

The Wagnerian

Wagner College

Friday October 29, 2004

Staten Island, NY

THE FREE WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

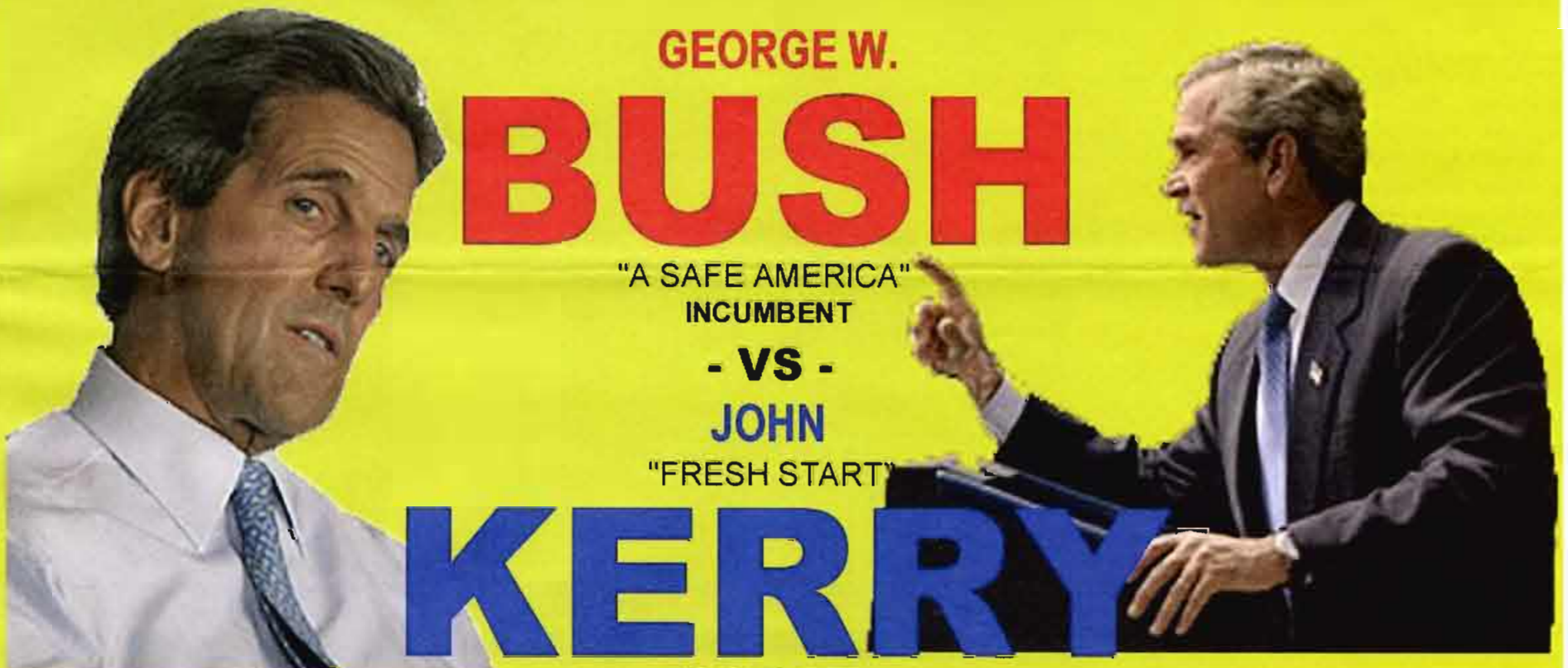
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Artist: Jonathan Deutsch

Voting: It's an American privilege

You're reading a special edition of the Wagnerian,

As we go to press, the two presidential candidates are in a dead heat, with many polls showing only a few points between them.

That's exactly why this issue of the Wagnerian is important. It is a free exchange of the ideas, opinions and viewpoints of more than a dozen Wagner students who know how critical

this election is for America. They have followed the issues and formed their opinions.

You will agree with some. Disagree with others. You may even get angry.

But that's what an election is all about. Freedom to express our ideas and ideals.

Tuesday is Election Day. If you are a registered voter, exercise your right and get out to vote.

You are responsible for shaping this nation, and hopefully with the information provided to you inside this issue you will be able to make a well-informed decision.

Happy reading.

The opinions start on page 3.

-- The Wagnerian Editorial Board

Kerry wins by landslide in random student poll

By SARAH ZIMMERMAN and ALEX JACOBS
Wagnerian Editors

A random poll of 105 Wagner students last Friday was taken during lunch, concerning the upcoming presidential election. Anonymous surveys were passed around and collected with the following questions:

WAGNER POLL

1. Are you registered to vote? Yes or No
2. Are you planning on voting? Yes or No
3. If you are planning to vote, who are you voting for? John Kerry, George W. Bush, or Ralph Nader

The questionnaires sparked an interest with most students, and many were extremely eager to participate and be heard. The outcome is following:

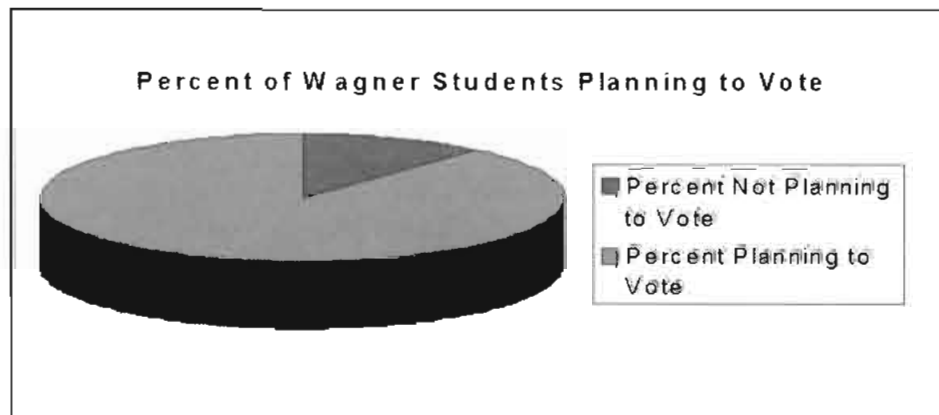
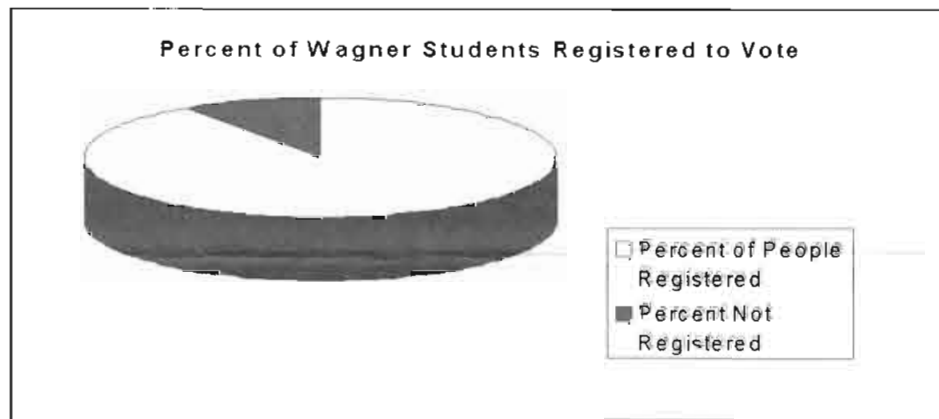
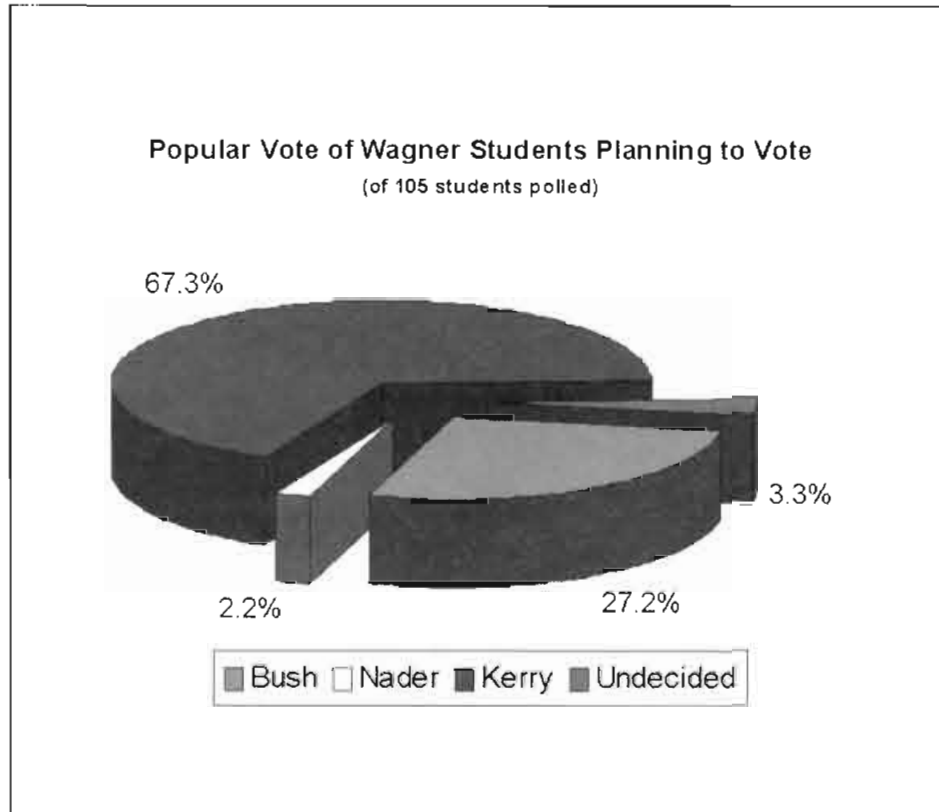
90.5 percent of students polled were registered to vote, leaving 9.5 percent unregistered. Of those registered, 88.5 percent were actually planning to vote, adding 2.2 percent to the non-voters category.

Of the 88.5 percent of people registered and planning to vote, the majority backed Senator John Kerry, with a total of 67.3 percent of the popular vote. President George W. Bush came in second with 27.2 percent. In third with 3.3 percent was the undecided voters. And finally, Ralph Nader came in with 2.2 percent.

Nationwide, however, the race is neck and neck. Polls in individual states show Bush slightly ahead in several battleground states, which may propel him to win the 270 electoral votes or more to take the presidency. In those swing states, though, the lead in polls is only a few percentage points--leaving plenty of room for error and plenty of room for the other candidate to gain a lead on Election Day.

Come Nov. 2, all eyes will be on television screens for updates as one of the most divisive elections in our nation's history takes place.

With the country so divided, one thing is certain: whoever is voted into office that day will be faced with the daunting task of uniting a divided nation in this time of uncertainty.



Students justify political views

By EVAN JAGELS
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Why would a Wagner student vote for Bush? What would make a Wagner student want to vote for Kerry? Is there anybody on campus who plans to vote for Nader?

Several students were asked not only whom they plan to vote for in the upcoming presidential election, but also why they plan to vote for that candidate.

These students of various political convictions were also asked how they choose to stay informed (the stations they watch and the papers they read).

Andrea, a freshman, plans to vote for John Kerry. "He is pro-choice," she said. "He does not believe in the war in Iraq is going well and he wants to get our troops out. He will help health care, pension plans, and social reform." Andrea primarily watches CNN and BBC America and she enjoys listening to

NPR. Conservatives have accused all three networks of having a liberal bias.

Andrea's roommate Kathleen has a different opinion. "I support the war in Iraq. Honestly, Kerry has no plan. Bush has a stronger vision for America," she said. "I also don't believe in abortion." When her roommate mentioned gun control, Kathleen snapped, "Gun control is out of control!" Kathleen watches Fox News, a station that many liberals say has a conservative slant.

Michael Puglia, a freshman, is voting for John Kerry. His decision seems to be based mainly on a fundamental difference between liberals and conservatives. "I disagree with supply-side economics," he said.

"There are sociological problems and flaws with democracy in the trickle down economic theory." The principle of 'trickle down' economics is what Bush used to justify his much debated tax cuts. Michael reads the New York Times and the Christian Science Monitor

two publications that some say lean left.

Matt Hudson, a junior, favors Ralph Nader over the two main party candidates. "I'm not a fan of the two party system," he said. "I am more for the independent party." Matt chooses to read both the New York Times and the Washington Post so he can get both the liberal and conservative view.

Mandy, a freshman, is voting for Kerry. "I am voting for John Kerry- because of the failings of the Bush tax cuts. It ignores a fairly large group of people who most need the tax cuts." She added, "Democracy won't work in Afghanistan and Iraq; they're just not ready for it is this time." Mandy also reads the New York Times and the Washington Post.

It appears as though the 2004 presidential election will be another close call. It is important that we make an attempt to improve voter turnout. Not enough eligible voters show up to the polls, or fill out their absentee ballots.

REAL PEOPLE
REAL OPINIONS

What are the most important issues in the upcoming elections?

Photos & Interviews by Sean Jacobsen



"War. I think that is definitely the defining issue of the elections."

Cory Rhoades, Junior (Business Major)

"For me, the issues of employment and abortion rights are the deciding factors."



Josh Key-Maginnis, Junior (Theater Performance Major)



"I think that the war and holding up military commitments without instating the draft are important."

Brad Seymour, Senior (Eng./Psych. Major)

"One of the most prominent problems today is that corporate greed is eclipsing human need."



Whitney G-Bowley, Freshman (Theater Performance Major)



"The most important issue is how the U.S. will be better respected in the world."

Cathy Walters, Junior (Arts Administration Major)

Vote for what you believe in

By CORINNE WAHLBERG
Wagnerian Staff Writer

I was taught that there are two subjects that one should never bring up in civil conversation: religion and politics. Why? I find that most individuals have very strong convictions about both topics that can rarely be swayed - even by the most convincing speeches.

When I think about the election, I realize that I don't know everything. There's so much to know. Who is going to bother reading the 41-page Democratic platform, or the 94-page Republican platform? How many people took the time to watch both conventions? Did you

miss the debates too?

How many of us are going to vote? What will our choices be based upon?

In an effort to make my first vote ever really count, I decided to do a little research on both the Democratic and Republican parties: their platforms, their opinions, their speakers, and their undying fans. I'm not going to vote on a candidate based on innuendo or hearsay. I suggest you do the same.

When I look at both parties, I realize that as Americans, we all want the same things. We all want to preserve the American dream of leading successful, happy lives through good schools, good job opportunities, and good medical coverage. We want a safe country that

has a safe environment and a healthy economy. We all want more money in our pockets. Your decision should be based on your agreement with the plan you believe best suits you and the country.

I've heard very strong, heated opinions about both parties. Sometimes things got ugly. I don't like people bashing me because I have strong convictions and opinions. I don't like when people bash Bush or Kerry, but even I am guilty, laughing at parodies and jokes. It's funny how they call the vote of the American people the "popular vote." Is that what we've reduced it to? We are a generation of new voters, some of us voting for the first time. We have the responsibility to take this seriously.

I am personally a member of GreenPeace and Planned Parenthood and stay politically active despite who's in office. It's not just about one vote every four years. I hope you are involved in organizations that support your strong beliefs. You decide how involved you want to be; it's your country.

So, I don't want to tell you who you should vote for. Just know what you're voting for. I hope that when you fill out your ballot on Nov. 2 that you're voting for what you believe in, candidate blind. Vote because their strong convictions are your strong convictions. Do not be swayed - even by the most convincing speeches.

OUR NATION'S ECONOMY: IS BIGGER BETTER?

Kerry is the solution to economic slump

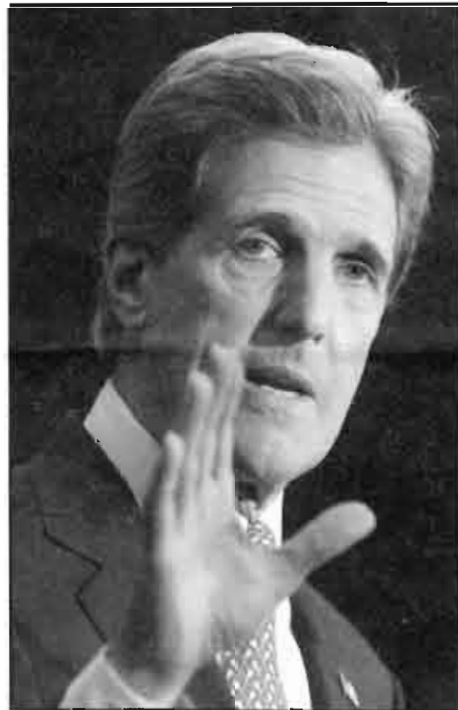
By LAURA NEFF
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Throughout the presidential campaign, the economy has been a central issue. Jobs, taxes and fiscal responsibility have been at the heart of the democratic campaign for good reason. The job migration overseas, taxes for the rich and a growing deficit have left the American consumer concerned with the future of their economy. The consumer confidence index continues to dip while unemployment remains steady, and the gap between rich and poor widens.

Policy makers say that their economic programs have led to the creation of 1.5 million new jobs, and have raised the standard of living. No matter how much the administration may praise their own economic-stimulus package, in reality most Americans have suffered rather than benefited under the Bush plan. John Kerry plans to encourage industry to remain in the United States using a tax incentive program. Some critics may argue that regardless of the president the United States is now a service-orientated economy to be reminded that the blue collar manufacturing jobs are of the past.

Keeping jobs in the United States has been a sore spot for the Bush administration. In his campaign, he has argued that he has produced 1.5 million new jobs. The Bureau of Labor stresses that even with this job growth the country needs 150,000 new jobs each month to keep up with the growing work force. The president has created 1.5 million jobs out of the possible 7.2 million. Also, the jobs that have been created have not spurred economic growth in individual families. The Bush administration stresses that tax cuts, such as the child credit, have helped families support the economy. This type of tax cut, although it sounds like a positive bill, has done little to raise consumer confidence. One half of the \$1.6 trillion went to the top one percent of Americans. The middle class who drove the economy of the 1990's is now under pressure.

John Kerry supports an economic package to increase the tax break for the middle class allowing them to reinvest in America. Investing in America seems bleak with a rising deficit. Purchasing power of the dollar has decreased, and America is about to have the highest deficit in its history. As we wage a war against terrorism, raise Medicare and pour money into the defense department, how can the Bush administration hope to come out on top?



Senator John Kerry

The need to fund other important government programs has gone to the back burner. The Bush administration faithfully follows the policies of the Regan administration. The economic policies of the president must be in touch with the country and not big business. Big business seems to be a Bush priority in America. As a tail rider to the Patriot Act, insurance companies gained quite a lot. Small business is part of the American economy, if not the saving grace. Kerry stresses that tax breaks on smaller business will stimulate much needed growth.

The Bush campaign supports small businesses joining together. Who wants to join with their competitors? The Bush campaign has looked over the place of small business in America and how they can create jobs. Instead they have an archaic view that the companies of GM are still supporting the backbone of America. Big business in America, if anything, is being produced overseas and not helping drop the unemployment rate.

Production of new jobs should be the core of this presidential campaign. John Kerry supports an economic plan that would create new jobs under a policy of middle class tax breaks which keeps businesses at home. With a growth in consumer confidence and a fiscally responsible administration, the economy will have a fighting chance to improve; the democrats have a sound plan for the future of America.

A capitalist society is a free society

By LAUREN LEONFORTE
Wagnerian Staff Writer

It's an interesting thing about business owners, the Houdini-type. They emerge in their suits, Cuban cigars burning the aroma of success. Before the door of their Mercedes' thuds behind them, sideliners have already detected the scene, some in envy, others with a cowering resentment. The quiet soles of the businessperson's shoes can be heard from blocks away, like the left, right, left of clear reason in a world of questions. However, this image has come to represent the demise of all that is good.

Tibor R. Machan, a professor at the acclaimed Argyros School of Business, and Hoover Institution at Stamford University, has also noticed prejudice against business people. "From Socrates to our day, intellectuals and their adoring public tended to besmirch commerce and business. American society has turned this around just a bit because business has been instrumental in erasing poverty for millions." However, even America cannot keep the "intellectuals" at bay. The leading business article in the last edition of the New York Times could have glamorized the 26.7 billion dollars Walmart saved consumers last year (Finance Magazine), or even how 260 billion dollars in corporate profit tax (bureau of labor statistics) helped the needy. Instead reporter Edmund Andrews wrote an article titled "How Tax Cuts Gave Businesses More and More", as if it were a deplorable thought.

When the criminals of Enron and World-Com were discovered, the catch phrase "corporate greed" consummated like a forest fire. Suddenly, a simple association with a big business would put one in the same cesspool as a crook. Could you imagine associating one case of pedophilia with every teacher across the country? It soon becomes obvious that a deep-dwelling amnesty for big business in this country has less to do with Enron or World-Com, and more to do with the very heart of business. "Making money itself is the target, striving for prosperity, unabashedly as people do in commerce, is what is being attacked,"

states Machan.

When I was a little girl, I discovered money in its purest sense. If I gave mommy a back rub for fifteen minutes, she would give me a dollar. Better yet, I could become the best lemonade stand on the block and put up to fifteen dollars in my savings trunk. From there I discovered the importance of competition and advertising (after all, Joe's stand down the block might have outdone us if we hadn't advertised our "New and Refreshing Pink Lemonade.") Once I had established a customer base, I began designing custom cards for them, with my initial investment of Cray-

ola crayons and construction paper. Within the year I had far more money than my older siblings. When they asked to borrow, I did the only natural thing for an eight year-old: I charged them 10% interest on the dollar.

My zeal for money, of course, had everything to do with what money represents. It was a way of interacting with the world

around me, as well as something I could hold in my hand at the end of the day, as proof of an honest day's work. One could hardly argue that my prepubescent face strove toward exploitation, or corporate greed. And yet, I merely executed my rights as a citizen in the same way that businesses are, across the nation.

I will leave you with the quote of one of America's most influential thinkers, because I cannot say it better myself. Emerging from Soviet Russia during the heart of Communism, Ayn Rand experienced first hand the change in the lifestyle from the suffocation of rights in the Soviet Union to free commerce in America. "America's abundance was created not by public sacrifices to the common good, but by the productive genius of free men who pursued their own personal interests and the making of their own private fortunes. They did not starve the people to pay for America's industrialization. They gave the people better jobs, higher wages, and cheaper goods with every new machine they invented, with every scientific discovery or technological advance - and thus the whole country was moving forward and profiting, not suffering, every step of the way."

"Making money itself is the target; striving for prosperity, unabashedly as people do in commerce, is what is being attacked."

--Tibor R. Machan

PUT TO THE TEST: SHOULD STANDARDIZED TESTS DETERMINE SCHOOL FUNDING?

Lower scores signify a greater need

By ALEX JACOBS
Wagnerian Co-Editor

Every child needs and deserves a good education, if not to open their eyes to the world, then to help them succeed in it.

Though the U.S. dominates the world in trade, culture, and often, politics, we rank tenth in the number of citizens age 25 to 34 that have graduated from high school, according to yearly rankings by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. With 87 percent of that demographic having graduated, other countries such as Norway, Korea, the Czech Republic and Japan surpass us. According to the same report, the U.S. spends more per student on all levels of education, \$10,871, than any other country, and the U.S. ranks second only to Canada in the proportion of its population that has graduated from a four-year college, at 38 percent.

Obviously, Americans value education. But as college tuition skyrockets, and as testing is becoming the only earmark of success in schools across the country, many students are being shut out—even “left behind.”

The Bush administration’s No Child Left Behind Act giveth and taketh away—the amount of federal funding schools get depends on how well children perform and how much they improve on standardized tests.

TOO MUCH TESTING

Ask any teacher, and they’ll tell you that using testing as the only marker of success isn’t conducive to learning.

Tests are useful in getting students to remember facts and how to work out problems or write essays using what they have learned in class. But education isn’t just about spitting back information given to you by an authority figure—the goal is for children to learn how to ask questions for themselves, think for themselves, and know how to find solutions they seek on their own.

If a school pushes its teachers to improve test scores on a standardized exam, they may spend several months or even the whole year preparing students for the test, learning only the facts that will be covered, facts that are chosen by some final authority of education. Students lose their hunger for learning when the class is reduced to exam review.

The standards that schools are expected to meet on the tests are more rigorous than ever, and are often unattainable for schools already struggling without enough teachers or resources.

LOW SCORES, LOWER FUNDS

You could look at it by saying that the government saves you money by keeping it from people who don’t deserve it, but I think everyone deserves a good education, especially those who don’t have very good test scores.

Is it possible that low-performing schools need more attention and federal support, not less? As far as saving Americans money goes, why don’t we cut down on spending in other areas? We are hemorrhaging billions with two ongoing wars and no end in sight. At least in education, there is the possibility of a clear outcome—a better future for the generations to follow us, and therefore a better future for our country.

Among those still being “left behind” in



The future of our country depends on the education we give our youth.

schools are minorities, as they often fall into the poorest categories, and end up in the most troubled schools. The recent 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court’s decision in *Brown vs. the Board of Education* ended up being a sad reminder that in fifty years, blacks have gained rights, but not all blacks have been able to gain a good education. Our government, whether under Republican or Democrat control, has not done enough, or at least has not done a very effective job of closing the gap for poor minority students.

Although affirmative action isn’t and was never meant to be an all-purpose method of lifting up the poor minorities, it has and does change lives. The system is inherently flawed, but until minorities are brought up in their social status in the U.S., a door we must keep open for them as an avenue into higher education.

If we got rid of affirmative action altogether, knowing that minority students often don’t have as many opportunities or as good schooling as whites do, how can we provide the disadvantaged with the opportunities they so deserve? How could we explain the decreased diversity in our colleges to the next generation? Do we slam the door?

KERRY’S PLAN

John Kerry isn’t against the idea of holding schools accountable.

He is for, however, improving education in troubled schools by giving more funding to pay for and train teachers, establishing an education trust fund, and providing incentives for schools to provide after-school activities for students to expand their social learning and keep them safe.

With the costs of higher education at an all-time high, Kerry proposes a new fully refundable tax credit of up to \$4,000 for each year a student is in college, helping to reduce the burden of college costs. He also would reward states whose tuition costs are kept down.

Kerry has also proposed a new program called “Service for College,” in which young people who serve in some of the most needed jobs in the U.S., by teaching in inner-city elementary schools, for example, will get free tuition for four years at any public university. In this way, students could give back to their country in the communities that need their help the most, and the government could in return greatly reduce the cost of higher education.

Incentive system rewards improvement

By JONATHAN GOODISON
Wagnerian Contributing Writer

Education is one of the most important and vital necessities of life. It’s what makes families successful, businesses thrive and countries powerful. From the scientific and intellectual revolutions to the present day, societies have been made great through the institution of sound education. It is not only a force that intellectualizes an American, but also the solution to make every citizen a good American. Whatever one’s goals are in life, understanding the issues that surround all of us as U.S. citizens is not only beneficial, but absolutely crucial. If our government stays the course of an incentive-based program and continues to force positive results, not only will citizens of our country be more informed, but society as a whole will benefit.

The U.S. has not been in the forefront of education for many years. This not only affects our children, but the divide in classes that this country is experiencing. Those with a liberal agenda can create as much affirmative action they want and they can continue to try and throw money at low-performing schools with absolutely no accountability, but it will never solve the problem.

As a conservative, I care about equality just as much as the next person, but I don’t support education legislation that has no hope of educating. We finally have a president who has set a real agenda for education that will, in the big picture, raise the level of lower society and subsequently make the U.S. a more equal place to live.

The No Child Left Behind Act does two things that make sense for real education reform. One, it makes schools accountable by offering money only in exchange for proof of elevated test scores. In the past, politicians with a liberal philosophy have raised taxes to give even low-performing schools millions of dollars in funding. Our president and a conservative agenda force those schools to per-

form better by only giving them money when they see results through test scores.

The second task this legislation accomplishes is that if a school does not work hard enough to bring themselves up to standard, their students have the option to go to a better institution. Along with this, the government saves you money by keeping it from people who just don’t deserve it.

The effect of pragmatic education reform pertains to the big picture of race and class in America. Ask yourself why we have a lower class in the U.S. More importantly, why is a majority of that class African-American? I contend that these people have been unjustly denied a solid education not by the stereotypical hardliner Republican, but by the supposedly compassionate Democrat.

It is not a young child’s fault that their government has been listlessly throwing money at his or her school, thus removing any motivation for improvement. Socioeconomic gaps cannot be solved with affirmative action or more economic squandering. Only now that we are getting to the root of the problem do we have a chance.

If minority children begin to stay in school as a result of their schools receiving incentives to perform better, the level of society will then elevate as well. Instead of giving

minorities preferential treatment in the workplace, give him or her a good educational base so they won’t need affirmative action to get a job. By doing this we will have accomplished two things. One, we will bring America closer as a country. Two, we will reduce racial tensions because there will now be two societies more in-line with each other’s thoughts. John Kerry is right when he says we have two Americas, but he wants to remove the only legislation that has a chance of unifying the classes for good. It is time that we stop being afraid of conservative stereotypes and pragmatically look at how we approach education and the benefits that a strong system will have on our great nation.

“Under the No Child Left Behind Act, every student in this country will be held to higher standards.”

--President Bush

Bush supports charter schools

By BECKY GIANNATTASIO
Wagnerian Contributing Writer

The nature of charter schools is that they are run more like a small business than the average public school enterprise. Yet, they are not private schools, so therefore they are unable to raise funds through tuition. The state government primarily funds magnet and charter schools. However, state funds are usually not enough for even the average public school to function to its potential. Charter schools may also receive funds from the towns represented by the student population. Since the majority of taxpayers’ money is going to the district schools, not many community members are educated about the unique opportunities that magnet and charter schools provide. This means they are not eager to contribute financially to the schools’ progress.

President George W. Bush supports magnet and charter schools. Starting in October 1999, President Bush gave the Charter School Fund

\$3 billion and in August 2003 increased charter school funding to \$200 million. President Bush sees the utmost importance of the alternative education found in magnet and charter schools. Bush says, “reforms provide an estimated \$200 million for charter schools to expand parental choice and free children trapped in persistently failing schools.” Many students are from towns whose educational system is not efficient. Some public school systems do not challenge students to the extent of their potential capabilities. Charter and magnet schools give students the opportunity to have a quality education. It was a positive alternative from the negative status quo.

Magnet and charter schools are another option for children in underprivileged educational environments. President Bush acknowledges the immediate need for funding these programs. If these programs receive more funding, more students from underprivileged districts will have an opportunity for a good education.

ABORTION: THE FATE OF ROE V. WADE

A woman's body, a woman's choice

By **STACEY BRITT
FITZGERALD**
Wagnerian Staff Writer

On Jan. 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court case, *Roe v. Wade*, legalized abortion nationwide. In its ruling, the court recognized for the first time that the constitutional right to privacy "is broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy" (*Roe v. Wade*, 1973). This landmark case made it clear that an abortion was in fact a woman's decision. The ruling did not state whether or not abortion was an immoral thing to do - it simply stated that women had the right to choose what they wanted to do with their own body.

PRO-CHOICE, NOT PRO-ABORTION

In high school, I had a teacher who, in the context of a civics lesson, said that the class would debate the issue of "pro-abortion vs. pro-life." I immediately raised my hand and said, "I am not pro-abortion; I am pro-choice." Pro-choice means respecting and supporting the right of every woman to make private, personal choices regarding pregnancy, childbearing, and abortion. It is not which choice she makes, but rather that she is free to make the choice that is right for her. I can agree to disagree with people about the morality of abortion. But I cannot agree to a law that says that the government can decide what happens to my body.

While studying abroad in London last semester, I found that my pro-choice sentiments were quite similar to England's stance on abortion. When I asked my U.K. politics professor about the issue, his response was, "It simply is not an issue." In their society, a woman's choice is not to be debated - English women make their own decision based on their own situation; it's as simple as that. Certainly, their stance on abortion does not signify a disregard for human life; after all, the English government has outlawed the death penalty. England is a humane, civil society that feels the same way I do - that an abortion is a decision to be made by a woman, not the government.

If one feels that a fetus is a human, then, they may argue that abortion is a form of murder. Murder is the taking of the life of another human being through the initiation of physical force. But a fetus is not an actual human being - it is a potential human being that is dependent on a host. But if an individual still feels that the death of a potential human being is murder, then I believe that they are entitled to their own opinion. But, should the government make that decision for everyone? No, each woman should make her own choice.

ROE V. WADE IN JEOPARDY

In 1965, before *Roe*, abortion was so unsafe that 17 percent of all deaths due to pregnancy

and childbirth were the result of illegal abortion. Legal abortion has been associated with decreases in both maternal and infant mortality (Planned Parenthood). The sad fact is that, if *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, women would once again seek unsafe ways to terminate pregnancies. Currently, a legal abortion is safer than a tonsillectomy (NARAL Wisconsin); if made illegal, I can't imagine the dangers that women would face.

THE PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT

On Nov. 5, George W. Bush signed the first federal ban on any abortion procedure since *Roe*. The Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act is based on a nonexistent procedure - the partial-birth abortion. A proper name of the procedure is intact dilation and extraction, which ac-

counts for less than one-fifth of one percent of all abortions in this country (Alan Guttmacher Institute). But the lawmakers never called the procedure by its proper name, thereby making it possible for the bill to ban a more common procedure, dilation and evacuation, which accounts for 96 percent of second-trimester abortions.

Supporters of the ban have argued that the procedure is used on babies that are "inches from life." However, there is no mention of fetal viability, the point at which the fetus is capable of surviving outside the woman's body, in the bill. Thus, the ban would cover terminations at any point during pregnancy. The ban also made no mention of special cases in which the health of the woman is at risk or cases where it is determined that the fetus has severe birth defects.

Shortly after Bush signed the so-called "partial-birth" abortion ban into law, three federal judges issued temporary injunctions to prevent the law from taking effect. After full trials, the three district court judges all ruled the ban unconstitutional because it failed to provide an exception to protect the woman's health, as required by the Supreme Court.

BUSH TREATENS WOMENS' RIGHT TO CHOOSE

This ban is just an example of the threat that Bush poses to the reproductive health of women across the country.



The next president could tip the balance of the Supreme Court, which now stands at a 5-4 conservative majority. If one of the justices retires, the highest court could be just one

vote away from outlawing a woman's right to choose. John Kerry will "only nominate individuals to the federal bench whose records demonstrate a respect for the full range of constitutional rights, including the right to privacy and the right to choose (JohnKerry.com)." A vote for John Kerry is a vote for the right to choose.

I am not pro-abortion; I am pro-choice. My body belongs to me and the choice is my own.

Unborn babies have a right to life

By **CHRISTINA
MARTINGANO**
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Choices, we make them everyday on issues as petty as when to wake up to as serious as what we want to do upon graduating from school. The capacity to think and choose between two things is fundamental to the reasoning abilities that make us human. This is why I feel that it is ridiculous to think that being pro-life takes away someone's right to choose. I chose to be pro-life. People choose to have sex, people choose not to use contraception, and people choose to keep or abort their child.

With that established, I would like to point out that my choice to hold a pro-life stance came from a decision process that involved examining facts and using logical reasoning. In an effort to help you make a more informed choice, I would like to share my findings with you.

Genetically, a human is an organism that has cells that contain 46 chromosomes, with the exception of people with Down's Syndrome. A joined egg and sperm cell, called a zygote, has all 46 chromosomes the instant they merge, making it human. Pregnancy is a time of incubation for this zygote, where it will become an embryo and eventually a living baby. Using this logic, it is true to say that abortion ends the potential for a human life to be born, even if there is debate over when a fetus is considered living. Even the morning after pill, which stops implantation, ends the potential for a human life to form.

Using the aging method of LMP (last menstrual period), by day one, the baby's features and sex are already decided. During days five through nine, implantation occurs, and on day 21 the embryo's heart begins to beat. By ten weeks, the embryo can hiccup and respond to loud noises. It is important to note that 88% of abortions are performed before week 13. If you take into account when most women find out they are pregnant and the length of the decision process (making an appointment, etc.), many abortions are performed after day 21 when a beating heart is present.

Using this information, one can conclude that abortion does stop a potential life from being born. America was founded on the basic principals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Denying a fetus the right to live would be denying one of the basic rights our nation was founded on. Furthermore, my rights cannot violate the rights of others. Therefore, my right to choose ends where another's right to life begins.

It is important to note that once implantation occurs, the female body focuses on keeping the child alive. Nutrition, hormones and other functions of the body switch to pregnancy mode and put the child's needs before the mother's needs. This is a natural and unavoidable occurrence. Yes, it is your body and your uterus, but your body's needs take a backseat to those of the fetus.

Though I sympathize with victims of rape and incest, these cases only account for .1% of abortions. Also, the situations surrounding

conception do not affect the fact that this fetus will one day become a person. You wouldn't expect to be imprisoned because your father was a criminal, so why should the child go be denied the right to life?

Please refer to the chart that describes the different types of abortion procedures. I would like to point out that if any of these procedures were performed outside of the uterus, they would be considered brutal acts of violence.

The risks that go along with abortion include: hemorrhages and heavy bleeding; infection; incomplete abortion/retained tissue, where fetal parts are not totally removed; continued pregnancy, where enough tissue is left for a normal pregnancy to occur and produce an often deformed child; Post Abortion Syndrome, enlarged and tender uterus due to blood clots; tearing of the cervix, scarring of the uterine lining, perforation of the uterus and damage to the surrounding organs, shock, and in extreme cases, death.

Long-term effects include depression, infertility, and a possible link to breast cancer. Depression can involve suicidal thoughts, grief around anniversary date, flashbacks, guilt and anger, and relationship problems with children and her partner. These risks often go unpublicized, which can cause confusion for any woman who encounters them.

However, women are not the only ones who suffer emotional side effects. Men are often affected by the same psychological and emotional effects women feel, but are stigmatized for feeling them. They are given no legal rights in abortion and have no right to their child if the woman chooses to abort the child. I feel that this also frees men from any responsibility for their actions, and is, therefore, unfair to women.

These are not the only long-term effects of abortion. In an article in *The Opinion Journal*, Larry Eastland wrote that there were 12,274,368 voters missing from the 2000 presidential election, because of abortions that took place between 1973 and 1982; and there will be 18,336,576 voters missing because of abortions from 1972 to 1986. He also pointed out that social scientists have proved that most children adopt their parents' values and political standpoints. Eastland also states that Democrats are more likely to have abortions since Republicans tend to have a pro-life stance. Therefore, there are far less prospective Democrats able to vote because of abortions.

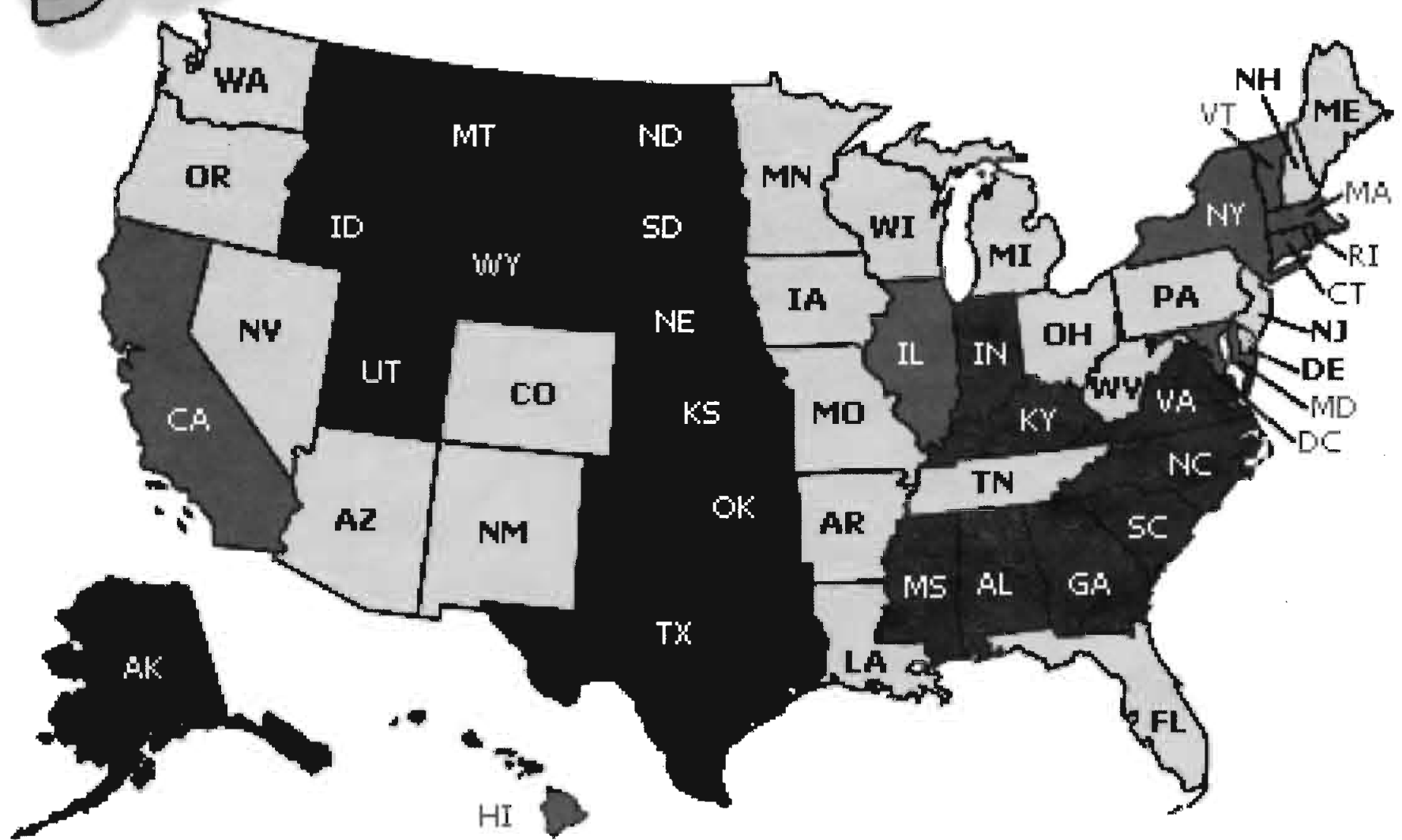
40,000,000 abortions have been performed since the decision in *Roe vs. Wade*. This means 40,000,000 people did not enter the job market. Let's remember this when we start hearing about the problems that are arising with Social Security, when there are too many elderly and disabled people and not enough workers to fund them. Additionally, many businesses are affected by abortion. Baby food sales and grocery stores; diaper sales; day care facilities; toy companies, and eventually colleges and universities are all organizations or businesses that are greatly affected by abortion.

Adoption or parenting, though difficult, seem to sound like much better options.



SWINGERS!

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Letter to the editor

Not all Democrats are liberals

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to Lauren Leonforte's article, "Muffling the majority," published in the Oct. 18 Wagnerian.

Ms. Leonforte, while I do admire and respect your interest in politics; I must disagree with your sweeping characterization of all Democrats as "liberals," just as I must disagree with anyone who depicts all Republicans as conservative. I am writing in reply to your article as a self-proclaimed "conservative Democrat," only for the purpose of letting you know my background. You should also know that I'm not the only one of these self-proclaimed individuals that exist in my party, as you will see with the Blue Dog Caucus of conservative Democrats in the House of Representatives. While many moderate to liberal Republicans also exist in politics, such as the Senators from Maine, most political scientists will certainly agree that the Republican Party is far more conservative than the Democratic Party is liberal.

I furthermore disagree with publishing Mr. Henson's comments stating the "left", which I am assuming you and he interpret as the Democratic Party, "are the reactionary ones." Let us discuss one of your fellow conservative "reactionaries." US Senate candidate from Illinois, Alan Keyes, when discussing the idea of gay couples raising children, stated "If we do not know who the mother is, who the father is, without knowing all the brothers and sisters, incest becomes inevitable. Whether they mean it or not, that is what will happen."

Let me ask you, do you think Mr. Keyes and other conservatives who you and Ms. Pecivoski think are "Right," would prefer to have the children aborted, instead of being raised by gay parents? Ms. Leonforte, this enrolled Democrat is pro-life, and this enrolled Democrat doesn't care what society has to do in order to save a life of a pre-born child.

Furthermore, I would much rather have children raised by parents who love them, regardless of what sex they are, than being aborted. So who are the pro-life ones, and who are the "reactionary" ones now?

While, I totally agree with you that there are certainly liberal Democrats, there are just as many, if not more conservative Republicans. Things in politics are certainly not as one-sided as you would have us believe. Ms. Leonforte, you have gotten into the terrible political tactic of name-calling. When are all members of society, my party included, going to stop looking past people's titles and start looking at them as individuals?

Sincerely yours,
Michael A. Armato

Got a bone to pick?

Write a letter to the editor and do something about it!

Send rants and raves to:
wagneriannews@aol.com

Anonymous submissions
will not be printed

STUDENTS DEBATE THE ISSUES



Representatives from the College Democrats and Young Republicans debated in an event moderated by Dr. Otto Raths on Oct. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in Spiro 4. About 60 students, some parents, and faculty attended the debate and after Dr. Raths had asked all of his questions, attendees questioned the representatives. Topics covered included the war in Iraq, the economy, and health care.

Democrat club takes a stand

By CORINNE WAHLBERG
Wagnerian Staff Writer

The motto of the Wagner College Democrats is simple: "Get informed. Get involved. Take a stand." Former president Jake Meranda managed to summarize all that the organization stands for with a few phrases.

Contrary to popular belief, not all members are Democrats. The primary goal of the organization is to inform people, both the campus and surrounding Staten Island communities, about political issues and host debates about these issues. Right now, in light of the Presidential Election, they're concentrating on informing and encouraging potential voters.

They've been an active club on campus since 2002. Michael Armano, a junior, started

the organization. Jacob Meranda was the President last year and in his absence Corinne Mertz has taken over as president. Meranda is currently working on a campaign in Wisconsin.

Last year they successfully petitioned to get a voting booth on campus. They are involved with local campaigns through still active member and founder Armano. They are providing support for the campaigns of Diane Savino for state Senate and Frank Barbaro for Congress. They are a member of the New York College Democrats and attended a conference at NYU during the primaries. Plans are being made for another conference in the spring. According to Fishel, there's always something going on "no matter what semester it is."



Recently, the organization has been very busy. On Oct. 5, they presented "A Patriot Act," a film by NYU's Mark Crispin Miller, followed by a discussion with Miller. On Oct. 14, they set up information on the Kerry/Edwards ticket and the Democratic platform in the Union atrium.

Although they support the Democratic candidates, the club is not built to simply support Democrats and their ideas. Republicans and other independent parties can get involved and they encourage debates within the organization. "It never hurts to hear someone else's opinion," says Fishel.

The club encourages students of all political parties to come to their meetings on Tuesdays in the coffeehouse at 9:30 p.m.

New club, new voice for Republicans

By CORINNE WAHLBERG
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Many have argued that the campus is just too liberal for their tastes and that they want to hear a conservative opinion. Some want to voice their conservative values.

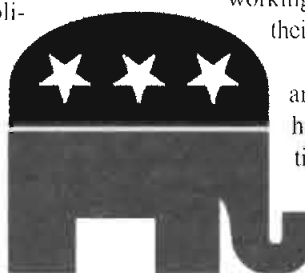
Wagner now has a Young Republican organization and a place where Republicans, liberal and conservative alike, are welcome. Organized last spring, this is the Young Republicans' first official semester as a club. Adam Abderrazzaq is the president of the organization and his friends Matthew Hedge and Richard Scott are credited as the founding members. Together, they wrote the constitution and paved the way for the club to become an official campus organization. The organization aims to bring a conservative view to campus.

Abderrazzaq says, "Republicans are more

diverse than people think, and range from liberal to highly conservative."

The club is an official chapter of the National Republican Committee, a nationwide organization that links together college and university students. Wagner's chapter has informally met with other young Republicans from King's College and NYU. They are currently working to help St. Johns set up their own organization.

With the election just around the corner, they have been particularly active on campus. They supported their preferred presidential candidate by hosting George W. Bush Day on Oct. 21 in the Union Atrium. They presented information on the president and his re-election campaign. They also set up fun games like "Flush the Johns" and "Pin the Tale on the Liberal."



Later that day, they held a poker game to fundraise for troops in Iraq. The organization adopted a platoon and is sending them a care package to show their support.

The group isn't just about fun and games. They want people to take their candidate seriously. "Look at the issues, look at both sides, and form your own opinion," said Abderrazzaq. The group voiced their opinions on the Oct. 26 debates versus the Wagner Democrats.

The organization, in addition to supporting the president, also supports the local campaigns of Republicans Al Curtis and Vincent Ignizio.

Future plans include sending two representatives from the organization to Las Vegas in March for the annual National Republican Committee conference.

With a lot of motivation and determination in their first official semester, there is no doubt that Wagner's new Republican organization will thrive in years to come.

THE WAR IN IRAQ

Too many mistakes made, too many lives lost

By JEREMY FUNSTON
Wagnerian Staff Writer

When you flip on the TV and catch a 10-second summary of the latest Iraqi suicide bomb that killed 30 innocent people – what do you feel? Most of us can agree upon feelings of sadness, anger, and frustration — but those feelings soon disappear when the next segment surprises you with the latest in celebrity gossip and then jump-cuts to a Big Mac commercial.

Here, it's just another day, another bomb on the news.

When Iraqi civilians look out their windows in the morning to see a smoke-filled blood-stained suicide bomb disaster, they don't have the luxury of changing the channel to make it all go away. For some reason, we only hear about these people as statistics in explosions — but what are they thinking? What do they want? How can these people be expected to rebuild their country when they can't even leave home without wondering if they'll live through the day?

Ghaith Abdul-Ahad, a British journalist for the Guardian who spent two months in Iraq wrote, "The Iraqis themselves seem unable to comprehend what is happening; most are

totally disenchanted with American efforts - if any exist - to help rebuild the country. These feelings are exacerbated by the American actions on the ground and are, in turn, translated into hatred - in the best case, mere apathy - towards the Iraqi government and its US backers. The insurgency feeds on this hatred. With more hatred comes more violence, with more violence more Iraqis die and with more death, the economic disaster continues. The cycle goes on and on and no one seems to be able to break it."

At least under the terrible control of Saddam Hussein they knew the rules of the game; they knew how things worked and how to try to survive. Now, there are no rules.

Don't get me wrong — I'll be the first person to tell you that Saddam Hussein was a vicious man and needed to be removed from power — but we shouldn't have been the ones to remove him, especially when we did.

Our 'War on Terror' was launched after the Sept. 11 attacks in which none of the hijackers were from Iraq — yet 15 of the 19 men were Saudis.

We went into Afghanistan (killing at least 1,000 and perhaps up to 4,000 civilians) to find Osama Bin Laden, but before we could even capture him we declared war on Iraq, and based our motives on his imminent threat to us and his possession of weapons of mass destruction. After having the entire world on our side, we turned our back on the United Nations and infuriated countries around the globe.

And... oops! It turned out he didn't have weapons of mass destruction and he wasn't an immediate threat to us. Well, don't we look like bozos! Sorry guys! Our bad! Now we're left as occupants in a hostile country with a growing opposition that gives no hint towards

growing weaker, with anti-Americanism spreading like wildfire — dang! It looks like this war might just be a war on ourselves.

In the last days of his regime, Hussein freed 90,000 criminals from his jails, knowing that we would have to deal with them and not him. Much of the violence in Iraq today is due to these criminals, many of whom perform bombings and kidnappings for insurgents in exchange for money. 80 percent of the rest of the violence is thought to be committed by Iraqis acting out of nationalistic or Islamic motivations.

"The overall resistance in Iraq is popular and is getting more popular in the Arab world," Vince Cannistraro, a former counter-terrorism chief for the Central Intelligence Agency, told the New York Times recently.

When, and if, Iraq does in fact get rebuilt with our help — what is it going to be like? Iraq will be raped of its culture and heritage, and spattered with all the top corporate American name strip malls, fast food joints, and parking

lots. Basically their economy will be our economy and — ding ding — their oil will be our oil. Doesn't this all seem very convenient?

As far as rebuilding goes, hundreds of schools were damaged by U.S. bombing

and thousands were looted by Iraqis; schools are barely being rebuilt here in our own country, and we're destroying them in another.

Government systems are based on society's school systems. Schools systems are built on a society's family structures. We can't just walk in and hand a society a foreign government and expect it to work. We wouldn't be able to go over to an African tribe and build up a society like ours — thinking that it would be better for them — and expect them to understand how to act.

Ironically, we are the country with the most weapons of mass destruction in the world. There are nations that would love to come in, take out our leader and our weapons, and tell us how we should do things. How would we feel about that? Wouldn't those changes be our decisions to make?

The Bush administration won't even own up to its own mistake. He invaded Iraq and now he just wants to win for the sake of winning — treating the world like a stadium and us like a sports team. Only here, we're not playing with footballs — we're playing with lives (and Mr. Bush, isn't it a bit hypocritical to be against abortion and stem-cell research, yet be so willing to kill people overseas?).

I do not believe in any way that this war is being fought to help the Iraqi people.

This war is about U.S. political, military and economic power; about seizing control of oil-fields, and strengthening the United States as the enforcer of world military power.

You know how the old saying goes: the higher you rise, the harder you fall. I just hope something changes soon before we get so high that we have a crash landing; but then again, maybe we're already on the way down.

Stay the course: why Bush is still the best man to be commander in chief

By ADAM ABDERRAZZAQ
Wagnerian Staff Writer

The "War on Terror" in Iraq is a major stepping-stone to defeating global terrorism. People say that Iraq is not the enemy who blew up the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon, and they are right because Saddam wasn't the one flying the planes that killed those almost 3,000 innocent civilians.

Iraq was a threat to the Middle Eastern World, to Israel and to the United States. Saddam had the capability to begin producing biological warheads for ballistic missiles, which were outlawed by the UN. He broke 16 UN Resolutions. When Clinton was in office we launched a couple of cruise missiles at radar sites, which is like shooting a BB into a grizzly bear. It just wasn't enough. Saddam launched SAM's at our pilots who were patrolling the no-fly zone over two-thirds of Iraq, and we did nothing.

Saddam and his sons were responsible for killing approximately two million people in his own country, but because Saddam provided state sponsored health care he was a good dictator. This man wasn't a terrorist, he brought stability to the Middle East, well Hitler did the same for Germany. With the liberal rationale in this conflict we shouldn't have fought against Germany in World War II because Germany didn't hit Pearl Harbor. The liberals don't look at history in these situations; they don't realize that appeasement does not work, and that negotiating with terrorists is exactly what they want.

I don't want to sound like I don't care about the lives of the soldiers, because I have many close friends that are risking their lives over there, but by focusing on the casualties, the liberal media is trying to turn public opinion against the war. We need to focus more on the good things that the soldiers are doing. Each soldier that is killed in Iraq dies so that another 30,000 American civilians won't die in another terrorist attack.

Another complaint is that we have not found the weapons of mass destruction. I beg to differ; let us explore

what was already found in Iraq. As reported by the online newspaper World Tribunal.com, United Nations weapons inspectors reported that Saddam shipped out weapons of mass destruction before, during, and after the invasion. They have satellite photographs of medium range ballistic missiles, which were outlawed by the UN, at launching sites in and around Baghdad in May of 2003. In February 2004, the missiles were dismantled and were nowhere to be found. The UN and the United States are asking, "So where are they?" The Bush Administration and the UN are asking for a different reason; they are asking because no one knows now who has these weapons.. The liberals and the French are asking as if they never existed.

There have also been many starter sets found to biological warfare weapons, such as reference strains of a variety of biological agents under the sink of an Iraqi scientist; advanced research on biological weapon applicable agents such as brucella; Congo-Crimean hemorrhagic fever and continuing work on Ricin, and Aflatoxin, this according to insitemag.com, an online news magazine.

I think the biggest critique on Iraq and the "War on Terror" is that we took too long dealing with the UN. Here is an analogy that I think fits: Dealing with the UN was like a police officer dealing with a drug dealer saying, "Ok, now we know you have drugs. We've got plenty of evidence, so be good and leave the drugs on the doormat outside and we will take it easy on you." Of course when the drugs are not found on the doormat, but rather flushed down the toilet, the cops bust the door down to find nothing. That is the basic situation in Iraq, we had the evidence but because of the slow moving (and corrupt by the way) UN, Saddam had time to get rid of the weapons before we got in there.

Also, liberals and ignorant people, yes there is a difference, say that Bush sidestepped the UN and just invaded Iraq. That is false. Both President Bush and secretary of state Colin Powell gave speeches to the UN. We didn't sidestep the UN. 34 countries came to our aide with verbal encouragement, troops, money, or contractors to help in the rebuilding processes.

Some of those countries have since bailed out because they decided they would rather negotiate with terrorists than fight them and finish them off. Appeasement only makes the aggressor stronger.

I will be one of the first to say that war is evil, but sadly sometimes it is necessary. Sometimes without war you can't have peace. Bush knows this. That's why he is talking about victory, and staying the course. If we pull out of Iraq, those boys who went over there in service of our country and died would have died in vein. We need to see this mission, this battle in the "War on Terror" to its end or we will look like chumps in the eyes of those who hate us. They will think that America will not be willing to stand up for itself if we are attacked again.

Kerry is talking about pulling our troops out of Iraq and getting other countries to help us out. I'm sorry, but the countries who want a

*I think the biggest
critique is...we took too
long dealing with the UN.*

better Iraq, and who wanted to help us already have. Does he really think he is going to get the French and the Germans to come help us? I think not. I hate to tell you it's not going to happen. I think there is a better chance of Osama converting to Judaism than the French actually fighting something.

In a recent campaign stop, Kerry spoke soon after the President gave his speech to the United Nations, and talked about pulling out of Iraq not mentioning the word "victory" once. This might be the first generation that will not know of an American military victory. Since the World War II veterans are sadly dwindling in numbers we cannot find a story of American victory. All that we have is a war that ended in stalemate, a war that brought about political unrest, a war that we did not fight well because people in Washington were playing politics with it, and ultimately it led to our defeat. Yes there is the first Gulf conflict but that wasn't a truly American victory, nor was it a real victory Saddam stayed in power; he lived to fight another day.

Our youth and the world is going to look at our military and not see strength but an unwillingness to finish what we start, and will have no confidence in us when there is another global conflict.

GreenPeace doubts Bush's plans

By CORINNE WAHLBERG
Wagnerian Staff Writer

GreenPeace is a strong supporter of John Kerry, but they are more adamant about getting Bush out of office. GreenPeace is an international organization that informs people about environmental issues throughout the world. GreenPeace USA is active in advocating their causes during the presidential elections.

In the last 4 years, the Bush administration has rolled-back on environmental restrictions that have protected our environment for years. Companies once inhibited by the Clean Air Act are now pouring "more global warming, smog, asthma and acid rain pollutants like mercury, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide and carbon dioxide," according to GreenPeace.

Mercury in particular is a pollutant that is showing up "in one out of every six developing fetuses," according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Most mercury comes from power plants that pollute rivers, lakes and streams. High contents of mercury are found in domestic fish, and recently studies show that one in five American women is poisoned with mercury.

Early in Bush's administration, he tried to deforest areas of Alaska. He has also attempted to drill in areas protected by Alaska National Wildlife Refuge.

Right now, during his election campaign, Bush is backing the Bush-Cheney Energy Bill. This bill plans to pour billions of dollars for industry, oil and gas development, and drilling, as well as researching "clean coal" technologies. GreenPeace illustrates the impact these plans would really have on the environment.

The Clear Skies Initiative proposes the control of pollutants that go into our air. The initiative does not however, reduce the amount of pollution, nor does it control carbon monoxide pollution, "the leading cause of global warming."

The Freedom Fuel Initiative "is centered on the nuclear and coal industries to extract and power hydrogen." Although the country can benefit from the use of hydrogen power, Bush's plans to extract natural hydrogen gas use coal and oil power to drill.

In regards to the Clean Coal plan, GreenPeace complains that "coal will never be clean" and the mining alone is detrimental to the environment. "Mountains are flattened and streams filled in when it is mined. Lives are cut short by the smog, soot and toxic mercury pollution that are created when coal is burned."

Right now, GreenPeace supports the democratic platform because Kerry has presented legislation for a national renewable energy standard. "This standard will mandate that 20 percent of our nation's energy come from renewable sources like wind and solar by 2020."

Visit <http://www.greenpeaceusa.org/> to be active in GreenPeace or learn more about their cause.

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Youth fear a possible draft

By ALEX JACOBS
Wagnerian Co-Editor

More than half of 18 to 29-year-old Americans—51 percent to be exact think that George W. Bush will reinstate the draft if he is elected president, according to the University of Pennsylvania's National Annenberg Election Survey. If Wagner students follow that national trend, then half of you are misinformed right now.

Francisco Zambrano, a 20-year-old Connecticut man, wasn't taking any chances. He paid his friend \$100 last July to shoot him in the leg, rendering him ineligible for military service.

There's no need to go to great measures to avoid an impending draft—both Bush and Kerry, as well as Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, have asserted time and time again that they will not reinstate a military draft to support the war on terrorism.

John Kerry said Sept. 22 in Florida, "If George Bush were to be re-elected, given the way he has gone about this war, and given his avoidance of responsibility in North Korea and Iran and other places, it is possible. I can't tell you. I will tell you this: I will not reinstate the draft."

Bush insisted while campaigning on Oct. 4 in Iowa that he wants to maintain an all-volunteer army. "This is specialty work. If you draft, you don't get the specialized force you need," he said. "We don't need a draft. We will not have a draft so long as I'm President of the United States."

But rumors persist in the age group most

likely to be called upon if compulsory military service were to be re-enacted. Some young people know that the candidates deny supporting a draft, yet they worry that those assertions will go by the wayside after Election Day has passed.

"Young people's draft fears are being fueled by the Democrats," said Ed Gillespie, chairman of the Republican National Committee. "They employ a scare tactic for younger voters, trying to pretend that there's going to be a draft if the president is re-elected," he said.

During the Oct. 8 presidential debate, John Kerry said, "You've got a backdoor draft right now." He was referring to Pentagon policy that limits who can get out of the military before their enlistment term is completed, thereby keeping people in the military who want out.

Former Senator Max Cleland, a fervent Kerry backer and Vietnam veteran who lost three limbs in the war, has been outspoken in his claim that if Bush is re-elected, a draft is imminent. Howard Dean, once Kerry's rival in the Democratic primaries, has also claimed that Bush will use the draft if he stays in office.

A piece of legislation proposing reinstating the draft for both men and women, and not allowing deferments for college students, may be intensifying draft rumors. Introduced before the invasion of Iraq in January 2003, H.R. 163 was originally meant to rally sentiment against the war.

On Oct. 5, after almost a year of stalling, the House of Representatives voted 402-2 against H.R. 163. Even its original sponsor, Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) voted against it. A similar bill faces a similar fate in the Senate.



Will you be ready and willing if the draft is reinstated?

Without congressional support, the draft cannot be reinstated, according to the Selective Service System Web site. The Selective Service was created to register all 18-year-old men for the draft, in case it is ever needed. About 13.5 million names and addresses of young men age 18 to 25 are on file and at the disposal of the Selective Service.

With the United States' other military commitments around the globe, our troops are spread thin in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Pentagon is relying heavily on National Guard and Reserve forces, and using the stop-loss policy to keep troop numbers up.

It is possible that neither candidate could prevent a draft—whether they want to or not.

International diplomacy: a priority for next president

By STEVE BLOCK
Wagnerian Staff Writer

The world's focus has zeroed in on Iraq and the coalition (or lack thereof) fighting for democracy in the Middle East. As America votes next week, both candidates have made their case for, or against, the war. Yet, the most important decisions in the next decade will be concentrated on other hot spots around the world including North Korea, Taiwan and Iran.

No country provides a more difficult situation for the next president than North Korea. The isolated East Asian country is widely believed to possess approximately six nuclear weapons capable of reaching Seoul, South Korea. While most countries devote 2-4 percent of GDP to the military, North Korea uses 23 percent on militaristic operations.

Both candidates have policies that do not reflect their general ideological beliefs. President George W. Bush has demanded six-party talks that include Russia, China, Japan, South Korea, North Korea and the United States. Senator John Kerry has proposed direct bilateral talks with Pyongyang, the capital city of North Korea. The stances of each candidate are unusual, considering Kerry normally criticizes the president for working alone too often. Six-party talks have been relatively unsuccessful, but it is hard to criticize Bush's policies after Pyongyang pulled out of a 1994 treaty agreed to by President Clinton. North Koreans live in amazing poverty and millions have died because of hunger and disease. The elec-

tion winner will have to deal with the sensitive subject of North Korea and their extremist leader Kim Jong-Il.

On the same continent, a potentially disastrous situation looms in Taiwan if either the People's Republic of China or Taiwan makes any effort to change the status quo. Elections earlier this year produced pro-independence President Chen Shui-bian. The elections signified changing thoughts in Taiwan. Tensions have risen after Taiwan gained interest in defending themselves against the 600 missiles pointed at the island off of mainland China.

President Bush backed off hard-line comments earlier in his administration. Both candidates for president will take a similar stance on Taiwan and support the current policy. The primary job of the commander-in-chief regarding Taiwan would be to avoid a quagmire involving China and the United States.

After Iraq and North Korea, Iran was the third member of President Bush's "Axis of Evil." It remains a tricky situation. If Iran's military capabilities were not advanced, Bush may have been interested in invading Iran and removing the unreliable theological regime. Europe and the United Nations have taken a major role in talks with Iran, yet the country is moving closer to nuclear capabilities. In the center of the Middle East, a nuclear Iran could be extremely dangerous for the next president. Nuclear proliferation to terrorist groups could result in unthinkable American casualties. Kerry has made few arguments about what policy changes he would make in regard to Iran, although he has been quick to dismiss the president's efforts so far.

For all the criticism, President Bush has developed many integral alliances with world leaders in important positions. Pakistan, a country located next to Afghanistan that possesses nuclear power, has become a partner in the fight against Al-Qaeda. President Pervez Musharraf has produced the capture of many Al-Qaeda operatives and has also worked with India to continue negotiations in Kashmir, a disputed area between Pakistan and India.

President Bush also has an ally in Colombia where President Alvaro Uribe has worked closely with the United States in fighting narcotic distribution. Without continued cooperation from governments in South America, a campaign against illicit drug importation is destined to fail.

The President's tight relations with our long-time allies Britain and Australia are crucial to continued success in Iraq and further operations around the world. Many comments by Senator Kerry have demeaned their cooperation with the United States. On the other hand, President Bush has never seen eye-to-eye with other Western European countries that would prove to be vital friends in the war against terror and nuclear proliferation.

The next president will have many obstacles that could worsen if not dealt with properly. Senator Kerry has been critical of the President's handling of Iran, North Korea and Iraq. He has only clearly stated a strategy on North Korea. Although these issues of international diplomacy have not garnered the same amount of attention as the economy, Iraq and health-care, they may be even more important in the long-term.

Candidates say the darndest things (read this and weep)

QUOTES FROM KERRY

■ "I guess the president and you and I are three examples of lucky people who married up. And some would say maybe me more so than others." — *during the third presidential debate*

■ "Did the training wheels fall off?" — *after being told by reporters that President Bush took a tumble during a hike ride*

■ "Here I am in the state of New Mexico. George Bush is still in the state of denial. New Mexico has five electoral votes. The state of denial has none. I like my chances."

■ "Cheney can claim Bush as a dependent." — *item No. 3 on Kerry's "Top 10" list of Bush tax proposals, as read on the "Late Show With David Letterman"*

■ "I wanted to have John Edwards stand. Dick Cheney wanted to sit. We compromised and now George Bush is gonna sit on Dick Cheney's lap." — *discussing negotiations over the vice presidential debate*

■ "We've got better vision. We've got better ideas. We've got real plans. We've got a better sense of what's happening to America."

■ "We crossed paths. Are there pictures of us dancing on a bar together? No." — *on his run-ins with George W. Bush at Yale*

■ "I've been having problems with the right wing lately." — *after undergoing surgery on his right shoulder*

■ "I'm glad the President finally found an



economic development program. I'm just sad that it's only in Baghdad."

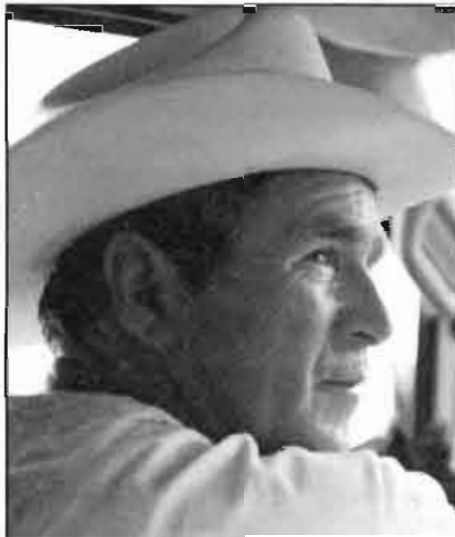
■ "My friends, that's trickle-down economics, and I believe every worker in America is tired of being trickled on by George W. Bush."

■ "I actually did vote for the \$87 billion, before I voted against it." — *Sen. John Kerry, on voting against a military funding bill for U.S. troops in Iraq*

■ "You bet we might have." — *Sen. John Kerry, asked if he would have gone to war against Saddam Hussein if he refused to disarm*

QUOTES FROM BUSH

■ "I own a timber company? That's news to me. Need some wood?" — *during the second presidential debate, failing to realize that he qualified as a small business owner on his 2001 federal tax return because of his part*



ownership of a timber company

■ "It's been a little tough to prepare for the debates, because he keeps changing his positions, especially on the war. I think he could spend 90 minutes debating himself." — *on Sen. John Kerry*

■ "America saw two very different visions of our country, and two different hairdos." — *on the vice presidential debate*

■ "You may have noticed I have a few flaws, too. People sometimes have to correct my English. I knew I had a problem when Arnold Schwarzenegger started doing it." — *during his Republican Convention speech*

■ "He uses unique English to confuse the opponents. Kind of sounds like the strategy I use at the press conferences." — *on meeting a Denver hockey player from the Czech Republic*

■ "My opponent clearly has strong beliefs they just don't last very long."

■ "I was going to start off tonight by telling some self-deprecating jokes, but then I couldn't think of any mistakes I've made to be self-deprecating about." — *at the White House Correspondents' dinner; poking fun at his performance in a recent news conference, in which he drew a blank when asked about mistakes he had made*

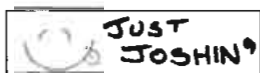
■ "It really gets me when the critics say I haven't done enough for the economy. I mean, look what I've done for the book publishing industry. You've heard some of the titles. 'Big Lies,' 'The Lies of George W. Bush,' 'The Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them.' I'd like to tell you I've read each of these books, but that'd be a lie." — *at the White House Correspondents Dinner*

■ "He spent two decades in Congress; he's built up quite a record. In fact, Senator Kerry has been in Washington long enough to take both sides on just about every issue."

■ "The candidates are an interesting group, with diverse opinions — for tax cuts and against them, for NAFTA and against NAFTA, for the Patriot Act and against the Patriot Act, in favor of liberating Iraq and opposed to it. And that's just one senator from Massachusetts." — *on Kerry*

■ "Our enemies are innovative and resourceful, and so are we. They never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we."

■ "Too many good docs are getting out of the business. Too many OB-GYNs aren't able to practice their love with women all across this country."



Boycotting the Electoral College

By DAN OZZI
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Like many of you, when I was a junior in high school, I was bombarded with college applications, deadlines and open houses. I researched various colleges on the Internet, read books on them and went on tours of the campuses. I applied to many colleges that year—Villanova, Rutgers, Seton Hall and obviously, Wagner. I received letters from just about all of them, some accepting me, some even offering me scholarships. One school that I applied to, however, never offered me a scholarship, never sent me an acceptance or denial letter, or even had the decency to contact me at all. That school was the Electoral College.

My junior year of high school took place in the year 2000, when the Electoral College was all the buzz, receiving much attention in all the newspapers and on television. I gave into the advertising and decided to do some research. I found out that the Electoral College has had a proud tradition. It was established in 1804 and has had a long list of famous alumni, most notably Al Gore and George W. Bush. Its student body is composed of students from all across

the country.

Although it was not listed in The Princeton Review, my high school guidance counselor informed me of all the Electoral College had to offer. She described to me, at great length, its beautiful campus, Division I football team and top-notch faculty. Furthermore, she said that the college's residence halls were the best in the country and assured me that I would receive a first-rate education there. Unfortunately, she retired later that year after suffering from a nervous breakdown and frequent panic attacks.

Later that year, when letters from colleges poured into my mailbox, much to my chagrin, I found that none of them were from the Electoral College. I waited and waited and waited, but didn't get a response from them for months. I eventually had to settle on coming to Wagner, which ended up working out pretty well for me. But not a day goes by that I don't wonder how my life would have turned out had I attended the Electoral College.

To this day, the Electoral College still has not returned even one of my calls or e-mails. This year, I ask you to please boycott this university and show your solidarity for Wagner College, a school that at least had the decency to write you back.



The creators of "Jib Jab," a cartoon Web site, recently lost their freedom of speech when the site was temporarily shut down due to "This Land is Your Land," a controversial cartoon where the Presidential candidates traded insults and argued over the office.

Atom Films, a website that presents short films, has compiled a special place on their site to display these parodies. Mock the Vote 2004 is perfect for the American voter, both Democrat and Republican, in search of some lighthearted fun.

According to the site's creators, it's "funnier than G.W. pronouncing 'nuclear,' more powerful than John Kerry's hair spray." They say, "It's the web's best and brightest political satire shorts all in one place."

They have 18 cartoons for one's viewing pleasure. Whether one is a "liberal weiner," a "right-wing nut-job" or undecided, check out Atom Films and

MocktheVote at http://atomfilms.shockwave.com/af/spotlight/collections/mock_vote. Be sure to also check out Jib Jab to relive the last election with some old-school cartoons starring Clinton and Gore at <http://jibjab.com/vault.asp>.

Keep the environment out of politics

By DAN OZZI
Wagnerian Staff Writer

The environment is a big issue surrounding the upcoming election, but it shouldn't be. All of the problems concerning the environment have simple and obvious solutions. Here are some of my suggestions on how to solve environmental problems and keep the environment out of politics.

ENDANGERED ANIMALS

Many organizations such as the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) have been working hard for decades to preserve endangered species of animals. To them I say, why bother? Let's face it: they're going to die eventually anyway. Why don't we just kill them off now and get it over with? Think of how much time and effort we could save. Plus, we could make tons of coats out of them

and we could then give them to poor countries. Better yet, we could sell them on Fifth Avenue.

POLLUTION

Yes, I realize that pollution is a big problem in this country, but there is one indisputable defense for it - it's easy! Why would you want to waste time sorting garbage and recycling when you can just throw it out the window or flush it down the toilet? This brings me to my next point.

THE OCEAN

Do you know how deep the ocean is? It's deep. We're talking thousands and thousands of miles deep. Garbage wouldn't bother anyone if we dumped it way down there. The land would also be a lot cleaner and would smell a lot better because all of our trash would be under water.

THE RAINFOREST

What a waste of space this thing is! If we just took a bulldozer and knocked it all down,

we could build a huge mall or a bunch of Starbucks. After all, the world needs delicious gourmet grande mocha frappe lattes, not rainforests.

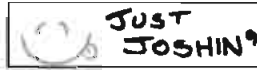
THE OZONE

There is a massive hole in the ozone layer above Antarctica caused by gases used in refrigeration, air conditioning and aerosol propellants. By the year 2050, our global atmosphere will be significantly changed. Big deal. Let our grandkids deal with that. You'd have to be pretty naive to believe that Americans care more about some hole in the ozone layer in the arctic than their air conditioning in the hot summer. If you asked a fat sweaty man in Florida in July whether he cares more about air conditioning or the ozone, I guarantee that 999 times out of 1,000, he'll say air

conditioning.

GLOBAL WARMING

This is another problem stemming from our atmosphere. Everybody always complains about global warming but no one ever seems to have a problem with it when they are lying on a sunny beach in Cancun. Since there's nothing we can do about global warming, we might as well get nice tans out of it. When you think about it, global warming is the best thing to happen since those little umbrellas that go in tropical drinks. So when you cast your presidential vote this year, don't choose your candidate based on his stances on trivial things like the environment, national security, world affairs, health care, or education. Select him based on important matters like his favorite baseball team, what kind of car he drives and how fast he can run.



Hail to the Electors!

Thomas Jefferson, one of the founding fathers of the United States, and the third president, created the Electoral College for two reasons. Firstly, it would have taken weeks to get a final tally of the number of votes each candidate received due to the distances between cities in the original 13 states. The second reason was that Jefferson did not trust the will of the people to make an intelligent and informed decision, thinking that the people, having not heard anything about candidates from outside their state, would simply vote for their state's "favorite son."

Now, we know what percent of precincts are reporting in, and have a very good idea of how many people voted for each candidate. We can closely track the progress of the race on television or on the Internet. Any newspaper on the day following a presidential election, will be able to tell you almost exact numbers of votes each candidate received, and from where. Even if it did take an entire night, we can still get a total number of voters for each candidate within 12 hours of polls closing.

If it is possible to tally the votes so quickly, and to project a winner, then what need do we as a country still have for the Electoral College?

According to William C. Kimberling, the deputy director of the Federal Election Commission's Office of Election Administration, there are at least four pros and cons for and against the Electoral College.

First, the cons: the Electoral College lessens "the possibility of electing a minority president," there is "the risk of so-called 'faithless' Electors," there is the chance of "the possible role of the Electoral College in depressing voter turnout," and finally, "its failure to accurately reflect the national popular will."

However, consider the pros listed:

The Electoral College "contributes to the cohesiveness of the country by requiring a distribution of popular support to be elected president," "enhances the status of minority interest," "contributes to the political stability of the country by encouraging a two-party system," and finally it "maintains a federal system of government and representation."

First, the cons: the Electoral College does lessen the chance of electing a minority president. There are many sections of this country who still do not feel that it is time that we had a black, Jewish, or woman president, and be-

cause of these sentiments, and the overwhelming majority of white Christians, minority candidates will more than likely only receive votes from members of their own minority.

The issue of a "faithless Elector" has only come up seven times in the history of the Electoral College. A faithless Elector is an elector who pledges his or her support to his or her political party, but then votes for the other candidate to make a statement. However, faithless electors have never altered the outcome of an election.

As demonstrated in the 2000 presidential election, the Electoral College does not reflect the popular will. Not to bring up old arguments, but the popular vote divided among the three candidates in 2000, Al Gore, George W. Bush and Ralph Nader was 50,999,897, 50,456,002 and 2,882,955 respectively. Gore won the popular vote by over 500,000 votes, more than the population of our least populous state, Wyoming. However, despite the will of the people, the Electoral College went to George W. Bush.

Advocates of the Electoral College will say that this is the best way, because the Electoral College allows rural states to be represented in a fair ratio to the larger, more populous states.

But the distribution of Electoral votes does not affect the way the voting age populations of each of these states votes. The seven least populous jurisdictions, Alaska, Delaware, Washington, D.C., North and South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming, have a total of 21 Electors for a voting age population totaling 3,119,000. This means that each Elector is representing nearly 150,000 people. So smaller groups of people can push an Electoral vote over the edge.

Each voting age resident of this country should be able to feel as though his or her voice is being heard and their vote is counted.

Which leads to the final con listed by Kimberling - the Electoral College can play a possible role in depressing voter turnout. Kimberling explains that those who believe this claim that because each state is entitled to a similar number of Electoral votes regardless of the

number of people who turn up at the polls, there might even be an incentive to keep people home on Election Day. In order to dispute this, Kimberling's only argument is that "presidential elections do not occur in a vacuum. States also conduct other elections (for U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, State Governors, State legislators, and a host of local officials) in which the same incentives and disincentives are likely to operate."

Some 102,000,000 people voted in the presidential election in 2000, which, according to the United States Census Bureau, represents only 50% of the entire voting age population. People are not showing up at the polls on Election Day, partly because they don't think their votes count.

The Electoral College "maintains a federal system of government and representation." Kimberling equates the abolition of the Electoral College to the U.S. Senate, stating that that Senate represents states regardless of population. The key difference between the Electoral College and the Senate is that U.S. Senators are elected by a direct popular vote, whereas the presidency is based on, in essence, the representation each state has in the government. "...the collective opinion of the individual State populations is more important than the opinion of the national population taken as whole." The national population represents the people of the nation as a whole, and claiming that we are a country where everyone is created equal should dissuade any government agency from appointing people to speak for the whole.

Finally, a little out of place, the final pro we will discuss is that the Electoral College "contributes to the political stability of the nation by encouraging a two-party system." Italy currently has at least three active political parties, Greece has at least four, France has five, Switzerland has six, the United Kingdom has at least three, and the newly formed European Union has at least six. People may argue the effectiveness of these governments, however, the United Kingdom is our closest ally and the US works closely with the EU.

Another huge benefit of a multi-party system is that the people can find a candidate who better suits them. In the current election, Bush and Kerry represent almost two polar opposites, and there is no middle-ground candidate for undecided voters to consider. With a nationally recognized and funded third party, there might be a way to find a candidate that can appeal to both sides and work for the betterment of the country for the people, as opposed to the betterment of the country for their political party.

The Wagnerian

Wagner's little paper
that could since 1918

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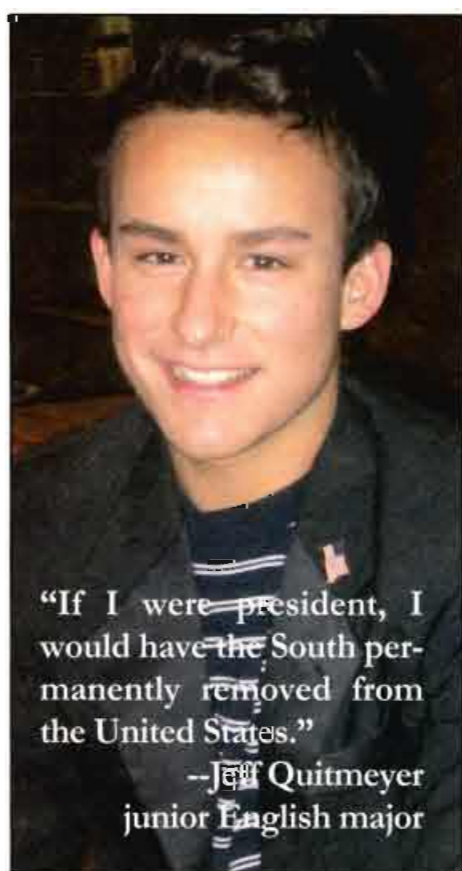
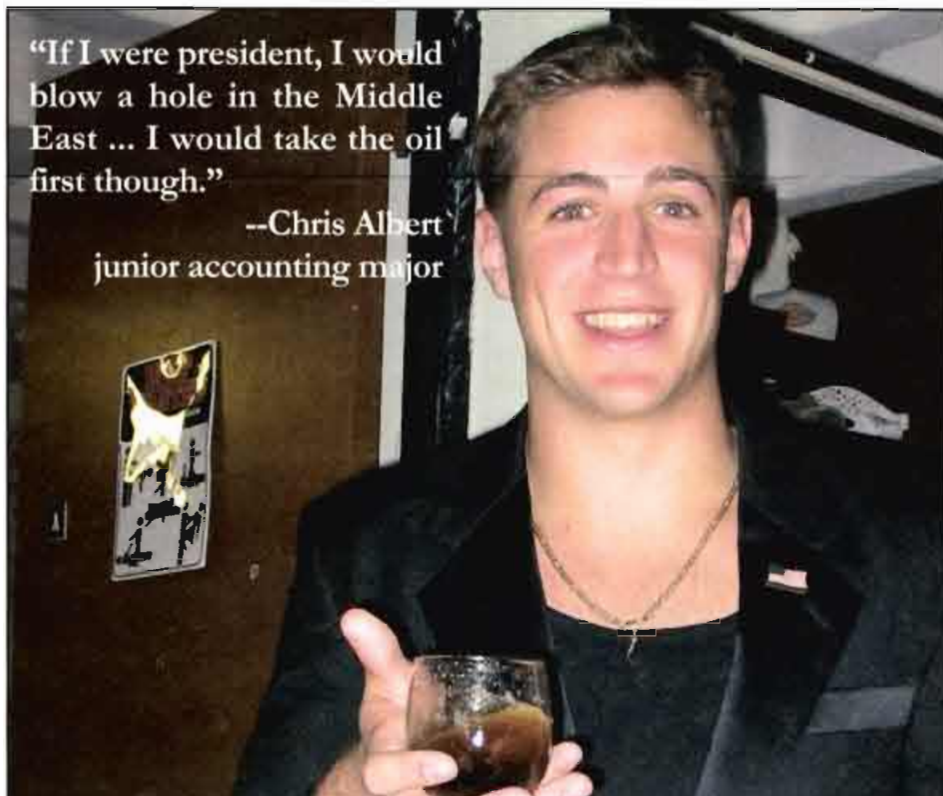
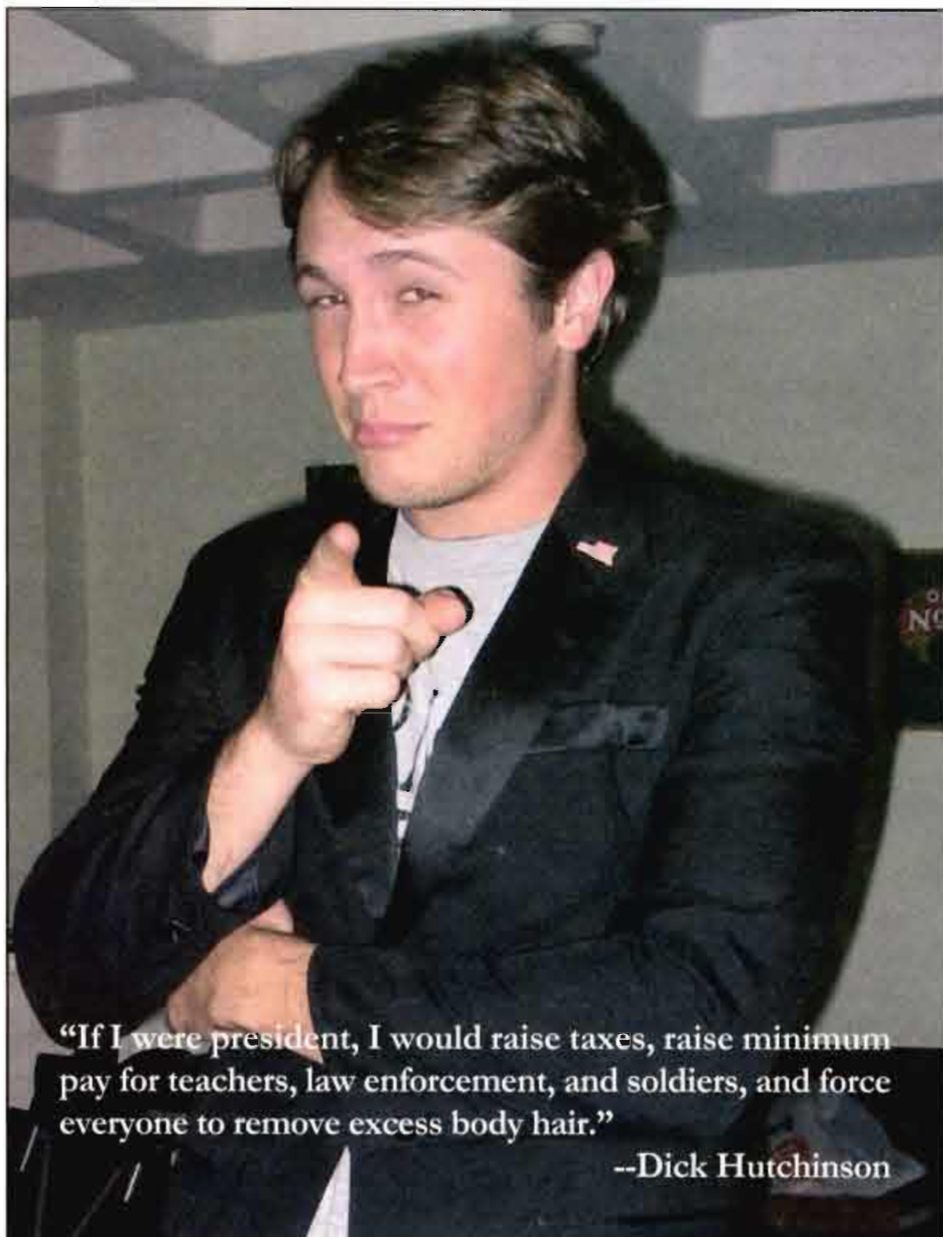
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MEETINGS
EVERY
WEDNESDAY
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Jon Deutsch



SLICE OF LIFE
"If I were president..."

With the encroaching election, we wondered, what would Wagner students do if they were president?

The answers ranged from radical to ridiculous.

Who would you vote for?
Who would you overthrow?

Photos by Alex Jacobs
and Stacey Britt Fitzgerald

