

The Wagnerian

WAGNER COLLEGE

TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2001

"Sopranos" Hit Wagner

By Carla Barletto and Eddie D'Anna
Co-Editors

Chartwells had better check the chopped meat in the Dining Room for ground-up mobsters.

Cast and crewmembers of "The Sopranos" hit Wagner College recently, transforming it into a military academy while filming the final episode of the series, currently airing its third season.

Filming began at around 10 a.m. and wrapped up shortly after 2 p.m., when they moved on to the Brooklyn Museum of Art.

Students rushing to their classes had to dodge around 100 crewmembers – including Robert Iler, who plays Anthony Soprano Jr., the son of the infamous Tony Soprano — over a half dozen trailers and trucks and the Port Richmond High School Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC), as HBO filmed a scene on the walkway leading up to the Spiro Sports Center and the Sutter Oval, overlooking Howard Avenue.

According to crewmembers, it was the aesthetics of the campus that drew them to it.

"Because of the building (Main Hall), the oval – it looks like a place kids in ROTC uniforms would be marching," said Jason Minter, the crew's location manager.

Terrone Carpenter, the associate dean of external affairs, also attributed the improved appearance of the campus to the recent influx of movie cameras, which includes Fox's new pilot series, "When I Grow Up," which shot last month, and "The Shallow End," an independent movie starring Karen Allen, which was shot over winter break.

"I think it definitely helps," said Carpenter, who, dressed in a long trench coat and a fedora, could have passed for one of Tony Soprano's hit men. Carpenter, a resident of the South Beach section of Staten Island, was the person responsible for arranging HBO's visit.

"A lot of the film crews were looking for New England, not necessarily New York. We have a good location in that sense," he said. "This is the home of a lot of different buildings from a lot of different eras."

In Wagner's latest close-up, the school posed as a military academy visited by Iler's character. In the upcoming season, Anthony Soprano Jr. is rumored to be taking a turn for the worse, behaviorally, and, perhaps by the season's close, is cast off to a military academy by his parents.



Sorry, not James Gandolfini's chair.

While warming up inside the Spiro Sports Center in between scenes, Iler said he enjoyed Wagner's scenery as well, though he was not alluding to the buildings that Carpenter and Minter commented on.

"I just saw the pool and the dance room and there are a lot of hot dancers here," said teen star Iler.

While this was the first time he set foot on Wagner soil, it was not his first visit to Staten Island, however.

"I live in Manhattan, so I've been here before," Iler said. "A few of my friends from school live here and I have visited them."

Iler also commented on his character's increased edge. "This season is getting a lot bigger and better," he said. "I'm happy they're giving my character a chance to be bigger and do more things."

Iler was not the only adolescent to appear in the scene. Thirty-one uniformed members of the Port Richmond High School Army JROTC were asked to serve as cadets for the scene by HBO, after being recommended by the Veterans Administration Hospital in Brooklyn.

"Basically they are going to be marching. One of the actors may or may not be going to a military academy," said Major Stephen Torelli, the group's commander.

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Studying in South Africa

Wagner Student Gives African Perspectives While Learning Abroad

By Kinsey Casey
Staff Writer

WESTERN CAPE OF SOUTH AFRICA - Molo bafundi! Ninjani?

I just wanted to say hi from South Africa. Right now I am about 20 minutes west of Cape Town at the University of Stellenbosch in the western cape of South Africa, if that helps at all.

No, I am not living in a mud hut, and I do have electricity and running water. Stellenbosch is really like any American university town, right down to the ridiculous number of bars and clubs they have crammed into a few square kilometers.

It was nuts during Carnival, which is kind of the equivalent of our Homecoming. All of the first year students go through initiation, and Carnival is the celebration at the end of the initiation. The initiation process is based on which "res," or dorm you live in.

I guess it is similar to pledging a sorority or fraternity, only it is by your dorm, and it is more severe. This year one student actually died, so our school is getting bad



Picturesque South Africa.

press from all over the nation and the Human Rights Commission is investigating.

Outdated barbaric initiation ceremonies aside, the University of Stellenbosch apparently is known as the "Harvard" of South Africa. Supposedly the political science department is the best in the country, which is one reason why I eventually ended up here.

My classes are rather difficult, but mostly because I don't have the historical or geographical background that the African students have. The professors will ask a question about the revolution in Togo in 1993, and as I pull out the map just to figure out where Togo is, the rest of the students are rattling off names of rebellion leaders.

The University of Stellenbosch is one of the oldest universities in Southern Africa, making it one of the last Afrikaner strongholds in the country. Afrikaners are basically the mixture of the Dutch and German peoples who colonized the area; in other words, they are white. Most of the undergraduate classes are taught in Afrikaans, except in my department.

Our school newspaper is mostly in Afrikaans with a few articles in English, the signs are in Afrikaans, the

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New Shuttle Service Starts

By Eric Cohen
Assistant Editor

After years of complaints about inadequate shuttle bus service, the Wagner community has finally received van service to and from the Staten Island Ferry on weekdays.

Citing the continued heavy involvement in Manhattan-based internships, mentorships, field trips and community service, the provost's office has started the new program for the convenience of commuting students and faculty.

A 15-passenger Wagner College van will make a continuous loop to and from the St. George ferry terminal for three hours in the morning, and two and a half hours in the afternoon every Monday through Friday.

There is no official schedule yet, but the van's first morning run to the ferry will depart at 7:45 a.m., connecting with the 8:00 boat to Manhattan.

Between 8:30 and 10:30, the van will depart from the Wagner campus every 30 minutes, roughly on the hour and half hour, and depart from the ferry terminal half-hourly between 8:15 and 10:45.

Service resumes again in the afternoon, with the first van departing Wagner at 2:45 p.m. The van will then depart from Wagner half-hourly from 3:30 to 5:00.

Return trips to campus will leave the ferry terminal every 30 minutes between 3:15 and 5:15.

Ferry-bound riders are picked up at the Parker Hall gazebo. Campus-bound riders should wait by Ramp E of the ferry terminal (the ramp marked "Passenger Pick-Up/Drop-Off"). Regular Atlantic Express shuttle service at night and on weekends will continue unchanged.

For commuters forced to spend \$6 a day to park at the ferry terminal, plus gas costs – or walk up and down Grymes Hill daily to catch a city bus – the new van service is a quantum leap in the right direction.

"I was in my office in 10 minutes," said Dr. Peter Sharpe, a Manhattan native. "It was brilliant."

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flyers are in Afrikaans, and the list keeps going. By federal law, all classes on the University level are supposed to be in English, so the University of Stellenbosch actually denies federal funding so classes can continue to be taught in Afrikaans.

As you can imagine, the language issue becomes a racial issue because most black South Africans don't speak Afrikaans. In the Western Cape they speak mostly Xhosa, and then English as a second language.

Four years ago, this university was 82.25 percent white. Out of 11,322 undergraduates in 1997, only 136 were black. Ouch! And this is not something they try to hide.

Apartheid officially ended in 1994 with the election of Nelson Mandela; however, one will still find Afrikaners here who will say outright that they want to return to the apartheid system.

In fact, I found out that two of the professors in my supposedly "renowned" department stepped right out of the apartheid government to teach here.

Yipes... thank you, Dr. Snow, for making me such a skeptic.

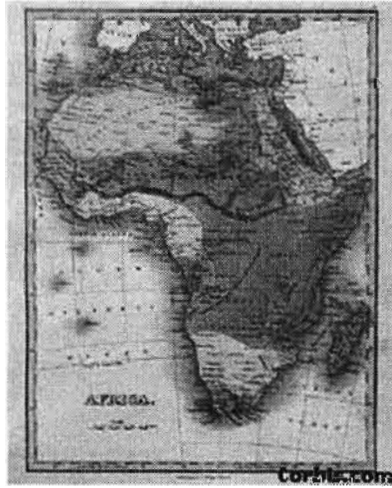
Of course, dealing with such racist attitudes can be rather frustrating. Some students (specifically my old flatmates)

are shocked that a few of us go to Kayamandi to teach English, play with the little children, and do aerobics with the senior citizens.

Kayamandi is the township outside of Stellenbosch (think Soweto or the Amy Behil story). Plus, it has taken us a month to convince the administrators of our computer lab to open it in the evening so we could teach some students in Kayamandi how to use Word and the Internet, etc. Someone pointed out to me the other day that at least here people are honest about how they feel, whereas in other parts of South Africa they are overly politically correct and hide their feelings.

That is not to say that everyone here is totally racist. Even the racial statistics at the University of Stellenbosch have improved over the last few years. By 2000, the black population jumped to 19.76 percent and the white population fell to 68.34 percent, which doesn't say a whole heck of a lot when only 20 percent of the South African population is white.

Nonetheless, this country is progressing each day, still following Mandela's teachings of love, not hate.



Yeah. We couldn't find a better picture.

Wagner College - Melting Pot

Students From Over 35 Nations Dine Together

By Najieh Attal
Staff Writer

Christine Hagedorn, the Director of Academic Advisement, helped bring students from over 35 nations together for the first annual International Students and Scholars Dinner, on Feb. 21, in the Faculty Dining Hall.

She stated that she was pleased with the variety in cultures and ethnicities that were in attendance.

Students from Nigeria, Haiti, Sri Lanka, Germany, Venezuela, Spain, Palestine, Bosnia, Puerto Rico and Egypt were all brought together for the evening.

Students such as Masashi, a Japanese student, and Nneka Onianwah along with professors at Wagner such as Dr. Zohreh Shahvar attended the dinner.

Simon Smend, a foreign exchange student from Cologne, Germany, described his experience kindly in simply stating, "It's an instant college experience, and it's really easy after you meet at least five people."

Dr. Marilyn Kiss, the head of the Study Abroad Program to Spain enjoyed the dinner for its "intellectual stimulation." According to her, it was wonderful to have so many students speaking different languages in one room.

Many Wagner College students such as Koryn Kennedy, a Wagner College senior from Germany, attended the dinner and gave sound advice about never falling in love in a foreign country, "it makes life so difficult."

In Ms. Kennedy's view: "The world is getting a lot smaller due to the Internet and it's good to get away every time you can."

One of the highlights of the evening was when Dr. Zoltan Fulop, the faculty advisor for the foreign exchange students, began praising the work of his students who are currently in the International Students Association (ISA). Fulop feels that he is the luckiest faculty member because he is able to work with these students.

The ISA welcomes everyone to attend their meetings, held on Tuesday's at 7:30 p.m. in Campus Hall, room 402.

The ISA is a program for both foreign exchange students and students from the United States. The ISA awarded three of its members, Nathalie Saint Jean, Sahani C. Howie and Cathia Saint Jean for their hard



Members of the International Students Assoc.

work and extreme dedication to the program.

They have dedicated much of their time to this program. They helped raise money for a child named Casey Rahmin, 8 years old, who suffers from a rare disease. Underdeveloped brain cells are implanted in the brain to help stimulate the growth of neurons and ultimately this will help Casey function better.

Dr. Jose Fernandez, a guest speaker from Argentina, came to New York in order to raise awareness for literature and history in Argentina. Fernandez began to discuss the history of the Latino boom and how it began as well as why it began.

He feels that diversity has been shaped with an intertwining of American culture with other cultures. Industrialization and globalization helped open the doors into the Latino world of music, literature, history and aesthetics. Some changes that were evoked were the decline in cost for publishing houses, but there was an increase in difficulty to sell a product such as a book.

"When society becomes more open, we see more advances," said Susan Tseng, a Wagner chemistry professor. John Auh, director of the International Exchange Program, felt that the dinner helped to determine whether certain needs were being met for the foreign students.

The speeches were enlightening and the dinner was done in a manner that was very welcoming. It gave students from all around the world that attend Wagner a chance to mingle under a relaxed setting.

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WCBG's On Air Schedule

Radio worshippers,
As you already know, we're the ones responsible for giving you the best, and perhaps only, aural pleasure. Without you, we would just be licking the microphone for no reason other than for the yummy taste of metal on our tongue. At the moment, we are broadcasting on the Access Channel (Sex, Seis, Six), as well as on the intranet via Winamp.

WE WANT you to listen. We NEED you to listen. We COMMAND you to listen. Our sole purpose here is to give you multiple (I'm saying multiple!) cargasmms. Turn us on so we can turn you on - to the hottest music out there. This is WCBG.

The Adventures of Brady and Poole

Mike Brady and Mike Poole (Mon 9pm-11pm)
Maximum rock, minimum crap. Take yourself in our world of yesterday's and today's best rock. We will tantalize your ears with our wit and mayhem, so stay tuned.

The Sweaty Palms Show

Justin English (Tues 11pm-1am)
Slim Jim the Ruler takes over the controls for just a little while in order to persuade you into the better realms of your favorite music.

Wednesday Night Massacre

Eric Cohen (Wed 11pm-1am)
Wagner's resident metalhead blasts the best in hard and heavy music - no show tunes here, people. Although not encouraged by the promoter or the venue, moshing may take place...

Big Daddy's Basement

Don Plummer (Mon 11pm-1am) (Wed - Thurs - Fri 11am-1pm)
Raised by wolves, and lured to a life of captivity here at Wagner (by a side of beef and a case of beer). Don is sometimes as pungent as stink on poopie, and has been known to eat small children.

Raving and Drooling

Paul Carroll (Thurs 11pm-1am)
He begs you to listen to him in a desperate attempt to raise his degenerating self-esteem. For the love of God, he needs you, the listening public, to help him put together his hopelessly shattered life. Call him when he's on, to give him a warm squishy feeling, and he'll promise not to masturbate on air.

Three Blind Slappas

John Skitka, Lars Londot, Tom Reichel (Sat 9pm-11pm)
This slappa combination will give you anything you want. They will take you on a tour that goes from really hot women to the soothing sounds of golden oldies: all the while sticking in their dimwitted commentary.

Eating Fungus in a Pancake House

Greg Winter (Fri 1pm-3pm)
Pop, punk, funk, crank, skank, and everything else ever recorded onto vinyl and compact disc will be played on this show as Groovy Greg hides in the corner and swats at the magic elves that try to eat him on a daily basis.

Neal "The Real Deal" LaRossa

Neal LaRoia (Tues 9pm-11pm)
You made him your president, now make him your favorite WCBG disc jockey. The most vicious scandal during his career in student politics, watch out ladies we got a live one here. He loves you and your minions too, period.

The Breeding Pit

Kimmy Hard (Mon 12pm-1pm, Tues 3pm-4pm)
Pumping you into a disconcerted world ranging from "hit kickin" country to the latest Jap-pop. I'm here to confuse, leaving you dazed and breathless - after all I AM Kimmy "Ultra" Hard.

Virgin Ears No More

Angel Orr (Tues 4pm-5pm)
It's not mainstream...but neither is your hostess. Sounds of rock, folk, and local bands from everywhere will be dripping into your ears - no condoms allowed. Get touched by an Angel.

Playing With Balls

Mike Southern (Fri 8pm-9pm)
Southern Justice, in an attempt to rule this campus as sports god, plays classic rock and sounds off on big balls, small balls, and the occasional stick and puck.

Double Shots of Classic Rock (Live Feed)

Steve Corn (Wed 9pm-11pm)
The only one crazy enough to broadcast himself head banging and air guitaring to 60's, 70's, and 80's music. If I didn't know any better I'd say it's recreation time at the insane asylum!

More Than Just Beer and Parties

A Look at Greek Life at Wagner

By Anne Marie Daiuto
Staff Writer

Through the years, Greek life has been diminishing. Many believe the horror stories and are turned away. According to the Greeks, they are not just the party animals like everyone thinks. As with every group, there will always be two prevalent sides and one may be seen more than others. Granted, Greeks may have fun at times, but they also carry out and uphold a serious side.

Numerous Greeks are the strong leaders on campus. Many are people who want to make the most here at Wagner. Going Greek may make the best out of its members. Most Greeks develop strong leadership and communication skills. It can give one a sense of commitment and responsibility. And best of all, you gain long lasting friendships and pride. Inter Fraternity Council (IFC) president, Julie Monaco, feels "Greek life is more of a family than just a group of friends."

On campus there are over 220 students in ten organizations. Each varies in size and in personality. At any time you can meet the Greeks, but there are two formal times of the year when you can join and decide if Greek life is for you.

In the fall and in the spring there is a week called Rush. Every organization has an opportunity to host an open party.

Each sorority and fraternity operates differently. Sororities have to follow the rules and regulations set forth by the Panhellenic Council. This council is made up of two members of each organization who set guidelines, party times, and dates for Rush. Panhell sets a quota each year for all sororities. The quota is determined on how many eligible women come through Rush.

The fraternities have a similar system in how they govern. They too are made up from members from each organization who attend meetings and decide on times and dates for parties. Quotas for fraternities are decided upon each individual's national or their own policies.

There is much more to the Greeks than just beer and parties.

Throughout the year the Greeks are involved in various events. Besides seeing Greeks in the Student Government Association, Theatre, Athletics and Music Departments, they control some of the largest events around campus.

Homecoming in the fall kicks off the semester. Many organizations participate in float building, banners and royal court nominations.

Songfest occurs in the spring, where organizations choreograph musical routine to a specific theme. Songfest is the start of Greek Week. During this week many functions are held.

Fraternities and sororities join together in different ways to raise money for certain philanthropies. Some activities consist of a student auction, The Mr. and Mrs. Wagner Competition, Singled Out, and Greek Awards.



TKE at Homecoming.

Besides having fun the Greeks come together as one and perform an array of community service projects. They have visited hospitals and donated toys to ill children as well as numerous walks and charity events that they participated in.

Many believe that Greeks are those who just want to buy their friends. Then before you give your hard working money to these "alcoholics" and "stuck up" people you are expected to get physically, mentally and emotionally degraded for many weeks.

As long as you educate yourself about the rules and regulations, everyone would know that the advisors and administrators would never allow any form of hazing to be administered.

The school sponsors a hazing speaker every semester for all new members and stresses the importance of the negative effects that will occur from doing such. Any organization that engages in hazing will face severe penalties.

The Greeks, on a whole, function through one governing system called Greek Senate. The advisor of Greek Senate is Dr. Anne Gazzard. She helps the Greeks to prepare functions and decides on important decisions. Greek Senate involves every Greek organization.

Each chapter has two representatives that have to attend meetings twice a month. The executive board consists of Erika Robinson, President; Debbie Aguiar, Vice President; Jessica Marshak, Secretary; and Anthony Krueger, Treasurer. There are other positions that hold important roles such as Fundraising Chair, Greek Week Chair, Community Service Chair and Public Relations. Greek Senate works on developing fund-raisers to gain money, they organize Meet the Greeks in the Union, plan games on the Oval, and sponsor other events throughout the semester.

Ms. Robinson would like to "make Greeks well known on campus and to continue spreading a positive image."

Their future goals are to increase Greek life, alumni relations and to try to raise money to plant a tree on campus.

Come check the Greeks out this semester. Songfest is April 21, and the week after, watch out for Greek Week events. Once the nice weather is about look for Greek sponsored community service and philanthropy events. There is much more than you think to Greek Life.

Alpha Delta Pi

Color: Azure Blue and White

Mascot: Alphie - the lion

Motto: We Live For Each Other

Philanthropy: Ronald McDonald House

View on Greek Life: It gives every member ample opportunities, experiences and friendships that will last for a lifetime.

Alpha Omicron Pi

Color: Cardinal Red

Mascot: Panda

Motto: 1 Motto, 1 Badge, 1 Bond, 1 Singleness of Heart

Philanthropy: Arthritis Research

View on Greek Life: Good experiences and friendships that will be for a lifetime.

Alpha Sigma Alpha

Color: Red

Mascot: Raggedy Ann and the Ladybug

Motto: Aspire, Seek and Attain

Philanthropy: S June Smith Center; Special Olympics

View on Greek Life: It's an opportunity to make life long friends and to remain friends after graduation.

Tau Kappa Sigma

Color: Red and Gray

Mascot: Dove

Motto: No one is a stranger, just a friend you haven't met yet

Philanthropy: March of Dimes

View on Greek Life: Lifetime of friendships that last forever.

Sigma Gamma Rho

Color: Royal Blue and Gold

Mascot: French Poodle

Motto: Greater Service, Greater Progress

Philanthropy: Hall House; Operation Big Book Bag

View on Greek Life: It's the first step into the business world and you learn how to conduct yourself responsibly.

Tau Kappa Epsilon

Color: Stone gray and Cherry Red

Motto: Not for wealth, rank or honor but for personal worth and character.

Philanthropy: Charity work

View on Greek Life: Offers a variety of things including personal experiences, personal growth, and friendships that last forever.

Delta Nu

Color: Maroon and Gold

Mascot: Bulldog

Motto: Support academic, athletic and social excellence

Philanthropy: Jerry's Kids

View on Greek Life: Brings the Wagner Community Closer

Alpha Sigma Omega

Color: Cardinal Red and Stone

Philanthropy: Boomer Esiason Foundation for Cystic Fibrosis

View on Greek Life: It's a way of everyone to express themselves

Kappa Sigma Alpha

Color: Purple and White

Mascot: Yosemite Sam

Motto: Loyalty and Unity

Philanthropy: Make a Wish Foundation

View on Greek Life: It's very important and helps keep people in school

Theta Chi

Color: Military Red and White

Mascot: Bull

Motto: The Assisting Hand

Philanthropy: New York Blood Drive

View on Greek Life: It's an experience



King and Queen of Homecoming.

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According to Lisa Pollari, the assistant principal of social studies at Port Richmond, the group deserved the honor based on their hard work and commitment.

"We're very proud of our JROTC program," she said. "They work very hard and this is a nice reward for them."

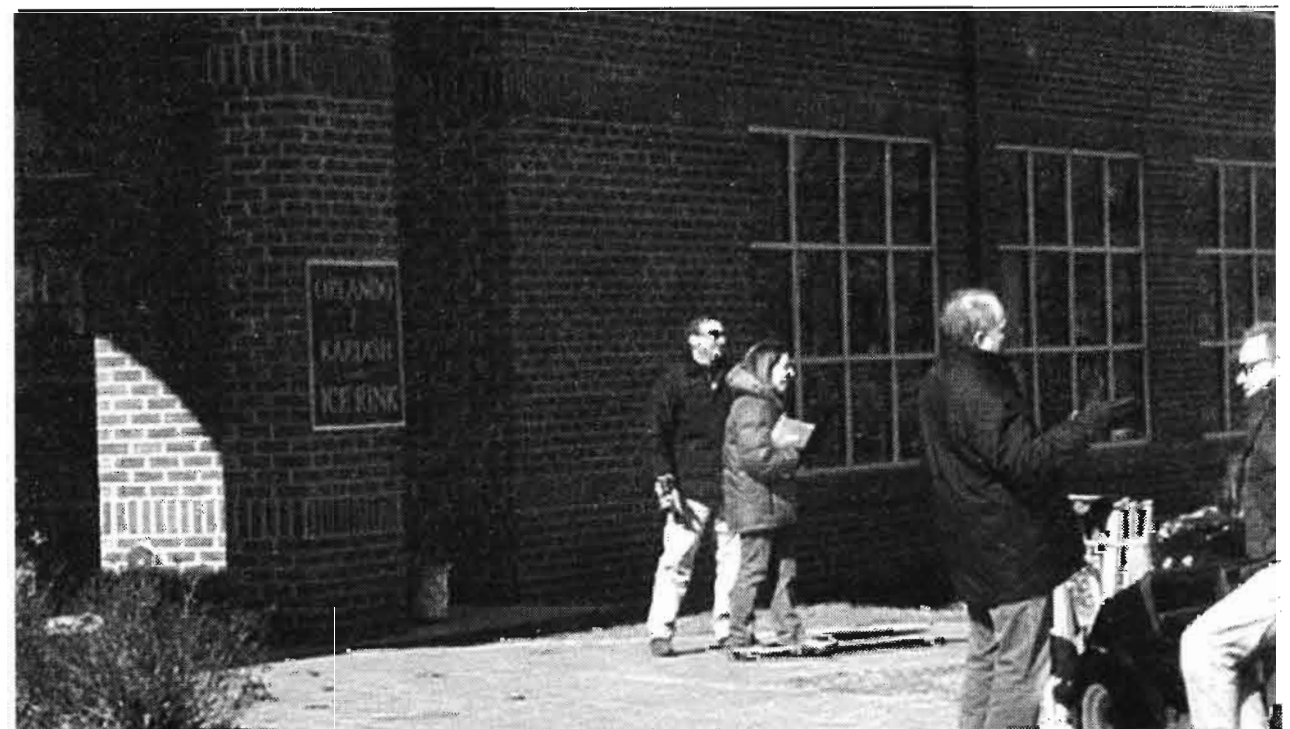
One Port Richmond student, Cadet Lieutenant Andrew Quiles of New Springville, was singled out to give an on-camera salute to passing actors.

"I'm very excited and I enjoy doing this," he said prior to his HBO debut.

While working directly with a member of the Soprano family may have calmed Quiles' nerves, his fellow cadets were not as easily soothed.

"We're all kind of nervous, we're all kind of excited and I'm revved up," said Cadet Sergeant Salvatore Tirone of Mariner's Harbor. "It sounds like a lot of fun. It's 'The Sopranos.' It's HBO."

Although the Wagner administration had no intentions of inspecting food in its Dining Hall for enemies of Tony Soprano's crew, the college was well prepared for their invasion. Representatives of the FBI, the Secret Service, IRS Criminal Investigation and the NYPD were on campus for a Career in Government Fair. Coincidence?



The crew of "The Sopranos" outside of Spiro Hall.

Entertainment

It's Official... We Have a Radio Station

WCBG Is Up and Running, for Your Aural Pleasure

By Eric Cohen
Assistant Editor

Hearing strange music as you flip between "The Simpsons" on Channel 5 and "Wheel of Fortune" on Channel 7?

It's not your imagination – it's the newly-launched Wagner College Broadcast Group (WCBG).

After three years of battling through a constant stream of obstacles, WCBG finally became an official entity last week. For senior and Station Manager Dominic (DJ) Costantino, it's a dream come true.

"It's pretty unbelievable," Costantino said. "Unreal," commented Chief Engineer and Webmaster Jason Nadal, a junior.

"This is by far the most exciting thing to come down since I've been at Wagner," Costantino added.

WCBG is not really a "radio" station; for the time being, it's only accessible through Channel 6 on the Wagner cable network, and through the Intranet. You can access the live Intranet feed by typing in "Intranet" on your web browser, then clicking on Wagner College Radio. You will need Winamp to hear the broadcasts, a free (and fast) download from www.winamp.com.

According to Costantino, the station hopes to have an AM radio frequency by the start of next term, if not sooner. The primary goal, though, is to get the time slots filled. WCBG aims to be broadcasting continuously from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. daily.

The station has an open format, meaning the disc jockeys may play any form of music they wish (show tunes are the only exception, because of legal issues). Almost every genre is represented on WCBG: classic rock, R&B, classic soul, rap, punk, heavy metal, and even country. Classical music is the

only category not featured as of this writing – but that may come soon, too.

WCBG receives new CDs daily from both major and obscure record labels, thanks to the tireless efforts of Music Director Justin English. The station's music collection is eclectic, but growing fast.

Not one person has had prior broadcasting experience, so this is an exciting new endeavor for everyone. The staff is growing surprisingly competent,

and any lack of experience is more than made up by their extreme passion toward the music they play.

Nobody much cares that they're not playing for thousands (or even dozens) of people – they're just in it for the thrill of broadcasting.

"You hear the music and everything is rumbling...it's like being at the concert of your favorite band," gushed senior Steve Corn, who broadcasts classic rock on Wednesdays from 9 to 11 p.m. "It's great to have a club that everyone can get into."

Want to join the excitement? There are still plenty of open time slots available, especially on weekends. Stop by the WCBG office in the basement of Harbor View Hall (right opposite the laundry room) to be scheduled.

If you have a request for a song, just dial extension 4098.

"It feels great to join a group that's so dedicated for a cause," said sophomore Nick Simone, who plays hard rock and local talent from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays.

"Even though we're only on the Access Channel now, it all starts with one riff."



Nick Simone takes the mic during his WCBG broadcast.

A Fete With The Filthy Monks

Entertainment Writer Lizz Brady Spends an Evening with Wagner's Newest Band: Those Hygienically Challenged Friars, "The Filthy Monks"

By Lizz Brady
Staff Writer

I think it's ordained somewhere (and if it's not, it is now) that one of the quintessential ingredients in the making of a great band is an adequate rehearsal spot. Makes sense, right?

The locale where jam sessions take place must be comfortably accommodating for all members, inspiring, and (cough) work-inducing.

The Filthy Monks are fortunate to have all of these assets in band member Chris Bessette's colorful abode in Guild Hall. And that's an understatement.

When I stepped into Bessette's cluttered but cozy dorm room, it was hard to ignore the strong ambiance of what I can only describe as a mellow vibe. Cliché, yes, but it's impossible not to be completely at ease when you're surrounded by Curious George paraphernalia, a giant stuffed M&M and other tinker toys that suggest this is a guy who fully appreciates life's lighter side.

In fact, this seems to be a shared sentiment among all four of the (tentatively named) Monks. High-jinks and hilarity coupled with a little music marked a thoroughly entertaining night spent with group members Bessette, Chris Jenkins, Jimmy Muratore, and Jon Raymond, four up-and-coming musicians who have been supplying the Wagner community with fresh renditions of popular favorites for months now.

Armed with a notebook and the distinct impression that the next couple of hours were going to be anything but mundane, I perched on one of the loft beds and, along with fellow observers Katie Courtien and Christina Jenkins, waited for the chaos to ensue.

Approximately a second and a half later: "I'm hyper, no Cadbury Eggs tonight," declares Raymond, the band's drummer, who pulls a chair up to join his friends who appear equally as wired.

Jenkins, not missing a beat, breaks into "More than a Feeling" and is promptly stopped a few riffs later.

"Dude, you know the words to that song?" Bessette asks him incredulously.

"Yeah, sure," he pauses to clarify the lyrics and call out chords.

The band has no objections to Jenkins taking the reigns, and for good reason. This is a guy who doesn't need to be

told that patience is a virtue.

A sophomore, Jenkins first remembers picking up a guitar in the eighth grade. "The singing came naturally," he says, attributing his love for music to such influences as Nirvana, the Beatles, the Violent Femmes, Brian Wilson and the Beach Boys.

Though he's far from simple-minded, Jenkins' laissez-faire attitude is easy to adopt while in his presence, and I'm not the least bit astonished by his answer when I ask him what he hopes to do with music in the future: "I hope to play and sing."

Bessette, on the other hand, takes an entirely different approach to his status in the band: "I'm the worst musician—but I look good in a tank top," he jokes. Ability notwithstanding, Bessette certainly excels in championing the group.

"It's great to find four guys with quite a range who can play and harmonize," he muses and even the casual listener isn't likely to disagree with him.

During my visit, I was treated to several stanzas of masterfully orchestrated a cappella in such songs as Deep Blue Something's "Breakfast at Tiffany's" and Sugar Ray's "Every Morning."

A musical theatre major, Bessette also attests to a life-long love of music which marked itself with inauspicious beginnings. "I think I started playing [guitar] when I was 12. I thought it would be cool," he says, attributing musician Joe Satriani as one of his greatest influences.

"If I could be in Vegas the rest of my life performing, I would."

Images of Bessette turned Elvis Presley dance through my mind for a few seconds, but I think Bessette has far better things coming to him. Both his fervor and talent ensure that an affluent career in music is well within his grasp.

The phone rings.

"Pizza!" Raymond bellows, and all musical endeavors are temporarily abandoned for Domino's and General Tso's Chicken.

The music has stopped, but the performance is far from over—every one of these guys could make a nice go of it doing standup. Inside jokes, profanity and pizza crusts are plentiful. Anecdotes are swapped. Roommate Dave Korzatkowski pops in from time to time.

Meanwhile, I'm starting to forget I'm on assignment.

But minutes later, it's back to business. Jenkins, egg roll in left hand, picks things up with a spiced up cover of Cake's "I

Will Survive," and the rest of the band follows suit.

Everyone except Raymond.

"Mmmm, Domino's," he leans back in his chair, savoring the last bit of a slice. The statement isn't meant to be particularly funny, but somehow, it's hysterical. That's just the kind of guy Raymond is.

In a room full of comedians, Raymond seems to enjoy his time in the limelight a bit more than the others, perhaps with good reason. "I'd never get to talk!" he laments, referring to his lack of mic time in recent performances before he urged fellow group members to give him his fair share.

Accordingly, Raymond is also a musical theatre major who has been playing the drums for almost ten years. Drawing inspiration from such bands as Third Eye Blind and Barenaked Ladies, he's as passionate about his music as he is about his pizza. "I always knew I loved music, and it's my life," he says.

Amid all of this chaos lies a calming force in Jimmy Muratore. Granted, the bassist can be every bit as rambunctious as his friends, but Muratore appears a bit more studious than the rest. Maybe this stems from unyielding devotion to his craft.

"I started playing guitar when I was 14, but my dad didn't buy me one until I could prove that I wouldn't quit," he says.

The dedication obviously paid off, and Muratore can now easily strum along with such favorite musicians as the Beatles, Pink Floyd, Eric Clapton, and Jimmy Page.

Bessette lovingly points out another one of Muratore's admirable traits: "He fits easily into overhead storage compartments."

Now what about this entire re-naming business?

"We've gone over a few suggestions," Raymond remarks. Some of the more enticing possibilities for the new band name were "A New Low," "Curious George," and "Mr. Tickle."

The band ultimately decided on "A New Low."

Eventually, all good things must come to an end, but it is with a bit of regret that I finally rise from my comfy spot next to the giant yellow M&M to move on to drabber things. But the action is far from over for the guys who live to make "filthy funk for the precocious punk." As I exit the room, the noise level is nowhere near a dull roar. These guys won't be shutting up anytime soon..

And I hope they never do.

When You Gotta Go...

Part One in a Two-Part Series: A Look at the Best and Worst Bathrooms at Wagner

By Mike Southern
Assistant Sports Editor

I was sitting in my marketing class in Main Hall one Friday when nature called. Excusing myself, I walked down the hall, opened the door to the men's room and found, much to my surprise, that the room had been redone.

Gone were the out-of-order toilets and lousy construction. Now the bathroom featured both marble floors and walls, a gold-bordered mirror and fancy chandeliers. Best of all, instead of the typical industrial-looking bathroom stalls, there were now almost private rooms to do your...um...private business.

This was clearly the best bathroom I had ever seen at Wagner, or any school for that matter. But the question is, is every bathroom at this school as impressive? It called for an investigation.

Toilet Reading

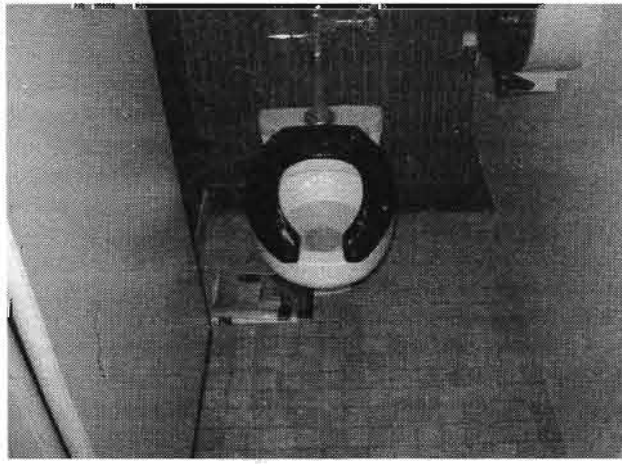
The Main Hall men's room was done in much of the same design as the bathroom next to the Hawk's Nest, but a little bit better. On the inside of the stall (the old kind), someone had written the names and numbers of some of the...let's just say, easier students on this campus (I won't give their names out, but they were engraved, so you can check them out yourself if you want to).

The Can-Can Bash

Next we move on to the bathrooms that are only used by students. I am talking, of course, about the dorm facilities. On a nostalgia trip, I took a walk over to my old freshman bathroom on the ninth floor of Harbor View, where on the second day of school someone had stuck gum on the bottom of the shower and it never came off. When I walked in, the first thing I noticed was that there were three or four air fresheners in various places. That



Fred Carson scrubs amid restroom pleasantries.



A lovely Union john, complete with literature.

was the good news.

The bad news was that the floor was covered with some sort of black substance that had obviously been there for awhile, the toilet had some kind of red dye in it, and best of all, two years later, the gum on the bottom of the shower was still there. Leaving as soon as I could, I next ventured to my own bathroom in Guild.

Guild bathrooms are the only ones on campus that are not cleaned by staff. That's right, you have to do it yourself. I really should clean mine more, I must admit. However, the true value of a Guild bathroom comes through when you are sick to your stomach after a night of enjoying too much beer and shots, and you need a private place to be left alone to throw up and wonder if you are going to die.

John-hopping

Moving around campus a bit, we next come to Spiro Hall where I could never actually find a bathroom (I was later told that they are in the basement). No problem.

We move next door to the Science Center where the bathrooms are small, but overall well maintained. There is a sign in one, though, stating that "if you don't flush, it will stink in here."

I personally never understood the concept of not flushing but, hey, whatever keeps the place sanitary, I suppose.

Royal Flushes

Next to the Science Center is the Spiro Sports Center, where I am a regular. Rather than take you through each locker room, I will just critique the one that the fans and my fellow gym rats use. Being that the Sports Center is the newest building on campus, one would expect a nice bathroom, which it is: clean, spacious and with everything in working order.

But when I thought about it a little, I realized that this bathroom is one of the only ones used by people that don't actually go to Wagner. Thinking further, the newly redone Main Hall ones are also used frequently by non-Wagner people, the people who go

to see the shows.

This thinking led me to take a trip over to what was formerly the old run-down North Hall, and thanks to money and ego has been changed to Reynolds House, home of the alumni. Suffice it to say, Reynolds House was no longer run-down but rather totally redone for our money-giving graduates, and the bathroom was beautiful, maybe even nicer than the Main Hall ones.

But my guess is that students don't use it very much because, after leaving the men's room, the secretary chased me out of Reynolds House.

Paper or Plastic

Our last stop on the tour is the Performance Center, home of the Wagner College Choir.

While my fellow choir members and I make beautiful music, I must say we, the men at least, don't have a beautiful bathroom.

It's not so much that it's old and dirty, one of the toilets has been out of order for months, and rather than fix it, the Wagner staff just put a plastic bag over it. Which would not be so bad in itself except for the fact that, from what I have heard, students have been known to use the toilet anyway.

Fortunately, I have never had to actually be exposed to that. Or maybe I was just afraid to look.

In conclusion, the bathrooms at Wagner are really nice, as long as people that don't actually go to Wagner are going to be using them. As for all of us that do, well you might get a nice bathroom. But then again, gum is still stuck to the bottom of the shower.



Carson admires the Hawk's Nest commode.

Carla's Campus Couples

Our Second Installment in a Bi-Weekly Look at Love

By Carla Barletto
Co-Editor

Eddie D'Anna is a senior English major with a minor in journalism. Jillien Soranno is a senior psychology major with a minor in anthropology/sociology.

The first time that D'Anna spoke to Ms. Soranno, they were in their first semester at Wagner in 1997, and they were in Dr. Susan Bernardo's Honors English class. It was not love at first sight.

"I thought she was an attractive girl, but a little too good for me," recalls D'Anna. "I never would have thought we would be going out. I never saw it coming."

Their sophomore year here at Wagner they were in a number of classes together and gradually came to be friends. They started to hang out together outside of school, with other friends. By the end of sophomore year they would be classified as best friends.

As sophomore year was drawing to a close D'Anna realized that he wanted Ms. Soranno to be more than his best friend. Not wanting to plunge into a situation that could backfire, instead of telling Ms. Soranno how he felt he told one of her friends, Jen Pristash.

"When he told me I knew that they were meant for each other," said Ms. Pristash.

By this time D'Anna was also feeling like he

knew it was meant to be. "I had butterflies in my stomach every time that I thought about her," he said. "I knew she would make me happy."

According to D'Anna, Ms. Pristash told him to go for it because they did everything "just like a couple would."

Ms. Soranno was a bit skeptical about the whole idea, as she did not want to lose her best friend. D'Anna, never one

to balk at a challenge, did not give up. "I knew how happy she could make me and knew that it was worth the risk."

As the summer between sophomore and junior years progressed, they became closer. On the evening of July 19, 1999, D'Anna gathered his courage and called Ms. Soranno and asked her out. They've been together ever since.

"She still is my best friend in the world," says D'Anna after almost 2 years with Ms. Soranno. "I don't know what life would be like without her hand to hold and her by my side."

D'Anna's advice for the love-challenged: "Talk about what is bothering you, something we don't do enough, but I

think that a lot of couples have trouble talking through their problems."

Ms. Soranno adds: "Be honest with each other and always say I love you."

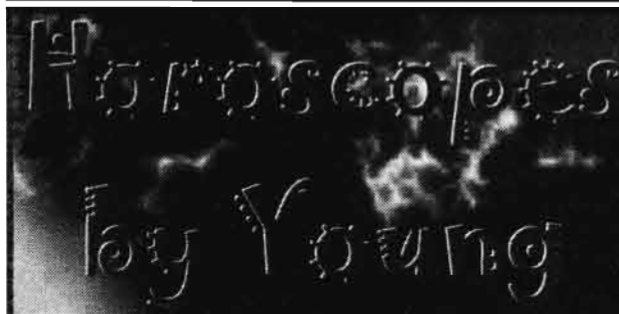
D'Anna's sister, Liz D'Anna, knows the couple well and is happy for them, as well as for herself. "He's much nicer now and we get along much better, and Jill is like a sister," states Ms. D'Anna, a 17-year-old senior from Curtis High School, who will be attending Wagner next year as an arts administration major.

D'Anna is currently an intern with the Staten Island Advance and plans to be a full-time reporter there when he graduates. Ms. Soranno currently works at Wilson's Leather Store in the mall, and is undecided on her career plans.

When asked where they expected their relationship to be in a year, they both answered without hesitation: "We'll still be together."



D'Anna and Ms. Soranno during the 2000 Christmas season.

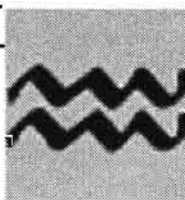


The following horoscopes have been compiled with consultation to the Universal Waite Tarot Deck and "The Pictorial Key to The Tarot," by Arthur Edward Waite.

By Elizabeth Young
Staff Writer

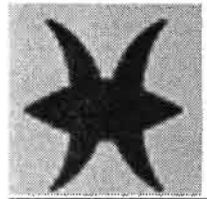
AQUARIUS (01/20-02/18)

Transform yourself by clearing away the old to make way for the new. This is the beginning of a new era for you. An unexpected change may take place resulting in an alteration in your life.



PISCES (02/19-03/20)

Be careful of the advice you give to others, it will only lead to bad outcomes. Being over-prudent will result in unnecessary delays.



ARIES (03/21-04/19)

You are influenced by a person of the male gender. Confidence, wealth and authority are also seen in your cards. Intelligence and reason will dominate.



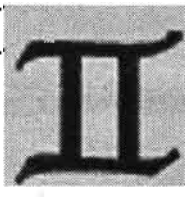
TAURUS (04/20-05/20)

Your senses of wisdom, common sense and intuition are high. Self-reliance is in your corner and you are not experiencing or displaying emotions.



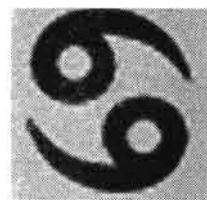
GEMINI (05/21-06/21)

Use common sense when making decisions in the upcoming weeks. Overanalyzing things may lead you to make bad decisions.



CANCER (06/22-07/22)

Your character is weak as you fail to control petty emotions. Some may consider you immature and indecisive.



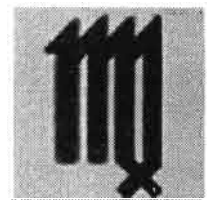
LEO (07/23-08/22)

You are approaching the end of a problem. Good or bad luck may be the outcome. The direction of our luck will determine your advancement.



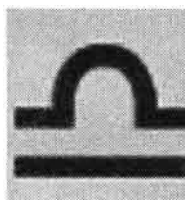
VIRGO (08/23-09/22)

You are an honest and conscientious person. You are mature for your age. People see you as wise and a devoted friend.



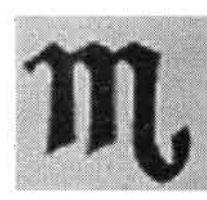
LIBRA (09/23-10/22)

You are wise and with this wisdom you are able to make good decisions. You are also able to perceive when things are about to take a turn for the worse.



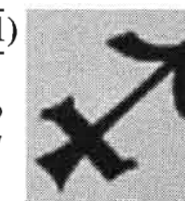
SCORPIO (10/23-11/21)

Be strong and focus on work you must accomplish in the upcoming days. Be certain of and don't delay in making essential decisions.



SAGITTARIUS (11/22-12/21)

There seems to be a lack of determination and direction in your life. Keep up with your daily routine and don't delay in getting things done.



CAPRICORN (12/22-01/19)

Changes will be made and may alter your life in one way or another. You have managed to escape a serious accident.



"Everyday" Is Short and Sweet

DMB's 4th Studio Release Features Stronger Sound and (gasp!) Shorter Songs

By Jillien Soranno
Staff Writer

With the release of its fourth studio album, "Everyday," the sound of the Dave Matthews Band has evolved noticeably from its last studio release three years ago.

Gone are the eight-minute tracks stretched to capacity with lengthy solos between band members, and the humble sounds of an acoustic guitar that were predominant on the band's first three studio releases, most recently "Before These Crowded Streets," in 1998.



Dave Matthews Band.

On "Everyday," lead guitarist and vocalist Dave Matthews has abandoned his use of an acoustic guitar for a more powerful electric. With songs like the debut single, "I Did It," and "The Space Between," the change in guitars is unmistakable. It also helps add a fresh sound to a band that has been on the scene for most of the 1990's.

The tracks on the album are also noticeably shorter, most between three and four minutes, and only a few going over. On "Before These Crowded Streets," the tracks were twice as long, some stretching between eight and nine minutes.

According to the band, their new producer, Glen Ballard, inspired the changes.

Ballard convinced the band that their live shows, with extensive improvisations, weren't listener-friendly on studio CD's, and the songs needed to be tighter and shorter.

"They're sophisticated enough as people and musicians to understand that, while their live show represents one aspect of the band, the album is like making a movie. I think the audience is much more diligent in a live setting than they are when they have it in the CD," said Ballard in an interview with Charlie Rose, that aired on PBS.

While some critics may accuse the band of "selling out" by trading its signature sound for a more listener friendly approach that may appeal to a wider fan base, what has made the band successful in the past, according to Matthews, has not changed.

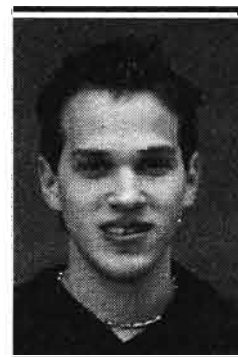
"I didn't write this album for commercial reasons, but there are songs that are catchy, which is what I think is sort of in a sense commercial," Matthews told Rose.

"I don't think we've compromised complexity or being musically adventurous."

The band is preparing for their upcoming tour, where their new songs will debut live. The first show to begin the tour is on April 21, in Charlottesville, Va.

Editorial

Mayor Clinton? Hold Your Horses



Eric Cohen

Political MishMosh

After two months and change of the Bush presidency, I've come to this unfortunate conclusion about Dubya: The man is a real charmer, but writing about him makes me nauseous. That's why this week, I'm going to talk about an old Democratic favorite - Bubba.

Good old Bubba. He stepped down from the presidency on January 20, yet it's as if he's never left. Like the ghost of dead (?) Elvis, the ghost of Bill Clinton is everywhere.

He's haunting the economy (ever since Clinton left office, the stock markets have fallen faster than Milli Vanilli), the judicial system (with tens of possibly illegitimate pardons), and now, from the way it seems, our own City Hall.

In recent weeks, the New York Post and Daily News - both bastions of quality journalism, to be sure - each ran articles with the screaming headline, "MAYOR BUBBA!" Talk radio, from what I understand (I just listen to metal; my grandmother listens to talk radio) has been abuzz with the prospect of the former president entering the New York City mayoral race.

It's uncertain how the rumors started, but seemingly everyone in New York is talking about the possibility of Clinton being our next mayor. Perhaps it's a result of his recent move to Harlem (yes, that Harlem). Perhaps it just came out of the shock of Hillary Clinton being elected as the new Democratic Senator for New York State.

More likely, it's a combination of those factors with the sad fact that the mayoral race, as it now stands, resembles the Who's Who of Nobodies. The only Republican successor to current mayor Rudolph Giuliani looks to be Michael Bloomberg, a super-rich conservative business tycoon (yawn). On the Democratic side, the likely contenders are public advocate Mark Green, controller Alan Hevesi, City Council speaker Peter Vallone, Bronx borough president Fernando Ferrer, Reverend Al Sharpton, James Hetfield, Lars Ulrich, Mitchell Shenker, and Billy Ray Cyrus (note: last three or four people may not be legitimate mayoral candidates).

Understandably, the addition of a former U.S. President would add instant spice to a very moribund



I would like to tell the youth of this nation...

race. According to the March 11 Daily News/CBS-2 poll, 54 percent of the people polled think it would be a good thing if Bill Clinton ran for mayor of New York. Not surprisingly, the same poll indicates Clinton would wallop Green, Hevesi et al. in the Democratic primary, then shellack Bloomberg in the general election in November.

But don't get excited (or enraged) just yet. According to Julia Payne, the ex-president's spokesperson, Clinton has absolutely no intention of stepping into the race. In other words, newspaper sales have been slow lately, and there's no truth to the stories whatsoever.

How wild would a Mayor Bubba scenario be, though? You could just imagine some of the changes to New York City:

All of the improvements to 42nd Street to make it "tourist-friendly" would be undone, with the budget savings being funneled back into the city's libraries. The 8.25% sales tax on clothing would be reinstated - but only on women's clothing. A new "Mayor's Commission for the Arts" would pay delinquents money to spray graffiti all over the subways again. No doubt, at least one "Monica Lewinsky Expressway" would be built. Giuliani's frightening experiment to make New York a clean and friendly city would end - thank the good Lord.

And as the Daily News article put it so well, we'd go from a mayor who's not afraid to inflict pain to one who would feel your pain.

Concerts on the Oval



Douglas Auer

Power
Auer

I recently received in the mail a survey from Campus Activities asking what can be done to make campus more exciting. Events, programs, concerts, were all listed and polled in this very commendable effort. It's about time that a survey was sent to the students, by the students, for the students (I'm getting misty writing this).

And I, in the spirit of always wanting to help out, have an idea that should seriously be considered. Let's bring Guns 'N' Roses and Wu-Tang to the Wag for a concert extravaganza.

I am sure you're asking yourself: How is this going to be made possible? Why these

two music acts and not others? Well, here's why . . .

Guns 'N' Roses is back after a long hiatus, but unfortunately, frontman Axl Rose and keyboardist Dizzy Reed are the only surviving members from the 1996 breakup of the world's most dangerous band. But there may be hope . . . Axl has put together a surprising ensemble of musicians, featuring guitarists Buckethead, Robin Finck and Paul Tobias (a.k.a. Paul Huger); keyboardist Reed (as already mentioned); former Primus drummer Brian "Brain" Mantia; and former Replacements bassist Tommy Stinson. Now this is by no means Slash, Duff, Izzy, Gilby, or Matt, but it is a start at something new, and after seeing the Rock in Rio III performance, I'd say GNR is ready to kick some ass. And what better place to start the U.S. Summer 2001 tour than at Wagner.

Wagner is in a perpetual state of rebuilding, and so is Guns 'N' Roses. Frontman Rose is elusive and eccentric, and so is Wagner's frontman. One of the new guitarists, Buckethead, wears a KFC bucket while playing guitar, and Wagner students wish the cafeteria had real KFC chicken. Last but not least, GNR is looking for an audience, and Wagner students are looking for a concert.

Hell, we can probably get them to come for free. We'll just use the endowment to pay for it (might as well use the money while we can).

And since the Sopranos and stupid indie films can use the Oval, we'll just let Axl and his boys set up there, and proceed with carnage (plus, if they're on a stage, they're technically abiding by the "no walking on the grass" rule). With classic "Appetite for Destruction" songs, and new classics sure to come from "Chinese Democracy," the concert should be a huge success. Grymes Hill residents will most likely bring their children and poodles. Alumni will praise our efforts. World peace will not be far behind.

And for all the hip-hop fans on campus, why not bring Wu-Tang to the school? I mean, they came from Staten Island, duh, and some members hail from down the way in Park Hill. They could walk up here, or drive those elaborately decorated promo vans, whichever. Now, if Wagner could obtain university status, bringing Wu-Tang would be easier because then the school's name would be WU, matching the band's nickname, the WU. Ingenious huh? I know, I know.

Method Man could smoke grass while rapping on the Oval's grass, so there'd be no problem there because he is replenishing the supply. Wu-Tang producer Rza could talk business sense to the Bursar's Office. And Ol' Dirty Bastard could use Wagner as another hiding spot on his continual run from the law.

As for similarities between Wu-Tang and Guns 'N' Roses, Wu-Tang's third collective (that means it features all the clan members for the ignorant) album, "The W," has recently been released [check out "Protect Ya Neck (The Jump Off)" and "Gravel Pit"] and the group will be touring soon, so they too can start here on Shaolin at the Wag. And since both music acts have had numerous troubles with the law, we can look to Wagner Campus Police to make sure the event is peaceful and operates smoothly. Hmmm . . .

So there it is, something to ponder over, Guns 'N' Roses and Wu-Tang kicking out some sick shiznit here at the Wag.

Will it happen? Possibly. Write your local congressman for support!

Would it be cool? Hell yeah.

Is it nice to dream? Sure is.

I guess I'll just wait for the caricature artist to return.

AIDS Devastates Africa

Wagner Student Experiences Africa First-Hand

By Kinsey Casey
Staff Writer

WESTERN CAPE OF SOUTH AFRICA --We have all read the articles, seen the pictures and heard the tragic stories, but the devastation of the AIDS crisis cannot truly sink in until you come here. There are at least two or three articles in the newspaper daily, and current president Thabo Mbeki is hindering rather than helping the situation.

According to the latest statistics, the Western Cape (that is where I am) has the highest rate of increase in HIV infections countrywide: 7.1% from 1998 to 1999. Last year an estimated 250,000 people died from AIDS-related illnesses. We can belabor statistics to death, but it doesn't really hit home until it is in your face.

Three times a week I go to Kayamandi, the township right outside the city I am living in, to play with the children and teach English. There are hundreds of adorable little children and it breaks my heart to see lesions appearing on some of them, knowing that there are drugs available to help them, but the African government and the American pharmaceutical companies deny them.

Essentially the problem is two-fold. First, pharmaceutical companies do not want to lose a profit so they are charging outrageous prices for multi-drug cocktails that help curb the progress of the disease. Currently the price of the cocktail is around \$10,000 per year, per patient. That seems expensive to me as an American, but for an African it is simply unrealistic.

Many only make around \$15 a month, and still must support a family. To make matters worse, these American pharmaceutical companies are currently suing drug companies in South Africa and other third world countries for creating generic drugs to sell at much cheaper prices.

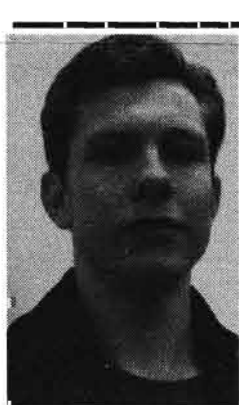
Secondly, Mbeki refuses to declare South Africa in a state of emergency. By declaring a public health emergency for HIV/AIDS, a government could give general authorization for the competitive sector to supply particular types of drugs, and can eliminate the steps of negotiation normally required for commercial use. Incredibly, the president still does not believe that HIV leads to AIDS. In a country that is estimated to have 6 million AIDS related deaths by 2010, it is a bit frightening that the president does not consider that an emergency!

Trade unions, public interest groups, and human rights organizations call on Mbeki daily to declare a national state of emergency, but as of March 14 he confirmed that it was not part of his administration's plan to fight HIV/AIDS. There are other ways to obtain affordable access to all medicines, but they all take time, and in that time, more lives are lost. For instance, the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act would eventually provide for access to all medicines, as well as for a variety of strategies to ensure affordable access, but the Act is currently being contested in the courts by pharmaceutical companies. Thus, as time goes by, the sick only become sicker.

I wonder what is weighing on the consciences of the owners of the pharmaceutical companies who are trying to make an enormous profit off of thousands of sick Africans.

For Whom the Belle Tolls

Once the most feared hitter in baseball, former Baltimore Orioles right fielder



Mike Southern

Southern
Justice

Albert Belle was forced to retire because of arthritis in the hip that was caused by the unbridled fury of his swing, a fury that was representative of both his career and his personality. Belle's retirement, caused by a condition that is normally associated with old men

even after he had acted like a child for most of his career, is indeed ironic and perhaps proves that God has a sense of humor after all.

Even more ironic is the fact that his career went out with such a whimper after so much yelling over the last eight years.

When talking about Albert Belle you are talking about a man that was so hated that at one point during games at Yankee Stadium, extra security had to be employed just to protect him from the ever-blood-thirsty New York fans.

Over his career his offenses have included: Throwing a baseball at a photographer's head, going on a profanity-laced tirade at a reporter during the World Series, smashing a clubhouse radio because the room was too loud, smashing a clubhouse thermostat because the room was too cold, chasing kids in his car during Halloween, running over Milwaukee Brewers' infielder, Fernando Vina, while delivering a cheap shot at the same time and generally acting like a jerk to media and fans alike.

All of this I could forgive: The brats that he chased on Halloween egged his house, the infielder was in

his way, and being a type A personality myself, I can understand how a man like Belle can carry within himself a certain amount of intensity. Besides, unlike New York Mets' closer Armando Benitez, he has never been accused of beating his spouse, and unlike Carl Everett, he was never accused of beating his kids, and both of those men have received far less criticism for their actions than Belle ever has. And to his credit, Belle always played hard, even for teams going nowhere, he always delivered the big numbers that teams demand from their slugger and towards the end, he played through the intense pain caused by his hip.

But, what I can never forgive, is when after the 1996 season, he left a very good team (the Cleveland Indians) and the only fans that ever accepted him, to make more money with the Chicago White Sox. It was a greedy move as he turned his back on his team's success and his own, for a few extra dollars he didn't need. After he took the money thrown at him, he saw his career go downhill.

In the four seasons that followed he played on terrible underachieving teams that never came close to making the playoffs, while his old team continued to thrive. Although he continued to play well (including a monster 1998 season that allowed him to sign another huge contract with another lousy team), he never duplicated the success that he had in Cleveland.

And now his career is over.

Most people think that, in the end, he got what was coming to him.

Three other men have overshadowed the retirement of Belle this spring.

White Sox first baseman Frank Thomas, Los Angeles Dodgers left fielder Gary Sheffield and San Francisco Giants left fielder Barry Bonds have been causing problems for their teams this spring because they felt that despite the millions of dollars they make (Sheffield, the poorest player among the three, will

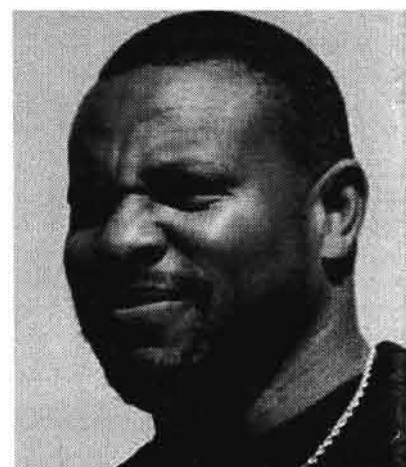
make \$9.5 million this season), they are underpaid. They are each demanding more money from their teams, or demanding to be traded to teams that will give them the money they want.

Like Belle, each of these men have caused headaches for their teams in the past. Bonds has been called by some, "the biggest jerk in baseball," Thomas has been called selfish and has been known to alienate the only team he has ever played for, and Sheffield has played for four teams and has not been able to get along with any of them.

Then again, maybe it is not fair to compare these guys to Belle. For all his offenses, at least Belle never refused to step on the field because of money.

Ultimately, though, it doesn't matter what you do to receive a negative image: it usually stays with you forever. It will for Belle.

It's why no one really cares his career is over and all he will get for a send off is a feeling of good riddance. And it may very well be too late to repair the image of the other three men as well. But hopefully Bonds, Sheffield, and Thomas will learn from the mistakes of Albert Belle and ask themselves: What do they want their legacy to be when they limp into retirement?



Albert Belle rides off into the sunset.

Wagnerian Sports

Stirring up Some March Madness of Their Own

Wagner Men and Women Make it to NEC Tournament

By Mike Southern
Assistant Sports Editor

With March Madness currently sweeping the nation, the Wagner men and women created some basketball excitement of their own this month, by going to the NEC tournament in Trenton, New Jersey, the weekend before spring break. While neither team would go on to win their respective tournaments, it was nevertheless a reward for a season's worth of hard work.

The Wagner men would play first on March 3, taking on fourth-seeded Long Island University (Wagner was seeded fifth, with a season record of 15-12). Much of the game did not go well for the Seahawks, as they trailed 43-37 early in the second half. That deficit would grow larger as they trailed 59-48 with less than twelve minutes left in the game.

The Seahawks were not dead yet, as Jeff Klaunder (15 points) hit a three to cut the LIU lead to 59-51. From there, star player Jermaine Hall took over as he would score 18 of his game-high 28 points in the second half to lead the comeback.

Also playing a key part in the comeback was Courtney Pritchard (16 points), who hit two crucial three pointers. But the star of the game was clearly Hall who, despite facing the very tough LIU defense, was nearly flawless, hitting 10 of 12 shots from the floor and going eight of nine from the all-important free throw line.

Thanks to a 26-11 run late in the second half, the Seahawks were able to take a 77-70 lead. Despite another late scare in which LIU would cut the lead to two, Wagner was able to hold on and win 88-83 thanks to more clutch free throw shooting from Curtis High School product Nigel Wyatte.

The next day, however, Wagner would be unable to hold the lead as they were ousted from the tournament by first-seeded St. Francis NY, 72-65, who

beat them for the third time this season. The game started off well, as the Seahawks, led by Dedrick Dye's 16 first-half points, grabbed a 31-20 lead and led by ten with under four minutes to play in the first half. But in the closing minutes, before intermission, St. Francis would cut the lead down to four.

St. Francis would keep the momentum going in the second half as they opened it up with a 16-7 run, which gave them a 49-44 lead midway through the third. Wagner continued to struggle and the St. Francis lead grew to 10 with fewer than five minutes to play.

The Seahawks, as they had the previous day, played the comeback game again and trailed by only three 66-63 with 1:48 to play. But the defense of St. Francis was too much for Wagner to handle as they scored only two points the rest of the game, and St. Francis would nail late free throws to seal the season for the Seahawks.

The Wagner women would also travel down to Trenton. Following a rough beginning, the women had finished the season very strong to make the tournament where they, like their male counterparts, would take on LIU in the first round. Unfortunately, they would not fare quite as well, losing 77-66.

The game started badly for Wagner, they fell behind 21-7 to start the game and were down 41-27 at halftime. Things grew worse as they would trail by 21 points in the second half. Then the women came alive as they began a frenzied comeback, led by center, Meredith Kerns, who scored a career high 20 points on the game. Also aiding the comeback were Carrie Walker and Toni Roker, who each had 13 points.

Wagner had cut the lead to four with under a minute left, but their momentum was snuffed out when LIU hit seven of eight free throws in the last minute of the game.

As Wagner coach Tara Gallagher said, "too little to late," and the clock ran out on the Seahawks.

Wagner Baseball and Softball Face Conference Openers

By Vincent Musso
Staff Writer

The Wagner College baseball and softball teams recently returned home from their annual Florida trips to begin their seasons. Their overall records of 4-7 and 4-6, respectively, aren't too shabby considering the high level of competition that the teams play down south.

Both teams have high expectations, and you should expect both records to improve. The two teams must now prepare for their conference schedule, which each team hopes will end in an eventual Northeast Conference Championship.

The Wagner College baseball team officially began the defense of their Northeast Conference Championship on March 24 in Maryland. They opened their conference schedule against the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. This was expected to provide a great early test for the Seahawks, as the Retrievers of UMBC were ranked No. 1 in the conference by the preseason coaches' poll.

"It's important to get off to a good start in conference play," says senior Stephen Munari. "We'd like to get into a good rhythm and put some pressure on the other teams right from the beginning."

The Wagner College Softball team also began their conference schedule on March 24 in Connecticut against Quinnipiac. The Braves were ranked No. 8 in the twelve-team conference by the preseason coaches' poll.

You can bet that the Seahawks' opponents low preseason ranking will not lead to any oversights. The Seahawks come into the season with high expectations and believe they can win every time they take the field.

We can only hope that both teams will get off to strong starts in conference and continue their strong play throughout the season. In the end, it would be nice to see both teams bring home Northeast Conference titles and give Wagner College a clean sweep of the diamond.

Coach Payne's Troops Ready to Play "Hard" Ball

By Paul Kurella
Staff Writer

The Wagner College Women's softball team finished last season just two games short of the Northeast Conference playoffs. Coming so close, and with another year of experience under their belts, the team now knows what's expected of them.

With a good balance of veterans (six seniors) and newcomers (six freshmen), the Lady Seahawks will come out hungry and looking to improve on their 17-29 record from last season.

"We've come a long way since we first took over and that's the most we've ever won in the conference," coach Glen Payne said, speaking of the team's 10-10 record in conference play. "We've made steady progress each year and I think that we're now at the point where the girls believe they have a realistic shot to win every time they take the field."

In order to do this, the spotlight will be placed heavily on the pitching to return to last year's form. Sophomore Krystle Petty, of Edison, N.J., had a solid rookie campaign, leading the pitching staff with a 2.39 ERA. Her record was 6-10, but she struck out 97 batters in 128 innings pitched, and opposing batters hit just .238 against her. Freshman Bridgette Colleran, a resident of Valencia, Calif., will join Petty on the mound this season. Her off-speed pitches accompanied by her fastball should make her a contender for Rookie of the Year honors in the Northeast Conference.

"Pitching is the name of the game in the NEC, and with Krystle and Bridgette, I think we have the best one-two punch we've had since I've been here," Payne said.

"Krystle proved what she can do and I think Bridgette has the talent to be just as effective at this level," Payne said. "We have to find a way to get them some support."



Senior Tracie Hulbert prepares to field a ground ball at her new second base slot.

He was referring to his team's inability to score last year, in which the Seahawks managed only 2.5 runs per game.

As far as the offense goes, Payne will rely on his six seniors, who have played a key role in the Seahawks' attack the past three seasons. Stacy Veech, of Clifton, N.J., returns to SS this season, where she started all 45 games last season, batted .271 and led the team with 35 hits.

Diane Weisheit, Tigard, Or., will also have to come up clutch in the batting order. She was second on the team with 12 RBI last year, and led the Seahawks in doubles with 10. Tracie Hulbert, Longmont, CO, who spent most of her time behind the plate last year, will see action at second base this season. These three will also be counted on to be leaders in the quest for a post-season berth.

"All three girls are four-year starters, and a major reason why we've continued to improve each year," said Payne. "Our team is built around them, but we also have a lot of depth and flexibility because we have so many kids who can play a number of positions. We should be solid on defense, and the bottom line is that the girls who hit will be the girls who play."

Liliane Di Leo, of Brooklyn, returns to lead the outfield again this year. The centerfielder's speed and hitting ability at the top of the order will be key in setting the table for the rest of the lineup. Two more seniors, Meghan Shank (Pt. Pleasant, N.J.) and Jenny Ferrarin, also of Brooklyn, will compete for the second base and first base positions respectively. Junior Lauren Sanchez, from Staten Island, will compete with Hulbert for duties behind the plate, while the speedy Jen James (Brooklyn) is expected to play all three outfield positions. Sophomore Lynn Shortway of Hawthorne, N.J., can play any position in the infield and is very consistent with the bat.

In addition to the upperclassmen, six freshmen join the Seahawk team this year. Among those who are likely to see considerable time are outfielders Marie Bianca of Staten Island, and Natalie Stolimeyer, from Walnut, Calif. Amanda Bongiorno (Clifton, N.J.) will compete for a spot at third base and Jessica VanManen (Staten Island) will compete for action behind the plate.

The team returned home from the 2001 Rebel Games at the Osceola Sports Complex in Florida with a 4-6 record. Not bad, considering the team played against some good competition. Their wins came against Holy Cross, LaSalle, Sacred Heart, and Eastern Kentucky.

In a preseason poll of NEC coaches, Wagner was picked to finish sixth. Paying no mind, the team is well on its way to improving on last season's record. Hopefully, the girls will prove the preseason poll wrong. As we all know, with some hard work and a little help from the bats, a successful 2001 campaign is sure to follow.