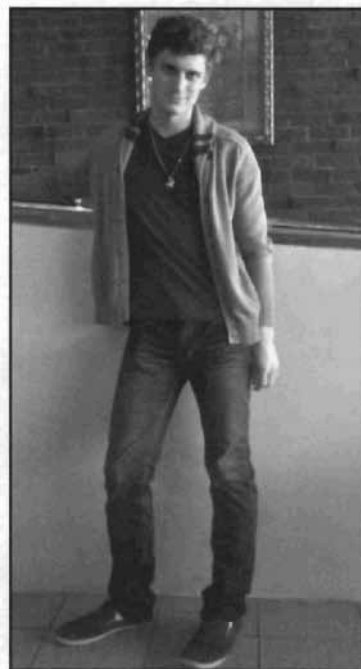
"Glamour at Gstaad" is a second nature theme when it comes to Toi's vision. The rolling countryside attractions of Gstaad, Switzerland paired with beautiful celebrities and stars, all spotted at luxurious hotels, restaurants, chalets and car-free resorts.

Now envision, Toi's gowns walking the ballrooms and galas of these hotels in Gstaad. The collection is two-fold, with high-end work pieces along with the glamour of the Gstaad movie-star pieces.

The "Glamour at Gstaad" concluded in a standing ovation to the same opening song by Adele, with Designer Zang Toi hand-in-hand with two models. He even graced the audience with a full length runway walk.

Campus do's

For students around campus with an impeccable fashion sense.



Christine Peterson
Sophomore

Rob Keir
Sophomore

Maroon t-shirt: Express \$30

Grey & maroon cardigan: Express \$65

Dark washed blue jeans: Guess \$125

Grey slip-on sneakers: Guess \$50

Eye of Horus necklace: gift



Black lace tank top: Guess \$60

Chiffon red blouse: Forever 21 \$20

Dark grey jeans: American Eagle \$39

Black boots: American Eagle \$49

White plastic watch: Guess \$125

Reported by Antoinette McCarty

The dainty to the avant garde: More highlights of NYFW 2012

Acne



Stepping away from their usual teen angst style, Acne sweetly surprised critics with their sophisticated (and often neon) Fall line.

Burberry Prosum



With neutral tones and a touch of youthful spunk (note the playful owl t-shirt), Burberry Prosum never fails to please the fashion crowd.

Marc Jacobs



Oversized knits, Victorian-era inspired patterns, and dark colored velvets entranced critics who are used to Jacob's typically toned down styles.

Ruffian



Creating a line nostalgic of old Hollywood Ruffian failed to disappoint, bringing back the sleek looks of the 1920's with a modern twist.

Vivienne Westwood



Sticking to her eclectic roots Westwood played with different patterns, bright colors and leather

Reported by Alexa Lyons

Get your favorite celebrity's look for less

Reported by Daria Maurer

Reese Witherspoon: effortlessly put-together



Hollywood's sweetheart Reese Witherspoon wears a zipper-embellished moto jacket, aviators and black boots on the L.A. set of her film *This Means War*.



Get a copy of Reese's cropped zippered leather jacket at Charlotte Russe for \$40



Snag the actresses signature aviators at Charlotte Russe for \$6



Dsw's black suede ankle booty mirror's Witherspoon's but are priced at a moderate \$40

Rachel McAdams: a classic beauty



Star Rachel McAdams is often seen casually put together, her above look being a simple dress, throw-over sweater and patent leather shoes with a slight heel.



Start out by getting this polka dot replica at Forever 21 for only \$23



Find a the cropped version of McAdam's drape sweater in Forever 21 for \$23



Finish the look off with Echo's black patent pump for \$40 at DSW

Ryan Gosling: masculine chic



Swipe Gosling's blazer at Forever 21 for \$35



Throw on this JcPenny's sweater vest for a more professional look. Retail at \$22

Major Exploration Fair

Wednesday, March 7 12- 2 PM

Academic Advisement Center

Union 3rd Floor

next to the Hawks Nest

doorprizes!

Undeclared? Want to learn more about

majors? Ready to Declare?

Join us for the 4th Annual

Major Exploration Fair!

Everything you need to declare your

major in one spot. The only thing

missing is YOU



doorprizes!

Summer/Fall Registration begins March 19

Top eats in the Big Apple

Prosperity Dumpling

Love chinese? Then this is the place for you. Come by to the Chinatown location to feast on sesame pancakes, pork and chive pot stickers, and sweet and sour soup. 46 Eldridge St. between Canal and Hester St.

Parisi Bakery

Check out this Nolita gem that serves up delicious lunch staples with some added zest. Anything with roasted red peppers, fresh mozzarella, and sun-dried tomatoes are apparently a must-have. 198 Mott St. between Kenmore and Spring St.

Mamoun's Falafel

Step away from the street meat truck and head on down to Greenwich Village's famous falafel dive where fried chick peas and yogurt sauceis considered the opiate of the masses. 119 MacDougal St. between Bleecker and Great Jones Sts.

Gaia Italian Cafe

Good Italian can be found throughout Staten Island (naturally) but this little cafe has some of the best pasta you'll ever have. The Lower East Side location satisfies their famished customers with spinach and ricotta gnocchi, beef lasagna, and fresh paninis. 251 E. Houston St. between Bowery and Chrystie Sts.

Lalu Restaurant

Lali's Latin American food is so good that you might not want to eat

all day before you get there. Check out Hells Kitchen's supreme delicacy and gorge yourself on roasted chicken with yellow rice and beans, chunky beef stew, and fried plantains. 630 10th Ave. between 44th and 46th Sts.

Boubouki

Let's face it: the Greeks have it right. If you're looking for authentic Greek food come to this Lower East Side eatery where spinach pie, Spanikopita, and Baklava will have your mouth watering from your first step in the door. 120 Essex St. at Delancey St.

Bite

Deli's are usually a hit or miss but this tiny lunch-in only serves up the best. The East Village favorite is known for its spicy black bean soup, exotic tuna salad, and Middle Eastern turkey sandwich. 211 E. 14th St. at 3rd ave.

Dos Toros Taqueria

Union Square's Dos Toros Taqueria's serves authentic Mexican food at an awesome price. Try any kind of burrito, carne asada, and guacamole to satisfy any south of the border craving. 137 4th Ave. between 13th and 14th Sts.

Sophie's Cuban Cuisine

Try something new in the Financial District's cuban cafe like oxtail stew, their famous "green sauce," or rice and beans. 73 New St. at Beaver St.

-Reported by Alexa Lyons

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

And we will always love her

Fans devastated over Houston's unexpected death

By DOUG HANSON
Wagnerian Staff Writer

On Saturday Feb. 11 at 3:55 p.m. Pacific Standard Time the voice of an angel was silenced. Whitney Houston, once ruled as the queen of pop music, was found dead in her hotel bathroom at the Beverly Hilton hotel at the age of only 48. A mere day before the biggest night in music, *The Grammy Awards*, the singer's untimely death left celebrities across the country saddened and speechless, casting a cloud on the awards ceremony on Sunday.

Houston has left a legacy of music and many fans behind. From the middle 1980s to the late 1990s, she was one of the world's best-selling artists. She wowed audiences with effortless and powerful vocals. A six-time Grammy winner, she had such memorable hits as "I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Who Loves Me)," "Saving All My Love for You," "How Will I Know," "So Emotional," "I Believe in You and Me," "Greatest Love of All," and her four time Platinum smash hit single written by Dolly Parton, "I Will Always Love You."

Houston was born in Newark, New Jersey and was hand-picked by Clive Davis, head of Arista Records to be pushed into the musical world. After a whirl wind of success in 1992 she not only made her debut as the star of the romantic thriller *The Bodyguard*, but also married singer Bobby Brown, a for-

mer New Edition member. The now 17-time Platinum soundtrack of *The Bodyguard* was an instant hit and in the years that followed Whitney continued on the film path, starring in others such as *Waiting to Exhale*, *The Preacher's Wife*, and *Cinderella*. Houston has influenced the lives of many singers including Christina Aguilera and Mariah Carey who, when first debuted, was thought to be Houston herself because of their shocking vocal similarity.

Although she exuded a 'good girl' image throughout the 1980s and early 1990s. Houston suddenly began to change after the new millennium. In 2004, Bobby Brown starred in his own reality show *Being Bobby Brown* on Bravo where Houston was a prominent guest on the show. The world watched as her marriage to Brown catapulted her into a world of alcohol and substance abuse. Her once imperial image and pristine voice was now raspy and hoarse and damaged beyond repair.

Brown and Houston eventually divorced in 2006 after 14 tumultuous years of marriage. In 2009 Houston openly admitted to Oprah Winfrey that drugs were a daily part of her life. It was also in 2009 that her album *I Look to You* debuted, and fans were shocked to hear their idol's voice; only remnants of the woman they loved so much. Regardless, *I Look to You* went Platinum. During her *Nothing but Love* world tour, fans were disgusted by

her performances, some even walking out. She had to cancel some of the dates because of 'illness.'

In her last days Houston was not herself. A reporter for the *Los Angeles Times* reported that Houston smelled of liquor and appeared very bloated and disheveled, wearing mismatched clothes and sweating profusely. Shortly after news of her death, ex-husband Brown appeared on stage at his concert, shouting "I love you, Whitney. The hardest thing for me to do is to come on this stage." According to the press he was choked up during a ballad number and had to stop. On the news of her death, Aretha Franklin, her Godmother, also said she was stunned. "I just can't talk about it now," Franklin said. "It's so stunning and unbelievable. I couldn't believe what I was reading coming across the TV screen."

Many news stations broke their normal programming to break the news to viewers of the singer's demise. *The Grammy Awards* scrambled to hold a tribute for Houston set up for the next day's performance. Grammy, Golden Globe, and Academy award winning superstar Jennifer Hudson was asked to sing Houston's hit "I Will Always Love You" which she did, delivering a heart wrenching and emotional rendition as she did so. The singer held back tears as she changed the last lyrics to "Whitney, we love you."

It's safe to say that Whitney's fans do and will 'always love her.'

The Woman in Black sends chills up audience's spines

Daniel Radcliffe delivers in his first on-screen role since the Harry Potter series

By LILAH SOUZA
Wagnerian Staff Writer

The newest gothic horror movie *The Woman in Black* is sending chills up the spines of audiences nationwide. The new horror flick, starring Daniel Radcliffe from the *Harry Potter* series, was based on the 1983 novel by Susan Hill and directed by James Watkins. Watkins has directed and written many other horror movies like *The Descent*, *My Little Eye* and *Eden Lake*.

In the movie, Arthur Kipps, played by Radcliffe, is a solicitor and a single father mourning the death of his late wife who died giving birth to his son, Nicholas.

Kipps goes to a town in a remote part of England to take care of the estate of the deceased Alice Drablow in an old abandoned mansion, the Eel Marsh House.

The townfolk are unhelpful to Kipps and do not want him to go to

the Eel Marsh House, as they believe the estate is haunted by the "the woman in black" and when someone sees her, a child in the town will commit suicide.

Kipps, ignorant of the town's legends, makes his way to the house with the help of a friendly patron, Sam. Sam's son is one of the victims of the woman in black, as believed by Sam's wife, who serves as an outlet for the deceased boy to channel himself through.

The mansion is chilling, dusty and full of eerie pictures and dolls. When Radcliffe enters the house to sort through the paperwork, the creepiness ensues as he is approached by the woman in black and the ghosts of the dead children she is responsible for sending to their deaths.

This movie will keep you on the edge of your seat with silent, suspenseful moments, where the slightest noise will have you jumping out of your chair. There is a cornucopia of jumpy scenes, and the ghostly

characters are worthy of producing nightmares after the film.

Radcliffe's performance was a bit stiff, and though it was only his second movie after the infamous *Harry Potter* series, many agree that more was expected from him. It was, at times, a bit difficult to separate the familiar face from the character he is most known for. However, many resolved that better performances from Radcliffe will be expected to follow.

The movie is full of unpredictable twists and turns, and the ending will leave you with a feeling of unexpected surprise. *The Woman in Black* is a solid attempt at an old-school horror film from the legendary Hammer Studios. There is no gore, no vampires, and no over-the-top CGI, but the film stands on its own in terms of scariness.

If you are a horror fan looking for a good scare, this is your movie.

"Don't go on chasing shadows now" and see the movie for yourself

Listen Up!



Release date: June 30 11
Label: Vanguard Records Love

Known for his hit song, "Come On Get Higher", Matt Nathanson is back and better than ever with his latest album release *Modern Love*. Released on June 21 on Vanguard Records, this is Nathanson's seventh album since beginning his career with the release of his first album *Please* in 1993. Drawing influence from such bands as AC/DC and Talking I-leads, *Modern Love* is a striking move forward for the singer-songwriter from Massachusetts. Usually singing about desire and dysfunctional relationships, Nathanson takes a different stand on *Modern Love* revolving around romance and love which can be shown in his first single off the album "Faster" and other tracks including "Mercy" and "Run." This past summer, Nathanson went on the road with Maroon 5 and Train and is currently on a solo tour across the United States promoting *Modern Love*.

You'll love it if you like: Howie Day, Train, Parachute

-Chelsea Fodera

Check it out!

Since his debut in 1991, Sonic the Hedgehog has become one of the most well-known heroes in the gaming world today. Appearing in over 40 games across a variety of platforms, his legacy lives on 20 years after his first adventure. In celebration of Sonic's twentieth anniversary last year, Sega launched *Sonic Generations* for Sony Playstation 3, Microsoft Xbox 360, Microsoft Windows and Nintendo 3DS.



The plot begins with Sonic's friends throwing a surprise birthday for him, when they are all swallowed by a shadowy demon that eats time, appropriately named 'Time Eater.' In an attempt to save his buddies Sonic attacks Time Eater, but is knocked unconscious. When Sonic awakens he finds himself in a bleak, colorless dimension where all his friends and past adventures are frozen in time. To save them and restore color and life to this world, Sonic must clear all nine levels and 45 challenges, while being accompanied with his 'classic' self from the past.

The levels are remakes from previous games and are organized by generation in order starting from 'Classic' and 'Dreamcast,' and eventually getting to 'Modern.' Old levels and bosses make a comeback in the game as you travel through Sonic's past. All the levels are in 3D, but there are some 2D aspects, especially in Classic Sonic's game play. While they are quite entertaining and stir up feelings of nostalgia, these levels do fare on the side of being almost too easy. The challenges, located in separate portals, are slightly more difficult but still not frustratingly hard.

The game play is great as well. The controls are not too loose, nor are they too tight and speed was clearly a priority for the developers-as it should be in any good Sonic game. The graphics are amazing as well; one can actually see the texture in Sonic's gloves during the cut scenes! The scenery of the levels, though animated, is almost realistic, containing exceptional depth and detail. The background game music, one of Sonic's strong suits next to speed and attitude, are remixes of their respective former games. All of them are high-quality and can unquestionably survive repeated listening.

Overall, this game gets four stars out of a five star scale. The game-play is excellent, the graphics are magnificent, and the music rocks. The plot is somewhat bizarre, and the voice casting isn't as pleasing as it could be. There is also issue by many players with the modern Sonic's egotistical mind-set. However, considering the caliber of Sonic games Sega has released in recent years, *Sonic Generations* was certainly a step in the right direction, and is highly recommended as a game of choice. As stated in the final cut scene and credits: "Happy Birthday, Sonic," and we hope you have "a great future!"

-Amanda Arceri

Can't help falling in love with *All Shook Up*

By **CHRIS LUNER**
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Completely Student Productions, CSP, brought to life the lively, hip-shaking musical *All Shook Up*. The production was based off of a book that was itself based off of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, and mixed with the music of Elvis. With all of that classic music combined with good humor, you already have a formula for success. CSP managed to outdo themselves this time with their largest, most vibrant, and hands-down best production on campus yet.

The story follows the lives of several characters in one town that is thrown upside down when 'roustabout' Chad arrives, bringing a certain style and music the town has never seen before. Following your dreams and believing in love become huge themes for the production that is filled with Elvis favorites such as "Jailhouse Rock," "Hound Dog" and "Can't Help Falling in Love."

Crowd pleaser Robby Haltiwanger leads the gang as Chad, with hip shaking and wobbly-kneed dance moves that the girls in the town can't seem to get enough of. Haltiwanger plays opposite Melanie Brook. Brook stars as Natalie in the production, a tomboy girl who falls madly in love with Chad upon his immediate arrival and has to go from tomboy to girly girl, then back to boy as she gains his trust and at-

tempts to grow closer to him. The two are a great combination, creating a performance that the audience enjoys watching grow over time while ridiculous antics take over as their relationship grows.

John Alati wins over the audience's heart from moment one as Dennis. His pathetic character, in love with Natalie but afraid to tell her, works throughout the show to gain enough courage to tell her how he really feels. Alati captures the audience and has them on his team as he works to capture Natalie's heart, causing many sympathetic and adoring cheers from the crowd.

Freshman theater performance major, Danielle James, stole the show as Sylvia with powerful vocals and a fantastic performance throughout that kept the audience on the edges of their seats. Her acting is superb and her rendition of "There's Always Me" leaves the audience asking for more.

Olivia Puckett as Lorraine and Kyle Peter VanZandt as Dean make a fantastic couple that work throughout the show to be together despite society's pressures to pull them apart. They have adorable moments such as "It's Now or Never," where we not only see their character but where their relationship stands.

The ensemble of this show finds consistent moments to shine, and the scenes in which they are present were some of the most enjoyable of all. The show is very ensemble



Photo: Samantha Knoerzer

Natalie, played by Melanie Brook fawns over the town's new 'roustabout' Chad, played by Robby Haltiwanger.

heavy with larger than life numbers occurring consistently. The ensemble brought these to life with fierce choreography and bright, on key vocals.

Brendan Stackhouse should be commended for his work in not only directing, but also choreographing the production.

Being heavily involved in CSP, he has worked on many other performances recently such as *Higli Fidelity* and *Rocky Horror*. Out of all of them, however, it is agreed that this is Stackhouse's finest and best work yet.

Congratulations to CSP on a fantastic production that truly illustrates musical theatre at its finest.



All you need to know about the latest celebrity gossip!

The Grammys mourn Houston's death; Perry sings her official goodbye to her firework

By **AMANDA HASTINGS**
Wagnerian Staff writer

The world will always love her! One of the most successful award winning singers of all times, **Whitney Houston**, passed away on Saturday Feb. 11 at the age of 48. The six time Grammy Award winner was found unresponsive by her bodyguard in her Los Angeles Beverly Hills hotel room. After performing CPR for over 20 minutes, Houston, who has sold over an amazing 200 million albums throughout her career, was pronounced dead.

While nothing illegal or suspicious was found, the prescription drug Xanax, along with another half a dozen prescription medication were present in the room. Investigators claim if prescriptions are mixed with alcohol it could be lethal, and this is what many believe is the cause of her recent tragic passing.

The former Mrs. Bobby Brown has famously dealt with a drug and alcohol addiction during the late 1980's and early 90's, while starring and conducting the soundtrack for the film *The Bodyguard*. While having multiple stints in rehab, she was admitted in 2011. Due to her young age, many speculate that drugs were somehow a factor in the singer's shocking death. According to investigators, it doesn't seem likely that there was any criminal intent.

An autopsy was performed on Sunday, the day after her death, to conclude what went wrong. While there was speculation that Whitney may have drowned in the bathtub, on the following Monday, it was reported that a combination of Xanax, mixed with other prescriptions, and alcohol was the main cause. Family members have stated that the singer was on prescription medication.

On Thursday, Feb. 9, the singer went to rehearsals for a pre-Grammy party. She was in attendance with singers **Brandy** and **Monica**. Eyewitnesses say that Whitney seemed extremely intoxicated and was wandering around the hotel. Later that night, the 700-time award winner attended a party and nearly got into a brawl with singer **Stacy Francis**. Whitney then took the stage to perform what would end up being her final performance with singer **Kelly Prince**. She was photographed exiting with scratches on her legs at the end of the night.

The day after the shocking tragedy, her daughter with ex-hubby Bobby, **Bobbi Kristina Brown**, landed in the hospital. She was transferred from the hotel where her mother passed away to Los Angeles

Cedars-Sinai Hospital and was being treated for stress. The 18 year old is naturally devastated and her family feared for her after the ordeal. Later that night, she was released from the hospital and her father flew from Mississippi to California to comfort her.

At the 54th annual Grammy Awards, the celebrities paid tribute to the icon. This year's host, **LL Cool J** kicked off the night with a special speech to Whitney and dedicated the night to her. Singer **Jennifer Hudson** later sang the infamous "I will Always Love You" as a special honor for the idol.

The two time Grammy Award winner had big plans for the year. She had arranged to star in a new film, the *Sparkle*. *X-Factor*'s **Simon Cowell** confirmed that Whitney was in talks to be a new member of

the show. Bobby, the late New Jersey native was often known as "the voice" due her unique and phenomenal voice. So many singers of the new generation have been influenced by the one and only Whitney Houston. As one of the best singers in our history, this is a true tragedy; thousands of fans and celebrities have expressed their support and heartbreak! Along with the King of Pop **Michael Jackson**, Houston has left a void in so many hearts. She will never be forgotten!

In other Hollywood news, it seems that **Katy Perry** and **Russell Brand** have legally settled their divorce, but does that mean the drama between the pair will end? As of Feb. 9, the duo officially split through a court hearing. As per California law, a divorcing couple must wait six months before becoming final. According to reports, July 1st is the day that will legitimately leave fans heartbroken.

At the 54th annual Grammy Awards, Perry sang her newest song, "Part of Me." Due to the lyrics, this was a sure smack in the face for her ex. Since Brand shockingly filed for divorce from a blind-sided Perry on Dec. 30, many have speculated that he was after her bank account. The *Last Friday Night* singer is worth over \$70 million, a far cry from the comedian's \$20 million. While rumor had it that

the *Forgetting Sarah Marshall* star was seeking half of the singer's salary due to the fact that there was no pre-nuptial agreement, Brand claimed that he does not want any part of Perry's finances. Since the couple married in 2010, Perry has earned over \$144 million, and though entitled to half of this, Brand wants a divorce instead.

Stay tuned for more Hastings on Hollywood, because Hollywood never sleeps!

New hit show gets a Smashing response from fans

By **DOUG HANSON**
Wagnerian Staff Writer

NBC's newest hit show *Smash* is everywhere you turn. The show, which originally premiered on Feb. 6, already has a massive following. Advertisements for the show can be found on billboards, in newspapers and in magazines, and of course on countless television commercials. The show's pilot generated over 1.44 million viewers, which is expected to increase in the episodes to come.

Since the popularity of the Fox television hit *Glee*, many question whether this new musical program may be NBC's way of jumping on the musical bandwagon. But before you start comparing *Smash* to *Glee*, take a look for yourself.

Though they are both musically inclined series, they couldn't more different. *Glee* is all about high school drama, where *Smash* is all about Broadway. There are no kids singing rap chart-toppers, there are no football players as the leader of their glee club, and there are no ruthless cheerleading coaches who occasionally belt one out for the sake of entertainment. *Smash* delivers only the drama behind the red

curtain.

The cast is full of big names and Broadway vets such as Katharine McPhee, Megan Hilty, Debra Messing, Christian Borle, Anjelica Huston, Jack Davenport, Brian d'Arcy James and Raza Jaffrey. The show's plotline revolves around the creation of a new Broadway musical. Julia Houston, played by Messing, is a songwriter and lyricist who gets the brilliant idea to create a musical based on the life of Marilyn Monroe. With the help of her partner Tom Levitt, played by Borle, they began the creative process. Eileen Rand, played by Huston, is a producer struggling through a divorce with her husband, actor d'Arcy James, who decides to back back the project as well. With director Derek Wills, played by Davenport, thrown into the mix, all that's left is to find their leading lady. This is where Karen Cartwright, played by McPhee, comes into the scene.

Cartwright is a fledgling actress who is waiting tables in New York while she waits for her big break. After landing a callback for the role of Marilyn she finds she is up against experienced Broadway chorus girl Ivy Lynn, played by Hilty, who is ready to do anything for the role that will shoot her into star sta-

tus. Who will get the role? Only time will tell.

The two big stars of the show are the two ladies up for the role of a lifetime. American Idol winner Katharine McPhee and notable Broadway star Megan Hilty have drawn in big audiences. "People keep asking me, 'will people tune in to a show about theater?' and it's like, well, I'm not a doctor, but I loved E.R.! It's not about the medical procedures, it's about the drama that's going on all around it," says Hilty. Katharine McPhee talks about her love for the show, talking about the pilot that had aired on Feb. 6. "What I love about the show is that it's about dreams and how no dream is too big," she says with a smile.

What makes *Smash* so delicious is the way in which it integrates you into a world never before depicted on the small screen. You truly feel like you're behind the scenes of a Broadway production. If the pilot gave us an accurate portrayal of what to expect of this new show, then it's safe to say America is in for a treat. Check out the pilot currently available for free viewing on Comcast; OnDemand and iTunes, and get into the show on Mondays at 10 p.m. on NBC!



Nation and World

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

King continues to spark controversy in 2012

By ELLE TRUDEAU
Nation & World Editor

The Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial in Washington has had every detail scrutinized since its opening last fall.

In late January, the Department of Interior — which has jurisdiction over the memorial — announced that a quotation in the memorial's King sculpture would be changed. This action followed months of complaints about the language of the quotation, which had been paraphrased from a passage in a King sermon.

The memorial itself consists of the 30-foot sculpture of King, called the "Stone of Hope," in which the civil rights leader emerges from a portion of a granite slab.

Some yards away is a mountain of granite; together, the pieces give life to King's words from his 1963 March on Washington address: "Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope."

Nearby stands a low wall engraved with 14 King quotations on subjects including love, justice and hope.

The disputes started not long after the memorial was officially approved about 15 years ago.

Initially, there was disagreement over the location; several months went by before a Tidal Basin site was selected.

There were criticisms about the choice of sculptor Lei Yixin, a Chinese national; the use of Chinese granite; King's pose, which has been called "confrontational"; and even its scale, which has been likened to Soviet-style monumentalism.

One side of the Stone of Hope features a quotation drawn from "The Drum Major Instinct," a 1968 King sermon with the quote, "I was a drum major for justice, peace and righteousness."

The words, critics have noted, were edited from a longer quotation in which King stressed the conditional, "If you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice," the passage begins.

Poet Maya Angelou, a member of the MLK Memorial's Council of Historians, told the Washington Post that the inscription made King look like "an arrogant twit."

"He would never have said that of himself. He said 'you' might say it," she said.

Ed Jackson Jr., the memorial's executive architect, responded that the quote was paraphrased for space reasons and that the National Commission for Fine Arts, which oversees the memorial, "didn't have a problem with it."

The Interior Secretary Ken Salazar gave the National Park Service 30



Photo: AP

The MLK Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C. contains 14 passages inscribed on the side of the monument.

days to consult with the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, members of the King family and others to decide on a more accurate version of the quote.

Martin Luther King was a complex man, but how much does the memorial capture that complexity?

"King has been sanitized by a generation, if not two generations, of elementary school kids being raised on Martin Luther King as a dreamer," said University of Hartford history professor Warren Goldstein. "The sanitizing of King's reputation that's happened as the result of the endless repetitions of 'I have a dream' has meant that most people know relatively little about King."

Even King's most famous speech, given at the 1963 March on Washington, wasn't all about "I have a dream." That portion, which closed the address, was an improvised conclusion to a speech that began with a call for economic and social justice.

"Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked 'insufficient funds,'" he says early in the speech.

Those issues of poverty and equality still matter today, says Jason Purnell, a public health professor at St. Louis' Washington University.

Part of the problem, says Gallagher, ironically lies in the progress of the African-American community since the heyday of the civil rights movement.

The black middle class has grown, black culture is more mainstream, and the United States even has a black (or, as some would emphasize,

biracial) president now.

"A lot of white America, if you look at the survey data, has come to believe that the goals of the civil rights movement have been achieved," he said.

And yet it wasn't so long ago that even the prospect of a Martin Luther King Day engendered protests. The first bill to create a federal holiday failed in 1979; it took corporate activism and a "Happy Birthday" song from Stevie Wonder to raise its public profile.

It was signed into law in 1983 and first observed in 1986 — though not every state went along with the idea. A late-'80s move by Arizona to rescind the holiday cost the state the 1993 Super Bowl.

But now that the third Monday in January is an official day off, it's easy to overlook the man the day is named for.

Some communities and schools stress public service to honor King and his ideals, but — like so many other American holidays — Martin Luther King Jr. Day has become an excuse for appliance sales, social gatherings and sleeping in.

Indeed, because spring semester at many colleges doesn't begin until after King Day, students are usually just arriving for classes around the holiday.

Roberson, a professor who teaches the history of civil rights, also finds that his students have a "pretty one-dimensional" understanding of the man, believing that King was raised poor (he was actually from a middle-class Atlanta family) and that he deserved the lion's share of the credit for the civil rights movement, as opposed to being one of many leaders.

Certainly, King's hopes are by no means fulfilled.

Our political invective — some aimed at the have-nots, sometimes racially tinged — is harsher than ever. During the Republican primary campaign, both Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum were called out for comments directed at African-Americans. (Santorum, who had said, "I would not make black people's lives better by giving them other people's money," later denied that he had used the word "black" but said he had gotten "tongue-tied" and said "blah.")

Attendance at the MLK Memorial has been strong since it opened in September. The National Park Service, which monitors the Mall attractions, says that 382,000 visited the first month, more than came to the FDR Memorial. In October, the most recent month for which statistics are available, the MLK Memorial drew 448,000 people, almost 50,000 more than the Lincoln Memorial.

Santorum tied with Romney in major polls

By ELLE TRUDEAU
Nation & World Editor

Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney's early lead seems to be over, thanks to fellow nominee and former Senator of Pennsylvania, Rick Santorum, who is now tied with Romney in 3 different national surveys.

A CBS News/New York Times poll released on Feb. 14 indicates that 30 percent of likely Republican primary voters say they are backing Santorum for the party's nomination.

Mitt Romney has 27 percent, Rep. Ron Paul of Texas has 12 percent, and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich has 10 percent.

Santorum's three point lead over Romney is within the survey's sampling error.

According to a Pew Research Center poll that came out Monday afternoon, Santorum's at 30 percent nationally among Republicans and independent voters who lean towards the GOP, with Romney at 28 percent, Gingrich at 17 percent and Paul at 12 percent.

And the latest edition of the Gallup Daily Tracking poll, released Monday afternoon, indicates that 32 percent of registered Republicans say they are backing Romney for their party's nomination, with Santorum at 30 percent, former Gingrich at 16 percent and Paul at 8 percent.

Santorum has surged 14 points in the Gallup Daily Tracking poll over the past week, while Romney's dropped seven points, Gingrich has slipped six points, and Paul has edged down three points.

All three surveys were conducted after Santorum's victories over Romney, Gingrich and Paul on Feb. 7 in caucuses in Colorado and Minnesota and a non-binding primary in Missouri.

Santorum's sweep of the Feb. 7

contests sparked a surge for the one-time long shot candidate in national and state polling.

Two of the surveys indicate that Santorum's jump in the polls is largely due to increased support from self-described conservatives, evangelical Christians and supporters of the tea party movement.

The CBS/New York Times poll indicates that Santorum is backed by nearly four in 10 voters from each of these groups.

Their survey last month indicated that no candidate was the clear favorite among these groups.

There are similar findings in the Pew survey, where Santorum has double digit leads over Romney among self-described tea party movement supporters and among white evangelical voters.

One constant in this race for the GOP nomination is fluidity.

And the CBS/New York Times poll highlights that uncertainty among voters. A majority of those who backed a candidate said they could still change their minds.

That's down from nearly three-quarters last month, but still more than high enough to shake things up.

National polling is often a lagging indicator, but a rise in such surveys can help candidates when it comes to building momentum, which can help with fundraising.

"The primary wins have given Santorum wind at his back, which is important, but he'll need the infrastructure to build a sail to capture that wind if he's to be successful in future states," said GOP strategist Doug Heye, a former communications director for the Republican National Committee.

According to the Pew poll, President Barack Obama leads Romney 52 percent to 44 percent in a hypothetical general election matchup, with Obama topping Santorum 53 percent to 43 percent and beating Gingrich 57 percent to 39 percent.

Information for the Nation & World section gathered from:

CNN.com
BBC.co.uk
Time.com
NYTimes.com
LATimes.com

Extreme weather in Europe freezes major waterways

By ANNA ZARZECKI
Wagnerian Staff Writer

While New Yorkers were left wondering what happened to winter this year, Europe remained under a cold spell that left many countries with record low freezing temperatures, layers of ice, and a whole lot of snow.

What scientists have been calling a "Russian Winter," disabled transportation systems throughout cities in Europe, caused power outages that enveloped up to 50 percent of Serbia, brought snow to Rome for the first time in 26 years, and left a death toll that has already exceeded 400.

According to NASA statements, the large patch of cold air hovering over Europe hails from the Siberian anticyclone—a normal occurrence during the coldest part of the year that triggers intense snow and cold, and is one of the principal sources of polar air masses.

Europe is currently experiencing an outbreak of polar air caused by an intense area of high pressure that has developed across Russia.

Winds circulate in the Northern hemisphere in a clockwise direction. This winter, winds around the Siberian anticyclone have dispersed cold air as far west as the United Kingdom, and as far south as Libya, which has recently received snow fall.

Scientists at Germany's Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research claim that the warming of the Arctic Ocean and the melting of sea ice are most likely responsible for the cold winter weather.

As sea ice melts, more heat is absorbed by water, creating a low-pressure system. Normal circulation is therefore disrupted as polar weather in the upper atmosphere settles over a low pressure systems at sea level, like a comparatively warm area of (Arctic) sea.

tic) sea.

The temperatures are expected to last until mid- February.

Central and Eastern Europe have felt the brunt of this cold weather, which has led to hundreds of deaths and thousands of cases of frostbite and hypothermia.

In Ukraine, the worst affected country, well over 100 people have died and more than 3,000 have sought hospital treatment.

State news agency Ukrinform said more than 120 ships — most of them foreign — were trapped in the Kerch Strait, linking the Sea of Azov to the Black Sea, because of ice.

Parts of the Danube River, one of the most important rivers in Europe for commerce, have nearly frozen over for the first time in 25 years.

That has led to at least four countries to halt shipping along sections of the 1,700-mile-long waterway because of the risk of damage to vessels' hulls. The river is also used for drinking water, irrigation and tourism.

The stretch of the Danube running through Romania has been closed indefinitely to traffic, Romanian state television network TVR reported Friday.

However, most roads had reopened as of late Thursday, TVR reported, although major problems remain on the country's rail network.

Romania's capital, Bucharest, reached a low of -24 degrees C for the second morning running Friday, its lowest temperature since the cold snap began two weeks ago.

Snow is lying 11 inches deep in Bucharest but has piled up even higher to the west, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the capital, Sarajevo, has seen over 39 inches accumulate in the past two weeks, Miller said. A year ago, the city was covered by less than half an inch of snow.

Turkish Airlines, the national flag carrier for Turkey, canceled 57 do-

mestic and international flights because of severe weather, the semi-official Anatolian news agency reported.

Heavy snowfall a week ago paralyzed roads and trains in many cities across Italy, leading to wide criticism of authorities.

The number of beds available for homeless people in Rome has almost doubled, from 1,300 to 2,500, and new shelters have been set up in many metro stations, which are being kept open overnight, officials said.

Some weather-related delays and cancellations have been reported at Italian airports. Train services have been suspended in 12 regions, the Corriere della Sera newspaper reported.

The center-north regions of Emilia Romagna, Abruzzo and Marche, where it has been snowing for several days, have been particularly affected by the bad weather. Local trains are suspended.

The famous canals of Venice started freezing over this week, preventing gondoliers from plying their trade on the city's picturesque waterways.

The Colosseum in Rome has been forced to shut after small pieces of its walls crumbled away because of freezing temperatures.

Buildings in the historic walled town of Urbino—a UNESCO world heritage site — are reported to be at risk of collapse under the weight of snow, following unprecedented blizzards in the area.

In the Italian capital, thousands of tourists have been disappointed to discover the Colosseum, one of the city's most popular attractions, is closed to visitors, while checks are carried out to determine the extent of the damage and to help prevent further movement.

Many parts of England and Wales saw snow in early February.

Violence ensues at Egyptian football match

74 people killed, hundreds injured

By BRITTANY BERKE
Wagnerian Staff Writer

An external probe was called to be conducted by the European Union on Thursday, into an eruption of chaotic violence in Egypt that took 74 lives at a football match.

Soccer fans rushed to the field of the Seaside city following an unfavorable victory, injuring hundreds.

This sparked new anger against the country's military rulers, as the riot police failed to intervene.

Nearly a year after former President Hosni Mubarak was swept out of power in a popular uprising; it was merely a brutal reminder of the deteriorating security in the Arab world's most populous country.

The stampede did not appear to be directly linked to the political turmoil in Egypt, but the violence raised fresh concerns about the ability of the state police to manage crowds.

Egypt is not immune to violence at football matches.

In April, the ineffectiveness of the police force was on display when thousands of fans ran onto the field before the end of an African Champions League game between local club Zamalek and Tunisia's Club Africain.

European Union foreign affairs Chief Catherine Ashton said in a statement, "I hope an immediate and independent investigation will shed light on the causes of this tragic event."

Egypt began mourning for three days, and the leadership of Egypt's Football Association was fired.

The governor of the northern city of Port Said, where the match was staged, also resigned.

Rioting in one of the deadliest incidents in football history sent shares tumbling on the Cairo stock ex-

change.

Of the 74 people killed was one police officer, while 14 were injured. A local health official initially said 1,000 people were injured, but it was not clear how severely.

Egypt's state prosecutor ordered an immediate investigation into the violence, and the Egypt Football Association was ordered an indefinite suspension of the league games. Passions have always run high in Egyptian football.

The Cairo derby between Al Ahly and their rivals Zamalek is the biggest football match in Africa, and has to be held at a neutral venue, usually with a neutral foreign referee, to combat a history of enmity and violence. For the past five years, highly organized and anti-authoritarian fan groups of "Ultras," especially from Al Ahly

and Zamalek, have been in conflict with the police at football grounds, objecting to the heavy handed treatment meted out to them by Mubarak's forces.

In a country that had little public space, there were two forums for dissent: the mosque and the football stadium.

"The whole concept of any independent organization didn't exist, not unions, not political parties," explained the leader of the Al Ahly ultras last April.

"Then we started to organize football ultras ... to them it was the youth, in big numbers — very smart people — who could mobilize themselves quickly. They feared us."

On television talk shows, analysts and anchors discussed the massacre, but few could explain why so many fans had died.

Interior ministry officials blamed the referee for failing to stop the match earlier as signs of violence against players and between the fans became clear.

Tourists killed by militia group in Ethiopia

By MONIKA KHALTSEV
Wagnerian Staff Writer

The Afar region of northern Ethiopia is a dry, volcanic region that lies just above sea level and has scenic dried up lakes known as "salt flats."

Foreigners who venture into Afar usually include researchers, aid workers and adventure tourists visiting geographical wonders such as the Danakil depression and ancient salt mines.

It is one of the hottest places in the world, and a known haunt of rebels and bandits from Eritrea and Ethiopia, due to its remote location and faulty satellite reception.

It is also a site that has experienced a tragedy.

At 5 a.m. on Jan. 18, an unknown militant attacked five European tourists.

A Gennan media report said the group of tourists had been close to the Erta Ale volcano, one of Ethiopia's most active.

Two Germans, two Hungarians and an Austrian were among the five killed, according to an Interpol report cited by the spokesperson for Hungary's prime minister.

Two Belgians were seriously hurt and two Italians escaped unharned, the report said.

Two Germans were also kidnapped.

Ethiopian officials suspect Eritrean rebels, although Eritrea denies it.

Eritrea, a nation north of Ethiopia, (both are found in the horn of Africa), has had tense relations with Ethiopia since their border war in 1998-2000.

Ethiopian Minister of Communications Bereket Simon labeled it as "an open act of terrorism", and claims that said "terrorists" were trained by the Eritrean government.

Eritrean Ambassador Ginna Asmerom addressed the allegations as an "absolute lie."

Correspondents in the area report that such accusations are common, seeing that, even though the war between the two nations ended in 2000, border tensions have remained since.

In 2007, 13 Ethiopians and 5 Europeans were kidnapped in the same Afar region.

Ethiopia accused Eritrea of masterminding that kidnapping, but Eritrea blamed an Ethiopian rebel group. All of those hostages were released, though some of the Ethiopians were held for more than a month.

In 2008, Ethiopia stopped an at-

tempted kidnapping on 28 French tourists in the area.

Since the attack in 2007, there has been a standing Travel Warning on the Afar region, issued by the Austrian Travel Ministry.

There is also an upcoming African Union summit in the city of Addis Ababa—the capital of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia suspects that the attack was linked to the approaching summit, and will use the attack to urge the international community to do something about the "destabilizing role of the Eritrean regime in the region."

There was a similar threat last year when United Nations reports revealed that Eritrea was behind a plot to attack another African Union summit to be hosted in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia has extended condolences to the victims and their families, and states that it will do everything in its

power to get those taken prisoner, released.

Eritrea was once again mentioned—"There is a fear that the people who have been kidnapped might have been taken across the border into Eritrea."

Mr. Simon confirmed that the attack occurred 12 to 15 miles from the Eritrean border.

Should this be true, tensions between the two countries will escalate even higher if Ethiopia demands Eritrean cooperation in the search for the victims.

The attacked arrived in Addis Ababa on Wednesday (one had to be brought in by wheelchair) and are soon returning to their families to recover. They have all chosen to remain anonymous in order to heal after this traumatic experience.

SEAHAWK SPORTS



Tiffany Dawson races leaping over the hurdles.

Track secures fifth place conference finish

The women's team placed sixth while the men's team placed ninth in their NEC meet.

By **ALEXANDRIA GRECO**
Wagnerian Sports Editor

Women's track and field earned fifth place at the Northeast Conference (NEC), marking their progression from last year's seventh place conference finish.

The women's team had three personal best performances, while the men's squad finished ninth place with one personal best performance.

Women's Meet

Senior Tiffany Dawson started off on the right foot with top ten finishes in three events. The Staten Island native bested her previous top time of 9.07, in the 60-meter hurdle with a finish of 8.89 seconds, registering fourth place.

In the field, Dawson squeezed by Sacred Heart's Ashley Matakevich with an 11.74-meter finish, clinching a third place spot. She ended the day with a seventh place finish in the long jump of 5.49 meters.

Rookie duo Emily Pereira and Kelly Pereira both reached their personal-best finishes in their events. Emily earned sixth place in the 500-meter dash in her personal best time of 1:18.53. Kelly set her personal best in the 800-meter run, securing a third place finish.

The foursome: Dawson and Kelly Pereira paired up with sophomores Sam Lauro and Alexis Bivona for the distance medley relay. They overtook Saint Francis (PA) by almost a

solid four seconds, with a time of 12:23.16, ranking fifth place.

"Before our relay our coach told us we had to beat CCSU (Central Connecticut State University) in order to place fifth overall which motivated us to run our best," said Lauro Green and White headed into the final relay in close ties with Central Connecticut St.'s team scores.

Freshman Kayleigh Macchirole, senior Francyna Evins, Emily Pereira and sophomore Cameo Kirk teamed up for the 4X400 relay. Seahawks edged out Central Connecticut St. by finishing fourth with a time of 4:00:46.

Seahawk's one second victory put Wagner up by a half a point, earning a respectable fifth place overall victory.

Men's Meet

As for the men, Senior Zachary Spector recorded his personal best finish in the 5000-meter run. His time was 15:07.10.

Sophomore Daniel Zaccariello earned fifth place overall in the one mile run with a time of 15:07.10.

The Staten Island native then teamed up with senior Thomas Iannacone, rookie Dante Fernandez and sophomore Michael Baio in the distance medley relay. The foursome finished fifth with a time of 10:21.74.

Both women's and men track and field concluded their indoor season with their NEC conferences meet. Seahawks who have qualified to compete in the IC4A meet will take place on March 2.

Despite Villanova upset, Women's lacrosse hopes for a successful season

By **AUDRIANA MEKULA**
Wagnerian Staff Writer

When asked about what she expects from the upcoming Wagner women's lacrosse season, senior Chanel Briggins commented, "I expect nothing different than I do every year and that is to of course compete and ultimately win."

The Seahawks are prepared to start the season off strong, despite ranking ninth out of ten in a NEC poll. "Just means we have nothing to lose and everything to gain," said Briggins.

The roster currently shows seven seniors, many of whom had good seasons junior year. Senior attack Carolyn Clark is expected to deliver much offensive power this year after leading the team last year in scoring with 37 points and is in the Wagner all-time top 10 in several other statistical categories.

Senior midfielder Lauren Petrick also performed well last season, racking up a school record of 24 assists. Another key to the strong offense will be sophomore Sam Morin who last season as a freshman scored 20 goals and was named to the NEC All-Rookie team. On the defensive end, senior Casey Lindine looks to remain strong after a season in which she caused 12 turnovers and scooped up 22 ground balls.

The roster also shows seven freshmen this season, a third of the team's roster. "This freshman class has had a seamless transition to the collegiate game and continues to mesh well with the team as a whole," said head coach Cristina Curiale. The seven



Senior attack Carolyn Clark looks for an open pass.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Wagner- 7
Villanova- 16

girls all earned high-acclaim accolades for their successes in high school lacrosse. "They are extremely coachable and are always eager to learn," said Curiale.

Briggins commented, "The freshman are bomb. They're fast, agile, intense, and all around great additions to the team."

On Saturday, Wagner opened their season against Villanova and despite a strong effort by the team, the game ended in a loss with a score of 16-7. During the first half of play Villanova dominated with a score of 9-0 at half-time. "We did not connect as much as we would have like to or get into a rhythm during the first half," said Coach Curiale.

The Seahawks however came out in the second half strong and searching for a win, scoring five goals in a row, bringing the score to 9-5. Clark scored the first goal for the Seahawks just 1:50 into the game. Shortly after, senior Melanic Garces scored a goal off a pass from junior Erika Bulkn.

Clark used the momentum given to her by the team to score three goals in just 2:49. The run was broken by Justine Donodeo from Villanova, but was quickly answered by two consecutive goals from Morin and Clark, bringing the score to 10-7 in favor of Villanova with 13:35 left. Unfortunately, Villanova's Hannah Goforth then began the game-ending 6-0 run, followed by two goals from Jackie Frocaro and Donodeo and a goal in the final 44 seconds by Maria Bowman. Despite the loss, Clark tied her career high with five goals. "Villanova is a great team," commented Coach Curiale, "and I am proud of the girls to rise to the challenge and truly compete."

The Wagner women's lacrosse team plans to make this season a big one. "We have the most comprehensive team in recent years; each individual works hard day in and day out," said Curiale, "each member of the team has set high standards for themselves and for the team as a whole." When asked what she expected from the season, Briggins answered, "If everyone is on the same page and wants the same thing then success will be inevitable."

Jim Carone returns to Wagner baseball with a new title

By **SAMANTHA ALDER**
Wagnerian Staff Writer

After the departure of head baseball coach Joe Litterio over winter break, the upcoming spring season was quickly approaching and its future looked bleak. Litterio was with the program for 12 years and replacing him was going to be a challenge for the athletics department.

Wagner succeeded in finding a solid new addition to the program, a coach with ambition and experience, head coach Jim Carone. Carone was previously assisting Villanova's team before accepting the Wagner head coaching position.

Carone is no stranger to Wagner College. He was the pitching coach for the Seahawks back in 2006, and both of his sisters are now Wagner graduates. Overall, Carone thinks that



Monmouth alumnus says he is excited to be a part of Wagner athletics again.

Wagner is a great institution whether looking at athletics or academics.

Carone's was a key player at Monmouth University where he graduated in 2003. He pitched for their baseball team earning himself the NEC pitcher of the year award as well as multiple career highlights.

Carone's coaching resume began in 2004 at NJIT and then transitioned to Stevens Institute of Technology in 2005. Before his longer stay at Villanova, he also coached at Ryder University for two years. In addition to being the pitching coach at Villanova, he also was the camp director and recruitment coordinator. During his four years at Villanova, a number of his pitchers were selected into the MLB Player Draft.

Carone is excited for the upcoming season and he praises the great staff associated with the program both assistant coaches Chris Collazo, and Mike Consolmagno.

With many veterans returning to the field, young freshman filling up the roster, and a new head coach who has more than enough experience with baseball and the NEC, the future can bring nothing but good fortune for the Seahawks.

Support your Seahawks

Bring your Seahawk spirit to
Track and Field meets on Staten Island

April 7 Wagner Invite
April 18 Wagner Quad

Men's 2012 Lacrosse Schedule

2/12 Rutgers University @ 2:00 Home
 2/25 Providence College @ 1:00 Away
 2/28 Lafayette College @ 7:00 Away
 3/3 Saint Joseph's University @ 2:00 Home
 3/13 Virginia Military Institute @ 3:00 Away
 3/16 Mercer University @ 1:00 Away
 3/24 University of Hartford @ 2:00 Away
 3/31 Robert Morris University @ 1:00 Home
 4/3 Manhattan College @ 7:00 Home
 4/7 Quinnipiac University @ 1:00 Away
 4/14 Sacred Heart University @ 1:00 Home
 4/22 Bryant University @ 1:00 Away
 4/28 Mount Saint Mary's University @ 1:00 Home



Seniors sport their pink sneakers with their families.

Basketball moves into second in NEC

Senior night is celebrated with a win, tying the school record of 23 wins in one season.

By **KRISTINE FITZPATRICK**
Wagnerian Staff Writer

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Wagner- 90
FDU- 50

Wagner hosted Fairleigh Dickinson University on Feb. 18, 2012 and came out on top with a 90-50 victory. The win came on Senior Day when the Seahawks reached the school-record 23 wins in one season.

Friday's game earned Wagner the second place seat in the Northeast Conference (NEC) Championship. In addition they will be eligible to host a minimum of two games in the league tournament this season.

In the second half of play senior Chris Martin scored 13 points resulting in the shooting guard to become the thirty ninth member of the Wagner 1,000-point club. He finished the game at the 1,000 mark.

Junior Jonathon Williams took the offense by storm. He scored 20 points on 8-of-12 shooting plus six rebounds. Williams and the offense

shot an astounding 56 percent in the second half and 52.2 percent from the floor.

The game had everyone on the edge of their seats until Williams ended the 8-8 tie in the first half causing Wagner to gain a 20-10 lead.

During the last 11 minutes of the first half, Fairleigh Dickinson had 1-for-15 shooting and 12 missed shots.

The intense defense gave Wagner a 36-20 lead for intermission.

Starting the second half Wagner continued to display impeccable skills.

Sophomores Latif Rivers and Kenneth Ortiz along with freshman Marcus Burton reached double-figures. The Seahawks placed five in double figures for the second game in a row and fourth time this season.

Wagner's lead increased to 29 points while meeting its high of the season with 54 second-half points. Their shooting was at 56.8 percent from the floor in the second half as well.

Ortiz also had six assists and three steals over a 16-minute span. The Green and White reached 18 assists, which was the most in a game this season.

Mike Teel brings experience to a whole new level

By **EMILY REKSTIS**
Assistant Sports Editor

All-time leading passer in Rutgers University history, sixth-round NFL draft pick for the Seattle Seahawks and USA Today National Player of the Week in his senior year of college, Mike Teel, will be joining the Seahawks football coaching staff.

Before Wagner

Teel played college football at Rutgers University setting many accomplishments in only his four years there. A three-year starter and two-time captain, Teel graduated his senior year with 9,398 passing yards, which is the third highest total in Big East history, and 59 touchdown passes.

In his senior year of college alone, Teel achieved many records and recognition. He earned third place in Big East history with a school record of 3,418 passing yards and then tied for seventh with a school record of 25 touchdown passes. Teel was named Big East Player of the Year by the New Jersey Sports Writers Association.

In his final game of his senior year, Teel earned MVP of the 2008 Papa-Johns.com Bowl Game after defeating NC State 29-23. He led the Scarlet Knights to three bowl victories, which is the first quarterback to in Rutgers history.

Favorite football memory

On a Thursday night, Rutgers had just beat Louisville. Teel threw seven touchdown passes to win. At the time, Rutgers was only ranked 15 while Louisville was second in the country. "This was when Rutgers really made a name for themselves," explained Teel.

Steps to success

After college, Teel earned a spot on Seattle's active roster as a backup quarterback throughout the 2009 season after getting the sixth draft pick. He was third quarterback for all 16 games. After the Seahawks brought in a new coach, Teel was waived where the New England Patriots picked him up. A few months later he was waived again and the Chicago Bears picked him up until August 8, 2010.



Photo: Rutgers.com

Teel, who won three bowl games as a quarterback for Rutgers University, says he wants to bring his knowledge of the game of football to the Seahawks team.

Between his college career, his time with the NFL and his coaching career, Teel worked at several camps.

Teel was quarterback coach and pass game coordinator at Kean University for a year starting in 2011. In only his one year at the University, he helped lead the Cougars to a 10-2 record and make it to the playoffs before losing to Salisbury 49-47 in triple overtime. Kean also places No. 10 on the D3football.com Poll in 2011.

But what can Teel bring to Wagner?

"I want to be able to bring my knowledge of the game," said Teel, "I was fortunate enough to play as a quarterback so I understand the position."

Although Teel's most playing time was in college, he said that he learned more in his two years in the NFL than his four years at college. He hopes to bring his NFL experience and knowledge the Wagner quarterback position.

He also is bringing the knowledge

from his previous coaches to the field "I want to do what they did for me for the guys here," commented Teel. "They taught me how to be a man and how to play football. I hope I can do that for the guys here too."

Why Wagner?

Teel explains his decision to come to Wagner just made sense. "It was the logical step forward for my coaching career," Teel said, "I coached at a Division 3 school in New Jersey, now I want to advance the level of competition." The high competition level is not all the Teel looked for in Wagner. "I want to work with a scholarship program and learn more," he said "Wagner presents all three."

It was Teel's close relationship with former NY Giants quarterback and Super Bowl XXI MVP Phil Simms that kept Teel in contact with Wagner College and head coach Walt Hameline. Since middle school, Simms and Teel have known each other. When Teel worked a camp his sophomore year of college of Simms, he met Hameline. Since then, Teel has kept in touch with Hameline.

"Our quarterbacks will benefit from his wide array of experiences," Hameline added. "Mike is serious about the game, eager to make coaching his life's work, and I believe the success he enjoyed and his name recognition in this region will resonate in recruiting."

Experience so far at Wagner

Although only in the off-season, Teel is beginning to lay down his foundation for the rest of his coaching career as a Seahawk. "I spend 99 percent of my time with the coaches," said Teel.

"They are young but at the same time very knowledgeable, determined, and any other acronym you can think of," commented Teel.

On the other hand, it is not so easy to get to know the players. The football team is in their off-season so Teel has only met the full quarterback roster and a few other players.

"They are a good group of guys that seem to want to get better," said Teel, "I look forward to working with them."

Athletes of the Month



TRACK AND FIELD
DANIEL
ZACCARIELLO

SWIMMING AND
DIVING
MALLORY LEE



The Lord comforts those in mourning. May He bring you peace & content feelings at the thought of RJ's memory.
 God Bless
 ♥ Tyrik Miller
 (Wagner College 12')

RJ,
 Waiting to see you again and pick up where we left off.
 Thank you for everything.
 All my love,
 LIZ

This tragedy has been felt by all of the Wagner community. Although I did not know RJ, I know his spirit will live on in Wagner College. Something like this flies in the face of what we like to believe-that bad things only happen to bad people and death only happens to the elderly. It is unfortunatane, without a doubt, but I hope the Tillman family and all of those who knew him and loved him, know they have the support of all of the Wagner community. He will always live on in our memories and that is how a person lives eternally, in memories and hearts. However, please let the bereaved grieve. This is the only way a loss can ever be dealt with. May he rest in peace. God bless.
 -Emily Stein, senior

RJ it is always painful to see someone die so young, but even worse when it is someone who was so dedicated to helping others. I guess Heaven needs nurses too.
 Rest Peacefully
 Joy S., junior

I am so sorry for your loss. He always will have a special place in my heart. He was a great peer and he will always be on my mind when I am a nurse and when I care for my patients. He had such a passion for nursing and I will take that with me for the rest of my life.
 -Anonymous

My deepest condolences to the family of RJ. Although I did not know him, it inspired me to near about how he lived his life full of love and concern for others.
 I flia

RJ not a day goes by that I don't think about your kind words and amazing sense of humor. I still can't believe you are gone and I wish I could just wake up from an awful nightmare. You are gonna make an amazing nurse up there and I will think of you. We love you so much and can't express how sorry you are for your loss. RJ will live in my heart forever. I will think of you. We love you so much and can't express how sorry you are for your loss. RJ will live in my heart forever. I will think of you. We love you so much and can't express how sorry you are for your loss. RJ will live in my heart forever.
 Daniella Binsimhon

RJ was a really wonderful young man. I often saw him on the bus as we both commuted from Brooklyn on public transportation. He always had a smile on his face. He was dedicated to making it through this program. He was willing to make every sacrifice necessary. He will be missed and remembered. I pray his family will find strength in dealing with his loss.
 -Tisha Willacy, Second Degree, 2012



I feel truly blessed to have had the opportunity to have such an amazing & kind-hearted friend in my life. To RJ family, I can't even begin to express my sorrow for your loss. RJ will live in my heart forever. We love him and miss him very much.
 -Victoria Zawlsny

Guardian angel for all dedicated nursing students.
 Rest in peace.
 Victoria Felix
 Class of 2012

♥ Wagner's Angel ♥
 Peace be with you.
 -Stephanie Freguel Schmorel

Ronald RJ Tillman

May you rest peacefully
 -Danielle Cofreshman

At the Feb. 14 memorial service for their fallen peer, The Wagnerian asked students to put their condolences into words.

I didn't know RJ, but my thoughts go out to all his family and friends. It's so tragic that he was killed with his entire life ahead of him. May he rest in peace.
 -Heather Siegel, sophomore

Dear family of R.J.,
 I didn't know R.J., but with the whole Wagner Community I feel his loss deeply. It was very touching and inspiring to hear the words about him today (at his memorial). His life inspires me. Thank you for being here with us today and for sharing R.J. with Wagner College. I offer my deepest sympathies and prayers.
 Grace and peace,
 -Laura Barlament
 Editor Wagner Magazine

Ronald, While I did not know you personally, I am praying for you and your family. When I first heard about your death, tears came to my eyes as a member of our Wagner College community passed away. I walk past your memorial, covered with flowers on Howard Avenue, everyday on the way to student teaching and take a moment to stop, look, and say a prayer for you.
 -Caroline Kouretsos, senior

Although I did not know RJ, I know how it felt to experience the loss of a friend who is so young. I hope justice will be brought to his family. May he rest in peace.
 -Neredith Ketchum, sophomore

Rest in Peace, Ronald Tillman
 Muhammet Zihni
 Kardar

Wishing you God's blessings and strength as you go through this difficult time
 The Toscano Family