

The Wagnerian

Wagner College

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Staten Island, NY

Expensive books? Don't blame the store

By DIANE GANTENHAMMER
Wagnerian Staff Writer

You're in college now; the days of the cheap textbooks are gone forever.

Many students are tight on cash and while loans, grants and scholarships can help pay for tuition, there is not much to help with the cost of books.

According to collegeboard.com the national average cost of books at a four-year private college in 2003-2004 was \$843 per student, and each year it continues to rise.

Since most classes require one or more textbooks, a normal student will spend approximately \$300 to \$400 per semester on books alone. Some students may wonder what exactly it is that makes textbooks cost so much money.

A lot of time and effort is put into the creation of a textbook by the publisher and authors--often years of research to gather information, photos and charts. The cost of color, visual images and design must also be taken into account. After storage, delivery, stocking costs, and the profit margin of the bookstore are added up, the final price sticker may read higher than one thinks.

The high prices for your books start with the publisher. According to Rocco Macchia, Wagner College bookstore manager, though the store adds a 25 percent mark-up to textbooks, after paying for freight in and out of the store for new and used books, high electricity bills, and employee salaries, they are left with only a 3 to 4 percent profit.

In an effort to keep textbook prices low for students, Macchia says that the bookstore tries to get as many used books as they can. Used books cost 25 percent less than brand-new ones. But as professors often do not meet book order deadlines for their classes, the supply of used books available from wholesalers gets lower and lower as other college stores buy them up.

"The only way to get more used books in the store is if professors have their book orders in early, so we know which books to pay students half on when they sell them back," Macchia says, pointing to two order slips for textbooks that were handed

Continued on Page 2



Wagner students pose with children from an orphanage in El Salvador.

From Wagner to the world

Classes study in Bangladesh, El Salvador and New Orleans

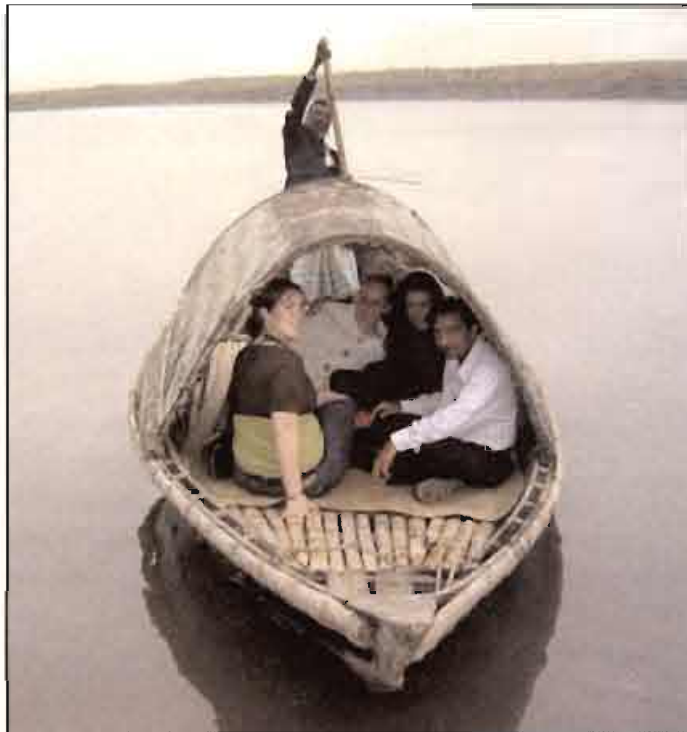
By ASHLEY FOLEY
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Over winter break, while most Wagner students were home having fun, sleeping late, or working, students and faculty from Wagner College were living and learning abroad. These students took part in "Expanding Your Horizons," which is a group of new winter intersession courses that Wagner tried out for the first time this January.

The program included three different courses that students could choose from. One was a chemistry course entitled, "Environmental Pollution and Health," there was a nursing course, "Comparative Health Care Practices," and a political science course called, "Service and Politics in El Salvador."

These courses are unlike any other courses ever taught here at Wagner before. Each program was designed for an academic experience with an off-campus component. The courses were developed to give students intercultural understanding, cultural risk taking and in depth knowledge acquisition.

Each course had an exciting location where the students were given hands on experience relat-



Dr. Alauddin and a group of students taking a boat ride while on their trip to Bangladesh.

CHEMISTRY IN BANGLADESH

The chemistry course got to go to Bangladesh and was headed by Dr. Mohammed Alauddin. There were three students that signed up for the class and went on the trip, Lindsay Lucas, a sophomore chemistry major, Angela Kahres,

ing to their course topic. The courses went to their respective sites for approximately two weeks. Each course counted as one unit on towards the student's spring semester schedule.

The main focus of each class was the onsite experience, and then throughout the spring semester, the students will meet with their professor and discuss their experiences.

Continued on Page 3

Not just for students: Who views your Facebook?

By MOLLY JUDGE
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Facebook is the latest craze spreading on college campuses nationwide, and even at some high schools. This free Web site allows students to create online profiles with course schedules, sexual preferences, photos, and contact information, as well as interact via "wall postings." As a result, it's quickly taking the place of e-mail and AOL Instant Messenger in many dorm rooms as the most fun and efficient way to keep in touch with pals, as well as find classmates and associates.

However, it is also becoming a unique way for parents, campus security, employers, and even the police to check up on students and their behavior.

As the nation's tenth most frequented site, according to the New York Times, students are literally obsessed with Facebook, often checking their profiles up to 20 times a day. According to Chris Hughes, a spokesman for the site, nearly three-quarters of Facebook users sign on at least once every 24 hours and the average user logs in six times a day.

With easy access to many individuals' willingly posted personal information, Facebook is now quickly becoming a powerful source that many school administrators, prospective employers and even government officials can use to check on people.

Just by surfing through profiles on the site, anyone can get the inside scoop on party locations, students violating school policies, or merely use it as a raw way to judge a person's character.

As reported in the New York Times, campus police at Washington University sign on to the Web site to search for prospective parties. With that knowledge, officials break up the parties when they are in full swing, charging multiple students with underage drinking fines.

Many employers are also catching on to the Facebook trend, perusing profiles of prospective employ-

Continued on Page 2

Who's looking at your Facebook?



I like Facebook because I found people from elementary school from years ago.

--Jessica Bajkowski



I'm not into those things, don't have time. But now I'm going to make one.

--Oleg Avanesov



It's neat to keep in touch with friends from back home.

--Ali Ridge



I just joined Facebook because everyone else did.

--Billy Byrd



I don't even know why I joined, but it is convenient to find people on campus.

--Brittany Johnson

Continued from Page 1

ees. So posting photos with suggestive poses or illegal activities (i.e. underage drinking) may jeopardize your job.

"I will definitely have to change some things on there [his profile] now that employers and even schools are looking at students' profiles," says Wagner student Craig Gortler.

Kyle Stoneman, a senior at Washington University, and his friends, retaliated to campus officials' use of Facebook by announcing on the site a party that secretly was a hoax. When campus officials

arrived at the party of 40 people, the only thing present were cookies and cupcakes with the word "beer" scrawled across them. They were left with no other option but to leave. Mr. Stoneman and friends proved their point.

Wagner student Laila Ashfaq, is one of the few non-Facebook users. "I'm not interested in it and I don't have the time," she says. "A lot of my friends are on Facebook but they all got in trouble for it." Laila has a family friend who was denied a job because of her Facebook profile.

As students and American citizens, you have the right to display

whatever information you please, but Facebook is definitely a site where one should consider the phrase, "less is more," keeping in mind who has access to it.

Students today are very generous with their personal information often giving away their cell phone numbers, birthdays, home town addresses, and more. That information alone can do damage. To up the ante, students don't often hold back when it comes to pictures that display heavy partying or the use of inappropriate language either.

Facebook can be very positive. It is a great way for students at a large

school, like NYU for example, to reach out and really find those who share similar interests. It also promotes the right to express oneself by bringing together groups such as Democrats and Republicans, animal activists, and even those addicted to the reality show Laguna Beach. It can also help locate fellow peers to obtain assignments or hold group discussions, which otherwise would be unavailable.

Despite its many positive features however, many parents and administrators are concerned with the downside of Facebook as more and more students are facing consequences for

belonging to the site.

Students have sole control over what is shown on their profiles. If one avoids displaying anything illegal, offensive, or inappropriate they will most likely be in the clear. To protect yourself from the downsides of Facebook there are a few precautions you can take.

Customize your privacy settings so that only specific people, preferably only the friends you confirm, can view your profile. Get rid of any photos or comments on your wall that are inappropriate or illegal. Always remember that Facebook is a public site.

"Students think we're the bad guys, but a lot of teachers order costly books students don't need."

-- Rocco Macchia, bookstore manager

Book breakdown: Where do high text prices come from?

Continued from Page 1

in less than a week before classes started (the order deadline for the spring semester's books was Oct. 15).

Wagner also offers a 10 percent discount on books to students who have already paid their tuition in full for that semester.

To avoid sticking students with books that they don't need, the bookstore also allows full refunds with a receipt until one week after the first day of classes.

"Students think we're the bad guys, but a lot of teachers order costly books students don't need. But if we don't have a book that's required, we get in trouble," Macchia says.

Another way the bookstore tries to cut cost for students is by negotiating with publishers to sell unbound books at half price. Rather than pay for an expensive hard cover, students simply purchase a binder of their own to clip the book pages in.

If you don't mind the prices but do mind the first-day frenzy, students can reserve their textbooks early online, at www.wagner.bkstore.com, for a convenient pick-up. This also gives you first dibs on used books.

If the prices in the Wagner College bookstore seem overwhelming, there are many alternatives that can help you save money. If you and your roommate or close friend are taking the same class, you are in luck, since it is fairly simple to share textbooks. If you are taking a class that requires the purchase of novels, you could search for it at a local library and take it out while the class is reading



Photo by Sophie Johnson

It's the publisher, not the bookstore, that sets prices.

Price check

Here's the cost of several popular textbooks from the college bookstore, compared to online discount Web sites:

"Calculus," Anton, Bivens, & Davis, 8th ed.

Store: \$157.35 new, \$118.05 used

Online: \$54.99 new, half.com

"History of Art," Janson, Rev. 6th ed.

Store: \$115 new, \$86.25 used

Online: \$69.99 new, half.com

"Longman Anthology of British Literature,"

Damrosch, 3rd ed., Vol. 2

Store: \$71.45 new, \$53.60 used

Online: \$49.95 new, half.com

"The Communist Manifesto," Marx

Store: \$15 new, \$11.25 used

Online: free!, marxists.org

it. If you know the ISBN number, edition, title, and author of all your books, all you have to do is compare prices online and save. Popular sites include amazon.com, cheapesttextbooks.com, textbookx.com, bookbyte.com, campusbooks.com, allbookstores.com, eCampus.com and half.ebay.com. Although these Web

sites may take a while to ship out the books, it is often well worth it to order early and save a lot of money.

To see how much others are spending on texts, **check out Page 11** to see students with their stacks of books--and to guess how much they paid.

Out with the old, in with the new: This semester's student body changes

Every semester, college students all around the country decide to transfer to a different school.

This semester, Wagner welcomed **41 new transfer students**. Most of them were undergraduate, while some were new freshmen and a few second-degree students.

43 students transferred out of Wagner to another school this semester. Typical reasons for transferring often include homesickness, deciding on a major or program the school did not offer or excel in, or just deciding another college is a better fit.

-- Ashley Foley

AD MANAGER WANTED!

The Wagnerian is looking for a reliable, outgoing, team-oriented, and business-savvy student to run our new advertising department!

Enhance your public relations skills, make local business ties, and boost your resume!

If you have what we're looking for, come to our next meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 8:30 p.m. in Union 204.

For more information e-mail us at wagneriannews@aol.com, or call extension 3110.

Expanding their horizons: Professors take students abroad over winter break

Continued from Page 1

a junior English major, and Zeinab Choucair, a junior chemistry major.

This course focused on the air and water pollution problems in Bangladesh and the health concerns it is causing. The students visited villages and saw the effects the pollution is having on people living there. They then went into the lab and worked with air and water samples that contained the pollutant.

The students had the opportunity to interview arsenic experts, attend an International Conference, and watch Dr. Alauddin give presentations as well. "We packed so much into so little time," said Lindsay Lucas, who was full of information and smiled from ear to ear as she talked about her amazing trip. Not only did the students get to learn about the pollution and its affects, they also learned about the culture as a whole.

"When we arrived in Bangladesh, Dr. Alauddin bought all three of us traditional Bangladesh garments called salwarkameez. The garment consisted of a dress and a pair of high heeled shoes, and we wore them many times during the trip," said Lucas.

They also went to the zoo, the National Museum of Bangladesh, they visited markets, and Dr. Alauddin took them numerous times to meet and spend time with his own family.

"People were extremely hospitable, they treated us like queens and even the poor offered us food. It made you question who was better off, the U.S. or Bangladesh," she said.

Because the group was so small, Lucas said they were very connected and had their moments of tears.

"It was a life changing experience that has caused me to look at the world a different way; it has humbled me," she said.

POLITICAL SCIENCE IN EL SALVADOR

The second course that went abroad was the political science course, taught by Dr. Steven Snow. There were seven students that went on this trip: they included Kyle Karker, Megan Benson, Megan Higgins, Kat Pungdumri, Kim Simek, Elizabeth Hoelck and Camille Karimzad.

This group went to El Salvador and they volunteered at an orphanage for children between the ages of five to fourteen.

While at the orphanage the students spent time playing with the kids and working in the garden. The children did not speak a lot of English so sometimes it was very difficult to communicate.

Kim Simek, a junior who went on the trip said, "A lot of people we



From top left clockwise: Lindsay Lucas, Angela Kahres, and Zeinab Choucair meeting residents of a village in Bangladesh; Camille Karimzad hanging out with some kids from an orphanage in El Salvador; Dr. Alauddin showing the comparison between the clean and polluted water in some Bangladesh villages, and Dr. Steven Snow and the entire group of political science students enjoying a meal out during their trip to El Salvador.

encountered only spoke Spanish and that caused some misunderstandings when we were getting our tasks at the orphanage."

Besides the language confusions, Dr. Snow said, "The people were extremely friendly and outgoing."

When not working at the orphanage, the students got to do a lot of sightseeing in the countryside and they got to go to the beach a few times as well.

"We saw and did more than we ever expected. It was a truly rewarding experience."

--Dr. Paula Tropello

While working with the children, the Wagner students had them draw pictures that they then brought back to the U.S. with them.

They hope to turn them into cards that will then be sold on the Wagner Web site, sending all proceeds to the orphanage.

The trip taught students less about political science than it did about helping people, Simek said. She was so taken with the experience, she says, "We would all do it again in a

heartbeat."

When asked what he thought about the trip, Dr. Steven Snow said, "I was extremely happy with the trip and I was happy with the students' reactions to the whole situation, because it can be very tough when going abroad."

NURSING IN NEW ORLEANS

The third course to step out of the classroom was the nursing course that actually stepped right into a natural disaster zone. Four students, all nursing majors, Roshan Singh, Maureen Gavin, Kinneday Ngole, and Alysson SanDefilippo, along with Dr. Paula Tropello, drove down to New Orleans for 10 days.

While there, the students worked very closely with Catholic Charities, which is a part of PACI. They relieved staff that had been working down there, and they got to see first-hand the damage that everyone else has only seen on television.

"We had tours of everything," said Dr. Tropello. Students got to talk to residents that had lost everything. There are no groceries stores, no

libraries, no schools, gas stations, nothing.

"When you see the Ritz Carlton in bad shape, you know things are bad," said Tropello.

People that are in the devastated city right now to help with reconstruction efforts are living in hotels and cruise ships. 60 percent still have no electricity.

Tropello observed that, "Everyone is on the same level now, everyone is seeking that same thing--an answer."

While the students were in New Orleans, they were able to sit in on a press conference the mayor was giving about the new urban plan for the city. To sum it up, the mayor said he is calling off all construction and renovation. Not only did everyone lose everything down in New Orleans, now they have no plan or direction to go in and start over.

"It's a pulverized city and at the press conference it was also made known that there will not be time to rebuild the levees before the next hurricane season," said Tropello.

The students on this trip were blown away with all they saw and did. They were able to hand countless donations which they had

brought with them. They gave out clothes, medical journals, gloves, and personal hygiene kits that were donated by the Wagner College Bookstore.

"We saw and did more than we ever expected," said Tropello. "It was a truly rewarding experience."

All three trips were extremely successful. All three faculty members said they would definitely do the trip again. The trips were very educational and they really touched the lives of those that went. Hopefully Wagner will decide to continue the "Expanding Your Horizons" courses and add more courses that will go to different places within the U.S. and abroad, so more and more students can take advantage of these wonderful experiences.

Editor's clarification:

Dr. Mohammed Alauddin was misquoted in a Nov. 22 article about his work as a Fulbright Scholar. The statement should have been that in some slums in his native Bangladesh where people cook indoors, the air pollution indoors, standing over these fires for several hours, can be equated to smoking one pack of cigarettes.

Faculty and students rate ratemyprofessor.com

Should anonymous comments carry weight?

By VICTORIA BROWN
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Curiosity is provoked each semester at Wagner College as students begin to schedule their courses. Which professors are easy graders; which are difficult? Which courses are interesting?

These are just a few of the thoughts that are racing through the minds of Wagner students. As such curiosities arise, students often find themselves scrambling to find the answers.

A significant number of students find themselves turning to ratemyprofessor.com, a Web site which allows students to anonymously share their opinions of the college's professors.

Students can post comments as well as rate the professors' overall quality and ease on a scale of 0 to 5. Colored smiley faces found next to the professors' names represent good, average, and poor quality. In addition students can post a red chili pepper next to a professor to indicate that they are physically "hot."

Students can visit the website in order view the comments that have been posted by their classmates.

The majority of Wagner profes-

sors that are aware of the Web site and have visited it in the past find it to be completely unreliable. Such professors reported two major issues with the reliability of the site.

The first issue being that anyone has the ability to post a comment for any professor. One assistant professor of business reported finding comments regarding a course that she never taught, while a chemistry professor admitted, "I rated one of my colleagues just for fun, and even gave them a chili pepper."

The second major concern that Wagner professors have with the reliability of the Web site is that the comments often only reflect the two extremes.

Professors have noted that students seem to either post praises or loathes.

Such an observation can be confirmed by the Wagner students. The few students that claimed that they had posted a comment on the Web site stated that it was due to the fact that they had strong feelings for a specific course or professor.

One student reported that the website was a way for him to vent over a bad professor or commend a good one. While many students feel that the comments posted on ratemypro-

fessor.com are merely opinions, some students do feel that the site is a useful tool when selecting classes.

It is agreed by the majority of both professors and students that ratemyprofessor.com is not the most useful tool for determining which professor or course to schedule. Yet many professors do feel that the students should be able to access information regarding a professor.

Assistant Professor of History, Dr. Mark Elliott, suggested that Wagner post the official college evaluations filled out by students every semester on the Internet.

"When I taught at NYU, the official class evaluations were published on-line and I think the fear of being embarrassed publicly on the site probably motivated a lot of professors to take their jobs more seriously and treat their students with more respect. I believe making evaluations public actually raises the quality of teaching," Dr. Elliott claims.

Allowing students to access the official Wagner College evaluations would provide students with the appropriate information needed when selecting courses. Such a resource would end the use of unreliable comments that are posted on ratemyprofessor.com.

"You shouldn't have to be worried about finding a seat. I'm here to learn, not to play musical chairs."

-- Chris Allen, on small class sizes

Cramped classes leave students searching for seats

By AMANDA HOOSHANGI
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Are classes getting bigger at Wagner College? It depends who you ask. Some may think that because of the increase in students attending Wagner that class sizes have increased, but that is not the case.

So what do the students, faculty and administration seem to think?

There are students and faculty who believe that Wagner has maintained that small school atmosphere inside the classroom. Although classes may seem full, they are not necessarily crowded. There are also students who do believe that classes have increased and that space is scarce.

NO ROOM IN THE CLASSROOM

Chris Allen, a junior science and education major, thinks classes are overcrowded, based on his first day of biology class this semester.

"The first thing I saw were people leaving the class to get a seat. It was such an inconvenience," he says. "You shouldn't have to be worried about finding a seat. I'm here to learn, not to play musical chairs."

Molly Judge, a junior English major agrees. "Three out of my five classes are packed; I mean three to four students at a desk, and some even without. For a school that stresses personal ties between professors and students, something doesn't seem right," she says.

It is no surprise that there are certain classes that will fill up right away. Whether it is a requirement for a major, a prerequisite class, a popular teacher, or a class that sparks everyone's interest, many sections reach maximum capacity long before registration ends.

OVERBOOKED COURSES

In past years we have seen freshmen camping outside of the registrar all night in order to get a slot in a class that was almost filled. Theresa Cristofaro, college Registrar, says, "We're trying the best we can to assist students and faculty."

Having small classes is a major benefit while attending a small school. Professors encourage students to participate and get to know their students, however larger classes makes it difficult for this to happen.

In one case this semester the registrar made an error in the maximum amount of students allowed to regis-

ter for an intermediate learning community. Students were forced to drop these classes that they were supposedly guaranteed, due to overcrowding. This is upsetting for not only the faculty who want the ILC to be small, but for the students who are left to search for classes to complete their schedule. Completing an ILC is an academic requirement, part of the school's curriculum, needed to be completed before senior year.

Dr. Alison Smith, a history professor for the ILC, explained that it was a mistake made by the registrar's office. Dr. Smith also shared her thoughts on smaller classes, saying when there are "over 25 students the whole character of the class changes."

STICKING TO THE LIMIT

Most faculty members agreed that they enjoy teaching smaller classes and haven't noticed overcrowding in the classrooms. Dr. Walter Kaelber, who has been teaching religion courses at Wagner for the last 34 years, says, "Class sizes have gotten smaller over the years." He added that crowding can't really be happening too much because of the caps maximizing the number of students allowed to take the class.

Does the increasing number of students affect the size of classes? According to Angelo Araimo, vice president for enrollment, this year Wagner hit the capacity for enrollment. "More students came to Wagner than we anticipated," he says.

He also mentioned that Wagner is looking to add more faculty for upcoming years, which will provide more classes offered.

Despite the fact that some classrooms are full, some people believe that classes are still small, at least as compared to larger universities where students are just a number in a crowd.

Kevin Richard, a sophomore economics major, says, "Wagner does a good job of keeping class sizes small; better than most schools."

Matt Hedge, a junior political science major, and chairman of the committee on academics legislation and student rights, agrees.

"I speak to a number of students on campus about differing problems they have with their classes, and I have never received a complaint about class sizes," he says.

"Really, Wagner students are more worried about classes being too small, so they can fall asleep during class without getting caught!" Hedge jokes.

"What can I say about the laundry machines... that don't work. Or the elevators... that don't work."

-- Marc Sachse

Students complain about HVH maintenance upkeep

By ALLIE RIVERA
Wagnerian Staff Writer

It's true that all buildings have maintenance problems, but many Wagner students are beginning to feel that Harbor View's issues have become too much. With seemingly endless malfunctions, with the elevators and laundry machines, do these students have legitimate reasons for complaint?

"Well, what can I say about the laundry machines... that don't work. Or the elevators... that don't work," says freshman theatre major Marc Sachse. "Oh, so much to say..."

Sachse was not alone in his complaints. According to Andrew Keating, a junior English major, "I've been here two and a half years, and I've been seeing the same problems since 2003."

Many of the students interviewed said that they felt like the laundry machine problems were ripping them off, or they've begun taking the stairs in order to avoid difficulties with the elevators. "I've been stuck in these elevators twice!" cried distressed freshman Sophie Johnson, an Arts Administration major.

Marc Sachse, however, had more he wanted to say about the laundry



Photo by Sophie Johnson

Constantly malfunctioning washing machines are among the complaints of Harbor View residents.

room. "Let's talk about the time when I had to go back to my room and get my flip flops because there was an inch of water on the floor! Or the time there was water shooting out of the corner like a fountain!" he cried out in a bitterly sarcastic tone. "Oh yes, I love the laundry room."

Another concern that many students expressed was the fact that they felt their time had been wasted,

along with their money.

Among all the students who commented on this exasperating situation, junior Andrew Keating was able to best sum it up: "There are too many maintenance problems with too few solutions."

Hopefully, a more effective solution can be found for both the good of Wagner students, and their wallets.

SGA SPOTLIGHT

On behalf of Student Government, welcome back for another fun-filled semester. ACE, WAGCAB, and SGA have put together an exciting activities schedule for the month of February-- here it is!

- Feb. 1-10 - Fraternity Recruitment
- Feb. 6 - ACF event, "Female to Male Transgenders and Femininity/Masculinity," at 6:30 p.m. in Main Hall 44.
- Feb. 6-10 - Sorority Recruitment
- Feb. 7 - SGA meeting at 4:30 p.m. in Spiro 4
- Feb. 8 - St. Jude's letter-writing campaign
- Feb. 8 - Movie night, "Hotel Rwanda," Spiro 2
- Feb. 9 - "Hotel Rwanda" discussion, midnight in the Coffeehouse
- Feb. 10 - Movie night, "Get Rich or Die Tryin'"
- Feb. 12 - "Flowers, Nightingales, and Coffee: Baroque Cantatas and Sonatas for Soprano, Flute, and Harpsichord," at 3 p.m. in the Campus Hall Performance Center
- Feb. 13 & 14 - Blood Drive
- Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day!
- Feb. 15 - 99 Nights (Seniors only!)
- Feb. 15 - Movie night, "Glory"
- Feb. 21 - Keith Marks, Dining Hall at lunchtime
- Feb. 21 - SGA meeting, Spiro 4 at 4:30 p.m.
- Feb. 22 - ACE event, "Social Work and Gay/Lesbian Families,"
- Feb. 22 - Wagner College Theatre's "Into the Woods" opens
- Feb. 22 - Trip to see Showtime at the Apollo
- Feb. 22 - Movie night, "Hustle and Flow"
- Feb. 23 - NYC Broadway trip, "Altar Boyz"
- Feb. 27 - Sylvia's Soul Food
- Feb. 28 - The Wolf Pack, "Blues for Fat Tuesday," at 6 p.m. in the Coffeehouse

Dates to Remember:

- April 1 - Songfest
- April 22 - Wagnerstock

Provided by: Jeff Logan, SGA Secretary

A feel-good post-grad option

By JUSTYNA SUROWIEC
Wagnerian Staff Writer

The four years within these ivy-covered buildings are supposed to teach students the lessons they will use throughout their lifetime. After these four fast-paced years, students are to feel confident in what they have learned, and move into the world with the grace and ease of graduates with a bright future. Many will move back to the safe confines of hometowns and begin working. Others will move on to graduate school to further train for what some may call their dream job, and yet others may stay within the familiar bright lights, loud subway roars, and speeding taxis of New York City.

For those not ready to enter the job world or putting off grad school decisions, volunteering is a third option that is growing in popularity for new graduates.

There are limitless activities and programs that college graduates can utilize, and over the past couple of years, students are seeking more and more alternatives to the career path. It's an opportunity to make a difference in the world now, gain life experience, and yes, to build up a resume.

Students can take a positive step forward while still deciding what they want to do with their life.

Some of the programs that have become quite popular among college grads are Americorps, the Peace Corps, Teach for America, and the Global Volunteer Network.

David Rahner, a senior theater major, has decided to become involved in Americorps. Volunteers enlisted in the Americorps are sent

to one of a number of places in the United States, including California, Washington, D.C., South Carolina, Maryland, and Arizona.

Upon reaching his own destination, Rahner will train in a military-style boot camp, where he will become certified in CPR, disaster relief, firefighting, and corrections, as well as obtaining a trucking license.

Rahner says his choice will be a great experience, adding that he has "always wanted to go to boot camp, but never wanted to fight in a war."

When participating in Americorps, Rahner will be subject to performing many different jobs. These jobs vary from working at a soup kitchen to helping the homeless, to helping dealing with natural disasters, and much more.

Volunteers enlisted in the Peace Corps live and work in developing countries all over the world. They work to improve education, health, business, and the environment in needier countries across the globe.

People who participate in the Global Volunteer Network also do many jobs benefiting the good of humanity. Volunteers travel to Africa to teach AIDS education, help at refugee camps, or help with environmental conservation. In India, Nepal, and other Asian countries, volunteers help rebuild homes in devastated communities. In Russia and Romania, volunteers help disabled children, while in Ecuador and El Salvador, volunteers participate in programs to help endangered animals and plants.

Another program that has been receiving national acclaim is called Teach for America, which according to the Web site teachforamerica.org, has enlisted over 14,000 volunteers since 1990 and has helped over two

million children.

The volunteers involved with Teach for America move to rural or urban areas, where the quality of education is moderate, at best. The volunteers help students in all academic fields and inspire them to further pursue their education, and actually graduate high school, with the hopes that these children may one day go to college.

Rahner believes volunteer programs can teach more than any "normal" working experience and environment. He feels that he should utilize these programs while he is still young and able to help others. Rahner also thinks post-graduation is the most opportune time to participate in volunteer programs because most college students don't have a lot of restrictions and ties, such as a family or a career.

Like most other volunteers, Rahner, who lives thirty minutes away from Wagner, will most likely gain a sense of independence because he is moving across the country to an unfamiliar environment. He also hopes to gain humility and an appreciation for the things that he already has. When he comes back, he hopes to focus on his acting career, with a new lens on life.

Ghandi once said, "We must be the change we wish to see in the world."

By volunteering, recent graduates can change the world one tiny miracle at a time.

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The Wagnerian

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Flexicash could be more flexible

By ALEXANDRA DeARMON
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Flexicash—what is it good for? According to most Wagner students, next to nothing. It's useful when a purchase goes a few cents over the \$4.50 allotted for meal blocks, or if students are short on cash and crave an iced mocha from the Hawk's Nest Starbucks.

However, in dealing with no cash and mountains of dirty laundry, or when rushing to get a quick soda from a vending machine on the way to class, Flexicash does nothing. While Flexicash was essentially designed as a feature of Wagner College's various meal plans, when compared with other schools and the wide range of purchases students can make just by swiping their ID cards, Flexicash seems downright inflexible.

New York University, for example, has an extensive list, which can be found on their Web site at www.nyu.edu/nyucard, of businesses around Manhattan that accept students' "NYU cards."

McDonald's, The Best of New York Food, Java Lava Coffee, several beauty salons, even Om Yoga

Center are all NYU Flexi friendly. In addition, many businesses that don't accept NYU cards as full payment, grant discounts if a student shows his or her ID card.

Students can also use their cards to do their wash, and make vending machine purchases.

Granted, NYU is a much larger school than Wagner, both in size and location. While Wagner is contained atop Grymes Hill, NYU is spread throughout all of Manhattan.

Even so, why should students at Wagner College not receive similar discounts and benefits in the community? Or at least throughout campus, such as in the laundry room?

"It'd be great to at least be able to use Flexi in the bookstore," says Jackie Saliski, an undeclared freshman. "Sometimes you just want something small and minute, like candy or gum, and you don't really feel like getting money out."

Many others seem to agree that it would simply be easier to use their ID cards for all on-campus purchases and services.

Though Wagner appears to be behind in the Flexi race, there is some help on the way for cash-strapped, ID carrying students. SGA is currently in the process of developing "SGA Discount Cards," which

will allow those with a valid Wagner student ID card to be eligible for discounts at various participating businesses around Staten Island.

Morgan Scott, a sophomore senator and the head of the SGA Student Life Committee, which is trying to develop discount cards. She says that the idea of SGA discount cards has been in the works all year. SGA is still in the process of talking to different businesses and convincing them to participate in the project, but hopes to put the cards into action by the end of spring 2006.

"The idea is that the cards would benefit not only Wagner students but the businesses as well," says Scott. SGA intends for the cards to generally get students out and about in the Staten Island community a bit more.

"You should be able to use Flexicash to buy Metro cards," gushes Sophie Johnson, a freshman arts administration major. "That would be amazing."

Perhaps that's a bit ambitious for the time being; not even the amazingly extensive NYU cards can be used to purchase subway fare.

Not a bad idea, however; maybe the SGA can pitch the discount card idea to MIA for next year.

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

That's Entertainment

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

Are you ready to rock?

By LAURA GARDNER
Entertainment Editor

Throw up those devil horns and get ready to ROCK!

For those students fortunate enough to have a dorm room equipped with a Playstation 2, it is time to unleash your inner rock star. Gaining popularity quickly, even amongst infrequent gamers is the new video game "Guitar Hero." The game comes with a two-foot-long guitar-shaped controller complete with five fret buttons, a strum button, and a whammy bar. It sells for about \$70 at most video game stores and online.

Musically-inclined or not, playing "Guitar Hero" closely resembles the feel of playing a real guitar. The object of the game is to begin one's music career at a hole-in-the-wall venue (i.e. CBGB's) and work your way up in true rock fashion: Being the main act at a sold-out summer festival. The game satisfies every kind of rocker: You can choose to play as any character from a mohawked punk-rocker to a goth goddess. Buy a second controller and challenge your friends to a guitar duel.

The best part of the game is the music: there are 30 different songs the player can shred to, from Jimmy Hendrix to The Ramones to Franz Ferdinand. Who hasn't wanted to mimic Eric Clapton's wailing solos from back in the heyday of Cream? Just a warning: The addiction factor of this game is extremely high—I don't recommend trying to conquer your performance the night before a big paper.

The levels of gaming run from "easy" to "very hard," but players beware: Even Jimmy Page would falter on the hardest level. Challenging yourself allows for access to secret guitar skins and even cooler characters to choose from including the Grim Reaper himself.

So turn that amp up to 11 (because 11 is louder than 10) and rock out on your Playstation 2. Just make sure to warn your neighbors first...



The guitar-shaped controller is modeled after the Gibson SG

'Brokeback' leaves audiences speechless

By ALLIE RIVERA
Wagnerian Staff Writer

This beautiful love story begins in 1963 in Wyoming with the meeting of two men looking for work, Ennis del Mar and Jack Twist. After a very rough introduction, the two are given the task to move a herd of sheep over Brokeback Mountain without letting any get attacked by wolves. As the days turn to weeks, the two men begin to form a strong friendship, talking and telling stories to help the time pass.

On one particularly cold evening, Ennis decides that the sheep would be all right for one night and stays at the camp by the fire. Once the warmth of the embers die down and the frigid night air rolls in, Jack tells Ennis to join him in the tent to escape the bitter cold. That night, their relationship jumps to a new level when they become very intimate with each other. After their first encounter, the two men realize that they share a passion that cannot be denied, and begin to embrace their love openly in the isolation of Brokeback Mountain. When the summer ends, however, the men are forced back into the reality of life in the 1960s. The two men go their separate ways, marry, and start families, but all is changed four years later when Ennis receives a postcard from Jack. Suddenly thrown back into their undeniable passion, Jack and Ennis try to continue their lives as normally as possible, meeting up with one another a few times a year to return to Brokeback Mountain. After almost twenty years of their infrequent meetings, Jack begins



Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger star as cowboys in director Ang Lee's "Brokeback Mountain"

voicing his desire to live openly with Ennis, though Ennis knows that would be impossible. As time passes, the two men's lives move forward, and they experience an event that will change their lives forever.

"Brokeback Mountain" left me speechless as I left the theatre. Never before had I seen a movie so thought provoking, touching, and heart wrenching that I was still in an utter state of shock, sadness, and overall amazement long after the credits rolled. The film's timeless story of a forbidden love was so beautifully written, acted and filmed, that its quiet power hits you all at once. Although the theme of two men falling in love is very controversial even in 2006, the story is so brilliantly created that the film earned a Golden Globe for Best Film (Drama). I strongly recommend this movie, not only because of the phenomenal filming and excellent cast, but the strong, important message shown through it: Love is a force of nature.

Book Review

'Marley and Me'

By SARAH MCQUERRIE
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Ask any dog owner and they will tell you how difficult it is to verbalize how much their four-legged friend really means to them.

A dog really is man's best friend and John Grogan's novel "Marley and Me" gives a voice to the many enamored dog owners of the world. "Marley and Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog," is a funny, sad,

and thought-provoking look at a young family's life and the vast impact the family dog had on it. The book tells the tale of Marley, a hundred-pound cyclone whose favorite pastime is chewing everything in sight. The book is both hilarious and poignant as Marley and his frustrated owners are kicked out of obedience class, struggle to find a dog sitter, and share the grief of a miscarriage. If you have ever loved an animal, destructive or saintly, small or mighty, "Marley and Me" is for you.



Big Apple Bites

Haveli

100 second Ave., between 5 St. & 6 St.

This great Indian restaurant never fails to please. They have reasonable prices and fantastic cuisine. Located conveniently close to Union square, take the 4, 5 or 6 to 14 St. and Haveli is a short scenic walk away.

Pietrasanta

Pietrasanta is a fantastic weekend brunch spot for great Italian omelettes, homemade bread and fantastic mimosas all for \$10. Located on Ninth Ave. and 47 St., Pietrasanta is within walking distance from the I, C, or E lines on 50 St.

Corner Bistro

While the spot is a little on the small side, the atmosphere is great for a group of two or three. The jukebox plays two songs for a dollar, and the juicy burgers (the bistro burger is the most popular) are all less than \$7. For those 21+ there is a great bar! A fun place; bring your friends!

331 W. 4 St. and Jane, West Village

Subway: A,C,E,L to 14/8 Ave. stop

Phoebe's Café

323 Graham Ave., Brooklyn

Subway: L to Graham Ave.

This hipster haven serves up hearty vegetarian fare that even a meat-lover can appreciate. Two sandwiches to try: the avocado and tomato on ciabetta, or the cheddar-pesto grilled cheese on twelve grain. The great thing about Phoebe's is that the food and the atmosphere manage to stay simply good and amazingly unpretentious in a decidedly too-cool neighborhood.

Veselka

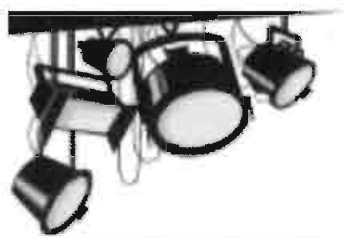
144 Second Ave., (at 9 Street)

Subway: 6 to Astor Place

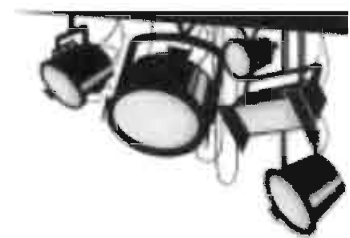
This East Village Ukrainian restaurant is always packed for a reason—the food is amazing. The soup's good (Don't like borscht? Try mushroom barley.), the bread's good (famous challah), and the pierogies are even better (get a combination plate and try them all!). For lively atmosphere and a great place to knock back a beer, Veselka is definitely worth a try.

Big Nick's Burger and Pizza Joint

Big Nick's offers a 14 page menu, 24/7. With a cozy atmosphere and fabulous food, Nick's is perfect for college kids! Most meals are under \$10, tip included. Between 76 St. & 77 St. on Broadway. Take the I, 9 to 79 St. and walk south two blocks.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Theatre Previews & Reviews

'Barefoot' revival is as refreshing as a walk in the...

By **BEN IZZO**
Wagnerian Staff Writer

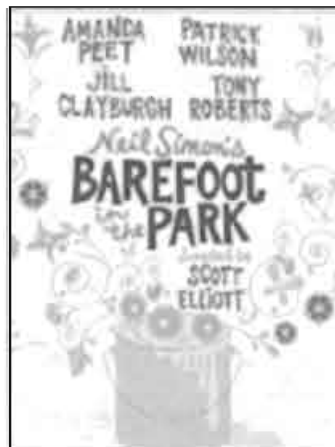
Whenever a new revival of an old chestnut opens on Broadway it can leave one asking, "Where are all the new plays?"

Fortunately, the new production of Neil Simon's "Barefoot in the Park" doesn't answer that question, but it completely erases it from one's mind. This production is sweetly warm and surprisingly intimate, at the same time that it's surprisingly contemporary. 'Barefoot' is a refreshing breath of air in an otherwise stale season of plays, making one realize that not only did Mr. Simon write plays other than the "The Odd Couple," he also wrote much better plays.

The story centers around Corie Bratter (Amanda Peet) and her husband Paul Bratter (Patrick Wilson), newlyweds who have been married for only six days, just starting to get used to the rigors and hardships of

married life. The play begins with them moving into their unfurnished apartment (sparsely and then later in the show not so sparsely designed by Derek McLane) with Corie determined to fix it up. Not only do they have their new life to contend with, but Corie's crazy mother Mrs. Banks refuses to leave them alone. In addition, they still have their crazy neighbor Victor Velasco who is continually mixing things up. If you think this sounds exactly like a recipe for a sitcom, you're right. However, in true Simon fashion, he manages to take a completely predictable and zany situation ripe for comedy and turn it into something much more human and interesting.

What also separates the play from being a traditional episodic sitcom structure are the incredibly strong performances the director Scott Elliott has culled from his incredible ensemble of actors. Patrick Wilson turns in a winning comic performance as the put-upon husband Paul,



"Barefoot in the Park" is showing at the Cort Theatre, 138 W. 48 St., between Broadway and Sixth Avenue.

who has to contend with the wackiness of his wife and her extended family. Mr. Wilson's return to the stage from Hollywood is one of the most welcome surprises of the season and fully convinces us that he should visit much more often. Ms.

Peet turns in a very sweet, naive performance as Paul's zany wife, Corie. Despite a bit of timidity in her performance at an early preview of the play, I believe that by opening night her timidity will blossom into a self assurance that will only enhance all the wonderful qualities Ms. Peet embodies on stage. Jill Clayburgh is fantastic as Corie's mother Ethel Banks, living up to her impressive theatre pedigree. Every time she enters the stage, before speaking a word, the audience is right there with her laughing up a storm. Tony Roberts is suitably over the top as Victor Velasco, completely pitch perfect, fitting in with the rest of the cast.

One of the most interesting things about the direction of this revival is that despite how large all of these parts are, Elliott has streamlined the piece so well and the cast truly works so well together, that the emphasis, instead of falling directly on the newlyweds, becomes more

focused on the love and the relationships among all types of people.

Elliott makes a smart choice by setting the show in the 1960s and presenting it in such a way that it still resonates with modern audiences. By not referencing the time in the playbill and never making overt reference to it within the dialogue, the show remains very much set in the 60's (via Isaac Mizrahi's stunning costume design) but never takes the safe road of becoming a strict period piece. If anything, the show has become especially relevant in these times where marriage is in such a precarious situation. With divorce slowly evolving from a necessity to a fall-back option, the show is particularly relevant in so much that Simon deals with marriage being about love and how one has to fight for that love.

With the fight for love in such a short supply these days you can head over to the Cort theatre and just take a nice stroll through the 'Park.'

Harry Connick, Jr. will add star power to 'Pajama Game' revival

By **MALERIE BYCURA**
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Broadway is waking up to "The Pajama Game." It will be the first musical to open in 2006, however it's the show's second time around. Originally opening in 1954, "The Pajama Game" is set to re-open on Feb. 23.

Currently in previews, "The Pajama Game" is larger-than-life entertainment. The show is set in the Sleep-Tite Pajama Factory. The Factory runs peacefully until a new superintendent comes to town. The superintendent, played by Harry Connick, Jr. falls head over heels with the leader of the company's union grievance committee played by Kelli O'Hara. Their love comes to a halt when the workers strike for a raise. The conflict causes a comedic, entertaining battle between management and workers as well as a battle of the sexes!

Connick brings star quality to the performance. His familiar, crooning voice is perfect for the time period of the show, yet the songs seem to demand that he sings at the very top of his range. Nevertheless, Connick's charm and chemistry with co-star O'Hara will make up for any strained effort while singing.

The catchy tunes by Jerry Ross and Richard Adler have heads and toes in the audience literally bob-

bing and tapping to the music. Richard Adler, who was awarded an honorary degree from Wagner College, included two new songs to the score for the revival. The score includes several standards of the 1950s, such as "Steam Heat," "Hernando's Hideaway," and "Hey There."

The choreography that accompanies each melody line is simple but fun. The high energy, creatively comical movements mirror the mood of the show almost perfectly! The costumes allow for the big, animated movements, while amazingly flattering every cast member. Each pajama and piece of clothing is brightly colored, fun and dynamic.

The sets are cute, almost doll-house-like in nature. They marry the ideas behind "How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying" and "Bye Bye Birdie," giving birth to a set that could easily be related to that of "Charlie Brown."

The show grows its very own character and momentum by the third musical number. "Not At All In Love" features O'Hara and the female chorus. They dance and sing about Connick's character with an energy and sparkle that defines the show. This disposition is led by and embodied in chorus girl Jennifer Cody. Cody, wife of Broadway star Hunter Foster, defines the liveliness in the show



Crooner Harry Connick, Jr. will star in "The Pajama Game."

with her performance and show's potential to grab a spot in the spotlight.

The stars of the show don't take their own spotlights for granted, delivering shining performances of their own. Actors like Michael McKean and Peter Benson give this show its dose of seasoned actors and big names. For a new Broadway star, Connick is holding his own beautifully. Let's face it, a serenading, shirtless Connick belting out the finale is sure to bring in large audiences! If not, then the lively score, book, cast, costumes, and set ought to do the trick! One thing's for sure: Broadway will be looking good in pajamas this season!



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* An individual, group or organization may submit by **February 21, 2006**

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IN OUR OPINION..

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

A DOSE OF SOUL

Life outside the 'comfort zone'

(This column is dedicated to Sheena Zawacki, may she live courageously.)

By E. FEEHLEY
Wagnerian Opinions
Editor

You know what they say about first impressions. They are sometimes the most important, but usually misleading. I was thinking about this the other day while my friend Laura and I were driving to our favorite bar in St. George. We both work in that neighborhood, and spend a good deal of free time there also, but St. George was not always so comfortable for us.

I remember walking the streets when I was a freshman, afraid to look into the faces of the loud group of teenagers perpetually on the corner, afraid to walk past the homeless people outside of Project Hospitality, afraid of the ferry terminal, afraid to walk to my car after dark. It seems so strange now, looking back, because the neighborhood has become a second home to me, and has taught me so much just by being there.



Feehley

It's interesting to think about sometimes. I would have missed so much if I had succumbed to my fears and not given the neighborhood a chance to influence me.

The same idea is true about most people. I recently started talking to a guy that most suburban white girls would be terrified of. I remember the night we met like it was yesterday. He was six feet tall with a baseball cap cocked slightly to the side, baggy jeans (complete with a knife clipped on the inside of the right pocket), and a pair of Timberlands. To say he was intimidating would be an egregious understatement. This is a guy who can rap like Eminem, fight like Mike Tyson, and walk the streets like a made man--no fear. But after a couple beers and few hours of conversation I began to realize that there was a person behind this urban mask. A person who is dynamic, bright, caring, and full of potential. A person who, when given the chance, can inspire others to believe in possibility and destiny.

We've spoken every day for a

month now, and with each conversation I rediscover the depth of the human spirit, and the simple truth: that what people seem to be usually has very little to do with who they truly are. To judge someone by a first impression is just as senseless as judging a birthday present by its wrapping.

I often wonder how different my life would be if I wasn't so afraid all the time. Would I just pick up and move somewhere sunny? Would I go skydiving? Would I stand up for myself more often? The problem lies in what I like to call the "comfort zone." I'm comfortable here in New York, I am not comfortable with heights, and I am not (usually) comfortable with confrontation. Comfort zones are dangerous. People get locked into something that they have always known, it becomes routine, and eventually it turns into fear of anything outside that comfort zone.

This theory manifests itself in many ways. If you grew up in an upper-middle class suburban neighborhood, you might be a little wary of a lower-class urban area. The same thing is true for people. If you are used to hanging out with one certain stereotypical group of people, you might be very uncomfortable talking to someone outside that stereotype. My challenge then is this: Step outside your comfort zone. Confront your fears.

We all have places and people who make us feel comfortable, and it's always nice to feel like we belong. But I believe that when we push ourselves, when we reach out into the unfamiliar, that is when we truly grow as human beings. That is how we take a step toward who we could be.

I walk confidently around St. George now, and most of the faces that I was so afraid of are familiar to me. I've learned that there is a part of me that seems to fit there; I never knew that part existed before. As for the new man, I honestly don't think I've ever stood next to someone more intimidating, but ironically I've never felt as safe or spiritually awakened.

It's funny how life can surprise you when you let the unfamiliar in. Something that seems so removed from who you think you are can often help you find a deeper, more complex version of yourself. The discomfort of stepping outside your comfort zone is only temporary, but what you find outside of it can change your life.

IT'S NEWS TO ME

'Dysfunction-ersity': Taking the good with the bad

By EVAN JAGELS
Wagnerian Columnist

The newest collegiate trend is to stress diversity. Prospective students and parents 'shopping' for the right college often look for, among other things, a diverse student body. But they don't just stop at the ambiguous word itself: They need to know the percentage of the students who are of a minority background, and how that percentage relates to the rest of the country. If it is equal or higher, that particular college must offer an exemplary social education as well as a scholastic one. Most of these people, and the statistics that satisfy them, focus solely on ethnic diversity, rather than diversity of income, experience, and general background. I believe that this is a mistake. Although an ethnically diverse campus is something every college should strive for, the overall goal of diversity should strive to achieve more than this one factor.

This being said, I believe that diversity begins at home. Enriched children do not only attend diverse colleges, but they are born into diverse families. I don't simply mean that they are born into a bilingual or multi-ethnic household, although those factors would be beneficial. It's more than that. A diverse family is one in which all types of people are equally represented; rich, poor, shameful, successful, up,

down, left, and right. Call it 'dysfunction-ersity.'

Just as there is no exact equation for diversity at a college, there is not one for a diverse family either. Although any number of various combinations of diverse family members can craft an enriched child, there are some general figures to go by. Example: for every couple of religious folk in the family, there should be at least one or two atheists. The same balance should be applied to love of country. For every few patriots or war heroes,



Jagels

there should be at least one militant anarchist with an impressive prison record.

Another important principle that applies to diverse families is the AAA rule. AAA (not the automotive service) is a strict guideline that must be followed in order for a family to offer a diverse environment in which a child can develop. AAA stands for alcoholics, achievers, and addicts. Achievers are people who have done nothing but achieve in life; they are successful. An achiever makes the most money, always had outstanding grades, and even holds some kind of local office. Although it is nice to have more achievers, one must

not neglect the importance of the alcoholics and addicts- they are essential to the important balance of shame and glory.

Another element important to every diverse family is the random person category. Every diverse family must have several people who possess completely random, strange and/or shameful characteristics. This category is for schizophrenics, extreme geniuses, felons, cult members, astronauts, and even porn stars. These family members add flavor and color, like sprinkles on an already delicious cupcake.

Just as some colleges have extraordinarily diverse campuses, some families go above and beyond what is expected of the average diverse family. For example, the head of this kind of household might be a congressman who is actually a member of Al Qaeda, converses with circus monkeys, and is a closet homosexual. The mother is in turn a mermaid who believes she is Martha Stewart. Because of this, she spent a short time in a minimum-security prison, and upon her release, built an orphanage out of walnuts, toothpicks, and ginger cookies. Of course, this goes far beyond what is expected of the average diverse family.

Just as a diverse student body is imperative to a well-rounded education, an upbringing in a diverse household (with a real cast of characters as family members) is enriching, and essential to a well-rounded person.

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GIRL ABOUT CAMPUS

To tell, or not to tell?

(The infidelity question)

By **KELLEEN KADEN**
Wagnerian Columnist

In any relationship it's sometimes crucial to walk on eggshells and zip your lip. You persuasively put on your best "no!" face when your girlfriend asks you if the new jeans she just bought make her look chunky while your mind is secretly piecing together a picture of a horse in spandex, and you cringe every time she wears them. If she already bought them, are you really going to insult her by telling the truth, or graciously smile? Which makes you the better person?

With this scenario in mind, I pose the same morally challenging question about cheating on your boyfriend/girlfriend. You've already done it, and whether or not you wish you could take it back, you can't. You believe the guilt will eventually fade, and telling them will not only make you look awful to a campus full of people, but it will also hurt your mate.

Do you look them in the eye and spill your guts knowing very well they will never look at you the same way? Or do you continue with the relationship like nothing ever happened, swearing up and down to yourself that you will change your ways?

Has honesty in relationships become a question of circumstance, or should we simply apply the home-grown guilt free code from mom and dad: that honesty is *always* the best policy?

Perhaps the two situations are not completely interchangeable, but I'm merely trying to stress that while honesty in a relationship is vital, it does not necessarily need to be vocalized in every instance.

While it is in the best interest of others to tell the truth, it is even more important to be honest with ourselves, and that does not always mean telling our mate every detail of truth.

The next morning, when you open your eyes and immediately remember your dirty deed, be honest with yourself, and analyze your own relationship. A good friend always

seems to remind me that if you cheat on someone a first time, it is twenty times easier to do it a second. If you care about your guy/girl so much, why are you looking for satisfaction in other places? Take into consideration the reason for your straying. There are many underlining reasons for cheating, but mostly it becomes an issue of selfishness. You're obviously only considering your own pleasure when you get a quick fix. The only unselfish thing that can be done at that point is to end the relationship, and be fair to your partner. You are not married to this person, and there is obviously something



Kaden

drastically wrong with the relationship to allow you to share the most intimate of acts with someone else. Why would you hold on to something that just simply isn't satisfying you anymore? While it may not be necessary to completely confess your regretful situation, you obviously have not given 100 percent to the relationship and staying will only cast you into the repetitive cycle of cheating and denial. Not letting go of someone strictly because you cannot bear to see them with someone else is simply immature and self-centered. Get over it! You probably should have thought about that when you so willingly nuzzled up with someone else.

I may be sounding a bit brutal; it's possible that people make mistakes and will not make them again in hopes that the relationship can be reconciled, in which case telling the truth is crucial for a new beginning. But no matter what, it is your decision.

Making a mistake and ending a relationship does not make you an awful person. You can let go of someone respectfully without dragging them through the mud of your own mistake. You owe your partner at least this courtesy.



THE PERFECT FIT

Foot fashions: The good, the bad, and the Uggs

By **AUDIE McDOUGALL & JENNY CHAPIN**
Wagnerian Columnists

As fashion fanatics, we decided to put our years of scouting styles and flipping through magazines to good use. As we all know, Wagner claims the title of "Most Beautiful Campus." But how about "Best Dressed"? We decided to start from the bottom up, i.e. footwear.

Girls all over campus are sporting the West Coast look, **Uggs**. As popularity increased, these boots have crossed over into a new dimension, boasting flashy rhinestones, layers of fur, and psychedelic colors. But as far as we're concerned, unless you're pairing those magenta Uggs with a technicolor dreamcoat, they probably are inappropriate. And the next time you reach for your well-worn Uggs and frayed hem mini, we beg you to stop and reconsider. You wouldn't throw on a skimpy bikini with your chunky scarf and head to class.

However, we certainly understand the appeal of this ultra-comfy footwear. With that in mind, a great way to rock your Uggs is in a neutral tone with untucked jeans.

Looking for alternate styles of boots? We've got you covered!

Cowboy boots are great for a relaxed, unique style, but buyer beware: this trend is likely to ride off into the sunset.

If you're more of an urban girl channeling the Mary Kate Olsen look, **slouchy boots** are the perfect bohemian chic accessory. Keep in mind, less is more when it comes to the Boho trend.

As for **moon boots**, they provide an "out of this world" style, but let's be honest: It's a look Earth could do without.

Do you like it rough and wild? (With your footwear, that is!) If so,

Frye boots are screaming your name. We love the quality leather and rugged look of these classics.

If you're going for a polished look, sleek **riding boots** create classic lines. Don't be afraid to jazz them up, you don't want to look like Prudey McPrude.

We'd like to extend our condolences to **pointy-toed shoes**, may they rest in peace. After a few years in the spotlight, we're ready to chuck this tired look and the fashion forecast agrees. But before you start protesting, let us give you a brief visual. Picture a new born fawn, taking its first teetering steps. Now, think of yourself in those pointy-toed shoes. Does the same Bambi scenario come to mind? Probably not the look you're going for when you're out at the club! Next time, maintain your air of confidence and leave those shoes at home!

With spring just around the corner, we've rounded up our favorites for the season.

Start booking those pedicures now, because **open-toed pumps** are all the rage.

Stacked heels will also be huge this spring; you'll see them on fashionistas all over Manhattan so pick up a pair yourself!

Flats are back, in playful patent leather. When paired with skinny pants, this duo creates a fresh new look for spring.

Wooden platforms are back, and we didn't see that one coming. However, this time around they're tasteful and flirty, rather than chunky and frightening. Draw inspiration from Olivia Newton-John, circa "Grease," rather than John Travolta circa "Saturday Night Fever."



Wedges and espadrilles are also back for round two, as well as metallic colors for flats, pumps, and strappy sandals. So, whether you're heading to class in Uggs, eating Sunday brunch in fancy flats, or hitting the stores in SoHo sporting a pair of hip platforms, just remember to *work it!*

Love it?

Hate it?

Why not change it?

Write a letter to the editor, and reach the whole Wagner community.

Just e-mail your letter, name, year, and major to The Wagnerian at wagneriannews@aol.com.

Questions? Call 718.390.3110

Don't drink soda? Too bad!

By **MOLLY JUDGE**
Wagnerian Photo Editor

It's midnight, you're up late writing a paper or studying for a test, and you're thirsty. The Hawks Nest and the Wag are closed for the night and the thought of leaving the dorms just to get a drink seems unbearable. You walk down to the vending machines to find nothing but Coca-Cola soda, water and ice tea.

I don't drink soda, in fact I usually just drink water, but at times I want something with a little flavor, like juice or milk, and in my three

years at Wagner those options have never been available.

In a nation where obesity is vastly on the rise, why wouldn't the school want to provide students with an alternative to the sugar-filled and highly caffeinated beverages in the soda machines?

There are numerous soda machines in all of the three dorm buildings; why not substitute a few with alternative drinks for those who chose a healthier route?

It's time for Wagner to provide healthier options in the residence halls and a good place to start is with a juice machine of some sort.





Sex fact of the week:

The oldest known contraceptive was used in Egypt around 1500 B.C. The woman used a barrier of crocodile dung or honey because it was believed the stickiness of the substance stopped sperm from entering.

With your columnists Alexandra Jacobs, Sarah Zimmerman, and Laura Gardner

Source: essortment.com

not just

THE SEX COLUMN

For the lovers and the haters

Wishing you and yours, or just you a Happy Valentine's Day! Whether you love it, or hate it, this V-Day we've got movies for your every mood.



To make you fall in love:

- "Love Actually"
- "Shakespeare in Love"
- "Serendipity"
- "Say Anything"
- "When Harry Met Sally"
- "Sleepless in Seattle"
- "Pretty Woman"
- "Ghost"
- "Dirty Dancing"
- "Casablanca"



To take love off your mind:

- "Schindler's List"
- "The Exorcist"
- "Dead Ringers"
- "American Psycho"
- "Traffic"
- "American Beauty"
- "Carrie"
- "Debbie Does Dallas"
- "Team America: World Police"
- "Animal House"

Does sex define dating? Our poll says yes

By SARAH ZIMMERMAN
Wagnerian Co-Editor

On today's college campuses it seems that the act of dating has ceased to exist, or perhaps it has simply conformed to the standards with which the majority of our generation now holds it.

According to a 2002 National Center for Health Statistics study of sexual behavior in men and women ages 15 to 44, by the time men graduate college, at the average age of 22, 89 percent have had sex. By the time women leave college, again at the average age of 22, 92 percent have had sex.

Information such as this leaves one wondering if sex has simply replaced the act of dating on college campuses. And does dating today even carry the same connotation that it has in years past?

Sure, there are the people that come to college with a significant other. They occasionally visit each other on weekends, sharing local restaurants and college hangouts, and to jealous singles, these count as dating. However, this type of relationship is based on a previous commitment between the two par-

tics that began somewhere in the depths of adolescence. Also, this form of dating revolves around half-hour-long phone conversations, and spending an astounding 48 hours together, once every two months. Not to mention how many of those hours are spent in bed.

Then of course, there are the few freshmen who miraculously brush hands reaching for the same fork in the dining hall, and by senior year are engaged. They fall into the hopelessly romantic category of "love at first sight." Most of their friends cynically refer to this kind of relationship as bull, and place bets on how old they will be when they get a divorce.

And finally, there is the greater part of the student body, who wander aimlessly through college dorm rooms and in between sheets, searching for something, what exactly I'm not sure. Could it be love? Unfortunately, more often than not, this form of "dating" only leads to a Friday night sexcapade with another student you'll now have to acknowledge when walking to class, but in reality will probably never speak to again.

When comparing these three common college dating routines to thoughts of our preconceived yes-

terday, I am befuddled. How have we as a generation so easily turned the ideals of courtship and love into nothing but one-nighters?

Sex is no longer regarded as "intimacy" or "making love"—now it's more casual than dinner and a movie.

In an anonymous Wagnerian poll given last semester, students divulged just how "busy" their "dating" schedules are. The poll included the following questions:

*What year are you?
Describe briefly your definition of what dating includes/entails among college students today.*

Describe briefly your definition of what dating included/entailed among college students when your parents were in college.

How many people have you dated since being in college?

How many people have you had sexual relations with since being in college?

How many people have you had sexual intercourse with since being in college?

Though the results varied from virginal to player status, out of the 65 students polled, the average Wagner undergrad has dated 2.1 people, had sexual relations with 7.5 people, and has had sex with

4.1 people since entering college. That means, on average, we are "hooking up" with almost four times as many people as we're "dating," and having sex with twice as many.

Also, out of the 65 students polled, 40 undergrads defined dating today to include, if not revolve solely around sex, while only seven included sex as a part of their parent's dating rituals.

While some responses described dating today as "taking a girl out and paying for her more than once," more often than not students left the definitions short and simple: "sex on a regular basis." One participant even wrote, "There is very little or no dating today. It no longer exists in teen culture."

Professors and faculty were asked to fill out similar polls; however, with a return rate of a whopping five, we were unable to attain any significant information.

The unwillingness of the professors and faculty to participate led me to another interesting discovery. When students were asked to fill out an anonymous poll on sex and dating for *The Wagnerian*, they jumped at the opportunity, ready and willing to tell all, and some a little more than necessary. On the

other hand, the majority of professors and faculty not only wanted no part in the poll, but many actually commented on how invasive and inappropriate such topics are.

This feedback (both students and faculty) left me wondering—is it simply a generational difference that keeps us and our parents' age bracket on such different "playing fields?"

And if this is the case, why did we, on average, grow up with the hand-holding, soda shop dating ideals of our parents, but now dance to a completely different tune? Could it be a sexual language barrier which has encouraged us to explore and experiment on our own, making such subjects nonchalant?

So, this leaves me with the big question: *Should sex define dating?* I still believe the answer is no. What happened to dinner and a movie, midnight bowling, or simple conversation?

Yes, we as a generation can pat ourselves on the back for being excellent "baseball" players, often scoring homeruns, but maybe it's time to digress, and focus on some other facets of life and love—outside of the ballpark.



Jackie Salinki, Undeclared
a) \$570 b) \$355 c) \$290



Andrew Keating, English
a) \$500 b) \$125 c) \$325



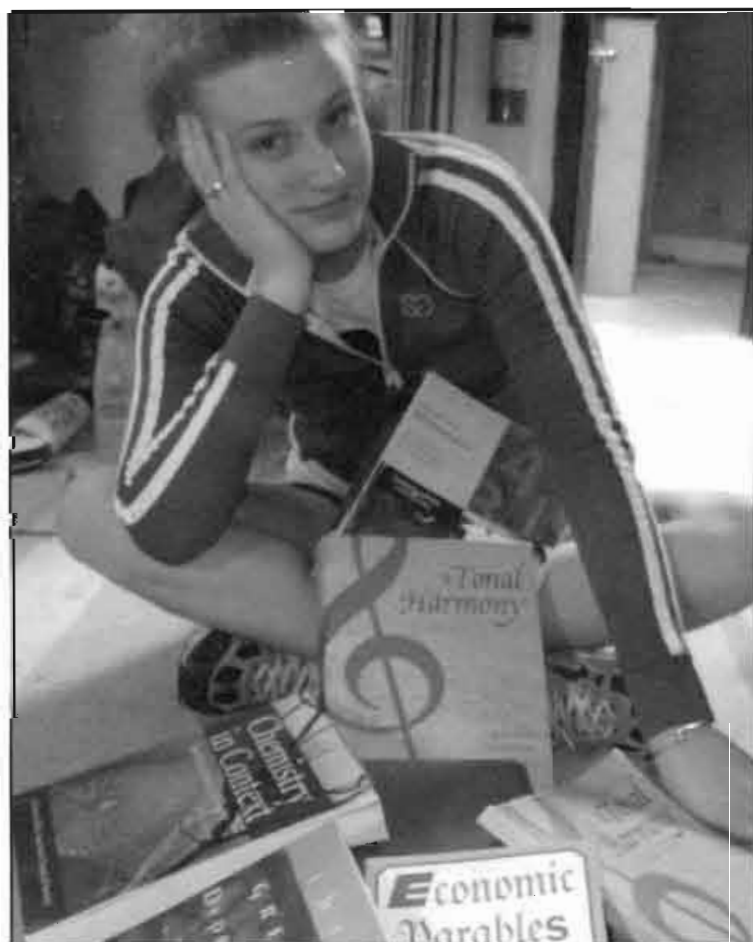
Jonathan Lang, Psychology
a) \$450 b) \$205 c) \$275

SLICE OF LIFE

How much are your books?

Though we may not all have the same minors and majors, or even enroll in the same classes, we can agree buying textbooks is pricey. You may be able to guesstimate your own average spending cost by now, but try your hand at some others. Guess the amount each student paid from the three choices, depending upon their major. The answers are at the bottom of the page.

Photos by Sophie Johnson



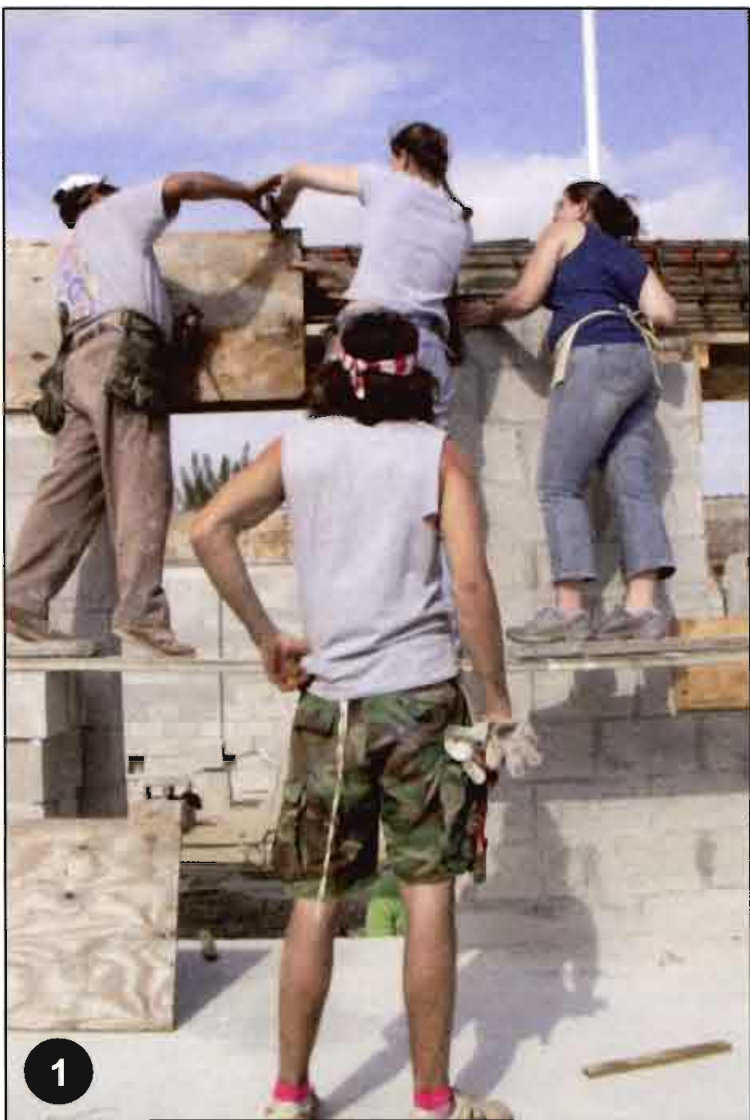
Chelsey Campion, Arts Administration
a) \$400 b) \$245 c) \$472



Jacob Shoemith-Fox, Arts Administration
a) \$145 b) \$300 c) \$375



Allie Rivera, Undeclared
a) \$275 b) \$400 c) \$315



Habitat for Humanity in action

23 members of the Wagner College Habitat for Humanity chapter built homes in Miami for four days before winter break. They worked alongside homeowners in the Homestead, Fla., neighborhood of Habitat homes. Besides learning about construction, and getting closer to each other, the students had a positive experience building community.

1) Frank Pfisterer watches Gina Watska and Stacy Henry lay rebar 2) Michelle Cunningham hammers on the roof 3) Kevin Terrio and James Criscitiello, chaperone, lift a porch post into place 4) Stephanie DiTirro uses an electric saw 5) Housefronts in the Habitat neighborhood 6) Allison Portera climbs a ladder, while Michelle Shaffer watches 7) Lauren Lebowitz and Molly Kollar, hard at work 8) Jessica Tellier uses a power screwdriver 9) The Habitat group and the construction supervisors pose at the site

