

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW PRESIDENT: DR. RICHARD GUARASCI

Current provost replaces Dr. Norman Smith on June 1

*At their Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, April 25, the Trustees elected our provost, Dr. Richard Guarasci, the 18th president of Wagner College, effective June 1, 2002. The following is the text of the press release that was released following the announcement:*

Dr. Robert C. O'Brien, chairman of the Wagner College Board of Trustees, announced today that Dr. Richard Guarasci has been named the next President of Wagner College.

Dr. Guarasci succeeds Dr. Norman Smith, who is leaving Wagner after a 14-year term that makes him the longest serving president in the College's 119-year history. Smith moves on to the presidency of Richmond, The American International University in London.

Dr. Guarasci is presently the provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs at Wagner College, a position he has held for the past five years. He came to Wagner from Geneva, New York where he was Dean of Hobart College. Previously, he was a professor and dean at St. Lawrence University for over 20 years. A native of Brooklyn, New York, Dr. Guarasci earned his Ph.D. and Master's degree from Indiana University. He earned his undergraduate degree from Fordham University.

"The Wagner Board of Trustees is unanimously and enthusiastically pleased to have elected Dr. Guarasci," declared Board Chair O'Brien, a 1966 graduate of Wagner and managing director of Credit Suisse First Boston. Dr. O'Brien noted that Dr. Guarasci was selected from among a distinguished group of finalists identified following a national executive search. "We could not hope for a more qualified educator to continue the momentum and success that Wagner College has experienced over the past decade. Additionally, Dr. Guarasci is a "known entity" at Wagner College who has contributed to the college's success in many important ways. He is highly regarded by the faculty and student body, and also among his professionals throughout academe."

"I am honored to have been selected by the Trustees to become the college's 18th president," stated Dr. Guarasci. "I have come to love this college and I very much agree with those who believe that Wagner is positioned to become one of the truly distinguished private, residential, liberal arts colleges in America. I am excited about



*Dr. Richard Guarasci was selected April 25 as Wagner's next president. The other finalists were Dr. Mordechai Rozanski, president of the University of Guelph, and Dr. Mary Mundinger, dean and professor at the Columbia School of Nursing.*

assuming this important position and look forward to working with the Wagner community in taking the college to the next plateau."

"I welcome the Board's decision to have Dr. Guarasci succeed me," stated President Smith. "Having recruited, hired and worked with him for the past 5 years, he has definitely demonstrated that he cares deeply for Wagner College and has both the energy and talent to optimize the institution's potential."

Dr. Guarasci will assume the presidency on June 1, 2002.

Wagner Students React

By ERIC COHEN  
Wagnerian Co-Editor

The announcement of Dr. Richard Guarasci becoming the 18th president of Wagner College was generally greeted with praise among the Wagner student body.

"Dr. Guarasci was the candidate who deserved it," said Michael O'Connor, a senior English major who had the newly appointed president as a professor his freshman year. "I had him for my freshman learning community (Democracy and Diversity) and he really cared for his students. Also, Dr. Guarasci has the best connection to Wagner."

Another former student of Dr. Guarasci, junior political science major Brett Stein, agreed.

"I had Dr. Guarasci freshman year, and I don't think there could be a more qualified individual for the job," said Stein.

Some students were pleased to see the current provost assume the presidency, given his experience at Wagner and his warm rapport with the students.

"He's always been so nice and personable," commented Colleen Venable, a senior English and art major, and editor of the Nimbus literary magazine. "To be honest, I always kind of thought of him as the president, since he's always so abreast of everything going on around campus."

"I am very glad to see that the candidate with the most passion for Wagner, and the most passion for the students, got the job," said Bobby Hamm, a junior music and history major, and co-editor of the Kallista Yearbook.

Other students, while not expressing disappointment in the decision, openly wondered how the change of command would affect the college. Numerous students refused to express an opinion since they weren't familiar with the other candidates, Dr. Mordechai Rozanski and Dr. Mary Mundinger.

"Honestly, I'm not sure what effect changing the president is going to have, only because there are a lot of administration figures that carry as much weight as the president, and they might remain in the same positions," commented Annemarie Galucia, a junior English major.

"It seems like Dr. Guarasci has a lot of the same ideas as Dr. Smith, so I'm not sure if a lot of things will change," added Jill Higgins, a sophomore arts administration major.

Still, the majority of people interviewed for the Wagnerian were pleased with the decision to promote Dr. Guarasci, the architect of the "Wagner Plan" of learning communities and experiential learning programs that has won the college praise from Time Magazine and a "Top Tier" ranking from U.S. News and World Report.

"The students as a whole seem really excited about Dr. Guarasci being chosen as the president," said Caroline Vassallo, a junior international affairs major. "He embodies the spirit of Wagner College—he's compassionate and he has a goal of where Wagner should be. He really has a vision for the school and he's very dedicated toward achieving it."

### Biography of Dr. Richard Guarasci

*Dr. Richard Guarasci is provost and vice president for academic affairs at Wagner College. He holds the rank of professor of political science and he teaches in the areas of democracy, citizenship and American diversity.*

*At Wagner, Dr. Guarasci founded The Wagner Plan for the Practical Liberal Arts, the new four-year curriculum for all undergraduates, that draws together a substantive liberal arts core into a series of learning communities. Each community cluster includes semester-long community based and service learning courses emphasizing the integration of ideas and experiences with the civic arts of democratic culture. Communication, participation and social action serve as central elements in The Wagner Plan, with its goal of producing educated citizens committed to lives as reflective practitioners.*

*Dr. Guarasci was dean and professor of political science at Hobart College from 1992-1996. There he formed a major in community-based and service learning as well as an 18-course curriculum in diversity and citizenship. Previously he served as dean and founding director of the First Year Program at St. Lawrence University, a nationally celebrated model program of democratic living and learning required for all first year students that joined first-year housing to a two-semester schedule.*

*Dr. Guarasci is the author of "Democratic Education in the Age of Difference: Redefining Citizenship in Higher Education" (Jossey-Bass, 1997) and numerous other publications. In this recent book, he argues that it is imperative that higher education explicitly educate students for intercultural leadership. He served on the National Board of Directors of the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). He is a Fellow of the Society for Values in Higher Education (SVHE) and a PEW Foundation Fellow with The Washington Center for Learning in building natural leadership in Learning Communities. He is a member of the faculty for The Asheville Institute and an Advising Board Member for The Models for Democracy Project of SVHE. Dr. Guarasci recently authored "Developing the Democratic Arts" in About Campus (Feb. 2001). He is a native of Brooklyn, New York.*

FRESHMAN LCs:  
BENEFIT OR  
BURDEN?

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GRADUATING SENIORS  
REFLECT ON THEIR  
WAGNER EXPERIENCE

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## NEWS

## 'Music Of A New Era'

*Songfest 2002, featuring seven fraternities and sororities, is a hit*

By NAJIEH ATTAL  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Songfest 2002 had a wonderful turnout. At least 400 students showed up in the Spiro Sports Center to view seven fraternities and sororities perform musical sketches on the theme of "Music of a New Era."

The competition was introduced to us by Student Government Association president Kinsey Casey. She also introduced the King and Queen of Songfest 2002.

Chrissy Prundl was crowned the Songfest Queen of 2002, representing her sisters in Alpha Delta Pi, while Anthony Sisko was crowned Songfest King and he represented Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. Kappa Sigma Alpha members Allie Benner and Paul Callas were crowned Songfest First Princess and Prince. Finally, Kristina Casale represented Alpha Omicron Pi as Second Princess, while Theta Chi member Michael Diesa walked onto the stage as Second Prince.

After standing for the National Anthem, the recognition of the Coronation of the Court, and the introduction of the Songfest judges, the "Music of a New Era" competition began.

Co-ed fraternity Kappa Sigma Alpha opened up Songfest with their "Where's The Party" soundtrack and T-shirts. Old time favorites such as M.C. Hammer, Paula Abdul and Salt-N-Pepa's "Whatta Man, Whatta Man" were performed. We can't forget to give them credit for their use of the wonderful song "Poison" by Bell Biv DeVoe. Kappa Sigma Alpha worked hard on their dance routine and Missy Dene put in a lot of after-hours in order to make their performance a success, but the judges didn't recognize them with an award.

The second group of performers was Alpha Omicron Pi, who wore bright reds as they danced to the beat of Ricky Martin and his "Latin Explosion" music. The dance routine was opened up with a cute impersonation of Jennifer Lopez in her music video "What I Want" and then "Let's Get Loud." They danced well enough to receive the first-place award for overall best performance.

The sisters of Alpha Delta Pi, danced extremely well as they gave an impersonation of "Britney Spears: Live in Concert." Wagner ladies were all over the stage in their Catholic schoolgirl outfits, while Chrissy Prundl opened up the scene in her teacher's beige suit and funky glasses. Not only did these ladies give justice to the song "I'm A Slave For You," but they actually went far enough to get a fake snake to make it all look real. Despite outstanding dancing, Alpha Delta Pi also went home empty handed.

The fourth group of performers was Tau Kappa Sigma. This group of "Divas" lit up the stage with their S & M action. The use of a whip to attach the ladies to each other definitely gave the impression that Madonna was on stage and she was definitely not repressing herself. The girls depicted themselves as city girls, in fishnet shirts, bras and black leather pants. Their performance earned them a well-deserved award for "Honorable Mention."

The stage then made way for the "Independent Women" of Alpha Sigma Alpha. Bright rainbow colors rocked this group's outfits. ASA ladies performed strongly to the theme song from Destiny's Child, "Independent Women" and "Survivor," and of course, Cher's "Strong Enough." ASA was strong enough to walk off with the "Most Original" award.

After all the ladies performed, the men of Theta Chi and Tau Kappa Epsilon came out on stage. These boy groups were complete opposites of one another.

Theta Chi performed to Hip Hop's hardest and baddest songs: Nas's "Hate Me Now" song rocked the audience, as did OutKast's "Bombs over Baghdad." Laura Bruzese, a sweetheart of Mike Bilbao, a member of Theta Chi, danced her heart out on stage. The crowd went wild for these songs, but they did not get crazy until they heard Afroman's "Because I Got High." Yet the crowd's enthusiasm didn't help these men get an award.

Last but not least Tau Kappa Epsilon, performed to the theme of "Out of SYNC." TKE used N\*SYNC's biggest hit, "Pop," to win an award for "Best Representation of Theme". They ended their show with "Bye Bye Bye," an award winner for the group.

The show ended with applause as Wagner students headed to celebrate the performance they had just seen. Performers who won awards left with smiles, while those who did not walked away with a feeling of being let down. Maybe next year.

## Wagner Freshman Program Gets Mixed Reviews

*Some first-year students saw learning communities as a benefit; others a burden*

By DANIELLE KING  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

First year students at Wagner College must complete a Learning Community (LC) in their first semester. The purpose of an LC is to get freshmen involved in real world problems and fieldwork that is directly related to the three units comprising the LC. There has been both positive and negative feedback from freshmen concerning their experience with the LC program.

Some students consider themselves lucky enough to be taking multiple courses in the same semester in which the assignments, readings, and problems in each seem to be related or overlapping. This may allow a better understanding of the material being covered and sometimes, a greater opportunity for success. However, other students found their Learning Community experience to be anything but beneficial. For these students, the LC didn't give them anything but a lot of unnecessary grief.

An important benefit that some students found in the LC was the opportunity to make new friends. Each of the three units in the LC included the same cohort of students, allowing freshmen to get to know a select group of students on a daily basis. Diana Favorito, who took LC 19, "Borderlands: The Construction of Nations & Identities," explained, "The LC was good in terms of social bonding because I was with the same group of people, which allowed friends to be made easily."

A.J. Palumbo, a member of LC 18, "The Wheel of Fortune: The Changing Face of Money, Power, and the State," shared similar views. "I thought my experience with the LC was very beneficial because having the same group of students in each class got me into the techniques of college studying better because I was able to do it in study groups," he explained.

"I think the idea of a LC is good because I had classes with all the same students and when it came time for doing the community service aspect of the program, I had friends to go with, which helped because I didn't feel uncomfortable," said Bobby Dorman, who completed LC 9, "Individual Behavior, Business and Society."

However, some students found that taking classes comprised of the same students was not something they liked. "I didn't like being in a class with the same kids all the time because I felt I didn't have anything in common with them," said Daniel Gollin, a freshman who took LC 1, "City and Civilization: Literature, Culture & Society from the Classical Period through the Renaissance."

Similarly, freshman Kevin Golden, who took LC 3, "Wealth and War: The Economics of International Conflict," said, "I would have preferred to be in a class with different people. As a freshman, you want to make

many friends and by traveling with the same group of students to all three classes, you really aren't able to."

Some students found themselves bored with the work covered in the three units, especially if the classes didn't relate to their declared or probable major. For others, their first, second, and even third choices from the 20 learning communities available was not given to them and they were forced to take classes they really had no interest in taking. For some, this first-year program was not a good indication of what Wagner had to offer and left some students dreading what was yet to come in future semesters.

Still others believed that the assignments and readings in each class didn't relate well to one another or that the experiential learning component didn't add to a better understanding of the course material. Some students believe that the extensive amount of hours, a required minimum of 24, that is needed to complete the reflective tutorial is just too much to handle during a first semester, for this is a time when almost all freshmen are trying to adjust to their new surroundings and the successful completion of coursework.

"The community service hours that were part of the experiential learning component were pointless because it didn't relate well to my coursework. I thought that it was disorganized and it seemed that there was a lack of planning," said Favorito.

Similarly, Palumbo explained, "The one thing I didn't like was that the community service was misplaced and was not connected to my LC. Because students are forced to do the service, I really don't think it's going to do any good to the students performing the service or to those receiving it."

Contrary to these views is Gollin's viewpoint on his experience with the community service aspect of the program. "The RFT and experiential learning component was a good introduction to the city because my class took trips there and familiarized ourselves to the city through classroom discussion," he said.

"My experiential learning component was very enjoyable. Even though it had nothing to do with my coursework, I felt it was a good experience," said Golden.

Clearly, students of the Class of 2005 have different views regarding their experience with Wagner's First-Year Plan, which was composed primarily of the Learning Community program. It seems that with every positive viewpoint, there is a negative perspective lurking somewhere beneath. Maybe it is time to voice these opinions to the Wagner College administration so changes could be made to the curriculum, such as revamping, disposing of, or keeping the Learning Community program in its present form, allowing freshmen students the opportunity to get the most out of their first semester coursework.

## EDITORIAL

### The Frustration Of Registration

*Scheduling conflicts make registering for required classes difficult*

By JILL HIGGINS  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

The sun is shining, the birds are chirping, and Wagner College students are standing in line at the registrar's office. Yes, it's that wonderful time of year known as registration. Students are already stressed out and worrying about their finals for this semester, and now they have to worry about classes for next semester!

I went to the registrar's office a couple of weeks ago to pick up a course booklet. I figured I'd get one on the first day that they came out so I'd really be able to think about what classes I wanted to take. I got to the office around 1 p.m. only to find out they are already out of the booklets and won't have anymore for a day or two.

This doesn't make sense. They know how many students are at this school; why not print up enough books for everyone?

About two days later, rather than going back to the registrar's office, I finally got online and looked at the course schedule. After a few moments, I noticed that almost every class that I need for my major or core requirements

is offered at the same time: Tuesday and Thursday from 9:40 a.m. to 11:10 a.m., or 11:20 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.

How does this happen? You would think that professors and administrators would notice these conflicts and do something about it.

I was talking to a professor the other day that was saying professors get to pick what classes they teach and when the class is offered. Why don't these professors that are picking when the class is offered get together and discuss what is offered when? Then why doesn't the registrar look at the schedule and realize that all business classes or all theater classes are offered at the same time?

Wagner only gives us a certain number of units to work with each semester: four in the fall and five in the spring, or vice versa. With that limited number it is hard enough to graduate on time, and it becomes ever harder when we can't take the classes that we need when we need to take them. More people need to sit down with the class schedule and make sure that students are allowed to take the classes that they need. A college is supposed to be about the students and their needs, right?

Maybe next year I'll be able to take the classes I need, and maybe by 2010 I'll be able to graduate...

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT CORNER

Center for Career Development & Experiential Learning, Wagner Union

Phone: (718) 390-3181 Fax: (718) 420-4012

Web site: <http://www.wagner.edu/career>

### JOB SEARCHING TIPS

Bob O'Brien, Managing Director at Credit Suisse First Boston, shares his advice for a successful job search:

- \* Begin with self-assessment. You need to determine what you can offer before selling it to an employer. Career Development links to on-line self-assessment tests while the Counseling Center provides written self-assessment tests. Both are valuable in determining your skills set and likes/dislikes.
- \* Research the company and the job you are interested in.
- \* Show enthusiasm for the position and company.
- \* Maintain eye contact with the employer during an interview.
- \* Focus on your strengths and minimize your weaknesses.
- \* Develop strong communication skills and the ability to articulate your experiences.
- \* Portray a sense of self-confidence and self-assurance.
- \* Don't personalize rejection. If Company A is not interested, move on to Company B.
- \* Brush up on etiquette skill at <http://wagner.edu/career/>
- \* Don't give up!! Determine where you want to go and develop a plan that will get you there.

### WEB PAGE and E-MAIL

The Career Development web page is the first place to begin your job, internship or graduate school search. We post current job and internship listings to the site and link to a variety of job search and career choice resources. Visit our site at <http://wagner.edu/career> and email us at [ccdel@wagner.edu](mailto:ccdel@wagner.edu) if you wish to be added to our distribution list...

### INFORMATION TABLE

New York City Department of Corrections

Wednesday, May 1 from 12 noon to 2 p.m., Union

Maintain security within the City's detention and sentenced correctional facilities; responsible for the custody, control, care, job training and work performance of inmates in those facilities. The current minimum salary is \$30,692 a year. After appointment, incumbents will receive salary increments reaching \$57,293 per annum after five years.

### CURRENT JOBS in...

\*Writing, Editing and Communications

\* The Arts

\*Performing Arts

\* Management and Business

Register with Career Development to receive these email newsletters of current jobs monthly in the above fields.

### CAREER FAIRS

Attend the 30th NEW JERSEY COLLEGIATE CAREER DAY at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, Wednesday, May 29, 2002 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

150 employers will participate offering full time jobs and internships.

For directions & a list of employers, visit <http://careerservices.rutgers.edu> beginning May 1. Also, the NYS Virtual Job Fair will be online until May 31.

CCDEL Summer Hours:

Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## EDITORIAL

# Reflecting On September 11

By KEMP PARCHMENT  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

After September 11, many of us have changed our view about life and religion. Some of us may have lost faith in life and wonder why something like this could happen. But a large majority of us realized how important and precious life really is.

September 11 forced us to make changes to the way we each live our lives. The tragedy brought Americans and families closer. The tragedy was an experience that told us as human beings we need healing. We, not only Americans but also every human being, need healing after this terrible tragedy. Plato once said, "The unexamined life is not worth living." This tragedy forced us as a nation and as a world to stand up and stop focusing on the things we lack.

The events of September 11 made us realize that we have to be grateful for the things we each have in life, no matter how little it may seem.

We are in a time where humanity is crying out for heal-

ing. The only way humanity will ever be healed is through our own efforts. We all say we want world peace and we want hunger to end. But this will all continue unless we say we will not allow hatred and hunger to continue. It really is that simple. The world is a reflection of the choices we all have made and continue to make today.

September 11 was a terrible experience for us and we lost many precious lives. I know those lost in that tragedy would want us to make this great tragedy into our greatest triumph. Lauryn Hill said during her MTV Unplugged performance, "We gotta destroy in order to rebuild / We must rebel." She was specifically talking about our inner selves. We have to acknowledge our various experiences and grow from there.

As we enter the summer vacation, I ask all of you to remember September 11 and the lessons that it brought each of us. Remember how precious life is and remember your place in this world. We all serve a greater purpose and are not put here to just take up space. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Everyone has the power for greatness, not for fame but greatness, because greatness is determined by service." Serve humanity.

## NEWS

# 'Read Aloud Day' Comes To Library

Second annual event, held on April 17, featured readings from a wide array of literary genres

By CHRISTOPHER JENKINS  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

As the horrid rays of the sun beat down onto what seemed like hundreds of Wagner students on the oval on Wednesday, April 17, about 20 people traded in an hour and a half of the heat to be at one of the coolest places on campus. When I say cool, I mean downright cold. It felt like the air-conditioning was cranked to the max in the Horrmano Library when the crowd gathered for the second annual Great New York Read Aloud Day.

As with the first annual Great New York Read Aloud Day, which I think may have been last year, Head of Reference Frank Polizzi moderated the event. Despite the temperature, the crowd seemed comfortable and attentive. The complimentary coffee and cookies warmed me up as I got into the listening groove.

The first reader was Wagner's provost, Dr. Richard Guarasci, with an excerpt from the novel "Straight Man" by Richard Russo. The literary genre was eclectic from then on, with everything from proverbs to poetry to Dr. Seuss being read. And I learned from the pink program that Dr. Seuss' full name is Theodor Seuss Geisel.

Dr. Pradav Jani chose a poem by Suheir Hamad that talked about some effects of the World Trade Center, and he read it beautifully.

I think my favorite reading of the afternoon was Carol Quimby, with "When I Am an Old Woman" by Jenny Joseph. Among other aspects of growing old, it included a line to "make up for the sobriety of my youth." This made me think about my own "sobriety of youth" and made me ask, will I have to make up for things I wish I had done earlier in my later years?

I think a lot can be inferred from this poem, but to me at that time, it made me ever more conscious about these dwindling college days. So despite the fact that classes are still going on, papers are near due, and exams are coming up, I'm going to remember the really important things like laying on the oval, playing Frisbee after midnight, and going to see A New Low at Wagnerstock on Saturday, April 27.

## The Wagnerian

Wagner's Little Paper That Could  
Since 1918

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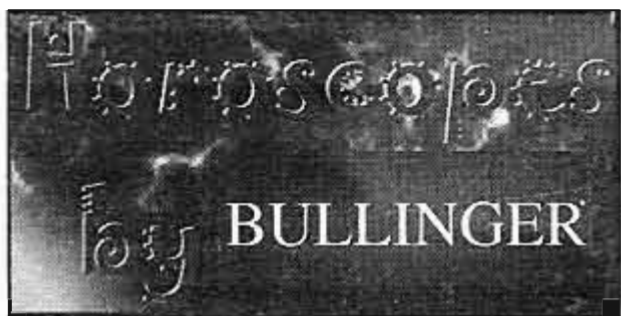
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Write a Letter to the Editor...  
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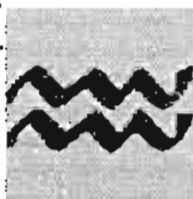


Our regular horoscope writer was swallowed whole by her tarot cards, but never fear; the Wagnerian has found a replacement. Our new writer's so good, he doesn't even need tarot cards.

By JOHN D. BULLINGER  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

**AQUARIUS (01/20-02/18)**

Your streak of good luck has ended. "What streak of good luck?" you're probably asking yourself.



**PISCES (02/19-03/20)**

You will meet the man of your dreams. He will be 6'3", stinking rich, muscular and well-dressed, and his name will be Dan, Steve, or George.



**ARIES (03/21-04/19)**

Final exams are coming for you at the worst possible time. You have no knowledge of your subjects and might as well write your papers using an Ouija board.



**TAURUS (04/20-05/20)**

People will go out of their way to avoid you this week; perhaps it's because your ego is roughly the size of Montana. Make amends, or enjoy the solitude.



**GEMINI (05/21-06/21)**

People are going to give you the nickname "Danny Champion of the World." Your strength and power have brought you success.



**CANCER (06/22-07/22)**

You will have strange and incomprehensible dreams this week about highways, ferryboats, and failed love interests. Now is a good time to buy lots of coffee.



**LEO (07/23-08/22)**

Your life right now makes about as much sense as a public address announcement on a New York City subway train. Take a step back and re-evaluate yourself.



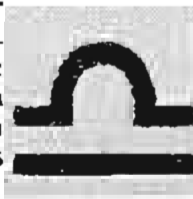
**VIRGO (08/23-09/22)**

You will have bizarre cravings this week for pork loin, shepherd's pie, week-old pizza, and pierogies. Go directly to the dining hall, do not pass go, do not collect \$200.



**LIBRA (09/23-10/22)**

You will receive no job offers for the foreseeable future, except perhaps from McDonald's. Your parents will nag you constantly and offer you no peace. It's going to be a long, hot summer.



**SCORPIO (10/23-11/21)**

You are in the same boat as the Libra right now, and right now, that boat kind of resembles the H.M.S. Titanic. Please proceed to the lifeboats.



**SAGITTARIUS (11/22-12/21)**

Keeping your tires properly inflated improves gas mileage. Make sure you change your oil every six months or 7,500 miles, whichever comes first.



**CAPRICORN (12/22-01/19)**

Your streak of good luck has ended. Don't even bother getting out of bed for at least the next two weeks.



EDITORIAL

The Final Sound-Off



Doug Auer

Power Auer

This is it. The final time Auer will have Power. Not that I ever had any power to begin with, but I have a voice, and that, my fellow students, is a very powerful instrument when employed properly.

I have spit venom. I have given praise. And I have cracked jokes, a lot of bad ones at that. But all of it has served as a commentary for what passes as life at Wagner College. When things are wrong, they should be condemned and criticized. Justly so, when things are good, they should be commended. And when things are just plain ridiculous, as things oft times are in our little corner of the globe, they should be laughed at and with.

That said, let's get down to the last words.

The food at the Hawk's Nest is overpriced. How can I afford an all-you-can-eat buffet in the dining hall for \$5, yet fork over \$3.97 for grilled cheese, a pack of donuts, and a soda? Hmm. Oh, but occasionally the prices differ because the staff does not always charge you the same price for certain items. Sometimes a bag of chips is 25 cents, sometimes 50 cents. The transfer hours are still inconvenient and it is always understaffed at the busiest part of the day. The line can wrap around the entire facility, making professors wonder why students are late for class.

The cafeteria started strong but has fallen off severely. The menu is very repetitive.

Why did people from Chartwells bother to come and survey students if they don't plan on using our suggestions or making improvements?

I don't mind "Max Bickford" filming, and I know Wagner is profiting from the show's use of our facilities, but I pay tuition, Mr. Key Grip. You try and tell me again where I can and can't walk, and I am gonna get rowdy.

Wagner students complain a lot about the lack of aca-

demie activities, such as film screenings and guest speakers, but then hardly anyone shows when such events do take place. Faculty and administration are not exempt from this criticism either, as demonstrated by Judy Shepard's underattended visit. If you want to feel like a member of academia, then act like it. Participate, speak up, and present yourself.

The grounds are exceptionally kept, but maybe these efforts and monies need to be redirected toward more important causes, such as the dorms. Updates and renovations are needed in all three living quarters. And by updates and renovations, I don't mean new, shiny metal signs.

The security staff is getting there, but they could still be a little friendlier and adopt some new policies. Perhaps name tags and pads, so that they can properly identify themselves and correctly record incidents when they occur.

While it is fine to cater to the alumni, Wagner needs to remember that we students are here now. And we are the future alumni. When the current donors eventually pass on to the big Wag in the sky, we'll be the ones getting tapped for the funds. Don't take actions today toward the students that may cause them to leave their wallet closed later down the road.

And don't ever settle for a president, a vice president, an administrator, a faculty member or a staff member who won't listen to your questions and supply you with proper answers and solutions. You pay their salary. Bottom line. If the moms and dads, sons and daughters stop sending checks into the Bursar's Office, a lot of operations would come to a halt.

Students are a very powerful voice. The most powerful voice. So be sure to exercise it. Fear no one. And if something needs fixing, bring about a call to action. Nas needs only "one mic," well here at Wagner all you need is a pen, a pad, and the courage to speak up.

Here's to the Wagnerian for giving the students objective news reports and an open editorial forum. If you don't like it, then join and make a difference.

Oh, by the way, units, LC's and RFT's are just plain dumb. I don't care what magazine says otherwise. Let them come deal with this confusing crap.

Manischewitz And Stamps

Postal Center employees deliver the mail and have a good time

By CHRISTOPHER JENKINS  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Deep in the heart of Wagner College's Campus Hall exists a place unlike any other here on campus. If you think I'm talking about the Postal Center, you're right!

Coming down here, with just one glance one learns to "Please enter through next door, thank you." Take my advice and do not attempt to enter through this door. You may not be prepared for what happens behind it. Instead, do as the sign says and enter through the next door. From there, one can negotiate all their mailing needs. That's right, stop down anytime you like, as long as it's between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The mail room décor consists of the usual blue rug and white walls with characters to inspire a good work ethic such as Scooby-Doo, Lucky (one of the 101 Dalmatians), Kevin Bacon, The Rock, the American Pie girls, and the entire cast of Winnie the Pooh. We have a bulletin board with suspicious mail warnings, Far Side cartoons, pictures of us with Slick Rick the UPS guy, and my letter from Bill Cosby. And above the cash register, we have a special wall of shame for everyone who owes us money. Yes, it appears that Chris Jenkins owes \$40 for postage.

As for what we actually do down here, well, despite the name, those self-adhesive stamps don't actually stick themselves on the envelopes.

From faxing to Fed Ex, it is true that the work study students here learn valuable job skills and all about the U.S. Mail system. Under the direction of Desiree Braithwaite and Fran Lezoli, the dedicated employees Nicole, Jamie, Joe, Chris, Jodi, Najieh, Daryl, and sometimes Vinny, sort, deliver, and send out mail every day. These are the unsung heroes of communication. Through rain, sleet, snow, and leaf blowing, the mail gets delivered.

Nicole Bardis, the most experienced postal worker, says, "Being able to work down here has given me the opportunity to meet a lot of people and learn about all the different types of services we have at this school."

What's great about the Postal Center is that we are like a family. We help each other out with mailing tasks. We serve as each other's shoulder to cry on when we send out thousands of the same letter from Wagner College saying that we are once again top tier. And we have boxes and



Familiar Postal Center faces pose for the camera, from left to right: Fran Lezoli, "Slick Rick the UPS Guy," and Desiree Braithwaite.

boxes of Manischewitz Matzos that we snack on while browsing the latest Victoria's Secret catalog. On Fridays, we eat donuts and enjoy reading aloud our favorite postcards of the day.

Sometimes we get mail that we don't know quite who it is supposed to be delivered to. It is not always easy when the postcard is simply addressed to "Girlfriend." This sort of mail and everything addressed to "Jodi Ringel" goes directly in the trash can. Occasionally, for a good laugh, we enjoy delivering package slips to people when they don't actually have a package.

But seriously, we are a valuable part of the Wagner community. So stop down sometime, get your mailbox combination, get a package, have a matzo, send a UPS...it's a grand old time down here in the Postal Center.

**END OF AN ERA: Graduating Seniors Reflect On Their Wagner Years**

**Banging The Button For The Elevators 368 Times Won't Make Them Come Any Faster**

*...and other important lessons I've learned at Wagner College*



**Eric Cohen**  
Wagnerian Co-Editor

The day I've alternately been eagerly anticipating and dreading has finally arrived: the day to write my final article for the Wagnerian. Starting with a challenging experience in my freshman learning community and ending with, well, a challenging experience in my senior learning community, through four years, 26,000 miles on my car, and about 15 pairs of shoes, my time at Wagner College has been nothing short of a rollercoaster ride. But like any rollercoaster ride (except Lightning Loops at Great

Adventure), it's been a lot of fun. As expected from a college education, I've learned quite a lot in these four years. Being a graduating senior, I feel this strange obligation to share some of this newfound knowledge with everyone. I promise I won't bore you with a detailed talk about the significance of welfare liberalism, Darwin's theories of evolution or the consequences of World War I.

Instead, I'll share a few morsels of wisdom that you might find slightly more useful in your day-to-day life. Here goes nothing:

Banging and punching the button for the Harbor View Hall elevators 368 times won't make them come any faster than gently tapping it once. It will, however, break the elevators faster, and then the elevators will come much slower.

When you walk down to Miggy's to get groceries, don't attempt to jump over the metal barricades on the sides of Howard Avenue. Don't ask me how I figured this one out; just take me at my word and don't do it.

Cereal is the world's most perfect food. It's delicious, filling, full of sugar, an excellent source of necessary vitamins and minerals (especially when you enjoy it with milk, a quality source of protein and calcium), AND it's low in fat. If that's not good enough, it's also a great conversation starter. Bringing a bowl of Lucky Charms to the dinner table always seems to get the ball rolling.

Don't bother looking for the better parking spot in the upper tier. It doesn't exist. And with the time you wasted driving up to the top tier, you could have just taken the

lousy spot in the middle tier, walked and been done with it.

Always run for the Staten Island Ferry. You never know when the next boat will arrive.

Don't attempt to drive on the Belt Parkway during a heavy rain storm; it floods really easily, and driving on flooded roads is not fun, especially in a car that sits about three inches above the ground. Don't try to drive on the Belt Parkway during rush hour, either. Better yet, don't drive on the Belt Parkway at all.

Some things in life just aren't what they seem. Take the twice-a-year "Midnight Breakfast," for instance. At this school, it closes at 11:30 p.m. I have yet to figure that one.

Here's a more serious one: Don't take life for granted. Life is too short to hold petty grudges against people, to be stressed out and hostile and negative all the time. I learned this the hard way on September 11, 2001, as I watched one tower, then the next, of the World Trade Center come crashing down on a TV monitor at the Staten Island Advance. As a native New Yorker, the attack hit way too close to home for me. If nothing else, it taught me to enjoy my time here while I still can, and not spend glorious, 70-degree Sunday afternoons locked and miserable studying in my dorm room (small wonder why my grades have suffered this semester).

For those of you who are early in your college career, enjoy this place while it lasts. Wagner College is far from perfect, and there's no shortage of issues that need to be addressed, but overall, it's a pretty nice way to spend four years. When I'm unemployed and playing my trombone on the R train for quarters next year, I'll definitely miss being right down the hall from my friends, sitting in the dining hall and talking with everyone, and taking spur-of-the-moment late-night trips to Ralph's Ices. Wagner's been very good to me—I've gotten a lot of great experience through this school—and I'll miss it when I'm gone.

And please, whatever you do, don't just sit in your room. Get involved. I didn't really start to enjoy life at Wagner until I stopped sitting by my computer waiting for the elusive girl of my dreams to send me an instant message and actually got off my duff. If things at Wagner annoy you, don't just complain to your friends; join Student Government. Join the Wagnerian, the Nimbus or the yearbook. Get involved with (and, pretty please, tune into) WCBG. Or start your own club. Be proactive.

Have a great summer, and to all the graduating seniors, best of luck in graduate school and on the job market. And please be gentle with those elevator buttons.

**Enjoy It While It Lasts**

*The closeness of the Wagner community made campus life enjoyable*



**Jason Nadal**  
WCBG Chief Engineer  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

My last four years here have been a blur, as cliché as that might seem.

You can get so caught up in the everyday routines and events that you don't even notice just how fast the time is going. What I loved the most was the opportunity to be just five minutes away from most of your friends, and being able to just relax and hang out at any hour of the day or night.

Through the spring breaks, the crazy and frightening events, and just the everyday walk up to classes saying "hi" to

people, you realize just how close the campus is. Even the controversies, such as the infamous brick project, seem to bring people together, although I'm sure this is not in the way they were intended to.

I've enjoyed seeing the development of people's talent, whether through music, theater, writing, or sports. It's always satisfying to see people you know succeed. I look forward to seeing both what this school, and those graduating this year, can accomplish in the larger world.

Take advantage of the knowledge that your professors try to impart on you. They don't always strictly teach class material, but the ways of the world, and how to develop yourself as a student and as a person.

Looking at the younger classes, my one wish is that they also fully take advantage of their time here, as has been said countless times before, even if it just means lounging with other students on the Oval during finals week.

**The Final Justice**



**Mike Southern**

**Southern Justice**

Since this is supposed to be a sports column, let me say for the last time that the Yankees RULF, and you all know it. Now on to business.

Last October or so, I wrote a column comparing Michael Jordan's comeback to that of an alumni that never seems to leave. Although the column was mostly blasting Jordan, there was a strong undercurrent directed towards alumni as well. But now as I stand less than a month from graduation (hopefully I am still a unit short but I should get it taken care of) I know exactly how that person feels.

Although I am excited about getting the chance to make some real money in the world and even though I am glad to be breaking free from the chains of classes and tests, the fact somehow still remains that I am not ready to leave school.

A lot has happened inside the walls of Wagner. My beloved Yankees formed a dynasty, I watched the smoke from the Twin Towers rise into the sky from the 14th floor lobby of Harbor View. I gained the freshman 15 (more like 20), found where the Sports Center was and lost it all, and then some.

I never got to be an actor, which is what I came here to do, but you know what? I was happy that I didn't. I did sing, however, went on four choir tours giving up my spring break every time, and it was worth it. I wrote for this paper and was given a column to say whatever I wanted about my favorite topic, sports, and believe me I did. I got to be a DJ down in the basement of Harbor View, and as it turns out I was not nearly as good at it as I thought I would be. And in between, I went to class.

Yeah, there are a lot of things that tick me off about Wagner College. I won't list them because you can pretty much get a good idea of what they are by reading Doug's column. I don't feel like bashing this place right now anyway. We all have things that we don't like about this place; we all know people we don't like in this place. That won't ever change, but at least we are united in that fact.

I think the real reason I want to stay, however, is that I am not totally ready to grow up yet. I didn't really fully experience college until I was a junior and I don't think I really appreciated college until I was a senior. Now it all suddenly is coming to an end and I wish I could have those first two years back.

I suppose that's why I am thinking about graduate school. I still want a full time job and all, but let's face it: How many graduating seniors want to live at home past the first three months or so? Besides, my town is boring, there is literally nothing to do. At least at Wagner and on Staten Island, and New York in general, I was reasonably entertained most of the time.

And the second question—and this one haunts me—is besides working full time, what the hell am I going to do with my life? Grad school would at least delay that question for a little while. I would work, go to class at night and in my spare time act like a college student for a few extra years. I can live with that. Sounds pretty good actually.

Now I am not saying you will see me back here next fall, there is a ton that can happen in the next three months. I would not even be surprised if I happily left Wagner in the dust and never looked back. God knows, I had been planning on doing that for years. Don't expect me to get misty-eyed at graduation either, because I just don't do that sort of thing.

But I can say that, yeah, I have developed an appreciation towards this place, and even if not for Wagner, then just for school and the school experience in general. Or maybe, like I said, I am just not ready to grow up quite yet.

**THE WHOLE LOT at B.S.**  
*A play by Colleen Venable*

**Monday, May 6th**  
**- AND -**  
**Wednesday, May 8th**

**Harbor View Hall Gatehouse Lounge**

Doors open at 8 p.m. for the 8:30 show.

*P.S.: "B.S." doesn't mean what you think!*

**SPORTS**

# Last Hurrah For Men's Tennis Seniors

*The Class of 2002 brought legitimacy to the men's tennis program*

By RICK REEBE  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

As I write this, the Wagner College Men's Tennis team is boarding a bus on Howard Avenue to depart for West Windsor, New Jersey, the site of this year's NEC championship tournament. While the championship tournament is obviously important every year, this year our guys have just a little bit more to play for.

You see, this year's group of graduating seniors, a bunch that holds an amazing 10 spots on the 12 man roster, might go down in Wagner College history as the group that brought some legitimacy to the Wagner College tennis program.

Recruited by Mark Wallace in 1998, Team Captain Steve Schwartz, Arun Nebnani, Will Granlund, Kevin Agno, Jack Marchese, James Cardazzone, Shawn Vassalluzzo and Todd Wilson were brought into a program that was, to say the least, very weak.

Add junior Josh Pruett, sophomore Danny Burns and former baseball player Joe Kraljev to the mix, and you have a team that could compete for a spot in the tournament finals.

"Before 1998," Pruett says, "the Wagner tennis program was very weak. We were always seeded at or near the bottom of the NEC tournament and nobody took us seriously. Now people take us seriously."

And they should be taken seriously. The team, led by four-year captain and four-year #1 singles player Steve Schwartz is seeded a very respectable #6 out of 11 and playing a very beatable St. Francis (NY) in the first round.

Besides the motivation of playing well in the last tournament for nearly 90 percent of the team, the Wagner men would also like to avenge an early departure from last year's tournament, being knocked out in the first round by Wagner arch-rival Central Connecticut State.

"It was a disappointing loss," says Pruett. "We played them tight the whole match. A few key points in the match went in their favor. That was the difference."

This year's tournament, being played on the weekend of April 26 at the Mercer County Tennis Center has special significance to the seniors because it is the culmination of four years of hard work and dedication.

The bus is probably gone now and the men's tennis team, a team that receives very little fanfare here on campus, is on its way to New Jersey. We can only wish them luck and hope that this final tournament for ten proud young men will be a memorable one.

**ENTERTAINMENT**

# If You Write Funny, You Can Talk Ugly

*An enjoyable 'dish' cooked up by David Sedaris*

By ROZA SARGSYAN  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

"My performing career effectively ended the day my drug dealer moved to Georgia to enter a treatment center." Flipping through David Sedaris' "Me Talk Pretty One Day," I accidentally came across this line. It was a very catchy sentence and caught my eye instantly. I'm not exactly sure why, but I knew I had to read it.

There was not a second that I was bored. Sedaris is a great talent. His writing is amazingly blunt and hilarious at the same time. He doesn't try to hide or cover anything about his life.

Sedaris is a man of many dimensions and this book explores each of them fully. I never thought an autobiography about a man who seems ordinary enough would be this entertaining. Once I had the book, it was hard for me to put it down, I finished it in two days.

The piece is dedicated to Sedaris' father, Lou, and it is broken down into twenty-eight short essays. Each of these anecdotes tells a different aspect of the author's life, along with his witty observations.

The essays start from his childhood, and continue through adulthood and his relationships with family, friends and boyfriend.

It is especially enjoyable to read his essays about living in France and trying to master the language. "I wanted to lie in a French crib and start from scratch, learning the language from the ground floor up. I wanted to be a baby, but instead, I was an adult who talked like one, a spooky man-child demanding more than his fair share of attention."

There is not one dry moment in the book, and this accounts for great writing. The sarcastic and sometimes daring tone work well to engage the reader fully: his passionate hatred of computers; his anger towards New York tourists; his making fun of American culture through a foreigner's eyes; his obsession of movie going in France, are just some of many greats.

Sedaris' ideas about everyday affairs are very similar to other people's, thus, making his work even more of a hit. "As a rule, I'm no great fan of eating out in New York restaurants. It's hard to love a place that's outlawed smoking but finds it perfectly acceptable to serve raw fish in a bath of chocolate...I've never thought of myself as a particularly finicky eater, but it's hard to be a good sport when each dish seems to include no fewer than a dozen ingredients, one of which I'm bound to dislike."

One of my favorite essays has to be "Picka Pocketoni." This takes place on a train in France. An American tourist couple walks on, and thinking Sedaris is French, starts talking about him. They comment how much Sedaris



Sedaris' "Me Talk Pretty One Day" is good for many laughs.

stinks, and the husband assures the wife, as he's been to France before, that French people don't take baths for weeks. After a while, the man starts to suspect Sedaris is a thief and he wants to rob them. The man warns his wife, and even ponders on Sedaris' supposed plan to steal; he even believes that Sedaris' boyfriend, Hugh, is his partner in crime.

Sedaris hates the couple from the moment they accuse him of smelling. However, he enjoys the fact that people think him to be a dangerous man.

The hilarious moment comes in when the husband wonders where the "policoni" is. This makes Sedaris wonder, "Policoni? Where did he think he was?" "Now I was a stinkpot and a thief...Another few minutes, and he might have decided I was a crack dealer or a white slaver."

The essay, "Me Talk Pretty One Day," self-titled from the book, is amusing. It is about going back to school at an older age and trying to learn French. The description of the mean teacher and her suffering students is amazingly comical. "We didn't know it then, but the coming months would teach us what it was like to spend time in the presence of a wild animal, something completely unpredictable. Her temperament was not based on a series of good or bad days but, rather, good and bad moments."

Each essay is pleasant and I can find at least one great moment in every one of them. This is one book that deserves to be picked up and read out loud in the company of good friends, or just for fun by individuals. Either way, this book should not be overlooked.

If you are tired of your reading assignments in class, then read "Me Talk Pretty One Day." It goes quite fast, and you will not have a boring moment. The jokes in this book never get old. You can read it over and over, and you will still be affected the same way.

"Me Talk Pretty One Day," by David Sedaris; paperback (272 pages). Price: \$14.95 at Barnes & Noble; see also the student bookstore in the Union. Other books by Sedaris: "Naked," "Barrel Fever," and "Holidays on Ice." All of Sedaris' books are also available on audio-cassette from Time Warner AudioBooks, read by either the author himself, or his sister, Amy Sedaris.

# 'In The Bedroom': A Movie About Lobsters Ends Up Smelling Like Bad Fish

By MICHELLE RUBINO  
Wagnerian Staff Writer

The movie "In the Bedroom" recently received nominations at the Golden Globes, the Golden Satellites, and the American Film Institute. This proves that there will always be movies that the critics love, but the public hates.

Tom Wilkinson and Sissy Spacek are a financially well to do middle-aged couple who have their lives flipped upside down by the tragic murder of their son. Roles like this are very hard to portray and they both should be commended for the believability of their characters, especially since this was the typical Hollywood vengeance thriller.

One might wonder where exactly the title "In the Bedroom" came from. Interestingly enough, the movie gets the name from the deep-seated compartment of a lobster trap. It is suggested that it is not practical to leave traps in the water for an excessive period of time because if multiple lobsters are trapped in the 'bedroom' they will hurt one another.

The research involved in finding out this tidbit of information just wasn't worth the time. After seeing the movie, the parallel between lobsters and humans is understandable, lobsters kill other lobsters when they are too close together and humans kill other humans when they invade their territory. It makes sense, and I realize that this was a low-budget film, but couldn't they have come up with

something better?

By this time, the audience has been acquainted with Matt Fowler (Wilkinson) a doctor, his wife Ruth (Spacek) a teacher and their college-aged son Frank (Nick Stahl.) Frank is spending his summer vacation at home, lobstering in Camden, Maine. Unfortunately for him, he has also started dating Natalie Strout (Marisa Tomei). One would assume that if Marisa Tomei were to date a teenager he would at least be good-looking. Apparently, the casting directors didn't think so.

Despite the fact that he implies to his family that their relationship is not a serious one, Nick is actually taking into account the possibility of not leaving for school right away because of his new found love interest.

The real drama comes in when Natalie's disillusioned ex-husband Richard (William Mapother) enters the picture. He is in denial and will not accept that the marriage is over. Therefore he doesn't exactly approve of Frank's presence in his wife's life. This later provokes an envious fury, which leads Richard to murder Frank, and then induces Matt to seek revenge.

The first hour of the movie proficiently introduces the primary characters but as the audience gets to know their personalities, the film becomes just a little too predictable. From this point, there is just no turning back. Matt and Ruth deal with the loss of their son in different ways; these differences will either bring them closer together or further apart. Matt attempts to go back to his everyday

life, hiding his emotions from everyone including his wife. Ruth, on the other hand, can not deal with the realization of the situation. She spends her nights sleepless and seems to live in a trance until she finally blows up at her husband because she thinks that he feels no emotion. The couple tries to blame one another for the tragedy, then themselves, then Natalie and finally Richard. I think they should blame Robert Festinger and Todd Field for writing such a predictable script.

Nevertheless, Matt and Ruth Fowler find themselves living in bitterness that they did not create but they cannot destroy. While the audience finds themselves with ticket stubs that they bought but cannot return.



Marisa Tomei and Sissy Spacek

**“The Education of Max Bickford”  
congratulates the  
Wagner College  
Graduating Class of 2002.**

**We also want to thank the entire  
student body, the faculty and staff  
for allowing us to use  
Wagner College’s beautiful  
campus for our show.**

**Thank you all.**

**Have a great summer!**

**Sincerely,**

**The Cast and Crew of  
“The Education of Max Bickford”**

# Check It Out...Or Maybe Not!

English 366 "Reviewing" students keep us informed on the best...and worst...stuff out there

## In A Museum Not So Far Away

'Star Wars' exhibit invades the Brooklyn Museum of Art

By DOUG AUER

Wagnerian Assistant Editor

Go you must to the Star Wars. The Magic of the Myth exhibit. There, you will learn the ways of the mighty George Lucas.

If the Jedi master Yoda were present, that is what he would advise all young Padawan apprentices.

The exhibit, which originally was developed by the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, Washington, D.C., is making its last stop of its United States tour at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, located at 200 Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn.

Although the exterior of the museum looks as if it has been blasted with the ion canons of an Imperial Tie fighter (the museum is currently under renovation), the actual exhibit itself is gorgeous.

This extraordinary exhibit presents the original costumes, models, props, and artwork used in making the Star Wars film trilogy: "Star Wars: A New Hope," "The Empire Strikes Back," and "Return of the Jedi," plus a bonus section of items from the most recent addition to the Lucas library, "Episode I: The Phantom Menace."

The Brooklyn Museum of Art is unique in this aspect, since these additional objects were not seen at other venues.

When you first enter the exhibit, which begins on the fifth floor, you find yourself staring at a 20-foot model of an Imperial Star destroyer - the large, gray, hulking Imperial battleship that haunts the skies of the Star Wars universe. It is enclosed in glass, for safety measures, and occupies an entire room.

On the surrounding walls are introductory, informative panels explaining Star Wars, for those who might have never heard of the movie, and by that I distinctly mean the one or two possible people who have spent the last 20 years in a cave.



The wise, beloved Yoda  
(Photo by Robert Russo-Vikos)

Once you pass through this entrance, prepare yourself to be amazed. The walls are decorated in dark blue, with steel frames holding spotlights. The appeal is industrial and sci-fi, very befitting of the Star Wars motif.

There is a huge projection screen in the center of the second room, where a 20-minute feature film runs continuously. The film has interviews with many of the Star Wars big shots, including Lucas, Rick McCallum, and Ralph

McQuarrie.

In the following room, one will find some of the best-known costumes on view, including those of Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, R2D2 and C3PO, Princess Leia, Chewbacca, and numerous others.

There are also production paintings showing some of the early concepts for characters, vehicles, and storylines of the movie series. So authentic are the paintings that notations left by the artists, directors, and producers can still be seen. The level of preservation for these lithographs left behind more than 20 years ago is incredible. Props on display include droids, vehicles, and characters.

These are each set up in glass cases with their own background murals, taken from the appropriate film and best representing the mood of the scene.

Lucasfilm artists at Industrial Light & Magic (ILM) have furnished all of these props, photomurals and model designs.

While the fifth floor serves as a wonderful introduction, it is the fourth floor (one must walk down a flight of stairs to get there) that really has what the fans want.

Here there is an awesome display case, showcasing Darth Vader on a pedestal, high above the onlookers. Around the corner from Darth Vader are other two notorious villains from the series, the Emperor and Darth Maul.

Yoda is placed in his own room, colored with green walls and complete with copper cables descending from the ceiling in a twisting, circular array. It is a wonderful artistic representation of where Yoda lives, the planet Dagobah.

Queen Amidala also has her own display, featuring two of her Episode I costumes within a palace throneroom-



like presentation, resembling her Naboo Palace.

It is important to note that throughout the two-story exhibit are panels explaining the mythological significance of the Star Wars movies. Taken from renowned scholar Joseph Campbell's work on mythology, "Hero With A Thousand Faces," these colorful posters highlight how Lucas' movie best fits the mythological formula.

For example, when Luke Skywalker leaves home, it is referred to as "the hero's journey." Obi-wan Kenobi is "the mentor," and Darth Vader represents the "evil forces." The comparisons continue for all the movies, and it is exceptionally interesting to see Star Wars supported and explained using scholarly work.

For those who wish to experience an enhanced version of the tour, there is an audio tour available, narrated by the recognizable James Earl Jones, the beloved voice of Darth Vader.

At the end of the exhibit, there is a room where visitors can try on masks from their favorite characters, including Darth Maul, Queen Amidala, and an Ewok.

To entice fans to return, the museum promises to have a very special addition made to the exhibition after the May 16 release of "Episode II: Attack of the Clones."

Not that the museum needs to further persuade fans to come out, with an estimated 1,000 visitors every weekend and 100 visitors every weekday coming for their cultural dose of Star Wars.

And alas, no Star Wars museum exhibit would be complete without a fantastic gift shop set up, selling everything your intergalactic space-nerd heart desires. Books, action figures, replicas of weapons, and even jewelry are available. For those who want a souvenir of the exhibit itself, I recommend the "National Museum Tour Book," for \$19.95.

So, young Jedi, be sure to hyperspeed your Millennium Falcon over to the BMA as soon as possible. Otherwise, forever to the dark side you will belong.

The Brooklyn Museum of Art is located at 200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY. Phone: (718) 638-5000. Web site: [Brooklynmuseum.org](http://Brooklynmuseum.org).

Directions: From Staten Island and Southern or Central New Jersey: Verrazano-Narrows Bridge to Gowanus Expressway (Route 278 towards Manhattan); exit at 38th Street; left on Fourth Avenue for approximately 2 miles; right on Union Street; 5 blocks to Grand Army Plaza; go half way around Plaza; turn right on Eastern Parkway. Museum is at first intersection (Eastern Parkway and Washington Avenue).

Hours: M, T - Closed, W-F from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat. from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sun. from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Prices: Adults \$10, students and seniors \$8; children 6-12 \$4. Audio Tour: Adults \$5; members \$4; children 6-12 \$3.

## 'Scorpion King' Is Silly, But Fun

New release is entertaining despite predictable action, cheap special effects

By RICK REEBE

Wagnerian Staff Writer

WWF superstar Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson steps out of the ring and onto the silver screen in this year's first really big film, "The Scorpion King." In a film that more closely resembles "Conan The Barbarian" than either of the first two "Mummy" outings, "The Scorpion King" is really just an exploration of a mythical character mentioned in "The Mummy Returns."

Mathayus (played by The Rock) is a mercenary assassin from a clan of cutthroats that kill for money. He is hired by an outcast ruler to stop the mighty Memnon (Stephen Brand), the warrior king whose armies are systematically destroying their opposition. The reason for Memnon's seeming invincibility lies in the powers of his sorceress sidekick, Cassandra (Kelly Hu) Mathayus. Mathayus is supposed to kill her, but, when unable to do so, he opts for kidnapping her instead. It turns out that, because she dislikes Memnon, she becomes a willing victim.

Soon Mathayus and Cassandra are involved and on the run. With the help of the great warrior Balthazar (Michael Clarke Duncan) and an inept thief (Grant Heslov), Mathayus decides to infiltrate Memnon's forces and challenge the great swordsman to one-on-one combat.

"The Scorpion King" is 90 minutes of brainless entertainment and never claims to be anything more. Its simple and predictable plot is full of holes, but the viewer is so distracted by the mind-numbing fight sequences and scantily-clad women that those holes often go unnoticed.



Dwayne ("The Rock") Johnson

The Rock does a credible job in his first major starring role, laying the smack down on the bad guys and flashing the "People's Eyebrow" at just the right times. With his hulking screen presence and engaging charisma (more than making up for his lack of acting experience), it is no mystery why his performance has drawn comparisons to a young Arnold Schwarzenegger.

My major problem with this film was with its weak and blatantly computer generated special effect scenes. I didn't buy a ticket for this movie expecting to see a theatrical masterpiece, but as a fan of the first two "Mummy" movies, I did expect the special effects of "The Scorpion King" to live up to the expectations generated by those two movies. There are three scenes in particular - a fire ant attack, a group of angry cobras, and a sandstorm - that are so obviously computer-generated, that they come across as cheap and artificial.

That being said, my "Scorpion King" experience was, as a whole, a good one. If you have your heart set on seeing a cinematic work of art, rent "The Godfather." But if all you're looking for is a good time at the movies, check out "The Scorpion King."



One of several battle scenes in 'Scorpion King'