

The Wagnerian

Staten Island N.Y.

Wagner College

March 6, 1995

Calendar undergoes changes

By ALEXANDRA ANASTASIO
Wagnerian Assistant Editor

The decision is in, intersession classes will be eliminated and the lengthy break cut shorter. According to the February 15th issue of the Wagnerian, this plan was "still under consideration by the administration." But now definite decisions have been made.

Beginning in the fall semester of 1995, the academic calendar will undergo some changes. Classes in the fall semester will end in the beginning of December, with finals taking place mid-month. Then students and faculty will have vacation until January 8, 1996, when the new spring semester will begin. This early start will bring spring break up to the beginning of March, and instead of the semester ending mid-May, classes will end the

last week in April, with finals starting the first week of May. As a result of all of this, Baccalaureate and Commencement will be pushed up from the Friday before Memorial Day weekend to May 10, 1996 (see fact box for specific calendar dates).

According to Dr. Norman Smith, these changes will allow students to gain the entire month of May to either "take advantage of the additional summer sessions", or obtain a full time summer job. These additional summer sessions will give students a chance to catch up on classes, or maybe "just put themselves ahead of the game." "By having a longer summer, students will have a competitive edge, giving them a chance to land summer jobs sooner, and earn more money," said Dr. Smith. This will provide them with a "full, enriched summer."

Dr. Smith strongly recommends juniors plan on taking at least one summer class to be slightly ahead, just in case of a problem in the fall. "Students are only hurting themselves if they just aim for the minimum requirements." Now with the semester ending a bit earlier, additional summer sessions have been added.

Recently, a poll was conducted. Parents, students, and faculty were asked their opinion and 80% agreed that the current session was too long. The remaining 20% who were opposed to the change, felt they needed the rest between sessions. Dr. Smith says that reactions to this new plan are "positive", and he hopes that for those who are not too optimistic, they will hopefully come around.

"By in large, this new change will be good for everyone," added Dr. Smith.

Important Calendar Dates:

Fall 1995

August 28-First day of classes
December 9-Classes end
December 11-16 Final exams

Spring 1996

Spring 1996
January 8-First day of classes
March 11-18 Spring break
April 27- Classes end
April 29-May 4 Final exams
May 10- Baccalaureate/commencement

Wagner women help celebrate history

By KRISTIN COMITO
Wagnerian Staff Writer

March is International Women's History Month, a month that will be celebrated around the world and here at Wagner. Both the administration and student groups are sponsoring activities to honor this month, which coincides with the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

There will be a speaker on women's health issues in the Gatehouse Lounge at 7pm on Monday, March 6, sponsored by the Dean of Students office. On Tuesday, March 7 there will be a women's self defense demonstration in the Parise fitness center at 7:30pm, sponsored by the Students Activities office.

In addition to these two events The Sigma Gamma Rho sorority will sponsor a "For Your Information for

Women" in the Gatehouse Lounge at 9pm on March 8.

The Women's Caucus, a relatively new organization to the Wagner campus was started to "raise awareness on a multitude of issues that involve women, men, gender and most importantly, living in a society that has much to resolve," says faculty advisor Dr. Alison Smith.

The Women's Caucus, like many other groups is proud to celebrate women's history, particularly the great suffragette Susan B. Anthony, who was once arrested for attempting to vote in a presidential election in 1872.

Official recognition of her birth--and consequently of her importance--has been assumed by women's groups on college campuses across the na-

(See Women, p.2)



Spring is here!

The 1995
Seahawk
baseball team is
ready to play,
as Senior Brian
O'Neill delivers
the first pitch

Meet Bennett
Bean,
former
professor
See Page 3

Winter fun
year 'round
at Manhattan's
Ski Bar
See Page 6

One man's
solution to
the baseball
strike
See Page 11

News

Women *A call for more understanding* (from p.1)

By YASSER PAYNE
Wagnerian Staff Writer

tion. These organizations hold candlelight vigils to honor and remember Anthony, who devoted over sixty years of her life to the cause of women's suffrage. Remembrance, the most essential tenet to any ongoing movement, is especially crucial in the struggle to realize the possibilities that women like Anthony presented.

It is this, perhaps more than anything else, that many groups remember during International Women's History month. Our nation has only permitted women to vote for seventy-five out of its two hundred year history, and without extraordinary women like Anthony and thousands of others, simple rights like suffrage, owning land and birth control might not be available to women in the twentieth century.

Thus, Women's History month and those who light their candles for Susan B. Anthony still have an important role, as both messengers and as catalysts, in our nation's society.

"Bigotry," warned Rev Calvin Butts, pastor of Harlem Abyssinian Church, "is something that eats away at the heart of an organization or person!"

Speaking in celebration of Black History Month before an overflow Spiro Hall audience on Feb 22, Dr. Butts said prejudice "resides within ignorance," and the battle against it must be fought "upon the common ground of truth."

Rev. Butts passionately deliberated the theme he felt "our society needs to understand a lot more clearly." He commenced by quoting the renowned intellectual and poet, Langston Hughes, to illustrate that America "was created through the contributions of all existing American ethnicities." "I don't care who you are, where you've come from; we all have contributed in this great experiment we call democracy," stated Dr. Butts.

Dr. Butts continued by conversing on the injustices Africans and African-Americans had to deal with dur-

ing the founding of America. He spoke of how the Christian church, in particular, participated in the enslavement of Africans. The views of the Christian European Anglo-Saxon were that Africans were only composed three-fifths of a human, which meant "Africans were not completely worthy of full privileges" of the church and other aspects of daily life.

"It was an intentional and deliberate attempt for Africans to be written out of our history!" Rev. Butts exclaimed. The church and other respected foundations did not support racial civility and equality. Instead, they advocated the economically profitable franchise of African enslavement. The European Christian church initially, and then directly, involved themselves in the African slave trade to the Americas.

Rev. Butts concluded by stating that, "Racism is still a problem, a problem because of ignorance." He stressed the need for society to "combat the evils of racism," suggesting the first steps "must begin within the homes," followed by the teaching "of all ethnic American contributions, in



Dr. Rev. Calvin Butts

our educational institutions." He feels "the negative racial imagery must end," so we can "achieve tranquility between the masses of the races." "I'm not here to speak for the black man, I'm not here to speak for the white man, but in the words of the ingenious Martin King, 'We will live together as brothers and sisters or perish together as fools!'"

Rev. Butts was presented by The African Fraternal Order of Omega Phi Alpha and Black Concern.

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"Blizzard of Bucks" is no snow job

By WAGNER JONES
Wagnerian Ghost Writer

The terrace was filled with students Monday night, who dreamed of striking it rich. They waited eagerly for their chance, hoping that their name would be selected and that they would be THE ONE, the one person who would be caught in the "Blizzard of Bucks." An extravagantly dressed man appeared, and the games began.

They trudged face-first through a plate of whipped cream, shoved balloons down their pants and stuffed their mouths with marshmallows while attempting to say "Chubby Bunny," all in pursuit of the

riches promised them by the Student's Activities Council. One by one they were eliminated, until only three brave souls remained. The survivors, Julie Kourtis, Ryan Tyberry and David Wall, were in the final stretch of their long journey. Each had already earned \$25 by successfully completing their previous quests. The final test was upon them and there could be only one winner.

The competition was tough, but in the end it was Julie Kourtis who persevered. She won the right to step into a tornado of cash, grabbing all she could. Julie left a little older, a little wiser and \$126 richer, thanks to the Student Activities Council and "Blizzard of Bucks."

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News

Former professor sculpts his success

By JENNIFER NOER
Wagnerian Editor

Sometimes it pays to be fired from Wagner College.

Former professor Bennett Bean, now a well known sculptor, was fired "regularly every four years", and was even once reinstated as a demand of a student strike in the 70s. Now he is a world famous sculptor, with works in such prestigious places as The White House and The Whitney Museum of American Art.

Bean recently spoke to the Wagner community as a guest of the Honors program. In his introduction Professor Gaffney compared Mr. Bean to a "caterpillar turning into a butterfly. Bennett has the tremendous ability to grow, change and adapt." And adapt he certainly has had to do.

After living in the accepting climate of California in the 60s, Bean came to Staten Island and began teaching at Wagner, where he discussed the "state of the world and art's place in it." During this time he was working in clay sculpture and first learned of the Whitney museum's "viewing", a place to display art for those that did not have a gallery. Usually made up of "mostly housewives from Long Island", Bean's was the first piece ever to be bought from these viewings.

At Wagner, Bean realized most of his students were not going to go on to graduate school and wanted to teach them "a way to earn a living doing art." He began showing his works at craft shows, where he received "real opinions" on his art. "The last people that will tell you the truth about your work are the wives, husbands, friends, but honest feedback is good for you," he said, "It makes you look at things in a whole new way."

In 1974 Bean began in a new field, clay burial urns, because "people will die no matter what," but was disappointed when the burial ground only accepted bronze urns. Later he explored Chinese pots, often comparing

his work to actual dynasty pots, which he says everyone should own, "They are exquisite."

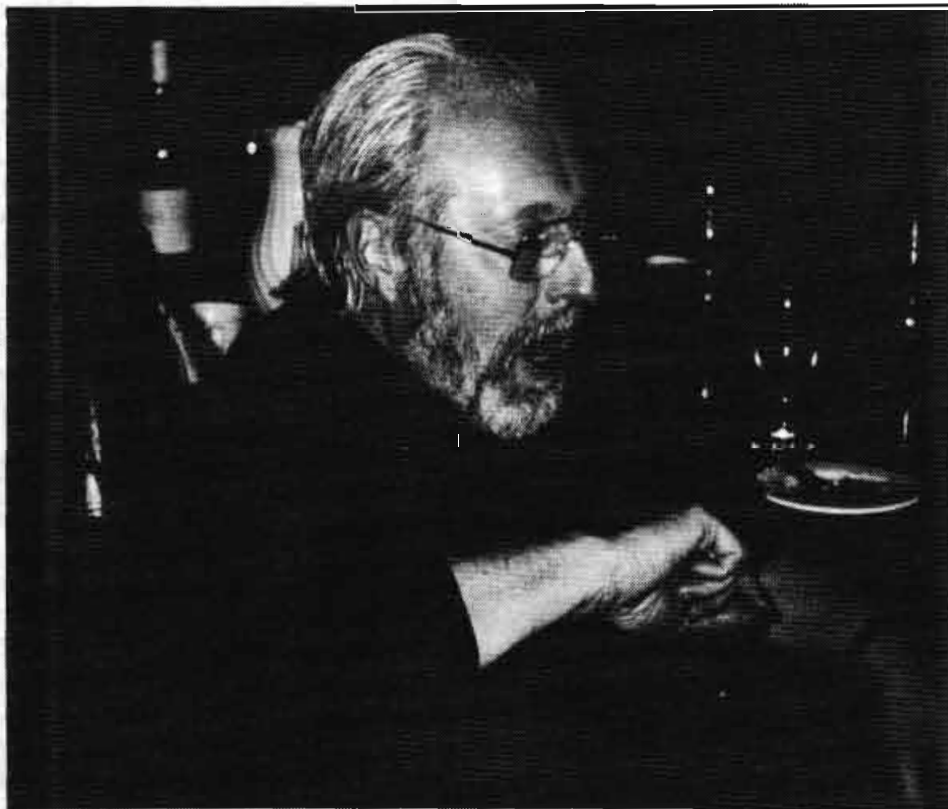
Then he realized a "need to make my own work instead of copying other peoples' work." He began using an airbrush with stencils technique, "I was breaking all kinds of rules now," and eventually used powdered pigment on his pots, similar to what the Native Americans did, because he wanted "a real American idea." He then began painting directly on pots, and firing "in such a way to create pure black." By accidentally getting off an elevator on the wrong floor of an art store, Bean saw a display with "all different sizes of tape." He began using tape on the pots because it "allows you to draw, which is just great."

Recently Bean has added large granite bases for his brightly colored pots because he "was sick of seeing them on tables where people put car keys or laundry or something disgusting. They should be at the right height, at eye level." These "winged" pots often contain gilded interiors with festive outer color blending.

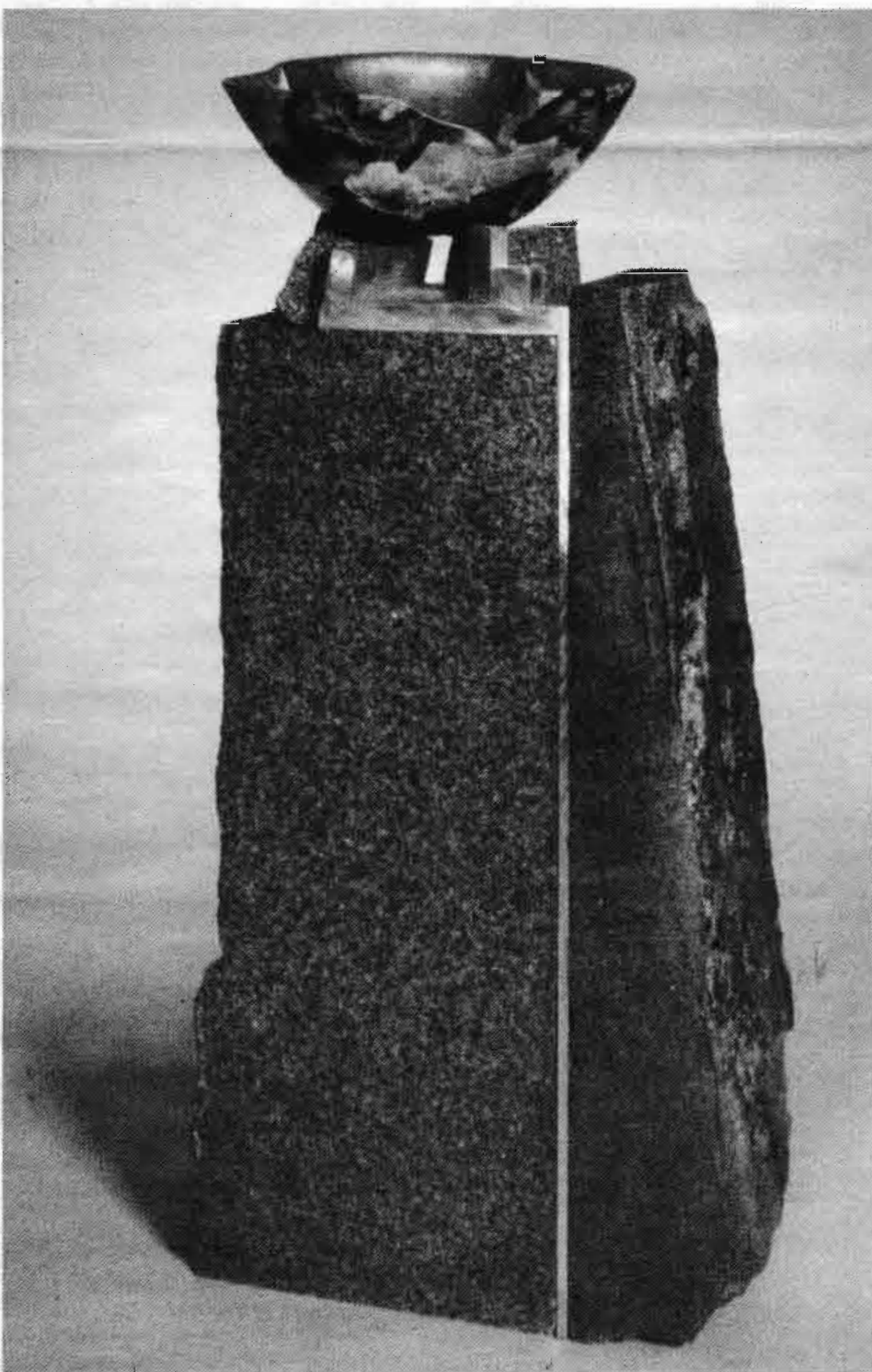
Bean has extended his portfolio to include column production, "You would be amazed how many people want columns. We make them for people all over the country."

He is interested in landscaping as well, as the land surrounding his New Jersey home demonstrates. "I needed a temple, so I built a temple...I wanted a pond and now we have a pond. I am constantly thinking of what to do next," he said.

While Bean claims to have "no interest in fame" he does admit there "is some relationship between fame and money, and I am definitely interested in money because it makes my life possible." But Bean also enjoys his work, "I love what I am doing, and love that people pay me to do it." He added "Love is cheap, but if people are willing to put money behind love, it's like the real thing. There is no greater compliment."



Former Wagner professor Bennet Bean



A piece from Bennett Bean's "Dolmen Series."



Bennet Bean and Dr. Anne Schotter, director of the honors program

News

Richard Bey: Disappointingly tame

By JASON BORELLI
Wagnerian Staff Writer

When one thinks of talk shows, one usually sees people whose problems are far more screwed up than the common everyday human. One thinks of yelling, screaming, cursing, and the occasional fisticuffs. And no talk show typifies this more than "The Richard Bey Show." Yet, when I went along on a Wagner trip to see Bey's usually rowdy show, the show was, well, so un-Beylike.

We waited outside the studio for over an hour. During this time, the guests walked past us through the door, while we speculated as to what kind of problem these people had. Then the audience was let in. After the ticket-taking and the ID check, we went through a metal detector. As to who would want to endanger Richard Bey's life I have no clue, but I have been to David Letterman's show twice, and neither time did I go through a metal detector, so make of that what you will.

After the metal detector, there was more waiting. Then came Richard Bey himself, doing his impression of Moses, parting the sea of bodies and shaking hands, signing autographs,

and just saying hello. Before going in, the producers invited the single women to sit up front. Many took the offer, including four Wagner students. This explains why, when you see an audience shot on the show, the good-looking folks are right up front.

Before the show, Richard went over some audience ground rules. The one taken most seriously by the crowd was the request for enormous applause. Richard wanted "the people watching out in California to feel that an earthquake was coming." Other rules were made to ensure that no one made "a jackass of himself or herself" like no hollering and no excessive waving. Otherwise, Richard would not come to "the rabble-rouser's area, and the people around him would beat him up in the parking lot after the show." Finally, it was show time.

The topic of the show was "Jilted Jailbirds"; men who had got out of prison and found that their lovers had left them. First, there was Samuel, a guy who, after spending a year in jail for allegedly trying to kill his wife's sister's father in law, found that his wife of five years had gone back to Puerto Rico. After being

placed "in the can" (a garbage can), Marlyn (the wife) was brought out. Sam popped out with roses, a song, and a proposal for reconciliation. She accepted! Clearly, it was the highlight of the show.

Next, there was Ernest. A longtime guest in various jail cells, he emerged from an eighteen-month long retreat to find his love, Heather, had left him, (at one time, they went to jail TOGETHER for disturbing the peace). Heather came out, lifted the lid off the garbage can to find Ernest, who had a need to get back together again. Unfortunately for Ernest, Heather had other plans. She was engaged to another man! She then went on a rant, telling everyone how she got "\$60 in 2 1/2 friggin' years."

Then there was Paul. He had dated Melissa for three years before he got busted for robbery. At first, they wrote a lot to each other. Then she wrote less and less and before long, he wasn't getting any letters at all. After going through the garbage can schick, Paul asked Melissa for a reunion. She wasn't having it. According to Melissa, when they were together he "lied, cheated, and slept with about 50 women."

The rest of the show went rather quickly. A trio was brought out (room was made when Sam and Marilyn sat in the audience); a drug user/car thief (Troy), the woman who loves him (Emily), and the friend who's trying to break it up (Todd). Psychiatrist Dr. Gilda Carle was brought out to explain the attraction to bad boys. Then it was over. No fights. No cursing. No screeching. No "Whoomp, there it is" from the crowd. No asinine "I've Got a Secret" game. No "Wheel of Torture". No "Dating Game" parodies. People actually complained about the lack of spark and Bey himself seemed a little dumbfounded. But he pulled through, talking to the audience during commercial breaks, wondering if a couple of real loud mouths were "holdovers from the old Morton Downey Jr Show."

Although the show itself was somewhat stale (that one time out of ten), Bey himself proved to be as good a talk-show host as anyone without the "Talk Soup" highlights that make him look like a disease peddler. Bey was a very nice guy, but I doubt we can get him the honorary degree he asked us for.

Another look at love



By PATRICIA FERRARO
Wagnerian Staff Writer

What is love? Is it one thing or many? Are there different kinds of love? What is romantic love? How does one know when one is in love?

"Love is a complicated and difficult word that causes much frustration to many individuals," says Dr. Robert Benson of the philosophy department. But Dr. Benson, who has been teaching at Wagner for 25 years, has many ideas on what love is.

About ten years ago Dr. Benson became involved in forming a philosophy class about love, with much student interest. His main objective was for his students to learn the theories of love through literature, including novels and plays. He continues to want them to experience ideas about love through different sources. Dr. Benson hopes to create a better understanding of the "idea of love" through the process of thought. He tries to teach the class to "observe human nature" and make better choices for themselves.

The areas that seems most on the minds of his students are the idea of long term relationships, and sex. Dr. Benson says most people that connect sex with love often choose "sex in the absence of love, sleeping with anyone to avoid love," and ultimately are not happy.

The very idea of love also scares

many people, and sometimes sex is avoided altogether because of emotional reasons. Dr. Benson has different sets of criteria to use when selecting a lover. "Everyone needs to set practical criteria, including psychological qualities reflecting self-esteem, spiritual and ethical depth, and intelligence." He advises to look for someone who is "flexible and not rigid or controlling, someone who has a good sense of humor, has the ability to distinguish reality from fantasy, has no self-destructive patterns and has independence.

Another set of criteria in choosing a lover, deal with relationship qualities like "capability of intimacy, attachment without excessive dependency, good communication skills like listening and the ability to be responsive to the needs of others." He added that it wouldn't hurt to find someone with similar interests.

The last criteria of a partner involves a healthy situation. The person should be "employed or pursuing a clear direction in life, as well as being physically and psychologically healthy," Dr. Benson added.

Dr. Benson addresses questions on these criteria, and many other issues, in his class, "The Philosophy of Love." While there is no guarantee that the course will succeed in answering all of your questions on love, Dr. Benson vows it will "inspire each student to use the process of thought about love."

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U.S. Department of Transportation

Opinion/Health

Clinton's biggest problem: Image

By VINCENT F. SADOWSKI
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Over the last year it has become obvious that the majority of Americans are not happy with President Bill Clinton. What isn't so obvious are their reasons for being displeased with the president. Many have made the argument that Clinton hasn't made good on his campaign promises. But is this really the case?

Everyone, I am sure, recalls Clinton making the promise to cut the deficit. Maybe the public thinks he forgot this promise, and this is the reason for his widespread unpopularity. However, according to the "Washington Post," the growth of the deficit has fallen from 290 billion in 1992 to 203 billion in 1994. Clearly the growth of the deficit has been stunted, and clearly Clinton has kept his promise.

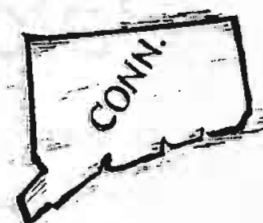
Another issue at the heart of the Clinton campaign was the re-invention of government, making it smaller and more effective. It is possible that the American people are unhappy with the fact that there has been not much news that this has been done. But the truth is Bill Clinton did shrink the government like he said he would. Consider the more than 100,000 employees that were trimmed from the federal work force, and the projected 272,900 cut by 1999. Again, Clinton did what he promised.

But the president must be doing a poor job, Rush Limbaugh told me so last night on his TV show. True, Clinton promised the rich would carry more of the tax burden. Limbaugh says the families less off are still picking up most of the bill. Well, actually the working poor have a new tax break that returns money to fifteen million families and at the same time the wealthy are paying more than they had been before.

I am aware of the problems that Clinton has had, both professionally and privately (namely health care and Whitewater). However, the first two years of the Clinton White House have been full of accomplishments. Two major trade pacts, NAFTA and GATT have become law. The funding for the Commerce Department's Advanced Technology program has soared 383 million dollars in this year. The program supplies grants to companies that are trying to develop new products.

So where has President Clinton failed? He has done poorly in an area that Ronald Reagan's administration did quite well in, public relations. Clinton received much criticism on the presentation of his recent State of the Union Address. The president definitely did stumble at times. He could never pull off some of the performances that actor Ronald Reagan use to. Bill Clinton could never smile in the face of an increasing deficit they way Ronald Reagan did for years. Bill Clinton has no "catchy" sayings like former president George Bush's "Stay the Course." That's just it. Clinton doesn't stay the course, he tackles hard problems head on. Let's not forget what state the nation was when he took office. The biggest problem Clinton faces is with the public. He must convince a public that is more aware of his "failures" that he actually has accomplished a great deal.

Why I hate Connecticut



By DOMINICK A. MISERANDINO
Wagnerian Staff Writer

It's nothing personal to most Connecticut residents or "Conneticutites" but it's the state as a whole which keeps me up at night, metaphorically speaking about the state of course. For me and my friends growing up in Brooklyn, it was that which Connecticut represented that disgruntled us the most. Connecticut, to us anyway, was this land where children were born into money and there was no poverty, ghettos, crime or anything bad. Connecticut was this land that had everything it wanted. I know this not to be true now, but metaphors are metaphors and sometimes they stick.

On a recent night when the world wasn't all it was cracked up to be, I decided to call my friend and travel around the lovely borough of Staten Island. For me, driving throughout the borough brings about the issues most in a man's heart, soul, and even, (heaven forbid) the metaphors of growing up. I looked at him and said, "I hate Connecticut."

"And why do you hate Connecticut?" he asked.

And so I answered him by listing everything on my mind, and how it related to Connecticut (again not as a state, but as a metaphor). I gave him my list which involved everything from romantic relationships to race relations, and even economic issues of the ghettos in the city. As I saw things, the only thing limiting us, as human beings was the socio-economic power we held. With what seemed like unlimited resources, anything was possible, and I guess that 'unlimitedness' was what I was searching for at that moment.

"I hate Connecticut!", I screamed.

So then we drove... like two kindred spirits in the night, we drove to yell at Connecticut. To reprimand the state for all the childhood traumatic metaphors we have suffered through. We traveled north for two and a half hours in my old battered Omni. There we stood on the New York side of the two states, looked at Connecticut and at 4 A.M., called Connecticut mean and cruel words. If Connecticut was a person instead of a state, I'm sure it would have been quite insulted, but alas all it did was sit there and accept our verbal abuse. We screamed out names which even our own mothers would never accept, and the state just took it.

Why did we do this? Well, I think at times in our life we all need to do what our heart says more than what our mind screams is logical. Too often we panic and go insane about everything rigid this world imposes and we just need to... do what we gotta do.

So to anybody out there who is stressed more than they feel they ought to be... To anybody out there who has tried drowning their problems in beer and smoking anything that doesn't walk... To anybody who has contemplated the worst, when they as people deserve the best (to quote that inspirational man of a man, Richard Simmons)... go and follow your heart, and if you want do something crazy... go scream at a state.

FDA warns of 'vitamin robbers'

By JOSH HILL
Wagnerian Health Editor

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has started a campaign to educate the public about the benefits of vitamin intake. For years we have been told to drink orange juice because it has Vitamin C or to eat leafy greens because Vitamin E is good for you. But why?

The answer is especially important for college students because we participate in the four activities that the FDA says will alter vitamins in our body and cause side effects.

'The Vitamin Robbers' are:

- Stress
- Smoking
- Oral contraceptive use
- Alcohol consumption

Research shows that stress, emotional or physical, will deplete your reserves of water soluble vitamins. These vitamins can not be made by your body so it is essential to take them in, in your diet. B-complex-vitamins B1, B2, B3 and B12 are needed to release energy from carbohydrates and other foods. They are also needed for normal functioning of the nervous system, hemoglobin synthesis, constructing DNA and prevention of pernicious anemia. Vitamin C, as an anti-oxidant inhibits nitrosamine formation. Nitrosamine is a potentially carcinogenic compound which can be made in the body, anti-oxidants inhibit this. Vitamin C is also associated with healthy maintenance of bones, teeth, blood vessels and helps in the formation of red blood cells. The recommended daily allowance is 60 mg and it can be found in citrus fruits and

juices, tomatoes and green peppers.

Another activity which depletes vitamin C is smoking, says the FDA. Clinical tests, have shown that smokers have "significantly lower blood levels of vitamin C than non-smokers." The FDA recommends that smokers increase their intake of vitamins C, A, E.

Vitamin A is needed for maintenance of the healthy skin, bones, hair and teeth. It also contains beta carotene which is an anti-oxidant and is found in dairy products and green leafy vegetables.

Vitamin E, also an anti-oxidant, helps in the formation of red blood cells is present in green vegetables, seeds and nuts. Medical research shows that women taking birth control pills have lower levels of vitamin B-6 and vitamin C. Vitamin B-6 is essential for the functioning of red blood cells and hemoglobin

synthesis. This vitamin is found in meat, green leafy vegetables and bananas.

Alcohol, according to the FDA actually depletes your supply of all of the B-complex vitamins and especially B1, thiamine. Thiamine is needed for regulation of a normal diet and for adequate functioning of the nervous system. B1 can be replaced by consumption of whole grain cereals and eggs.

According to the FDA it is good to establish a daily intake of these vitamins but major eating changes to a "very high vitamin diet" are not healthy. A life threatening condition called hypervitaminosis could result. Small substitutions at each meal will be enough. Anyone with a special diet should consult their physician before altering it. "Guides to Vitamins" can be obtained at any drug store which sells vitamins.

Entertainment

'Before Sunrise': Not the usual cliches

By JENNIFER NOER
and BRIAN BAIR
Wagnerian Staff Writers

Picture this: you are on a train in Europe when you bump into someone of the opposite sex who asks you to spend the next fourteen hours with them, no strings attached. Do you accept? How about if you find yourself strangely attracted to this person? Not enough? What if we throw in conversation so electric you can't tear yourself away from it?

It is this type of intense conversation that gives the movie "Before Sunrise" its unique charm and romantic energy. Jesse (Ethan Hawke) is an inquisitive American, with a grunge look and a love for the alternative lifestyle. While on a train from Budapest to Vienna, he approaches Celine (Julie Delpy), a French student with a philosophical style and winsome playfulness, who speaks fluent English. Both have been hurt in the past (he has just travelled to Spain to see his girlfriend who promptly dumped him when he arrived; she was in therapy because "my ex-boyfriend thought I would start stalking him"). Both Jesse and Celine are searching for "something in life that's real."

But the two differ in their definitions of reality. Celine is the eternal optimist to Jesse's constant pessimism. She likes beggars who

write poetry for money, he thinks they're just scam artists. She gets inspiration from fortune tellers, he gets a headache. What works between these two twentysomethings is the way they interact, the way they intently listen to each other and the verbal game of tag they effortlessly play.

Director Richard Linklater shows that simple scenes of a man and a woman just walking and talking can be fascinating, especially with romantic Vienna as a backdrop. Their conversations range from past relationship horror stories to questions about life after death, but never lapse into typical movie lines. Celine and Jesse speak free of inhibitions, thinking they will not see each other again. Their witty dialogue keeps the storyline interesting, even though the two simply walk the streets, stopping for an occasional cup of coffee or game of pin-ball.

At the end of the fourteen hours, Jesse must catch his flight home to the United States and Celine will return to France. The big question is will he get on the plane? Or will their fourteen hours turn into a lifetime?

Their time together stands as a lesson in "seizing the moment." "Before Sunrise" proves that simple conversation can be romantically captivating, without rehashing the usual love cliches.



Celine (Julie Delpy), and Jesse (Ethan Hawke) in the romantic "Before Sunrise"

Where to see Before Sunrise:

Sony Theatres
Lincoln Square
Broadway and 68th
336-5000

Cineplex Odeon
First Ave and 62nd
573-5408

Sony Theatres
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Third Ave at Eleventh St.
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(212) 369-9635

21 AND OVER; PROPER I.D. REQUIRED

DIRECTIONS FROM STATEN ISLAND:
BY CAR: VERRAZANO BRIDGE TO BQE
TO BROOKLYN BRIDGE; FDR NORTH,
EXIT 96th STREET

BY FERRY: SOUTH FERRY 4 OR 5
TRAIN TO 96TH STREET.

By RICHARD FRUSCIONE
Wagnerian Staff Writer

If you are tired of the Jailhouse ("Stalehouse") and the Forest Avenue bar crawl, then head up to Manhattan's Upper East Side for a good time. If you are in search of the ultimate party experience, or if you want to relive New Year's Eve, the main attraction of this yuppie-infested area is The Ski Bar, at 94th Street and Second Avenue.

The long and narrow barroom is jammed with huddling young urban professionals and college co-eds, ready to boose up beyond capacity. By midnight it becomes so crowded that some daring women seek elbow room by dancing on the bar. The enthusiastic crowd compliments the bartenders attitudes. They very generously pour such drinks as "Loose Juice" and "Colorado Cooler" into goldfish bowls, and stuff the concoction with an ample amount of straws for all of your friends.

If you manage to squeeze through the crowd, just past the unusable pool table, lies a bartender who pours drinks down the infamous "ice slide." Locals call it the "slalom shot" and according to the barkeep, "Once you slalom, it's all down hill!" In winter-

sport terminology she refers to the crippling effects of the quantity of alcohol she pours into the patron's mouth. "It's not your average one- or two-ounce shot," she describes, as she pours a "Screaming Nazi" (Jagermeister and Rumplemintze) into the mouth of a macho grad student. "It turns out to be like four or five ounces of whatever liquor you choose, followed by a Swedish fish candy, to kill the taste."

If you decide to celebrate a birthday here, the bartenders will accommodate you with pleasure: All eyes are on the birthday boy as the music stops and the victim steps onto the bar and drops to his knees. Once reduced to this beggar's stance, beer is poured into their mouth from a full, four-foot-tall yard glass. Those who cannot finish the yard are forced to wear the remains.

This concept bar with a attitude caters to the wild side, where no one can have a bad time. The bar's motto is either "Where every night is like New Year's Eve" or "Down it!" Both quotes appear on signs throughout the bar, and on T-shirts sold to tourists or thrown into the loyal crowd on occasional weekend nights. Make The Ski Bar your first and last stop next time you visit Manhattan.

Entertainment

Freestyle: 'Can't Let You Go'

By ANTHONY LABELLA
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Remember the days when you or your friends went to school sporting cardigans and Cavaricci's? Those were the days when Freestyle music dominated pop culture.

The period between the second half of 1989 and the beginning of 1991 was perhaps the worst of times for Freestyle. Crossover radio had found new stars in Paula Abdul, Milli Vanilli, New Kids on the Block, Bobby Brown and Hammer. These artists were successful not only on crossover stations but R&B stations as well. They also received massive exposure through video on MTV and BET. These slickly produced artists and videos now defined "Crossover". For the first time crossover radio was releasing songs that their rival stations (R&B and Top 40) were also playing. Previously, an urban record would first break at the R&B stations, then the Crossover stations, then finally the Top 40 stations. Urban records by many established stars were simultaneously breaking at

all three formats.

Freestyle had become mainstream. Producers looking to make a quick buck often recruited young hispanics from clubs, regardless of talent, to record hastily put together songs and put them out on the track show club circuit. They figured that if only one station played the song, they could make a thousand dollars a night doing shows and split it with the artists. The flood of horrible Freestyle records were being released that even the most devoted fan would be ashamed of. This fueled Freestyle's downfall and radio stations responded by gradually eliminating these artists from their playlists.

This seriously hurt the more established Freestyle artists. Groups such as TKA, Sa-Fire, Sweet Sensation, and The Cover Girls, felt they needed to duplicate the sound that was now happening at radio and MTV in order to compete with pop music's new megastars. TKA's "I Won't Give Up on You" and Sweet Sensation's "If Wishes Came True" achieved high spots on the charts but the radio and MTV ignored their success.

The best artists abandoned the sound and Freestyle was all but over. Fortunately, TKA recorded two freestyle tracks on the "Louder Than Love" album and were able to rebound by releasing these two tracks in 1991.

Another artist that greatly helped to revive Freestyle was Lissette Melendez from East Harlem. "Together Forever" would define "new school" Freestyle. This led to a flood of imitations but later TKA released "Louder Than Love", the title track from their second album. It would become TKA's signature song and the biggest hit of their career.

George Lamond followed up with his smash "Bad of the Heart" with two hit singles during freestyle's rebound "Without You" and "Look Into My Eyes." All three songs were included on his hugely successful album, "Bad of the Heart."

Coro also released his sophomore single "Can't Let You Go" which easily matched the success of his first single.

Three old school artists returned after long absences with new tracks.

Noel's hit single "The Question." The Cover Girls released a double single with "Don't Stop Now" and "Funk Boutique." Corina then came up with the highest charting Freestyle record on the Billboard hot 100 to date. "Temptation" had a sound similar to that of "Together", but, it was the songwriting of Frank Reyes that helped the record transcend the scores of Lissette Melendez imitations.

The recent hit "Another Night", by the Real McCoy, confirms that the Freestyle sound is making a comeback.

Students at Wagner welcome the comeback of Freestyle music.

Wagner Senior Brian O'Neill said, "The Real McCoy reminds me of the days when I used to drive to High School in my Monte Carlo listening to the bass pounding beats that Freestyle provided." Ralph Parmegiani, senior added, "Freestyle, back in the day, was synonymous with cruising 86th street till the wee hours of the morning."

Don't enter the "Pit"

By TONY CORRENTI
Entertainment Editor

I know that everybody thinks that I am a moron for messing up my Pearl Jam review but I do have an explanation. After feeling like a imbecile, I realized that I did hear "Yellow Ledbetter" on the album. I did a little investigating and it turns out that I heard an import version of the album. Every time that an album is released in another country, it contains extra songs. The record companies are ripping us off but that is another subject. If die hard fans can recall, the Japanese version of "Ten", contained two extra songs. One was a cover of the Beatles song "I've got a Feeling", and I think that the other was called "Dirty Frank." Whether or not anyone believes me, I really don't care. I listened to the album through a friend and know what I heard. Nothing will change my opinion of Hurl Jam!

Last issue I told you about Slash's band Snake Pit. This issue I'm telling you that they are terrible. Do not buy this album under penalty of law. I made that mistake and am now serving a life sentence of social maladjustment. I know that I usually defend all things related to the 1980's but this album has no catchy songs. If Slash reads this (and I know he is an avid follower of my column), "get back to work with G-n-R right away. Do not pass go. Do not collect \$20 million."

Tidbits.....I got a super advance listening of the new Skid Row album called Subhuman Race. It is due to be released in late March. What is different is that it has a new progressive edge. It's probably because Sebastian Bach hangs out with Dream Theater!!! The first side is terrible but the second side is excellent. They will be at Irving Plaza on Saturday, March 11th. Tickets are only \$10!! I'll review them soon.....Can you believe that Bruce

Music Notes



Springsteen won a grammy award for that monotonous piece of garbage, "Streets of Philadelphia?".....After years of talk, Madonna will star in the film version of Evita. Andrew Lloyd Weber has apparently confirmed this even though four years ago, he said that she was too old for the part.....I must say that I am very pleased with the number of "old school" rock bands with new albums. Down with Seattle! Soon to come are new albums from Firehouse and Warrant!.....In unrelated Wagner music news, Congratulations are in order to junior Leslie Schipa and freshman Erika White for advancing to the semifinals of the NATS voice competition held at our favorite school, Rider University. They did a great job representing Wagner College. So let them know. See ya!

Cosmos offers diverse dining

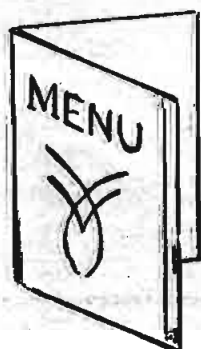
By CHRISTOPHER MANGINELLI
Wagnerian Staff Writer

In an area where pizzerias and Italian restaurants are abundant, selecting a good one can be quite a chore. Being Italian, I am very particular about the Italian foods that I eat, but, being a college student on a budget, I am aware of the high costs associated with dining out. One restaurant that I have found to suit both my taste and budget is Cosmos. Located at 4115 Hylan Boulevard (Great Kills) here on Staten Island, Cosmos offers a rich, varied menu.

The menu, which is quite extensive, has many Italian favorites and well as some American classics such as hamburgers and french fries. All the food is made to order and extremely fresh. Prices are reasonable, with no entree exceeding \$16.00. Pizza is also on the menu and is delicious, as expected.

I recently returned to Cosmos and enjoyed a hearty meal, without spending a fortune. I started things out with Baked Clams Oregonata (\$6.95) and Mozzarella in Carrozza (\$5.50). Next came the salad which is included with all entrees, along with a choice of a vegetable or pasta. I decided for my entree to have the Saltibocca Romana (\$15.95) which is veal scalloppini, prosciutto, white wine and sage served over a bed of seasoned fresh spinach. It was delectable! For those of age, wine and beer are available. To save some money, I suggest not ordering a bottle or wine from the wine list but rather a carafe of the house white or red. Desserts are different daily, and the cappuccino is excellent.

The service, food and atmosphere offered at this small restaurant are uncompromised. I strongly recommend Cosmos to all!



Have a favorite restaurant?
Write a review for the Wagnerian!

Meetings are Wednesdays at 5pm.

Entertainment

Three new albums offer plenty of variety

By TONY CORRENTI
Entertainment Editor

L.A. Guns
Vicious Circle
A&M Records

How many bands can you name that in the last seven years have had two gold albums and a double platinum album? Probably many, but I bet that L.A. Guns isn't on that list. There aren't many bands out there that can fill that criteria, yet most people have never heard of L.A. Guns. Think back to 1991 and MTV. Remember "The Ballad of Jayne?" That is L.A. Guns. They are back with their fourth full album titled "Vicious Circle".

This album appeals to a broad audience because of the diversity of all of the songs. There is the psychedelic "Chasing the Dragon" (similar to Aerosmith's "Sweet Emotion") and the hard rocking "Killing Machine". Stuck between these is the twelve bar bluesish "Nothing Better to Do", and the slow groove rocker "Who's in Control (Let it Roll)".

It's great that bands that have had rocky relationships in the past can get it together and put together another great album. Singer Phil Lewis recently toured with his side band, Philthy Lucre, and guitarist Tracii Guns had a band called Killing Machine. But with the release of Vicious Circle, Lewis recently said, L.A. Guns is "hitting the road and not coming back until it's Platinum." That may take a while but it took their last release, 1991's "Hollywood Vampires", two and a half years to reach that lofty status.

Although the album has three disappointing clunkers, there are fifteen songs in all and that makes for a great bargain. The best song by far



Phil Lewis, Mick Cripps, Kelley Nickels, and Tracii Guns of L.A. Guns

is "Crystal Eyes", which was on Hollywood Vampires, but the band believes that their record company didn't give it a chance to become a hit so they want to try it again. It is one of the best ballads I have ever heard. Give this band a chance. They might surprise you.

From 1-10.....7!

The Manhattan Transfer
Tonin'
Atlantic Records

This group can do no wrong. Every album they release is chock full of great harmonies and catchy melodies. These guys (and girls) have been doing it for over twenty years and nothing is lost on their latest release "Tonin'." It features guest performances from stars such as Bette Midler, Chaka Kahn (how did that come about?), and James Taylor.

All of these songs, except for one, are hits from the sixties, with the one exception coming from the fifties (Bobby Darin's "Dream Lover").

The group lets Smokey Robinson take the lead on his famous hit "I Second that Emotion" and the man with the golden voice Frankie Valli joins in for "Let's Hang On."

From seeing this group live in the past, I could tell that they love what they're doing and it shows on this release. The vocal arrangements on this album are great as well as the musical arrangements. Everyone must check out their sizzling a-cappella version of "God Only Knows" (yes, the Beach Boys song). It has similar qualities with their early eighties version of, "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square." No matter what kind of music you enjoy, The Manhattan Transfer will put a smile on your face.

From 1-10.....9!!

Extreme
Waiting For The Punchline
A&M Records

Another band that gets no credit for their past success is Extreme. While everyone rags on their ballads,

they have put out three hard rocking albums. In an attempt to squash critics and non-believers, Extreme presents to you their fourth album entitled "Waiting for the Punchline". It doesn't contain any true ballads, only funky cutting edge Rock.

Guitarist Nuno Bettencourt had a lot of control in the recording studio and gave the band the sound it was looking for. What that sound was, was a departure from sappy love ballads and an experimentation with new ideas. The beginning of "There is No God", has a cool tremolo effect on the guitars that sets the tempo before the drums enter. Also in that song is one of my favorite lyrics in a while: "Has god made man or man made god?"

Of course, Extreme has to have cheesy lyrics. That hasn't changed. So far, every album has had some sort of references to nursery rhymes or fairy tails. In this album, it comes in the song "Hip Today", which is a commentary on flavor of the week and other popular trends that come and go. The lyric reads "Sally's selling out her sea shells for souls."

Extreme will sell many copies of their albums but they won't again move into the mainstream like they did in 1991 and 1992 because they don't change to follow trends. They play what they like the way they want to. They were as surprised as anyone at the success of "More Than Words," but at least it got their name out to the record buying public.

"Waiting for the Punchline", is a good album that you should buy but don't expect love songs because you won't find any. If you are a fan of outstanding guitar solos, Nuno will not disappoint. He is in a class by himself.

From 1-10.....6.5



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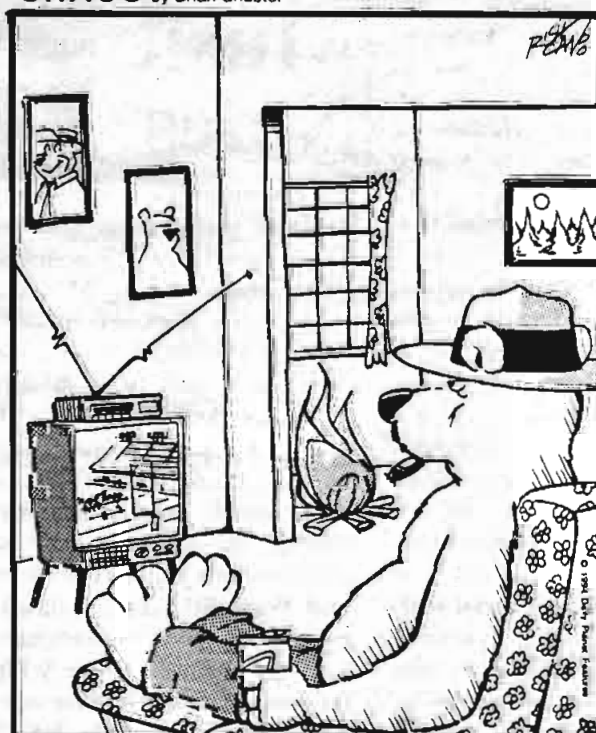
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CHAOS by Brian Shuster



Although publicly he spoke against it, in private, his little fetish was to leave a camp-fire unattended while smoking a stogy.

Entertainment

Love story endures 7 years on Broadway

By ALEXANDRA ANASTASIO
Wagnerian Assistant Editor

After seven years on Broadway, the musical *Les Miserables* has been dubbed "one of the best," by *Playbill Magazine*. Night after night, the Imperial Theater caters to a variety of theater-goers who are captivated by the emotions of this heart-warming play that will leave you awe-struck.

Les Miserables goes through a variety of stages describing the trials and tribulations of the main character's life, Jean Valjean, played by Craig Shulman. The setting of the show begins in the early 1800's and continues until 1832 in various small towns throughout France.

We first meet Jean Valjean in the prologue, right after he is released on parole after nineteen years on the chain gang for stealing a loaf of bread for his sister. He is now an outcast in society and decides to start his life anew.

Jean Valjean goes on to become a factory owner and a mayor. In his new life, he takes on the responsibility of looking after a secret, illegitimate child Cosette, who was played by Erin Rakow as the young child and Jacquelyn Piro as the young woman, who lost the mother she never really knew.

Through the course of the night, the show focuses on Jean Valjean maintaining his cover and the great lengths he goes to do so. He has been on the run since breaking his parole and if found, will be arrested once again, leaving Cosette all alone.

Cosette transforms from a child into

a beautiful young woman who falls in love with the student Marius, played by Craig Rubano. The two are involved in the typical love story: boy meets girl, both fall in love but are separated by circumstances: a revolution which will take place in Paris. Marius becomes wounded in the fighting, only to be saved by his love's father, Jean Valjean. Marius and Cosette eventually get married and after the wedding Jean Valjean finally tells Cosette of her past. When she was a little girl, her mother worked in a factory but was fired for having an illegitimate child. Cosette did not live with her mother, she lived in an inn with a couple who was abusing her. When Cosette's mother died, Jean Valjean promised to look after the young girl and take her away from the horrible environment she had been confined to.

The acting was magnificent to watch, and the singing was spectacular. In a heartfelt scene between Marius, Cosette, and Jean Valjean, Cosette learns of her history and spends one last moment with Jean Valjean before he dies. Waiting in the wing is her mother, Fantine, who is a spirit looking down over the old man and her beautiful daughter. At this tender moment both Jean Valjean and Fantine break into song, letting us know that his time has come to join the other spirits.

The show lasted approximately three hours and the curtain closed to an uproar of applause. When the final actor was introduced, the whole cast received what they rightly deserved -- a standing ovation!



The Imperial Theater, home to "Les Miserables"

"Les Miserables" at the Imperial Theater 249 West 45th Street

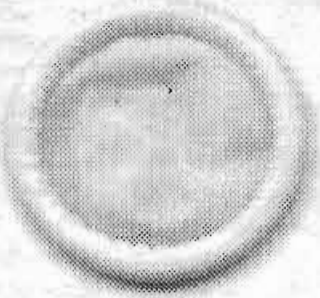
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March 1995 Student Activities Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 7:00pm Movie: "Bad Girls" (SpH4)	6 11:00am Information on Women's Health Issues (Terrace) 7:00pm Speaker- Women's Health Issues (Gatehouse Lounge)	7 7:30pm Women's Self Defense (Parise Fitness Center)	8 12:00pm Blood Drive to Save Lives (Parise Fitness Center) 12:00pm Caricatures (Union Terrace) 9:00pm Sigma Gamma Rho FYI for Women (Gatehouse Lounge)	9	10 8:00pm Movie: "Poetic Justice" (SpH4)	11
12 7:00pm Movie: "Poetic Justice" (SpH4)	13	14	15 4:00pm (X)K Meeting (RH)	16 4:30pm Greek Senza Meeting (WU2.02)	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Spring Break

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wrapped properly.



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Sports

Seahawks ready to fly in '95

By LEN HUNTER
Wagnerian Staff Writer

The Wagner College Seahawk baseball team will tackle a difficult slate this season, which began February 17, with some tough losses at Winthrop University in South Carolina.

But despite that disappointing start, the Seahawks feel that they have a strong team this year, with the capability of beating any opponent. With sixteen returning lettermen and five starters, fourth-year head coach Rich Vitaliano has high hopes for the Seahawks, even without All-Northeast Conference players Randy Chirumbolo, Keith Bolognese (now playing for the Danville Braves), and Charles Mirailh (now playing for the Idaho Falls Braves, both affiliated with the Atlanta Braves).

Unfortunately, though, after returning from Winthrop the team will have to prepare for the second part of its season, which takes place in Orlando, Florida. The team will have a three-week break before heading south again, and will do its best to get ready.

Senior second baseman, Andy DiOrto, commenting on the Seahawks' prospects said, "Hopefully we can go outside soon and work on our fundamentals, but if not, then we will just have to work that much harder in the gym." Senior pitcher, Brian O'Neil, stressed that going to South Carolina was "a great opportunity for us, so we know where our weaknesses are before we go to Florida. Florida is where it really matters, because it is the start of the rest of the season."



Senior first basemen, Jason Cue, freezes a baserunner

Staten Island: sports mecca of NYC?

By JASON BORELLI
Wagnerian Staff Writer

There are two pairs of words that normally never go together: Staten Island and sports mecca. Yet, a few years down the road, that could be a possibility.

The borough of Staten Island has never had a professional sports franchise. Manhattan is the home of the Knicks and the Rangers, as well as the one-time residence of the baseball Giants. Brooklyn had their beloved Bums, the Dodgers. Queens is home to the Mets. And the Bronx have the Yankees.

Already, a spring ground-breaking is scheduled for a 4,000 seat stadium in Arlington (in Northwest Staten Island). The stadium will be home to a minor league baseball team. Two independent single-A caliber minor leagues are fighting to see who gets to place the franchise on the Island. Tickets would go for \$4, less than the

cheapest seats for Met and Yankee games.

The stadium would be accessible by ferry and bus, perfect for outer-borough visitors. This could quell the taste of the minor leagues many obtained during last year's Major League baseball strike. A nickname would most likely be determined by poll.

Further down the road is a proposal for a racetrack in Chelsea. This would take the place of an abandoned naval yard. The racetrack is not guaranteed, since the people who own the property, the Bay Street Development Corporation, are taking other bids, among them a bagel processing plant.

Regardless, Staten Island is poised to come into its own as a minor league city. Even if the real Mets and Yankees settle the strike, many fans will choose the cheaper choice: Staten Island baseball.



Mike Lepre steps up to the plate

As coach suffers, so does community

By JIM KELLEY
Wagnerian Staff Writer

A short time ago a basketball league was started in the Jersey Street community by a man named Eddie Watkins. Ten years later that league is in danger of being shut down for good.

Some might say that it is just another league, that there are many more on Staten Island that a person can join. However, the other leagues are just places to go play ball while the Rising Star League is a special league. Eddie Watkins' Rising Star League was so successful that it blossomed into funded programs aimed at underprivileged kids and was always open to all. "Eddie is just like his programs," says one former player, "he does not discriminate." Watkins, who has ran the league and programs since their inception, recently fell ill with a kidney disease and is in need of a transplant. Due to this he is unable to run the league and programs anymore. This is disheartening news to the people in the community and everyone involved with Eddie.

"This isn't just another league," explains Paul Testaverde, a league member and friend of Watkins. "It's a place where the people of the com-

munity can congregate and get some solace from the hardships of the neighborhood."

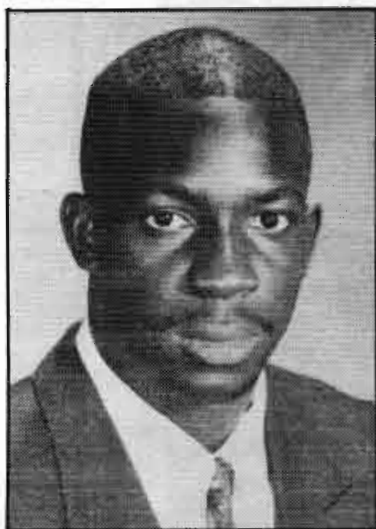
Eddie Watkins has been a savior to those who live near Jersey Street. He has given kids chances they wouldn't have had without him and he has gotten kids on the right track through sports. "Watkins is one of the most well-respected individuals in this neighborhood and that counts for a lot in this community," said Ray Hageman, a Watkins supporter.

Since he fell ill, Watkins has lost the funding he had been receiving from the Borough President. This funding is essential in maintaining the league and its programs.

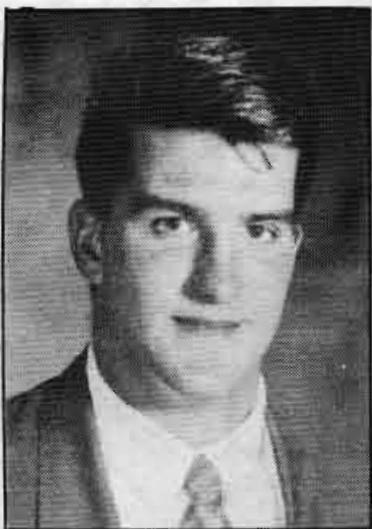
In one of these programs he brought a team from Staten Island to Florida for the Junior Olympics and returned with the gold medal, along with many unforgettable memories. But without the necessary funding, it is impossible to keep these types of programs alive.

Having been a player under Eddie Watkins, I can truly say that he is a great coach and an extremely caring man. His league and programs were a vital part of the community and will be sorely missed. It seems as though all we can do now is say thanks for the memories Eddie, and get well soon.

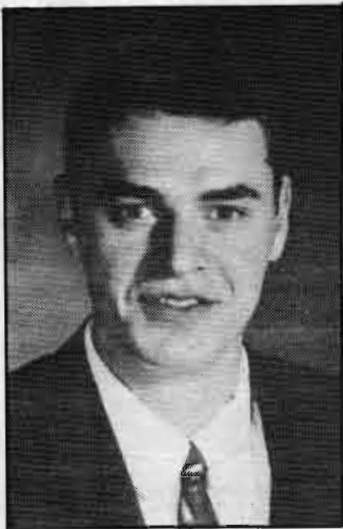
Sports



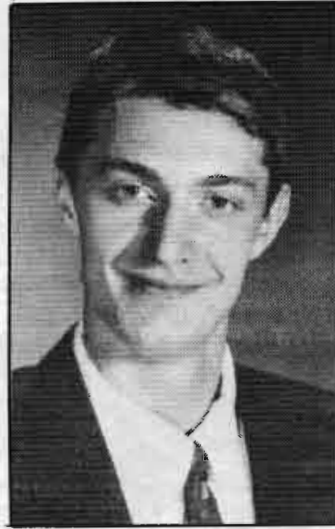
Keith Hailey



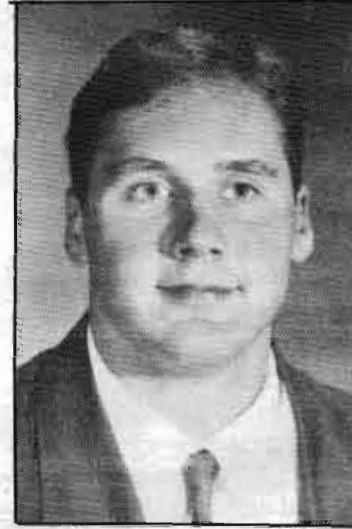
Jim Kelley



Milan Rikic



Todor Rikic



Todd Rohlin

Senior Seahawks honored after victory

By SCOTT WICHMANN
Wagnerian Staff Writer

The Wagner Seahawk men's basketball team finished up their regular season homestand with an 87-75 trouncing of Fairleigh Dickinson University. After a pre-game ceremony to honor the Seahawk seniors, Wagner started a 24-3 run that left the Knights reeling. FDU was "Fairleigh" horrible offensively, shooting only 28% from the floor in the first half. Tony Rice turned in another solid performance, pacing Wagner with a game-high 20 points, complementing that with 7 rebounds and eleven assists. Three other Seahawks would also hit double figures.

The Sutter gymnasium crowd paid tribute to seniors Keith Hailey, brothers Todor and Milan Rikic, forward Todd Rohlin, and center Jim Kelley,

the "Big Kahuna." Head coach Tim Capstraw presented the seniors with framed pictures of themselves as mementos of the time they spent on the Wagner court.

At half-time, with the Seahawks up 42-23, fans saw the unveiling of a Bill Murphy sketch honoring Wagner 1,000 point scorer, senior Brenda Milano, the women's basketball co-captain. Her likeness will be displayed in the Wagner Sports Hall of Fame Room.

Wagner then travelled to Pennsylvania to round out the regular season, stopping at St. Francis to pick up an 80-76 win over the Red Flash. Tony Rice continued his torrid pace, netting 18 points, 12 assists and 5 rebounds, while Milan Rikic poured in 17. The Seahawks shot 60% from three-point land, while finally breaking over .500 (9-8) in the NEC for the

first time since early January.

Yet the Seahawks fell victim to NEC cellar-dweller Robert Morris on February 25, 1995, which seemed to epitomize Wagner's up-and-down Robert Morris with 20 points, and forward Gabe Jackson's 13 rebounds helped to put Wagner away. The Seahawks helped too, by shooting a dismal 31% from the three-point line. Fire turned to ice as Wagner went 10 for 32 from the arc, with a final Robert Morris victory score of 81-79.

Robert Morris finishes the regular season at 2-16, both wins compliments of the Seahawks, to claim dead last in the conference. Wagner ends the season even at 9-9, good enough for sixth place in the NEC, and ready for the first round playoff game at third place Marist on March 1.

Playoff stats:

Marist 91
Wagner 75

Seahawks scoring:
M. Rikic 20
Anderson 13
Seigle 11
Kelley 10

Wagner 6 of 25 in
three-point attempts

Coach Capstraw ejected for
first time as Seahawks' coach

SEASON RECORD:
10-17 overall
9-10 NEC

One man's solution to the baseball strike

By SCOTT WICHMANN
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Spring, in all its glory, is on the way. Nature's cycle of rebirth and change continues, undaunted, at its eternal pace. Soon the trees will grow lush green leaves that will rustle and sway in the summer wind. The grass will emerge from the oppressive weights of ice and snow, revealing its rich, vibrant greenery and splendor. Winter's bitter chill will subside, and the children will return to nature's playground.

Inevitably, they will bring baseball with them.

Yes, you heard right, baseball. Recently the word has conjured visions of scowling union representatives and uptight franchise owners, rather than crafty pitchers and powerful hitters. However, baseball will continue to survive, despite being riddled with bullet holes by the disillusioned and out-of-touch few who have horribly mismanaged a national treasure.

Major professional sports in the United States have become a national crutch. For Americans, life has no meaning if we can't see Don Mattingly continue in his never-ending quest to find the right batting stance. How can this nation survive if we are deprived of witnessing Jose Canseco breaking car windows on Boston's Lansdowne Street as a consequence of his colossal swing? Simple. We can. Because, contrary to popular belief, our lives don't depend on it.

The American public has given its professional athletes too much social power. We have become a sort of 'Wayne-and Garth-collective.' "We're not worthy," we think, because we don't throw fastballs at 90mph, or hit the ball a country mile. Heck, most of us couldn't turn a flawless double-play even with Bud Selig and Donald Fehr on the basepaths. We depend on pro ballplayers to serve as our "unbeaten and beloved." We look up to them because they do those things that we can only dream about.

But as T.H. White says, through the character of Merlyn, in his book, "The Once and Future King", "Perhaps we all give the best of our hearts, uncritically,

to those who hardly think about us in return." This is true of the relationship between the fan and the player.

Yet it's high time we gave ourselves, as Americans, some credit. We're pretty damn good, too. Even without the seven-figure-supermen, we will take good care of the game. There will be children playing in sandlots, and Little League games. High schools, colleges, churches and businesses will field players, as well as minor league teams in small towns all over this great land.

The essence of the game can be found in these contests, far away from the spotlight. In these games there will be a desire, a passion, and a love for baseball and all that it offers. There is more joy in going to the ballpark down the street and seeing a wide-eyed six year old get his first hit than there is in the shallow, hollow rhetoric of empty promises from empty men.

At sunset, little boys and girls will come home from parks and playgrounds all over America. They will have seen to it that the game has been cared for. Baseball gloves that are too big for their hands will dangle precariously from the handle bars of their bikes. Perhaps some of those gloves will bear the artificially branded signatures of the heroes of summers past, most of whom will be too busy working on their golf swing to go to their union meeting.

If there is a message in this disgraceful, childish dispute between the arrogant and the greedy, it is this: Life goes on. We, as a nation, have got to stop asking what we must have done wrong for this to have happened, like a love who has been jilted. We should stop trying to fix the problem. Our many ideas have fallen on deaf ears.

So, America, stop asking who's right and who's wrong. Get off the barstool. Get off the couch. Turn off the replacement Yankee game on Channel Eleven and go outside. The weather will be great. Join the company softball team. Go to a Little League game. Volunteer to help disabled children in their games. Quit complaining and experience the magic of the game, because sooner than you know it, the winds of change will come blowing through again.



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