

The Wagnerian

Wagner College

Thursday, February 23, 2006

Staten Island, NY

New dorm will be later, better

By ALEX JACOBS & SARAH ZIMMERMAN
Wagnerian Co-Editors

Wagner has altered its plans for building a new residence hall, meaning students will have to wait until Fall 2007 to move into a new dormitory, but will have more say in the layout of their future living space.

Last semester, College President Dr. Richard Guarasci announced plans to build modular housing, which would have been completed by 2006.

With more students wanting to live on campus than ever before, a new residence hall will alleviate the housing crunch that left many freshmen frustrated this year when some found themselves assigned to "triple-doubles" and "double-singles," rooms with more occupants than they were originally intended for. Though the corner double rooms with three students will be used for one more year, the larger single rooms will go back to housing one student each.

"We don't want students in that situation," said Dr. Deborah Lieberman, college provost and vice president of academic affairs. "We



Freshmen will have to live in "triple-double" rooms like this one for one more year, until the new dorm is built.

want students to begin college life excited to be here."

Though the college is building more housing, Wagner is not going to increase the number of students enrolled, Dr. Lieberman emphasized.

"We are trying to work with the administration to get a class size that works for us," added Ruta Shah-Gordon, associate dean for student

development. "We may have some overcrowding this coming year, but it won't be too bad."

The administration is currently in the process of choosing a new architect and is seriously looking at the tennis courts as a location option for the new hall. The Augustinian property is not being considered as a possible site.

The dormitory will be built from

the ground up, rather than being pieced together, as in the discarded plans for modular housing. The exact structure of the hall is still in the brainstorming process, and the administration has been consulting with a student focus group to choose among designs, and to decide on the number of beds per room and bathrooms per floor, as well as possible suite set-ups.

"Instead of settling on a design, we are including students in our decisions," Shah-Gordon said.

One feature that is in the works is creating more study areas and common areas within the dorms to give the students space to live, work, and yes, play, Dr. Lieberman said. Seminar space and classrooms would also be integrated.

"We want to create a seamlessness between where students live and study, because the whole campus is really your classroom," Dr. Lieberman said.

The administration is also looking into building "green," by conserving energy and water, and recycling.

"Sustainability is very important to me. You need to work with your environment to save your environment," Dr. Lieberman said.

A LETTER
FROM THE EDITORS

The sounds of silence

By SARAH ZIMMERMAN & ALEX JACOBS
Wagnerian Co-Editors

This year it has come to our attention just how difficult it is to obtain credible information at Wagner. As co-editors, we have been working diligently over the past two years to give the Wagnerian a facelift in both content and design, creating an informative, entertaining, and credible college newspaper.

Though we feel confident and proud about many aspects of the new Wagnerian, there are still areas which need improvement; one being the campus-wide respect for our staff and the job they need to do.

Wagner offers a minor in journalism, and provides students with the Wagnerian to develop journalistic skills. However, the skill of interviewing is often in limbo, as it is increasingly difficult to locate credible sources on our campus who are willing to go on the record. Are we not adults, learning a profession?

It amazes us to think that Wagner expects its paper to be credible when it provides journalists with no sources. Faculty and administrators are our links to the information we need for the stories we want to write, and we need them to help us separate rumor from fact and set the record straight on issues that affect everyone on campus.

Staff writers each week tell us, "My story will be late because I have attempted to reach so-and-so several times with no response." Or, "I made an appointment with so-and-so, arrived early, waited a half hour, and then were told by the secretary who scheduled the appointment and watched me wait, 'He's out of town this week.'" What's with the blatant run-around?

If a reporter from the Staten Island Advance or the New York Times came to interview a professor or administrator, would they receive the same treatment? We think not. This leaves us with one question: Why shouldn't adult journalism students be given the same level of respect?

Our staff works extremely hard to provide the college with the best paper we can. As co-editors, we're calling for a change, to give these journalists the respect they deserve: Let's end the "sounds of silence," and get an open dialogue going on the pages of The Wagnerian--your campus newspaper.

'Monologues' fights taboos, violence

By LAURA GARDNER
Wagnerian
Entertainment Editor

For Wagner seniors Jenni Weich and Trisha Arnold, V-day is not about heart-shaped boxes of chocolate, dozens of roses or sentimental poems from their significant others; for the co-directors of this year's production of "The Vagina Monologues," V-day is a movement to stop violence against women.

This Feb. 24, 25, and 26 will be Wagner's fourth year playing host to the entirely student run production of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues." It is both Arnold and Weich's second year producing and directing the play.

Already swamped with loads of college work, Weich, a double major in English and Psychology, shared that she loves working on the production because it is "one of the most fun ways to rally behind a really great cause."

The importance of this cause was reiterated to the young women when an envelope containing \$200 cash and a letter of encouragement from an anonymous source mysteriously appeared under Weich's Guild room door.



Photos by Laura Gardner

"Vagina Monologues" cast members rehearse in Spiro Hall.

"We both broke down crying," shared Arnold, a double major in Theatre and Education. Both girls have both been involved with the show for their four years at college, first as actresses, and now as directors.

The donation helped raise the girls' spirits and assured them that others feel as strongly about the show's message as they do. "That's the spirit of the show. This is what it's all about--helping other women, helping raise awareness," Weich emphasized.

All of the money raised from any production of "The Vagina Monologues" goes toward programs that promote anti-violence. The majority of the profits raised at this

year's production will go to the Voices of Women Organizing Project of NYC, and the remaining funds will be donated to Planned Parenthood of NYC and V-Day Japanese Comfort Women campaign.

This awareness of violence against women is especially relevant cast member Britney Steele, a freshman. "One of my friends was date raped in high school, so it's something that's really important to me," she said, adding that, "this could be your friend, this could be your neighbor."

The "Monologues" are a testament to the fact that "[Violence toward women] does happen."

While the popularity of the show

and awareness of its message has grown in the past decade since Ensler first presented her monologues, controversy and resistance toward the racy, socially taboo material still surrounds "The Vagina Monologues" world-wide productions. The show was banned most recently at Providence College in Providence, R.I., where the school said the show's presentation of women's sexuality did not coincide with their Catholic policies.

Arnold and Weich, both Catholics who say they attend Church regularly, are aware of this resistance the production is often faced with, but believe that any censorship of the

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"I think it's sad for a school that is considered one of the most beautiful in the country to be doing such an ugly thing by not recycling."

-- Mick White, president of Wagner Habitat for Humanity

'Most beautiful campus' doesn't have a recycling program in place

By MICHELLE KILLEEN

Wagnerian Staff Writer

According to the New York City government's Web site, "Every building in New York City is required by law to recycle- including every residence, city agency, school, institution, and business." The question now is, why isn't Wagner recycling?

One answer is money. The cost of hiring an outside firm to collect bottles and cans is very expensive, according to Dominick Fontano, director of campus operations.

The college committee on recycling is also in talks with the city sanitation department about starting to pick up our recyclables again, Fontano said.

Wagner currently recycles cardboard and paper.

Approximately 78 percent of the nation's 3,500 colleges and universities have an established recycling program, according to the Colorado Campus Recycling Network. Wagner is in the remaining 32 percent of colleges that do not recycle.

Mick White, a junior and the current president of Wagner's Habitat for Humanity chapter, stated, "I think it's sad for a school that is considered one of the most beautiful in the country to be doing such an ugly thing by not recycling."

Wagner College administrators stated that in the past recycling bins were spread all throughout campus but were misused by students. However, they claim that Wagner is committed to protecting the environment and have taken several steps in the right direction.

Two of these steps include buying hybrid cars for campus vehicles, and taking steps to implement the use of solar energy panels.

"We really need help from the students; maybe we should push a little more," stated Tom Carroll, vice president for finance and administration at Wagner.

"Recycling is something that we should all be thinking about and participating in on a personal basis and a daily basis. Recycling is just one of a myriad of approaches and strategies to addressing issues of sus-



With no recycling bins for her recyclable bottle, freshman music major Christine Seraphin resorts to simply throwing it away, in a trash can in the Union.

tainability and the environment," said Devorah Lieberman, vice president for academic affairs.

"I know that the Student Government Association is taking a serious approach to recommending a sustainability plan around recycling."

Think about the last beer can you saw around Wagner's campus. According to the New York Times, that single can could take between 200 and 500 years to fully decompose. A milk carton could take five years, a plastic bag between 10 and 20 years, an orange peel almost six months, and cigarette butts, they can take up to 10 years to decompose.

It is important to understand the value of recycling used materials. According to the University of Oregon factoid sheet, every year enough energy is saved by recycling

to supply Los Angeles with nearly a decade's worth of electricity.

And that's not all. Every aluminum can that is recycled saves 95 percent of the energy that it would have taken to manufacture a new one from Bauxite. In other words, when a can is tossed in the trash as much energy is thrown away as if the can was half full of gasoline, according to the sheet.

The University of Oregon also concluded that every year, Americans throw away 10 million tons of newspaper. Over 150 million trees would be left standing if this paper was recycled, instead of being thrown away.

So until Wagner starts its own recycling program, you can count on carting those cans to the supermarket or just wasting them by throwing them in the trash.

Earth Floor to put the 'green' back in Wagner

By MOLLY JUDGE
Wagnerian Staff Writer

This fall, Wagner students will move into their very own theme-structured living, the Earth Floor. The idea of the Earth Floor is to house like-minded people who want to make a conscious effort to better our environment.

Looking around Wagner, one can see that this campus is not very conducive to bettering our environment.

But the two creators of the Earth Floor, Leslie McDermott, a junior nursing major, and Kate Smith, a sophomore arts administration major, hope to change that stigma by starting a student-run, environmentally-friendly floor.

The idea came about when McDermott and Smith were sitting in the Hawk's Nest for a meal and realized the amount of people dumping all their waste into the same receptacle.

"The whole idea of not recycling on this campus is mind-boggling," McDermott said.

Members of the Earth Floor will live in a 100 percent "green" environment. This means no harsh, toxic and environmentally-damaging cleaning products, recycled paper products, energy-saving lights, water conservation, and a variety of plants to create an upbeat atmosphere and complete the theme.

The Earth Floor is much more than just a designated environmental floor.

"For some students it is an alternative to fraternities and sororities," McDermott says. "People want to live with those they have a connection with."

"Dealing with environmental issues at Wagner has always been an uphill battle," McDermott says. Various clubs and organizations in the past have started to take the initiative, but soon die off due to lack of support from fellow students and faculty.

Many colleges and universities around the world have successful environmentally conscious dormitories and homes. Schools like Whitman College, Connecticut College, and Brown University, for example, have thriving programs in place to better their environment. They are becoming environmental-

ly-friendly by using solar panels, windmills, and filtering rainwater to conserve water.

"We should be radical with our ideas," McDermott says. "We [Wagner] need to be more geared toward making changes." Simple things like a compost pile or recycling our own paper are two easy ways to get a recycling program started.

The Earth Floor will have various recycling bins for items such as paper, plastic and aluminum. Although these bins are primarily for the Earth Floor residents, they will also serve as an outlet to those students on other floors who want to recycle but can not commit to the Earth Floor itself.

The Earth Floor's ultimate goal is to use its own individual recycling to fund the floor's upkeep.

But for now, residents will be required to take short showers, turn lights and computers off when they leave the room, and also fulfill service hours in the garden, which is the greenhouse located in the back of Megerle.

The amount of students participating will determine the size of the floor and whether that floor will be located in Harbor View or Guild. At this time eight students have committed for the fall, and the floor is still accepting members up until March 3.

To become a member, students must fill out an application that has basic personal information along with a short response as to why he/she wants to be a resident on the floor.

"We want to make sure people really care about the program," says Leslie. "It is important that they have a passion and know what it means to be environmentally friendly."

Students on this floor will not only function as a community, but they will also be a part of the Environment Club on campus. The Environmental Club, which meets every Tuesday at 10 p.m., hopes to heighten the awareness of global warming, by reaching out to students, even if it is merely recycling their cans.

The campus is very supportive of the new Earth Floor, giving tremendous amounts of positive feedback. Dr. Tropello, the adviser for the program is very enthusiastic about the positive message these students aim to convey.

"It is important to raise awareness about taking care of the environment, and recycling is a big part of that," Dr. Tropello says. "Wagner is behind in that aspect, but I feel the students can drive home the importance along with the help of the present administrative faculty."

As McDermott said, "Global warming is no longer being disputed; it's happening and we have to do something about it."

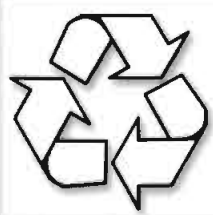
To become a part of the 'green' community, contact Leslie at lmcdermo@wagner.edu.



McDermott

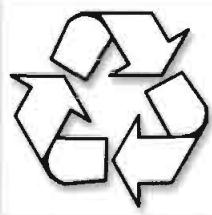


Smith



Want to make a difference?
Come to the next
Environmental Club
meeting!

Meetings are every Tuesday night at 10 p.m. in Beisler Lounge in Guild. Bring your concerns, ideas, and a friend!



Up 'til dawn

Ken Kasch writes fund-raising letters at the Up 'Til Dawn event, held Feb. 8 in the Dining Hall. Members of many campus clubs and organizations joined to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. Seventy-one million pieces of mail are sent across the U.S. each year to raise money for the hospital.



Photos by Laura Gardner

More than you bargained for: Student loan rates rise

By VICTORIA BROWN
Wagnerian Staff Writer

On Feb. 8, President Bush signed a \$39 billion deficit-reduction bill. A major component of this bill will save the federal government \$12.7 billion over the next five years by altering certain aspects of the federal student loan program.

The bill implements a major change in student loan interest rates. Currently, the interest rates for the federal student loans are capped. The interest rates may fluctuate under the cap, but can never exceed the cap. The current cap for the Stafford Loan, typically taken out by students, is 8.5 percent. The current cap for the PLUS Loan, taken out by parents, is 9 percent.

For the 2005-2006 academic year the interest rate for the Stafford Loan is 5.3 percent. The deficit-reduction bill fixes the interest rate at 6.8 percent. The current interest rate for the PLUS Loan is 6.1 percent, but will rise to a fixed 8.5 percent. All increases in interest rates will go into effect on July 1, 2006.

National interest rates have been on the rise. If they continue to rise students may save money due to the fixed rates for student loans. However, if the interest rates fall students will continue paying a high rate.

Stafford Loan interest rates will rise to 6.8%, from 5.3%. PLUS loans will jump from 6.1% to 8.5%.

Theresa Weimer, director of financial aid, does not believe that the change in interest rates will discourage students from attending private colleges and universities, such as Wagner.

"Borrowing has become a reality for many students. Many people need to become more aware of the implications of borrowing, but I believe that students and parents feel that they are investing in their futures and the fixed rates will not deter them," claims Weimer.

According to Weimer, for the 2005-2006 academic year Wagner College processed 1,343 federal loans, amounting to \$5.38 million in Stafford Loans and \$5.3 million in PLUS Loans.

"I would like to see the federal government increase grant programs rather than focus on borrowing. Borrowing is not always the solution for lower- and middle-income fami-

lies," states Weimer.

In addition to fixing the interest rates on federal student loans, the deficit-reduction bill also increases the Stafford Loan limits to \$3,500 for first-year students and \$4,500 for second-year students. Graduate and professional students will also be permitted to take out PLUS loans. These changes will go into effect in July of 2007.

As of July 2006, students will no longer be able to consolidate their loans while they are still in school.

The bill also brings an academic component to the federal aid program. A grant program will be set up for first and second year students who are studying science and mathematics and are eligible for the Pell Grant.

At this time only one Wagner student had asked financial aid about the details of the deficit-reduction bill.

Weimer advises, "I like to encourage families to keep the student involved, because they often have to repay the loan and are not always aware of how much they are borrowing. They need to be aware so they can learn to budget their money. Financial literacy is a huge piece to the puzzle and is basically a requirement for society."

The implications that the deficit-reduction bill will have on students will not be known for some time.

Stopping the violence

Continued from Page 1
show is retroactive.

"This play deals with sex. It's reality. Yes, people have premarital sex. Yes, there are lesbians," Arnold said.

"It's not degrading in any way, shape or form," said Steele, although she hasn't told her father, a pastor, about her involvement in the play. She feels as though he may be against some of the show's content.

Fellow cast member Kat Murphy, a sophomore, feels that Providence's banning of the play was ridiculous. "Banning the show is like saying rape and violence against women doesn't happen, and that's completely not true," Murphy said.

Lauren Fender, also an actress in the play, agreed, adding that, "Banning something like this just makes the situation worse."

Weich and Arnold said that the Wagner community's response to the project in the past four years has only grown more positive and open-minded. Weich said, "Wagner is generally a more liberal school," and that the college has recognized "the importance of it being a totally student-run movement."

The girls in the cast feel as though participating in such a project has changed their viewpoints on femininity and challenged them to step outside their comfort zones.

Freshman Courtney Blomquist says that being from the Midwest, she had "never thought about this stuff before." But she recognizes that the monologues bring women's issues to light and that controversy is to be expected.

"It's definitely controversial, because it's talking about something that people don't talk about."

But for two hours on Feb. 24, 25, and 26, women will be talking about their vaginas, and the multiple expe-

riences that belong to females. For those who've seen the show before, this year's production promises to be the best yet. While last year's show raised \$1700 for anti-violence organizations, the goal is to double that amount this year, through ticket and merchandise sales.

One way the directors hope to do this is through larger scale publicizing on the Island. In addition, the show will be held in Spiro Hall this year, allowing for more seating and more intimate interaction between the cast and the audience. This feeling of unity and rallying behind a cause is what the show is all about.

"I don't think there's a single person this show doesn't touch—there's something in the show for everybody, something that's going to touch you," says Arnold, about the show's positive impact on its audience members.

This year's production specifically highlights the abuse of "comfort women," civilians forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese military during World War Two. The presentation of this monologue highlights violence against women and girls on a more global scale. Steele noted, "It's opened my eyes to different kinds of abuse all over the world." This awareness is one of the prominent aims of the show.

Tickets for the show cost \$5 for members of the Wagner community, and \$7 for general admission. Those who wear red shirts to the show receive \$1 off the ticket price.

For Weich and Arnold, it will be their last time contributing to the show as Wagner undergrads. They hope the awareness and aid will continue, "until," as the V-day Web site states, "the violence stops." Weich emphasizes the theme of the show and its cause, stating, "It may not be *your* story but it's someone's story, and it deserves to be told."

Kallista '05 on the way

By DIANE
GANTENHAMMER
Wagnerian Staff Writer

The 2005 Kallista yearbook is in the process of being published and should be available to students for purchase next month, according to its staff editors. The book will have a scrapbook theme and the cover will feature a collage of pictures taken around campus.

The Kallista yearbook staff works long and hard on the creation of the yearbook. The photography, layout, and design of the book are created by this student-run organization. The student editors work together with Jostens Publishing Company and a faculty adviser to create each year's book.

Co-editor Leandra Aguirre spoke for most of the staff when she said, "Each year is a new learning experience."

The 2006 yearbook is well under way, said co-editors Megann Patterson and Leandra Aguirre. The yearbook will include more features about events that occurred throughout the year and include a full page aerial shot of the class of 2006. It will also include photographs of seniors in their freshmen days at

Wagner College.

Along with all the work that goes into creating a yearbook, the current staff is creating a manual to pass on to future yearbook staffs that teaches the essentials of creating a yearbook. If all goes as planned, the 2006 yearbook will be sent to the publisher by the end of June and will be available by fall 2006.

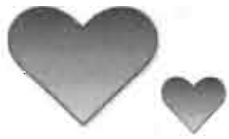
For all those interested in purchasing a yearbook, the 2005 yearbook will be available in the Union Atrium sometime in March. Details regarding the days and prices will soon be announced. The Kallista staff will also be selling 2003 yearbooks for one dollar and 2004 yearbooks for ten dollars. Senior photo re-takes are also approaching and will be held the week after spring break, from March 23 to March 25.

Kallista meetings are held on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in Union 205. Interested? E-mail yearbook@wagner.edu.

A yearbook is something that most people keep with them for their entire lives. It captures the atmosphere of a college; a collection of memories frozen in time. Faculty adviser Prof. Claire Regan sums up a yearbook as "the photo album of our school."

IN OUR OPINION...

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



A DOSE OF SOUL

Everyday love

By E. FEEHLEY
Wagnerian Opinions
Editor

Little red hearts seem to have invaded Staten Island. You can see them on the front doors of houses, in store windows, even in the form of cookies at the local bakery. But that's not all. You can hear it in ads on the radio and TV, and you can see it in the faces of millions of boyfriends and girlfriends and husbands and wives all over the country... it's Valentine's Day.

Feb. 14 is and always has been the absolute worst day of the year for me. I HATE Valentine's Day. You know the way Scrooge felt about Christmas? Multiply that by 10, and you have an approximation of my resentment for this joke of a holiday.

First of all, I work in a florist. I work 12-hour shifts every day for a week before Valentine's Day, then when it finally arrives, there is a constant stream of impatient customers, my boss is having a nervous breakdown, and all my coworkers and I want is a nap or a very strong drink.

But there are other reasons for my hatred outside of work. I have

never even gotten a Valentine's gift. I'm not bitter about this. Getting presents was never really a big deal to me, but when I see flowers and chocolate and teddy bears and balloons and God knows what else going out to hundreds of women all over this island, forgive me for being a tiny bit jealous.



Feehley

Besides, bad things always seem to happen to me around Valentine's Day. If I'm going to get a flat tire, or spill my coffee all down the front of me, or break the heel on my shoe, or any number of possible daily mishaps, you can bet that they will ALL happen on Valentine's Day. I'm not joking, it's like I'm cursed or something.

But what I hate most about Valentine's Day is this: it makes me feel like I am in the business of selling affection. People seem to think that on this one special day in February, the Beatles' claims are negated and you can, in fact, buy

love. Clearly, if you don't take your girlfriend out for an expensive dinner on Valentine's Day you simply do not love her. Obviously, the only way to show your man you really care is by buying some new, ridiculously expensive lingerie from Victoria's Secret. Give me a break! Is our culture really so blinded by consumerism that we honestly believe the only way to show someone we care about them is to buy them things?

If you are fortunate enough to have someone to celebrate Valentine's Day with, why not just spend some quality time together? Who made the rule that you HAVE to buy something for them?

Besides, why is it only one day a year that we are supposed to celebrate our affection for our significant others? If you have love in your life you should be grateful for it every day. Love is not an obligation, it's a gift. It's an inconvenient, silly, beautiful gift. It doesn't fit neatly into a box with a bow. It doesn't come in vases. If you really love someone, tell them. Show them. Show them every day because you love them every day. Don't wait for the excuse of a square on a calendar.



IT'S NEWS TO ME

Shhh...ear

embarrassment

My nightmare in Horrmann Library

By EVAN JAGELS
Wagnerian Columnist

It was a normal trip to the Horrmann Library (you all know the routine)...you have a couple of free hours and you arrive with full intention of reading and completing assignments. However, a few minutes after settling down in the unperturbed environment, you are fast asleep on a large leathery couch with your book open, face-down on your stomach.

I arrived around one o'clock on a Tuesday. After walking past the facebook stalkers at the row of computers, I scouted out the perfect vacant couch. It was one that offered me a good view of the study area; people watching has long been one of my favorite activities and is always a good distraction from anything important. I laid down with one leg on the table and the other on the couch, and started to read.

"To the west of Hanoi, there lies a lake. It was recently divided into two smaller lakes separated by a single road. The road is famous throughout the country, because... few... west... night."

The words were starting to blur and I found myself in a struggle just to keep my eyes open. "Night after night the... banks... there... Madame."

It was hopeless. Within a few minutes I was deep in a dream with not even one page completed in my 189-page assignment. It was one of those dreams that's the result of falling into an extraordinarily deep sleep mid afternoon in a public area; it was colorful, vivid, and scattered. In this type of sleep, your mind is far from consciousness, but too pressed for time for a coherent dream. The only thing that could wake someone in this state would be a fire

alarm, gunshots, or a traumatic blunt force blow to the head- not common distractions in the library.

I suppose I can blame what happened to me next on the couches- they are just so ridiculously soft and their glossy leather surfaces throw sound like light through a prism. Perhaps, though, the blame is better placed on my immutable diet of cottage cheese, brussel sprouts, beans, and asparagus. Or maybe I was just too "loose" in my deep slumber. Whatever it was, while the top half of my body was silent and far from consciousness, the bottom half was dead set on sounding the alarm.

I can't be sure that I woke up exactly half way through the voluminous gassy discharge, but I know I gained full consciousness shortly after it started but before it ceased. I also remembered that when I had first plopped down on my deathbed the library was completely vacant and when I was abruptly awoken, it was packed.

My face immediately caught fire and turned hot red with embarrassment. I clamped my eyes shut as hard as I could, buried my face into the backrest, and silently scolded my lower half. "How could you be such a fool!? Do you realize where

we are!? At least it doesn't smell...yet."

I could hear them laughing close by. I don't know exactly who they were, or how many of them were there, because I did not open my eyes until I was back by the computers. I simply grabbed

by books, held back the tears, and fled the scene with my red face, now scarred with embarrassment, dragging on the ground.

To the people who were in the vicinity: you guys know who you were; you were there, you heard it, you laughed. I'm not angry, I would have laughed at me too. I suppose this is just a warning to anybody who frequents the library and has trouble staying awake: beware...

While asleep, you are not as in control of your actions as you think you may be.



Jagels

THE PERFECT FIT

Halters, heels, and high crimes in fashion

By JENNY CHAPIN & AUDIE McDOUGALL
Wagnerian Columnists

Can we talk about Thursday nights at Wagner? The aroma of perfume fingers in the elevators, "My Humps" is playing somewhere in the distance, and even that girl, who you thought was focusing on her sport, is throwing caution to the wind and putting on a tube top...in January. This phenomenon happens every week without fail. After some intensive research, we've come up with our list of clubbing do's and don'ts for every party girl!

First thing's first: jeans. Sounds easy enough, right? Wrong...a bad fit or wash can lead to dilemmas on the dance floor. One issue that generally goes unnoticed is an unflattering fit.

A common misconception is that the tighter the jean, the smaller you will look. Unfortunately, ladies, this is not the truth. We've all been there, sure...the jeans may make your legs look skinny, but a too-tight waistband and those abs, they don't look nothin' like steel.

Lucky for us, designers are getting hip to curves and producing

jeans that flatter your "humps." We can't get enough of Gap's Curvy Flare, Banana Republic's Contoured Fit, and Joe's Jeans, "the Honey".

Another great option for any shape are the popular Citizens of Humanity jeans. They're sure to please any denim connoisseur.

Now for the piece de resistance of the Thursday night ensemble, the "little top." We can't help but notice the excess of sequins our student body is sporting. When overdone, these tops can resemble an 8-year-old's recital costume or Liza Minnelli.

Sure, sequins are a great way to attract attention, but there are other options that let you look your age and still steal the spotlight. The tops hitting the stores this season are embellished with rope accents, ruffles, lace, and colors that pop.

Don't be afraid to tone down the top and play up your jewelry instead. This is a sure-fire hit!

When piecing together the perfect clubbing look, we recommend fit over flare. Stay away from any tops with an excess of spandex or stretch as they end up clinging to the wrong places.

The most flattering shirts are fitted at the top and flare out at an

empire waist. Anything with tiers of fabric will hide any signs of gym neglect. Shirts that are cut longer are a great way to elongate your form.

As long as we are covering the topic of "too short," let's discuss "too tight." We know you love your miniskirt, but there is a right way and a wrong way to wear one. Stick to styles that are flowy and flirty. Leave more to the imagination!

Do's & Don't's

Don't: Run to the cab in your halter top in 30 degree weather.

Do: Add a fun shrug or layer your tanks for extra warmth.

Don't: Overdo your makeup; this is just Thursday night, not the ninth-grade play.

Do: Play up your best feature, not all of them.

Don't: Wear shoes you can't dance in.

Do: Opt for fun flats or funky wedges and avoid a face-plant on the dance floor.

Don't: Fall into fads.

Do: Be an individual!

EDITORIAL

Many students are left 'Wag-gravated'

By HEATHER SOHARA
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Recently, after spending a week staring longingly at the box of cereal in my room, opening the refrigerator to find naught but two containers of creamcheese and some Diet Pepsi, and not finding the chance to get to an actual grocery store – I made a drastic decision. I went to the Wag.

Tucked away in the basement of Cunard Hall, the Wag is easy enough to forget. It's good (or should be) for immediate food needs and cravings, like a milk emergency, but many students see the Wag as little more than a last

resort.

Some may find the tiny store somewhat quaint; others may choose the terms "cramped" and "claustrophobic." Either way, there's no question that the Wag is less than substantial and the selection is limited at best. And what you can find, you then have to submit to the Wag's somewhat outrageous pricing to pay for. Certain items, such as the granola and cereal bars, are relatively reasonably priced at 75 cents. Others, however, like a two-ounce container of coffee grounds (\$2.75) or a large box of chocolate chip cookies (\$4.25) are harder to fit the budget.

Sure, food will be more expensive on any college campus than at

an average grocery store, but when the standard Wagner meal plan only comes with \$60 in Flexicash, spending almost \$5 on one purchase is not exactly the most preferable option.

Of course, the Wag isn't all bad. The store's coffee cups can be seen all over campus, especially on Tuesday and Thursday mornings before 9:40 classes. It's good coffee and, because it's self-serve, quicker than getting a cup at the Hawk's Nest. Also, the Wag's cereal bar seems to be an equally popular idea.

However, good or bad, forming an opinion either way depends on whether you can find the Wag at a time when it's open. Last year, the

Wag's hours were 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., although it was not uncommon to find the store already closed before 9. This year, they've solved that problem by changing the hours to 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. (4 p.m. on Fridays), and they continue to close on weekends.

Considering that classes begin an hour before the Wag opens and most students don't finish with classes and activities until well after seven, (not to mention the fact that most students have much more time for food shopping on the weekends) these hours don't seem logical.

Easily missed on account of both time and location, with overpriced snacks but delicious and easy cof-

fee and cereal, the Wag is certainly one of the most unusual places on campus, and an almost controversial subject among students.

"It's a nice quick stop on the way to class," says sophomore Lauren Bernardo.

Junior Morgan Waite, disagrees, however, saying, "The prices are ridiculous, and it's not as convenient [for students] as they make it out to be."

Much like everything on Wagner's campus, the Wag has its good and bad points. While it's a good thing to have (after all, something is better than nothing) it could certainly use some improvements – and maybe some cartons of non-soy milk.

EDITORIALS

HUNGRY, FRUSTRATED AND SHORTCHANGED

Campus glitches aggravate already-stressed students

Editor's Note:

Lately we have been hearing many complaints about annoying glitches and bureaucratic red tape at Wagner. These three students rant about inconveniences around campus may sound familiar to many of you. Agree or disagree? Add to this discussion! Tell us how you feel in a letter to the editor. E-mail wagneriannews@aol.com.

RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINES

By Alexandra DeArmon

These first few weeks of the spring semester, I've found myself battling with more than a few machines here at Wagner College. Not in any exciting, Arnold-Schwarzenegger-action-flick type of battles; mostly those machines and I just engage in 'battles of wit,' I suppose you could say. For instance, I went down to the Main Dining Hall for lunch this past week only to have the ID swiping machine tell Lucy that I'd already used my lunch swipe for the day, even though I had not. The battle of wits had begun; it was my word against the machine's.

Hungry, irate, and baffled at how my card had apparently walked itself down to the Union for lunch without my knowledge, I accepted miserable defeat. Upon my being barred entrance from the dining hall I wrote a complaint email to Chartwells and was pleasantly surprised to get a quick response. It turns out there was an error in the computer system, something about my card's number being punched in accidentally in the Hawk's Nest. I had not been lying about swiping for lunch after all—but that's beside the point. What really matters is that in the end I got my recompense with that vicious ID swiping mechanism.

Also take, for instance, my dismay when I attempted (and initial-

ly failed) to print out my bus ticket, at 11:30 one night last week, from one of the Horrmann library computers. After spending all of last semester typing and printing every one of my assigned papers in the library, I'm fairly confident with my printing abilities. When the printer, on that fateful night, didn't show any signs of life after I took the necessary document-printing steps, I politely asked the librarians if maybe it needed to be turned on. After about five minutes of a library employee fussing with my computer and suggesting that maybe I hadn't sent the document to the correct printer (which I had) or that I wasn't logged in to the network (which I was), she happened to glance at the printer. "Oh. The printer's not turned on. That's the problem."

The main thing that struck me about both minor (yet annoying) incidents was that in both cases Wagner employees chose to assume that their equipment was working perfectly while I, a living, breathing student with a fully functioning brain, was the one mistaken. I know that college students aren't always known to have good judgment, but honestly, I've operated the Horrmann library computers for a few months now without any problem. And I've managed from about the age of three to be able to remember whether or not I've already had lunch on any particular day.

It's a bit disconcerting to me to think that the administration at Wagner thinks that adult students who are capable of academic achievement and living on their own are not capable of simple tasks like operating a printer or knowing whether they have already had lunch or not.

I would hate to think that young adults are sent to college free to make judgments like whether or not they should drink themselves into a stupor, and yet have their

judgment questioned when it comes down to their word against that of flimsy piece of mechanical equipment.

ENCOUNTERING DISINTEREST IN CUNARD HALL

By Christina Martingano

As a senior at Wagner College, a person who should be on the brink of adulthood, I still have a slight fear of the offices in Cunard Hall. Maybe it's because I only go there to fix a problem, but I feel that it's mostly because my visits guarantee me an ulcer.

I generally like most of the people I have dealt with in the offices of Cunard Hall. I understand that delays in financial aid are mostly due to lenders and I understand the tasks of keeping about 2000 records straight can be a challenge for the Registrar and Business offices.

It's the general lack of communication between the three main Cunard Offices and the almost anti-student attitude that some workers have that makes visiting the building an uncomfortable experience.

I remember registration for classes freshman year. While the women registering me for classes were quite helpful, there was always some weird complication that popped up.

In my case, I needed to be signed into a class, which should not have been a huge deal. However, when I came in to get signed in after a problem-free registration, I had found out there was a hold on my account from an overdue library fine that had been paid months ago. This was not the worst problem I could have experienced, but it was odd that such an old fine had not been addressed and communicated between the library and Registrar.

At the Business Office, howev-

er, problems always seem a lot more stressful. At first glance, the whole experience screams disaster. Almost every time I go there I have to wait while the clerks finish up their private conversations and/or phone calls. Often I have caught someone on what I can only assume is a bad day and have therefore gotten the impression that I was less than welcome in the office.

I can deal with inconvenient service, but I cannot stand the lack of any kind of technology that would help students. There is a wide array of computer programs available today to create any sort of database. I refuse to believe that there is not one out there that can "red flag" students with outstanding balances large enough to make a hold.

Maybe it's a budgeting issue, maybe it's the computers' networking system, but I can not deal with not knowing until the very last second if account is on hold because of my balance. I'm in class all day, working two jobs, and studying all the time. Also, like most Wagner students, my parents keep track of my bills so I can focus on my school work. A campus-wide e-mail is not enough of a reminder.

There has to be a way to create a list of students who have holds on their accounts and then notify them prior to registration. This would allow problems to be quickly and easily rectified.

NICKEL AND DIMED IN THE BOOKSTORE

By Abby Albair

I normally get up in the morning for breakfast at 8 a.m. which proved to be a very smart idea one day last week. I was supposed to read a book for class that day, and it had not yet arrived in the bookstore the day before. It was scheduled to finally be there that morning, and because I've decided to be

an early riser this semester, I was pleased that I would be able to go to the bookstore just as it was opening and have ample time to read before my 1:20 class.

I walked into the bookstore at 8:45, fifteen minutes after it had opened. I found the book I needed neatly stacked on the shelf with another 20 or so copies which had just arrived. I walked to the register to make my purchase and then hurry back to my room to start reading. I gave the friendly woman behind the counter a twenty dollar bill for my \$11.95 purchase.

She handed me eight dollars back and then politely told me that she had no available change in the register since they had just opened, and I could either wait around for a while, or come back later and she would remember me and give me the rest of my change.

Now I acknowledge that five cents is no large sum, and I told her it was not a problem and never went back for my nickel. The money is of no importance, but it was the principle of the situation that was irritating. Business rule 101: When you open your registers in the morning, each should have a certain number of each bill and coin, making it possible for the first transactions of the day.

I remembered a time earlier in the year when I had gone into the bookstore once again early in the morning, and was told that the bill I wished to pay with was too large because they had just opened and hadn't received many smaller bills yet.

In the long run I will never miss that nickel. I just find it surprising that rather than prepare the cash registers for business as any other establishment would do, our little Wagner College bookstore finds it easier to tell members of our small community that since they'll be remembered they can just come back later for their change.

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

That's Entertainment

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

French film festival brings dose of culture to Wagner campus

By KATELYN ARCHER
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Exactly how worldly and sophisticated are Wagner students? Apparently very, according to the attendance at the French Film Festival that was held during the week of Jan. 30.

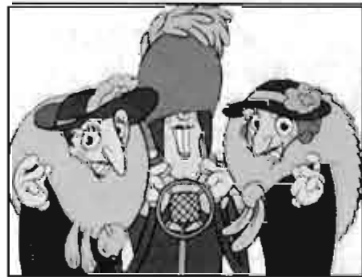
Brought to Wagner through a grant sponsored by The Florence Gould Foundation, the Grand Marnier Foundation and the Franco-American Cultural Fund, with the support of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, the French Ministry of Culture and the French American Cultural Exchange Council, the Tournees French Film Festival was a wonderful success that brought members of the community together with students and faculty. Refreshments at the festival were provided by Wagner's French society, The French Connection.

The festival encompassed the screening of five diverse French films, beginning with "Monseigneur Ibrahim," a film set in 1960s Paris that tells the story of a blossoming friendship between an elderly Muslim shop-owner and a young Jewish boy.

Tuesday's showing was "La Fleur du Mal," a soap-opera-like tale of incest, murder, and politics.

"Chaos," Wednesday's selection, exposed many global social issues to the audience through the narrative of a young Algerian woman forced into prostitution after she escapes an arranged-marriage.

"Chaos" was followed by a presentation by Dr. Adrian Fielder, who led an audience discussion of global issues exposed in the film. Among them were those mentioned in the title of the presentation, "Modern Slavery In and Out of the Home:



The animated "Les Triplettes de Belleville" (above) and the drama "Chaos" (right) were two films shown at Wagner's first annual French Film Festival.

Prostitution, Islam and Marriage in France." The discussion was a fantastic mix of opinions from current students and professors, as well as community members.

Thursday's selection, "Les Triplettes De Belleville," was a bit more light-hearted and satirical; do-whopping elderly triplets help a French grandmother rescue her Tour-de-France competitor grandson from the Belleville sect of the French Mafia, with the help of a rotund, yet dedicated dog.

The final film of the festival, "Une Femme de Menage," tells the tale of a lonely middle-aged man swept from his misery by a young housekeeper, only to be plunged deeper into despair by one of her whims.

Harry Zevin, a resident of Staten Island who attended most of the screenings, said, "The French Film Festival was a great opportunity for members of the community and students to mingle and share ideas."

He also said that he and his wife enjoyed "Chaos," and the discussion that followed the best.

"We hope there are more opportunities to attend this kind of intergen-



erational experience," they said.

A large number of Wagner students attended the festival each day, most of whom were not required to be there for a class. A regular at the screenings, freshman Allen Koehler, was enthusiastic about the festival, saying, "It's really enjoyable. It's very cool that we have something that involves the French Embassy. All of the movies I saw were very interesting and thought-provoking."

The Tournees Film Festival was an amazing opportunity to escape from the everyday toil of college life and immerse oneself in another culture. It was also a great way to bring Staten Island citizens to Wagner and get the community involved.

Jerry and Rita Hauser of Staten Island, who have been attending Main Stage and Stage One productions for 20-plus years and were regulars at the festival, echoed that sentiment, saying that, "It's nice to bring the community into the college. It's great to come to Wagner for these kinds of programs."

Here's hoping Wagner's Assistant Professor of French and Italian Dr. Natalie Edwards brings back the Tournees French Film Festival next year, and for many years to come.

Eating Ethnic on the Island

While many of us prefer to hop on the boat in order to experience an eclectic dining experience, Staten Island has a diverse selection of restaurants to offer its inhabitants. So next time you're looking for an alternative to your favorite Village bistro, check out one of these local favorites:

The Polish Place

17 Corson Ave.

(two blocks up from corner of Victory and Bay streets)

This undiscovered gem has hearty Polish specialties that won't lighten your wallet-- especially for the lunch special. The fact that you might be the only customer not speaking Polish just confirms that this is the real deal, and the misspelled menu only adds to the charm ('poopy cake' is actually poppy cake, and it's good).

Adobe Blues

63 Lafayette Ave.

Attention seniors and senioritas: Do you love live music? What about great Mexican food? Experience them simultaneously while sipping on Adobe's famous margaritas. The atmosphere alone promises a south-of-the-border experience, while the tamales, tacos, enchiladas, fajitas, and chimichangas will not disappoint. Every Friday and Saturday from 11 p.m.-1 a.m., Adobe offers live jazz and blues while on Wednesdays you can celebrate "hump day" with a jam session hosted by the Wolfpack from 9-12.

Osaka

1440 Forest Ave.

If you think the only place to get amazing fresh sushi is Manhattan, think again. This delicious Japanese restaurant offers a wide variety of both raw and cooked delicacies. Though there are no hibachi tables, there is the option of floor seating. Prices are fair (you can get an appetizer, a salad and two rolls for about \$20). A great treat for sushi lovers!

Guitarist Joe Taylor has the Coffee House covered

By COURTNEY DONAHUE
Wagnerian Staff Writer

On Tuesday, February 7, acoustic singer/songwriter Joe Taylor performed at the Coffee House to a full audience. Taylor played for an hour and a half, with both original songs of his own and covers of other artists' songs.

Taylor started his set with an original titled "The Inside." The audience responded well to his original songs, "Shine" and "Love," clapping along to the meaningful lyrics.

The Coffee House seemed to be a perfect place for him to perform, with his raspy voice, his acoustic sound and his laid back style. The setting allowed for him to give a good performance to his audience. Between songs he joked around to the crowd, getting responses back from the audience of students.

He seemed to know what his audience would want to hear, preparing the audience before playing his covers, promising they would know the songs. Indeed they did. His covers of Journey, the Beatles, "Leaving on a Jet Plane", and Oasis' "Wonderwall" got the

audience involved, as they smiled when they recognized the tune and started to sing along with Taylor to the choruses of the songs.

Taylor commented between songs that his audience of Wagner students was "a great crowd." He also ended the show thanking the students, saying he would love to come back, and said he "fully enjoyed" himself here at Wagner.

Taylor stayed after his performance to introduce himself and to chat with the students. Many stayed to talk to him about his songs and ask for his CDs he was selling at the performance.



Taylor pleased the audience with classic rock covers.

Oscar Sneak Peek

It's time to roll out the red carpet: the award-show spectacular that is known as the Oscars is returning for its 78th year to honor 2005's cinematic standouts. Whether you appreciate the artistic integrity of these year's nominated films or you just really enjoy watching cowboys kiss, the majority of this year's top pictures carry a bold statement and have the backing of big name directors. Staff writer Allie Rivera offers her predictions while Ben Izzo suggests two lesser-known films to check out before Hollywood's big night.

Oscar's alternatives

By **BEN IZZO**
Wagnerian Staff Writer

With Oscar season quickly approaching and time running out to catch all the nominated movies, people are becoming quite picky about what they should and should not see.

We've all heard about "Brokeback Mountain" and "Crash." Yes, they are great movies, but sometimes the smaller, more independent films get lost in the shuffle. I've chosen to write about these more-overlooked films, the ones that you see on television and in magazines and ask, "What is that?" It is those films that really hit the cultural touchstone and that are some of our most important.

The first film I've chosen to discuss is "Junebug," a moving and very human portrait of a slightly dys-

functional southern family. "Junebug" is the story of newlyweds George (Alessandro Nivola) and Madeleine (Embeth Davidtz), who journey to North Carolina to secure an artist for Madeleine's gallery.

On the way, they decide to visit George's family, whom he has not seen for years, and Madeleine has never met. Once the couple arrives, George's extended family is introduced, which includes his father Eugene (Scott Wilson), mother Peg (Celia Weston), brother Johnny (Benjamin Mackenzie) and his sister-in-law (Oscar nominee Amy Adams).

Director Phil Morrison has crafted an extremely fascinating picture that deals with the interior life of people and the guises that we all wear in order to survive—not only in life but also within families.

Morrison and his screenwriter Angus MacLachlan are very skilled in detailing the cultural differences between people and the way in which the translation from person to person can get muddled in our own preconceptions.

The cast is magnificently led with a captivating performance from Amy Adams as the very pregnant and naive Ashley, who is married to Johnny, a man who cannot even begin to understand her needs or the needs of anyone around him.

Benjamin Mackenzie (of OC fame) is especially impressive as Johnny. He is able to express his complete lack of empathy while emphasizing how his character deals with his mundane life.

The movie explores the ways in which we are careful to avoid the emotional landmines that family can cause, as well as the way in which we quietly hold our own lives together. The film also questions what family means to us today. Is it the same as it used to be twenty years ago, or are we simply adhering to the archaic traditions of our forebears out of duty?

Either way, "Junebug" is a powerful film that will leave you with a dizzying experience that is unusual at the movies these days.

("Junebug" is now available on DVD and video.)

The second film I would like to mention is "Syriana," an arresting and complicated look at the oil industry in this country and the puzzling experience of figuring out who exactly is in the wrong.

"Syriana" explores the different types of evil in the world and the shape-shifting role of evil in our society. As in real life, once you have cornered someone in the movie as evil or immoral, you are instantly corrected and made to realize that in fact, that person is something different than you completely thought. If I am confusing you, it is because "Syriana" is really one of those movies you need to see in order to understand. To describe the plot of this movie would be an injustice.

Since the plot is not important here, it is the big picture that the audience

should concern themselves with. Oscar nominee George Clooney, who leads a stellar cast in a pow-

erful performance unlike one you have ever seen from him before. The rest of the cast is an incredible ensemble, with Matt Damon, Jeffrey Wright, Amanda Peet, Christopher Plummer, and Chris Cooper.

"Syriana" is one of the most

important political films of the past five years and you should see it, no matter what political affiliation you are. The movie does not bother with party panhandling—Instead it relates political ideas on a human level. It is this aspect that truly makes the movie transcend beyond mere rabble-rousing into a first-caliber, savvy film.

("Syriana" is still playing in movie theatres around the country.)

These movies are suggestions for those of you whose tastes run less in the mainstream, or for those of you who are just looking for something new. There are a wealth of new movies that all could have been chosen by the Academy, but awards or not, there are certain films that deserve to be seen. It is these films that the future of cinema rests on.

Support of these films is important so that other talented filmmakers can become one step closer to realizing their dream of bringing their films to a wider audience.

Whatever problems there are with the Academy Awards and awards in general, one positive thing that comes out of all of this is not only a shared love of cinema, but also a newfound appreciation of why we love movies and why movies continue to be made.

With that said, I conclude with a reminder to watch the Oscars on March 5, if not to see who wins, then at least to watch Jon Stewart make fun of as many celebrities as he can, and trust me folks, that will make it all worthwhile.

And the Academy Award goes to ...

By **ALLIE RIVERA**
Wagnerian Staff Writer

The nominees for the 78th annual Academy Awards have been announced. This yearly award show, which merits the talents and hard work achieved throughout the year's cinematic pictures, will take place on March 5, 2006 at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, CA.

With the controversial film "Brokeback Mountain" leading the group with eight nominations, other likewise controversial films are being placed on the Academy's bal-

lot. The nominees of 2006 for Best Motion Picture of the Year are: "Brokeback Mountain;" "Capote;" "Crash;" "Good Night, and Good Luck;" and "Munich."

Of these nominees, "Brokeback Mountain" and "Crash" have been receiving the most critic's attention, and audience viewing. While all five nominees have gathered rave reviews, the greatest race will most likely fall between the 1960s story of forbidden love in "Brokeback Mountain", or the tale of violence, race, and hate issues of present-day Los Angeles in "Crash."

The nominations for Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role are: Philip Seymour Hoffman — "Capote;" Terrence Howard—"Hustle & Flow;" Heath Ledger—"Brokeback Mountain;" Joaquin Phoenix—"Walk the Line;" David Strathairn—"Good Night, and Good Luck."

With "Brokeback Mountain" and its leading actor receiving such great attention, Heath Ledger may have an extra step up in the competition. However, Joaquin Phoenix's role as the legendary Johnny Cash acquired such phenomenal reviews that he may be able to break the "Brokeback" streak. This year's nominees for Best Performance

by an Actress in a Leading Role do not seem to have a clear-cut competitor. The nominees are: Judi Dench — "Mrs. Henderson Presents;" Felicity Huffman — "Transamerica;" Keira Knightley — "Pride and Prejudice;" Charlize Theron — "North Country;" Reese Witherspoon — "Walk the Line."

While Witherspoon and Dench received the most audience attention, Huffman's role as a man compelled to surgically become a woman has earned rave reviews from critics, making her a strong competitor in the race for the golden statue.

For the award of Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role, the nominations go to: George Clooney—"Syriana;" Matt Dillon—"Crash;" Paul Giamatti—"Cinderella Man;" Jake Gyllenhaal—"Brokeback Mountain" William Hurt—"A History of Violence."

Of these nominees, the actors with the most critical praise were Giamatti, Gyllenhaal, and Hurt.

For the honor of Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role, the nominees are: Amy Adams—"Junebug;" Catherine Keener—"Capote;" Frances McDormand—"North Country;" Rachel Weisz—"The Constant Gardener;" Michelle Williams—"Brokeback Mountain."

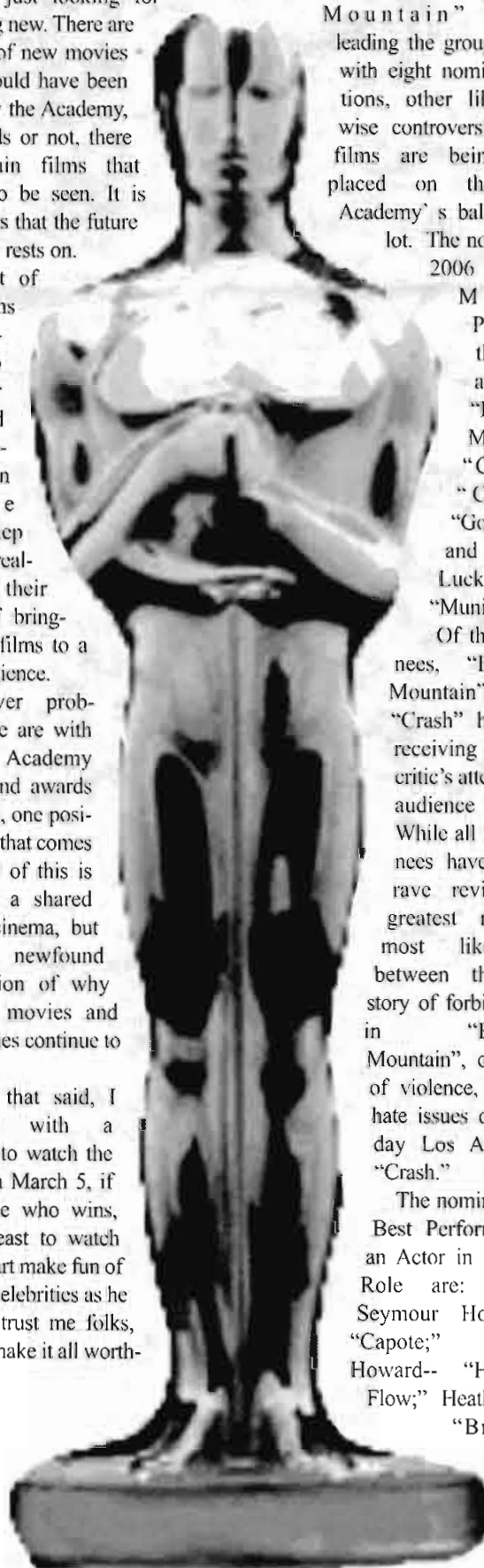
The most likely candidate of these choices is either McDormand or Weisz, both of whom received tremendous praise for their work this past movie season.

Interested to see who will actually take home the little gold man? Make sure to watch the Academy Awards on Sunday, March 5, at 8 p.m. on ABC.

It's the first time in 24 years that the directing and best picture nominations lined up exactly with the same movies for each category.

Of the 20 acting nominees, 14 of them are competing for the first time.

The "Wyoming" scenery in "Brokeback Mountain," is actually Alberta, Canada.





Featuring this week's columnist, John Biscuti

not just
v
THE SEX COLUMN

Sex fact of the week:

According to a Dec. 14 Salt Lake Tribune article, many soldiers stationed in Iraq have relatively busy sex lives. Though they're fighting to stabilize the country, they still find time to flirt, and well, have sex. Though the military technically bans wartime relations, base exchanges sell lingerie, condoms, and pregnancy tests. But with women only making up 15 percent of the Army, men's odds aren't good for getting some. But hey, you know what they say--Love is a battlefield!

Bisexuality: Truth, trend, or just tongue?

By JOHN BISCUTI
Wagnerian Sex Columnist

It is the epoch of incredulity; it is the epoch of *Girls Gone Wild*, and of porn stars on Times Square billboards, and of *Brokeback Mountain*. A time in which one institution stands strong as the cornerstone of the new sexual revolution — Bisexuality.

Lacking the weirdness of sado-masochism while retaining the desired sexual shock appeal, bisexuality seems to have become something anyone can — and will — embrace. It can go as far as kissing and still be a satisfying thrill for the involved parties.

But can this sweeping form of sexual expression truly be considered bisexuality, or are we witnessing the emergence of a something new?

Within the past decade alone, there has been a rapid gravitation towards bisexuality on a grand scale, a trend which may or may not have been created by Hollywood, but has certainly been perpetuated by it. Sensing a rise in, at the very least, bi-curiosity, television and film circles alike have both capitalized on its shock appeal, with one of the more famous displays being the infamous kiss between Britney Spears and Madonna at the 2003 MTV Video Music Awards.

While Madonna has been openly bisexual for years, Britney Spears is, by all accounts, straight, which leads us to believe that the kiss was nothing more than a publicity stunt — simply done to boost ratings and leave mouths agape. But the ripple effect that the trend has created is most certainly real. The Center of Disease Control, in a survey conducted recently, found that “a larger number of female college and high school students are experimenting with other women than ever before and actually report being encouraged to do so by pop culture for the first time.”

Indeed, we *have* witnessed the emergence of something new — *bisexual chic*. But the question still remains: — is there a rising number of women who actually believe that they're truly bi? Or is it simply en vogue?

Let's examine a case which I hold



Madonna kissed Britney Spears, above, seconds after locking lips with Christina Aguilera, bottom left, at the 2003 VMAs. Female kissing has also entered pop art. The poster “Kiss,” top left, has become ubiquitous in college dorm rooms. At left is the painting “Girls Kissing,” by Claudio Parentela.

dearly — my own: Of the three women which I have had the pleasure (or misfortune) of having relationships with over the past four years, all have admitted, rather openly, to being either bisexual or bi-curious. Yet I never held witness to any of them kissing another girl. Why? I've spent many nights awake in my bed pondering that very question (That's a joke).

It has become an accepted, and almost expected norm to see two girls make out. Most of the girls I spoke to owned up to locking lips with the same sex, either for the attention it gets from the opposite sex, or simply for a shot of tequila at a bar. Some use their own social drunkenness as an opportunity to kiss another girl without being judged too harshly by their peers. As if they would be.

So what would be the point of me seeing my girlfriend kiss another girl? If they're already my girlfriend, they don't need to impress me. I'm

not some guy at some bar waving a night's worth of free drinks under their nose just to see them kiss their best friend. Heck, if they want alcohol, I'll get them alcohol, as soon as I'm 21. But I digress.

And in my moment of digression, I can sit back and say, with all assuredness, that bisexuality is most certainly a trend. But that's not to say that bisexuality in its true form doesn't exist.

It's commonly said that bisexuality, in reality, is nothing more than a myth. People who claim to be bisexual are often flagged for simply going through a phase of confusion about their orientation. But does that make it any less valid?

Some of that is partly true — many bisexuals eventually become either heterosexual or homosexual, but many bisexuals are bisexual for life, according to Bisexuality FAQ (<http://serif.org/~jon/soc.bi/>). Additionally, however, many people

who exhibit bisexual signs prefer to pigeonhole themselves as either homosexual or heterosexual, based on the sex that they prefer.

In short, true bisexuality is an extremely difficult topic to whittle down to a few paragraphs in a college newspaper. The varying degrees to which people exhibit bisexual behavior is absolutely staggering, and only adds fuel to the fire regarding the bisexual chic trend. Those who make out with their best friend for a few drinks only make understanding the topic that much more difficult.

And thus, only one question remains: What about the men?

Obviously the bisexual chic trend is marginally more female-dominated, but there has been a rise in, at the very least, more androgynous behavior by men. Trends in music and other pop culture mediums have seem to made it cool for men to be just a bit more feminine — some call

it metrosexuality, but it goes beyond *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*.

The rise of emo and post-hardcore music, as well as “resurrection” acts such as The Killers, has brought forth a new wave of total lyrical openness, as well as a new sense of tight-clothed fashion that touches upon the androgyny of glam rock acts of the '70s and '80s.

And while there has been a change in many men, it is perhaps too early to call the trend “bisexual chic”, among men, anyway. The film *Brokeback Mountain*, a story of two gay cowboys, has been nominated for several Academy Awards and has brought the notion of two men kissing to middle America in a big way, so perhaps a wave of bisexual chic among men isn't very far off.

Heck, even I'll admit to jumping on the “guy wearing girl pants” bandwagon. But I haven't kissed any guys.

Yet.

SGA SPOTLIGHT

SGA would like to recognize two newly appointed Senators. Senior Senator, Tom McConnick and Freshman Senator David Hamil join the SGA team. If you're interested in running for an SGA Executive Board for next year applications will be available in the SGA office beginning March 7.

Mar. 7- SGA meeting (Spiro 4 at 4:30 p.m.)

April 1 - Songfest

April 2-7- Greek Week

April 22 - Wagnerstock

SGA meetings are every other Tuesday in Spiro 4 at 4:30 p.m.

WAGCAB meetings are every Wednesday in Union 202 at 3 p.m.

Provided by: Jeff Logan, SGA Secretary

The Wagnerian

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**IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN WRITING,
PHOTOGRAPHY OR DESIGN, COME TO
OUR NEXT MEETING!**

**MEETINGS EVERY
WEDNESDAY AT 8:30,
UNION 204**

Psychology professor teaches with real-life examples, laughs

By COURTNEY DONAHUE
Wagnerian Staff Writer

On a Monday morning during the last week of classes, students in the 9:10 a.m. Introduction to Psychology class are tired and non-responsive. Their professor, Dr. Steve Jenkins stands at the front of the class, trying to get them to respond to his question. "Come on people, this is a participation day," he says in a coaxing tone of voice.

He suggests that the class get a "cup of Joe, or as I always say they should call it a cup of Steve, who decided it should be Joe? Why not Steve?" He often poses questions like this or talks about funny experiences he has had whether it relates to psych or not, just to keep students interested.

He helps students understand the material he teaches by giving real life examples that relate to the mate-

rial. By having these examples, students are better able to apply the material to see how it relates to their own lives. His experience as a professor and as a counselor shows as he teaches his classes. He knows what subjects his students may have trouble understanding, and spends time giving examples to help them understand until they are comfortable with it.

His classes and his attitude while teaching show that he enjoys teaching his students. He is thrilled when they ask questions and participate in discussions. He knows that his classes are important, but that if there aren't jokes thrown in, they will be boring and students won't be interested enough to get much out of it. This is a nice attitude toward a class because it is true, and can also be applied to life outside of the classroom.

"I believe that if you take things to seriously and don't make light of situations, things are going to be

really depressing," he mentioned during one class.

His inspiration for teaching comes from his own Psychology 101 professor Pete Caldwell at Diablo Junior High.

Jenkins grew up in California and then taught at San Diego State University. Later he taught in Louisiana, and now he is teaching at Wagner. He says about the East coast vs. West coast, there is not much of a difference, "its one big city vs. one big city," he says, and "everyone here is genuinely interested in conversation."

His words of wisdom for students is that "College is more than what you learn in the classroom, try and enjoy all parts of it."

Outside of teaching at Wagner he enjoys soccer, music and hiking.

He teaches Intro to Psych, Health Psych, and Principles Counseling Psych as well as, Psychopathology, and Psych Sleep and Dreams.



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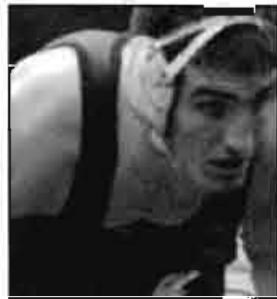
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*For more information on our Graduate Programs please contact us at:
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SEAHAWK ATHLETICS

SPRING 2006



Ensign

Wagner wrestles with tough season

Voids in roster put Seahawks down early

By STEPHEN MAGNANI
Wagnerian Contributor

Each time the Wagner College wrestling team takes to the mat, they are already losing.

Due to an incomplete roster, the Seahawks must wrestle from an 18 point deficit each team match. This unfortunate statistic contributes to the Seahawks below par 2-9 season thus far.

"It's kind of hard going into a match knowing your down points before the first match is even wrestled," said freshman Sean Quinn.

"Each time we wrestle we have to overcome that obstacle before we can get a chance to win."

The Seahawks came away with victories over Delaware State and Binghamton University recording their only two wins of the season. In the two most recent matches, the Seahawks fell to Boston University 42-9, and to Delaware Valley College 50-0.

Leading the team with the most wins this season is Justin Ensign, who is currently 12-12.

Wrestling is not the most popular sport at Wagner College. Most students, if asked, would not even know where the wrestling gym was located.

Freshman Chris Gottschalk is a perfect example. Of the wrestling gym, he says, "To tell you the truth, I really have no idea."

For those of you wondering, the wrestling gym is located on the first floor of Spiro Sports Center underneath the gym.

This answers the poor attendance at the matches.

Wagner hosts their final match of the season against Sacred Heart on Friday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m.

Senior Michael Rooney said, "We are all just going to keep working hard and hopefully we can finish up the season on a strong note with a couple good wins."

Dance team is No. 12 at nationals

By ALEXIS COSTA
Wagnerian Contributor

The six-year-old Wagner College Dance Team traveled to Disney for the second year in early January to compete in the College Dance Team National Championship. The team, comprised of 11 girls and one boy, competed against 26 schools from all over the country.

"We had some tough competition," said Joanna Paladino, dance team coach. "That is what made me have reservations about making it to finals. I didn't doubt my team, I was afraid of everyone else."

The team of 12 was chosen from the larger team of 20 that perform at Wagner football and basketball games. They had 14 weeks to choreograph and polish their routine.

"We only practice twice a week, which is nothing compared to what we were up against," said senior and co-captain Christina Stagliano.

In order to make it to the competition, teams must submit a tape of their routine to be judged. "Last year our team's tape was no. 19, and this year when we heard we were no. 11, we knew we had a chance at finals," said sophomore Alicia Magliaro.

Ending winter break early, the dancers and a handful of parents set off for Disney World, joining schools from across the country, all



The Seahawk dance team performs in front of ESPN cameras at nationals.

with the hopes of being no. 1.

"People at Wagner don't take us seriously, and try to make it seem like we aren't athletes," said Magliaro. But, once off the bus, the dancers blended in with everyone else and started practicing.

The following morning the team arrived at The Wide World of Sports, and entered the first round at Nationals.

"It's kind of intimidating to see all those teams," said Stagliano. "You know they are judging you as you walk by." Wagner performed fifth that afternoon.

"Since we performed so early I

was able to watch the other teams, and that's when I got nervous," said Paladino.

Sophomore Sherry Menyhart agreed, saying, "We had worked so hard, and seeing the other teams made us question our talent."

With anxiety high the dancers were surprised to find they placed eighth out of 14 teams. This meant they got into the final round, to be taped for ESPN, and needed more practice.

The team suited up again for what would be a new experience. They returned to the Wide World of Sports complex, and this time it was busi-

ness. Cameras were everywhere, taping for ESPN.

Wagner came in twelfth in the final round.

"We did what we could, and now the bar is raised for next year," said Paladino.

"We were just glad that we made it that far," said Paladino.

"We came home with a trophy and are going to be on ESPN, which is more than other teams at Wagner could say."

The College Dance Team National Championship will air March 19 at 4:30 p.m. on ESPN.

Following surgery, pitcher battles back

By MARC McDERMOTT
Wagnerian Contributor

"With the fifth pick, in the fifth round of the 2005 Major League Baseball Draft, the Milwaukee Brewers select Andrew Bailey from Wagner College."

That was what Bailey, a senior right-handed pitcher, wanted to hear last April. However, instead of that, he heard that he would be having 'Tommy John' surgery to repair a torn ligament in his right elbow.

The procedure involves taking a ligament from his hip and putting it in his right elbow, replacing the torn one. The surgery can sometimes be a career ending one, but Bailey has bounced back with every intention of pitching in the upcoming season.

"I should be ready for some relief pitching action sometime in early April. Then, if all goes well, I hope

to be starting in the rotation by the end of April," the 6'2" hurler said of his injury.

Bailey believes that he would be able to come back from the injury, because he has been pitching for the past 17 years of his life. His career really began to blossom at Paul VI high school in his hometown of Medford, NJ.

"I'm not worried about reinjuring it, and that's my biggest advantage. If I began to do that, then it would probably slow down my recovery. This way I can just let it loose," Bailey said with a laugh.

As his high school career came to an end, Bailey began to receive phone calls from major Division I schools. Although he did have the chance to pitch at Rutgers in a relief role, his desire to be a starter swayed him to Wagner.

"The coaches told me here that I would be able to start right away. I thought an opportunity like that was too good to pass up," Bailey said.

So far at Wagner, Bailey has held up his end of being a Major League top prospect. As a sophomore, he led the Seahawks to the Northeast Conference Championship game against Central Connecticut State by posting a 6-4 record.

Going into his junior year, he was recognized as the 5th best player out

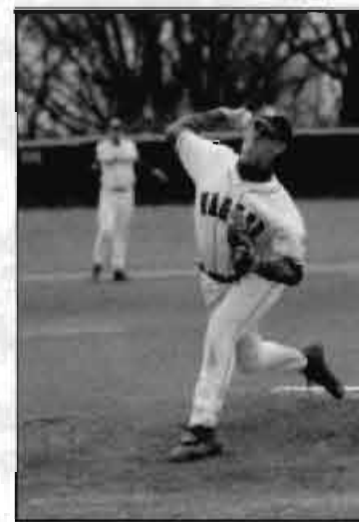
of the New England Collegiate Baseball League. That year he also led the NEC in opponents' batting average (.209), ranked second in the NEC in strikeouts (88 K, 9.3 K/G), ranked third in the NEC in innings pitched (76.1 inn.) and starts (13), tied for fourth in the league in wins (6) and ranked fifth in the league in complete games (5).

His junior year started off right where his sophomore year finished, by posting a 3-2 record and a team best 3.46 era. However, it all turned for the worse against Fairleigh Dickinson University, in early April. In the third inning of the game, Bailey's fastball dropped from an average of 91 to the low 80's.

"I knew then that I did something really bad to my arm. I wasn't sure what it was at first so I tried to pitch through it," Bailey said.

The Seahawks will welcome Bailey back with open arms, as they head into the 2006 season. They have many returning starters, along with some freshman that should have a sudden impact on the team, for a squad that made it to the NEC Tournament last year.

"He will definitely have a huge impact on this team. Any time you have a pitcher on your team that is throwing in the mid-90's you know you always have a chance to win



Bailey hopes to regain his form, and lead the Seahawks back to the NEC tournament.

every game he starts," said sophomore catcher Dan Morvay.

Despite all the rehab, there are still a handful of teams that are keeping an eye on Bailey in the upcoming season.

"There are about 10 teams that have been calling me, so I hope to enter the draft again after this year," Bailey said.

Hopefully for the Seahawks he will come back 100 percent, and lead them back to the NEC championship.



Bailey

Hockey headed to championships

By ANTHONY CAMACHO

Wagnerian Contributor

"It will be tough, but we look forward to making a great run for the championship," captain Dan Musgrove said.

The Wagner Men's hockey club is looking forward to a run for the Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Hockey Association Championship. With the season winding down and the Seahawks already guaranteed a spot in the playoffs, the only question that remains is where they will stand when the season is over.

"Taking the top spot is what we would like to do, even if we don't we will be ready for whoever we have to play against," said Dave Zelinsky, a forward on the team. "If we keep playing hard and don't have a lot of mental errors, we should give ourselves a great shot at the championship."

After seemingly looking like they would grab the top seed, some tough losses have dropped the Seahawks from the top spot. Even though the loss has dropped them in the rankings it hasn't destroyed their spirits.

The Seahawks aim to run the table in this year's playoffs. Led by

Musgrove and leading point scorer Dayne Gluting the Seahawks look to use their weapons throughout the playoffs to take home a championship title.

With a three-goalie rotation between Tyler Lang, Kyle Finnerty, and Anthony Dilcillo, the Seahawks are ready to stop anything that comes their way.

With big wins over Stony Brook who was ranked number one and Oakland University, which ended their undefeated streak, the Seahawks have fought through it all and can still stand atop their division taking the number one seed.

OPINION

Steelers 'steal' Super Bowl

Bad officiating dictates championship game

By ANDREW MINUCCI
Wagnerian Sports Editor

Super Bowl Sunday should have been a great day for me. I picked the Steelers to win the game and I came within a field goal of predicting the final score. It should have been a day to poke fun at my friends who picked the Seahawks, with insults such as "Seattle didn't have a chance" or "I told you so!"

Unfortunately, these comments would be as unjust as the officiating during the actual game itself. The officials of the NFL have been horrendous in the past few seasons and it was only a matter of time before it decided the fate of the Super Bowl. Super Bowl XL should have been won by the Seattle Seahawks, but the referees simply wouldn't have it that way.

The Seahawks had 57 more yards of total offense, won the turnover battle, and drastically controlled the time of possession. These elements should have guaranteed them a victory but unfair penalties prohibited them from the prize.

On the first drive of the game the Seahawks made three great plays that were all called back for penalties that even announcer John Madden called awful. Instead of ending up with any points on the drive Seattle had to punt the ball away.

The next time Seattle received the ball they looked poised to get into the end zone. Seahawks quarterback Matt Hasselbeck threw a perfect pass into the end zone that was caught by the receiver for what should have been a touchdown. The referee, looking confused, called offensive pass interference for what appeared to be a minor hand battle that didn't even affect the defender. Since pass interference can not be reviewed the Seahawks had to settle for a field goal, a significant disappointment in the Super Bowl.

On the first play of the second quarter Peter Warrick had a great punt return that gave the Seahawks the ball in Steelers territory, but it was called back after Eric Pruitt was called for holding. After view-



Heinz Ward raises the Lombardi trophy after the Steelers won the Super Bowl.

ing the replay I couldn't even see the incident occur and I feel it was another instance of a referee looking for a penalty to call.

When the Steelers finally got into the end zone it was also a case of a bad call. Ben Roethlisberger didn't even get the ball into the end zone and the replays showed the ball never crossed the plane of the goal line. The Seahawks challenged the call but the referees upheld their decision. If the call was correctly made the Steelers would have had to attempt the touchdown on fourth down, possibly ending with no points at all.

Early in the fourth quarter Matt Hasselbeck threw what should have been another Seahawks touchdown but it was once again called back for an awful offsides penalty. On the very next play Matt Hasselbeck's pass was intercepted and he actually had to make the tackle to stop the Steelers defender from running it back. Not surprisingly Hasselbeck was called for an illegal block, adding fifteen yards to the run. A quarterback executing an illegal block! It just doesn't happen and Hasselbeck's block was far from illegal, another horrendous call.

Seattle's officiating horrors were not over yet. After a Steelers receiver fumbled the ball it seemed

as if the Seahawks would get the ball back once again. Once again the referees made an awful call and ruled the pass incomplete instead of a fumble, as it truly was.

In one more final act of travesty the referees allowed the Steelers a time out after the play clock had clearly reached zero. No surprise there, the referees seemed to be pulling for the Steelers that day.

The NFL needs to take a stand and make sure the officials are calling the games as they need to be called. The league should also expand the types of plays that can be challenged to include pass interference and other calls that can't be reviewed under the current rules. The only thing worse than the officials at the Super Bowl was the Rolling Stones, and that's expected because Mick Jagger needs some new hips and Keith Richards is about 90 years old.

When the day concluded the Steelers were ruled champions of Super Bowl XL and Jerome Bettis got to retire after winning the Super Bowl in his hometown. Oh yea, the Seahawks should have won 17-14, but in the words of Al Gore after losing the presidential election "You win some, you lose some, and then there's that category were you really won but you lost."

Hackin' it up

A sport that sticks around

By TIM MARINO
Wagnerian Contributor

"Hacky sacking is amazing because it's all about peace," beams Matt Procaccini, a Connecticut native and senior at Wagner College. "The idea of a circle promotes a peaceful gathering."

The sport, popularized in the '70s by the hippie generation, has roots in the ancient Americas and in Asia, but it is often argued that foot bag is not a sport in the true sense of the word. Like any other sport, hacky sack has rules—albeit an unwritten code of common courtesy rather than a set of official guidelines.

The main objective is to have every person in the circle participate in keeping the hacky sack aloft by using any body parts but arms and hands—a process simply called a "hack." The hack begins by tossing the sack to the opposite person.

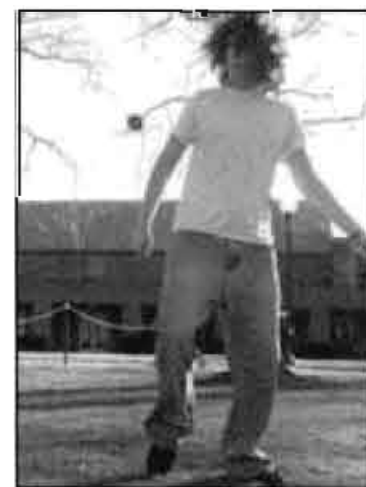
Stronger participants ideally are concerned not only with themselves, but also with the weaker players in the interest of completing the hack. There is no competition, no winner or loser, and therefore no heckling—everyone in the circle is on the same team.

So why isn't this relatively inexpensive, simple to learn and socially provoking game not taught by public schools in physical education class? What better way to teach children the importance of verbal communication and camaraderie? To education higher-ups, hacky sacking will likely conjure up images of the hippies—who while setting the standards for future hacking generations also smoked a whole lot of reefer. But didn't baseball great Darryl Strawberry smoke crack and countless others in 'America's pastime' use steroids?

Regardless, no other game blends teamwork, communication, courtesy and coordination while focusing entirely on a single object and one communal goal.

Listen to a hack circle in motion. Initially, it sounds like rampant stomps of feet followed by groans of disappointment, but eventually the hackers absorb a rhythm. The incoherence turns into a consistent and predictable rhythm of slaps of the bead-filled sack as it is passed off to each hacker. Think maracas.

Active players eventually excel beyond the simple volley. They attain a sense of style and grasp some of the basics of advanced hacky sacking; i.e. stalling, or suspending the hacky sack on a body part, and the 'rainbow,' which involves kicking the hacky sack over one's head from one side of the body to the other. Soon, craftiness ensues. A flawless execution of the "donkey-



Marino hacks on Sutter Oval.

kick" is certain to delight fellow hackers.

Some lingo is native to certain areas because hackers make it up. The aforementioned 'donkey kick' is a popular move at Wagner that requires kicking the sack with the sole or back of the foot in a donkey-like manner.

But, if not well timed, these moves, especially when unsuccessful, result in frustration throughout the circle.

"Yeah, the crazy stalls and tricks are fun and all, but when someone only does tricks, then you know that they are going to drop it. They are really just a black hole trying to show off," Procaccini explains, as he passionately outlines the etiquette of the hack circle.

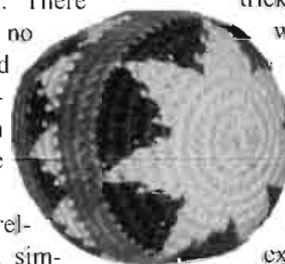
He is clear in his appreciation of upper-level hacking. But he thinks that a hacker should wait at least until the full hack is completed. "Get your tricky meter up before you do power moves," he says.

College students find that a hack session is one of the best ways to keep sane (besides a smoke break, of course) while preparing for a presentation or completing a last-minute paper. For as much as the game is physically exhausting, it is also mentally relaxing, thought provoking and inspirational.

Wagner sophomore Mike Jay concurs. "Not only does coordination improve while hacking," he says, "There is also a feeling of comfort, relaxation, and satisfaction from a good hack session."

To put it simply, hacking gets the participant's mind completely absorbed in immediate gratification.

A hacker will never lose that sense of coordination attained by consistently connecting his foot, head, or knee with an object smaller than a baseball. And he will never want to be the odd man out. The open door policy of a hack circle is universal. So, aware of the etiquette of the game, never feel shy about joining a group of strangers in an impromptu circle.

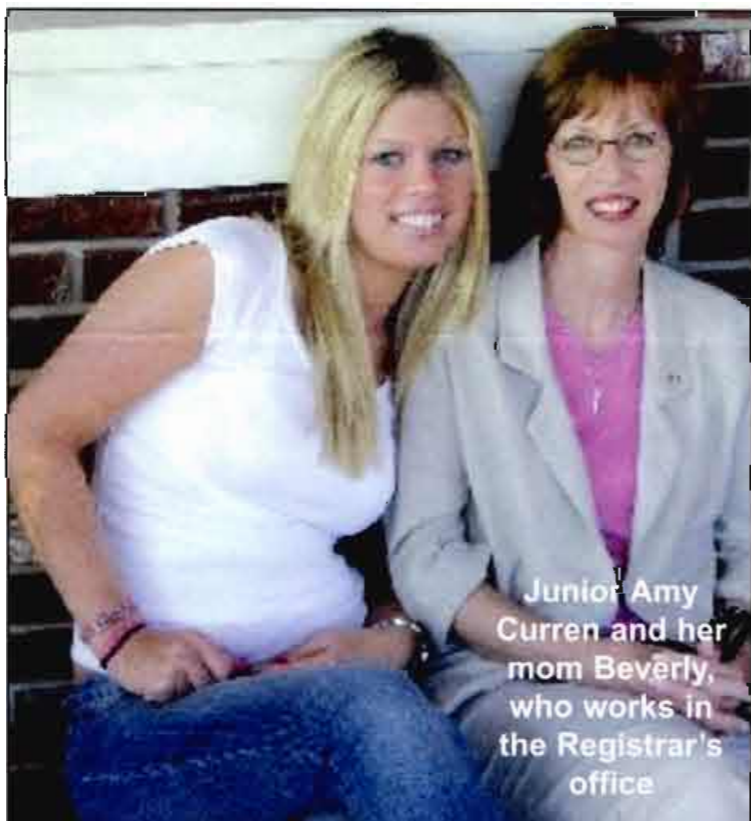




Dr. Mary LoRe, right, a business professor, and her daughter Erica, a sophomore



Sophomore twins Jessica and Jocelyn Ford



Junior Amy Curren and her mom Beverly, who works in the Registrar's office

SLICE OF LIFE

 All in the family

Look closely enough, and you'll find that Wagner College runs in many families.

Moms, dads, children, brothers, sisters, and yes, even twins, they all share the same Seahawk spirit, as well as their family bonds.

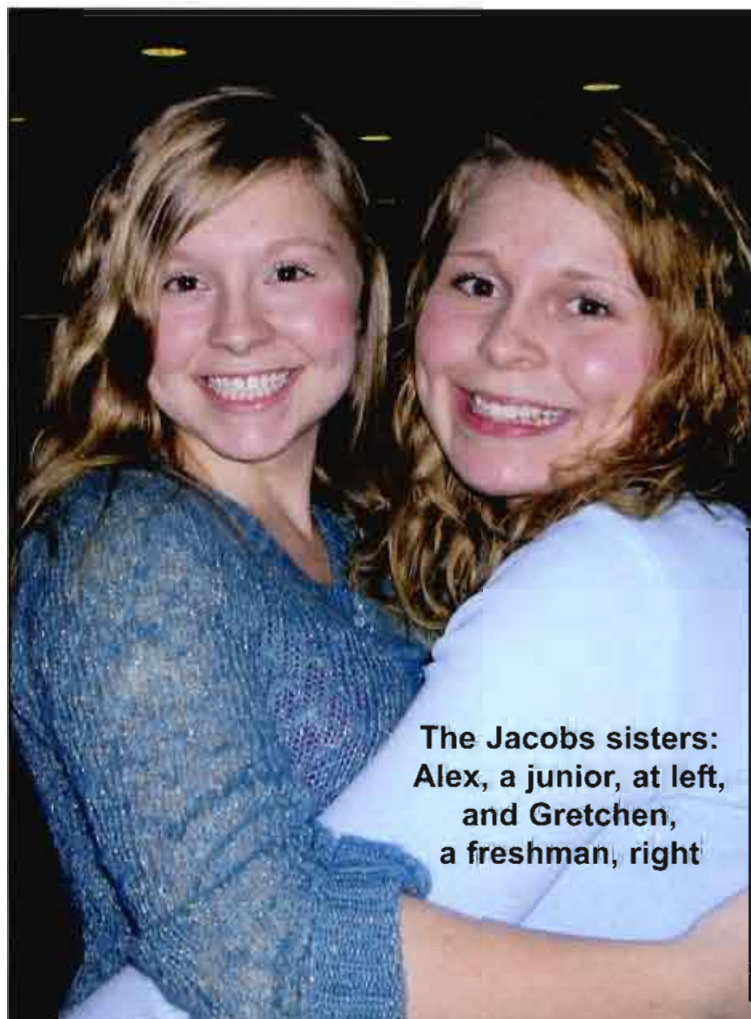
With photos by Kelly Byrd



Freshman Melissa Flanigan with her big brother Chris, a junior



Betty Volsario, who works in Admissions, and her daughter Erin, a junior



The Jacobs sisters: Alex, a junior, at left, and Gretchen, a freshman, right



Junior twins Stacey and Cori Travous