

'The learned fool writes his nonsense in better language than the unlearned; but still 'tis nonsense'

Benjamin Franklin - printer, statesman, man about town, 1754

The Wagnerian

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You got a banana, you don't need no snack pack

April 14th, 2000

Wagner players respond to hockey lawsuit

By **Eddie D'Anna**
Wagnerian Staff Writer

"Don't start none, won't be none."

Members of the Wagner College Hockey Club are responding with that schoolyard mantra to the personal injury lawsuit filed by the William Paterson University Hockey Club forward that claims several Wagner players injured him during a brawl on the ice.

Robert Alfieri, a Wayne, N.J. resident, says that, while the action was stopped in the third period of a December 9 game at the Staten Island Skating Pavilion, he was attacked by several members of the Wagner team, who showed disregard for his well-being. He says he was ultimately kicked in the face with the blade of an ice skate.

"This is obviously an action taken while the game was not in progress," his lawyer Robert B. Woodruff said in an interview with the Associate Press (AP). "He has an extremely ugly looking forehead for a 21-year-old boy."

According to the AP, the lawsuit, filed in February, claims that several Wagner players

left the bench during a break in play and attacked Alfieri. The results, it says, include a two-and-a-half-inch scar, headaches and "other physical ailments."

He is seeking money damages from Wagner, as well as hockey coach, Charles Crispino, and several players, including senior left wing, Chris Nahas, who Alfieri alleges, kicked him in the face.

However, members of the Wagner team stand firm in their opinion that Alfieri, who was not outnumbered, started the fight. They also agree that that Nahas had absolutely nothing to do with it.

According to club members, while referees halted the game in the third period with less than a minute left to play and Wagner leading 4-2, Alfieri, a senior, attacked Wagner captain John Anastasia, from behind. Anastasia had already removed his helmet.

"He had no helmet on. He was defenseless and my teammates defended him," said Kevin Berntsen, a junior center. He suggests Alfieri was instructed to start a fight.

"They were losing, they were getting frustrated," he continued.

While a Wagner player did go out to defend his teammate, Crispino insists that his bench did not empty.

"I told my players to stay on the bench," he told the AP. "From what I gathered, it was just two kids squaring off, and he got cut on the face. He was not kicked."

Nahas' naming in the lawsuit remains a mystery to Wagner players. Even to Nahas himself, who claims to have had a view of the incident from the bench.

"I was on the ice (when it broke out) but the coach pulled me onto the bench. I saw (Alfieri) come out holding his face." Senior goaltender Dave Contino vouches for him.

"Nahas wasn't even on the ice!" he said. "The coach pulled him on the bench and I held him. I was holding him back." And why did Alfieri name Nahas in the lawsuit?

"Because I scored three goals against them, that was the reason," said Nahas, the team's top scorer on the season. The referees awarded Wagner the win.

Wagner community anticipates Songfest 2000

By **Megan K. Goldman**
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Spring has approached us once again and it is time to celebrate spring fever and the annual Songfest.

For all of you Wagner students, who are unaware of what the festivities of Songfest are, it goes something like this. Songfest is a time for the whole college to come together and celebrate. This year it will be held inside the Spiro Sports Center at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 15, 2000.

Songfest kicks off Wagner's exciting Greek Week. Greek Week is a week filled with fun and festivities.

Angie Bombardier, a member of the sophomore class and a sister of Alpha Delta Pi, is the Greek Week Chair. She says, "This year Greek week is going to be out of control, everyone will be partying together."

Songfest is a positive competition among the Greek organizations, allowing each organization to display unity and talent.

This year there will be 8 Greek organizations participating. Each Greek organization chooses a musical theme, then they are allowed ten minutes to sing and dance.

ToniMarie Sorrentino, a member of the junior class and of Alpha Delta Pi is this year's Songfest Chair. Said Toni, "I feel that Songfest 2000 will blow the roof right off of the gym."

The Songfest Committee that consists of Liz Quinn as the Royal Court Chair (Kappa Sigma Alpha), Tom Fiero as the Judges Chair (Theta Chi) and Val Bagni as the Banner Chair (Alpha Omicron Pi).

As for the Greeks: Alpha Delta Pi will be performing disco, Alpha Omicron Pi will be performing swing, Alpha Sigma Alpha will be performing Latin/Spanish, Delta Nu will be performing heavy metal, Kappa Sigma Alpha will be performing Doo Wop, Tau Kappa Epsilon will be performing rock and roll, Tau Kappa Sigma will be performing 80's pop music, and Theta Chi will be performing old school rap.

The Royal Court consists of Queen Janet Sobeski (ADPi), King is Mike Ponzio (Delta Nu), 1st Princess Annabelle Merola (AOPi), 1st Prince Stephen Betnis (Theta Chi), 2nd Princess Ivy Miller (TKS), and 2nd Prince Kevin Squires (TKE).

'Nimbus Out Loud' to be held

Following the success of last semester's reading, this spring's Nimbus literary magazine poetry reading is sure to be an enjoyable evening for students and faculty

By **Jessica Manger**
Wagnerian Staff Writer

The Nimbus literary magazine is holding its second poetry reading of the year in the Coffeehouse.

Do you remember how you felt when you went to see Allen Ginsberg read for the first time his poem "Howl," at the Six Gallery poetry reading in October 1955? No? You didn't go?!

I supposed you're excused since the majority of you were either too young or not even a thought in your mother's mind. But just imagine if you had gone!

Well, here's your chance to rectify yourself. Go see the next generation's poets. You will be able to say, "I saw her at one of her very first readings, of course before she won the Pulitzer." Be a part of history...or just watch it.

On April 25, the staff at the Nimbus Literary Magazine will hold the second "Nimbus Out Loud" reading of the year.

Last semester's reading had a bigger turnout than any of the previous ones, stated Nimbus Editor, Laura Beth Meisch.

For the first time, musicians were encouraged to play at the open mike. "It was better to have music because it made the atmosphere more intimate and warm," said Matt Timpanelli, student and former contributor to the magazine.

Some of the readers at last semester's reading were Mike Schrader, Andrew Hepkins, a Wagner Alumnus, who read his "A Train Ride to Dignity," Allie Benner, Gavin Ferguson, and staff members; Eric Skiff, Eric Cohen, Jason Forgit, Jason Bock, and this reporter.

Professor Mary V. Zanfani, also a contributor, read her poem "To the Baby That Never Came."

Editors of Nimbus Laura Beth Meisch and Sara Kish were extremely pleased with how the night went.

This semester, the reading will begin at 8:00 p.m. in the newly renovated Coffeehouse.

The night will start off with the contributing poets of Nimbus, reading their poems. Following that will be the open mike.

Once again, musicians are welcomed and encouraged to perform during the open mike as well as non-contributing poets.

Wagner alumn Andrew Hepkins reads "A Train Ride to Dignity" at last semester's Nimbus Out Loud

"The Lonely Ferguson" is delivered by speaker Gavin Ferguson at Nimbus Out Loud

Eric Skiff is pictured reading "Sweet Wagner" at last semester's event

'Top Tier' or top smear?

By Heather Arney
Wagnerian Staff Writer

The word was out. It spread throughout campus, diffused amongst the community, and lurked into our parents' mailboxes like a vine in a swamp. Wagner College was ranked "top tier" for 2000 by U.S. News and World Report for best colleges.

Indeed we all heard about the ranking, but what exactly does it mean, and is this benevolent title something we should be proud about?

We see "top tier" every time we pass the beloved white sign on Howard Avenue, but who knows the meaning behind the words? My father had no clue, except "top tier is better than no tier," he said. My peers mocked the title, wondering just what makes us "top tier-or they thought it referred to the parking lot.

So what are we the "top tier" of? According to U.S. News and World Report, Wagner was ranked "top tier" of northern colleges. This ranking came from a group of judges from the magazine who annually grade universities and colleges throughout the United States.

The rating were based on 16 areas of data relating to academic excellence, from the number of returning students to student-to-faculty ratio.

Wagner ranked high, with the class sized being under 50 students. Average ranks were given for financial aid resources and that less than half of the students are from the top 25% of their high school class.

I am not entirely convinced that this title is something we should be so proud of. Yes, making the "top tier" is great, but Wagner could have done better, considering the amount of money students pay to attend classes. Not only were we ranked 33rd out of 36 colleges and universities in the bunch, but Wagner was put in the northern university section covering Maine to Washington D.C., thus excluding comparison to other schools in the rest of the U.S.

In other words, Harvard and Yale were not in the same category as Wagner.

It's great that Wagner was recognized and ranked "top tier." After all, it's a bone to throw to prospective students. However, that label is not all it's cracked up to be.

What is the 'Final Destination?'

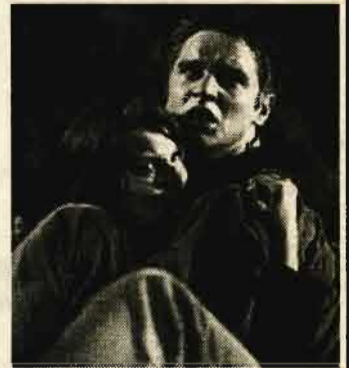
By Kristin Mazzola
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Should I say "The Sixth Sense?" The whole time watching this movie, I kept thinking of the little boy who was able to see and hear things that others couldn't. Well, that little boy became a teenager named Alex in "Final Destination," except for the fact that the boy in "The Sixth Sense" was able to communicate with the dead, and Alex is able to foresee the future.

In "Final Destination," a group of students are on their way to a Parisian vacation-Alex, one of the unlucky passengers, foresees the explosion that is destined to take place on the aircraft. After this "dream" becomes reality, Alex must save seven ill-fated people and he must find the pieces of the puzzles that will help him break the course of death. He must first discover the actual course that death has planned for each of the survivors and then find a way to break pattern of occurrences in order for them to escape their 'final destination.'

Overall I truly thought the movie was good; however, many of the death scenes could have been more realistic. Also, the movie seemed to jump around a bit, and the death's 'design' is difficult to follow toward the end of the movie. And if Alex could really foresee future tragedies, then why couldn't he have stopped all of them from occurring?

The movie's end was not terrific; it failed to tie together some loose ends, and left much to be desired. Was death conquered, or did death complete its conquest? In any case, this movie was not really successful, and it was no "Sixth Sense."



Devon Sawa and Ali Larter stare death in the face

Housing needs help

By Yves Kabore
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Wagner College housing--not the best accommodations for a student body around the country, but certainly not the worst. There are just a few issues around campus that could make living on campus a lot more enjoyable for all residents.

For starters, the dorms are too crowded, and Wagner continues to admit more residents than they have room for. This problem, I think, is easily solved; if there is not enough money to build more dorms than other arrangements can and should be made.

For example, houses-- there are various houses around campus that could be turned

into athletic or senior housing. There is no reason why admissions should have two large houses for their services. Yes, they have a job to do and need offices to get the work done, but the space in those houses would be a lot more beneficial to the school if students lived in them.

If those houses were used for student housing, there would be more room in the dorms for more students, and the dorms wouldn't be as crowded. You're probably wondering where the admissions department would put their offices. Parker Hall third floor used to be the home of the Wagner College experiential learning center and internship department. They just recently moved to the Wagner Union, this means that the third floor of Parker Hall is all

ready for admissions to move in. This would be just one step to improving the housing situation at Wagner.

Wagner dorms are a privilege for all that have the opportunity to live there. All we as students want is somewhere to call home, because for many of the residents, home isn't a place easily reached. We as students should leave class or practice and are glad to go back to the comfort of our own rooms to relax. We shouldn't be dreading going back to the dorms because the rooms are small or the bathrooms are unsanitary. Few people in this world dreads going home after a hard day's work or school, and the 'powers that be' at Wagner College shouldn't want their students dreading their on campus living situation either.

Point/Counterpoint

The Diallo Trial

Four police officers, in an unmarked police car, notice a man, who is a convicted felon, looking suspicious. He sticks his head out of an apartment vestibule and looks up and down the street, then retreats inside. The man exits the building, digs into his pockets, and turns toward the officers with what they perceive as a gun. The officers move toward him when a neighbor shouts that there is a gun, and the policemen open fire.

I ask you to place yourself in the officers' shoes-if there is a chance you would become injured by the actions of another, would you not defend yourself? Forget the race issue-if someone has the power to end your life, regardless of their skin color, would you not fight back and pull your own trigger?

I understand that African Americans feel this activity is personal, or makes it hard for them to feel secure. I also do not feel that the number of shots fired by the officers were necessary. But, is it not human nature to act defensively? What would you have done?

--Daniel J. Nelson

At approximately 4:45 p.m. on February 25th, I was in a bagel store, in shock as I learned that four police officers were being acquitted of all murder charges brought against them in the Amadou Diallo murder trial. When I heard the first "not guilty," I ran to my car in tears. For the next 20 minutes, all I could do was weep for the African American immigrant who was gunned down by 41 bullets to his body. He was weaponless.

I made it home and called my mother, telling her that I felt I did not belong in this country-I felt unwanted and unsafe because of my African American race. I was terrified for the black males I have as friends and relatives, knowing that it could have been them. That horrifies me.

Hypothetically speaking, if the four officers were concerned about their welfare, and felt that drawing their weapons was a necessity, did they have to shoot 41 times? I think not! So, did the officer who found time to reload his gun and continue to shoot feel threatened while shooting his second round? One man with a wallet can only do so much harm to four men with weapons.

So, I question, is there such a thing as justice when an innocent men are brutally murdered by men who are supposed to protect and serve?

The worst feeling in the world is not knowing where you belong. As African Americans, many of us feel we are not wanted in this country, even though we are the means behind its growth.

I do believe that the prosecution in this case failed to present it adequately, but I do believe that enough evidence was presented to prove that the officers were, at least, negligent.

My only hope is that true justice will be served, if it exists. I am anxiously awaiting a civil and federal case, not just for the Diallo family or for African Americans, but rather for all people who populate this country, because no man can feel safe in a place where guilty men can get away with murder.

--Julia R. Holcomb

'Drowning Mona' sinks

New Bette Midler film fails to keep its head above water

By Lizz Brady
Wagnerian Staff Writer

When I first saw the cleverly packaged preview for Drowning Mona, I was quick to proclaim this film as a must-see, falling under a comfortable pretense that it would be chock-full of the hilarious high-jinx and suspense that usually encompass a comedic murder mystery. However, appearances can be deceiving, as I was later reminded after leaving the theatre, tired and harboring a bitter sense of loss for the \$7.50 that I plunked down for a disappointing, predictable movie.

At best, Drowning Mona is a horrifying relic that will forever remind avid movie-goers of what can happen when some of the big names of Hollywood have a little too much time on their hands. Armed with a star-studded cast that includes Bette Midler, Danny DeVito, Neve Campbell, and Jamie Lee Curtis, one can only hope that these celebrities were in the midst of a dry spell when they were handed the script.

The story unfolds in the quaint, unspectacular town of Verplank, New York, and the view-

er is immediately introduced to the town witch, Mona Dearly (Midler). Within minutes, Mona reaches her untimely demise while maneuvering her car down a curvy road. Her breaks fail, and she plummets off a cliff into a lake. Enter Police Chief Wyatt Rash (DeVito) who is aware of the town's universal dislike of Mona and quickly suspects foul play.

Sure enough, an examination of the vehicle reveals severed brake lines, and a murder investigation ensues. Unfortunately, everyone is a suspect with ample motive to kill Mona, including her abused husband Phil (William Fichtner), Jeff, her dim-witted son (Marcus Thomas), Jeff's mousy business partner, Bobby (Casey Affleck) and his bride-to-be Ellen (Campbell), and sleazy waitress Rona (Curtis) who is engaged to Jeff and sleeping with Phil.

After an hour and a half of crass jokes and pointless tangents that fail to thicken the plot, we finally find out who Mona's killer is, but by this time, nobody cares. It almost seems as though writer Peter Steinfeld chose his culprit on a whim, deciding to instead place more emphasis on the idiotic banter between characters.

Much as she tries to make an audience hate her, Midler seems to be a bit awkward in

the role of the villain, and she tends to over-exaggerate her evilness. City boy Danny DeVito is a fish out of water in this pathetic town, looking severely out of place and disconnected from the film's action. Campbell and Curtis seem to be eerily comfortable with their white-trash personas, but their performances are as unsightly as Curtis's mullet hairdo.

The movie's only redeeming qualities are new-comer Casey Affleck, who makes a comical push-over, and a brief cameo by Saturday Night Live's Wil Ferrel as a cross-dressing funeral home owner. Ultimately, though, Mona drowned and took the film with her.



The cast of 'Mona'

"Drowning Mona"
Rated 'R'
starring:
Bette Midler
Danny DeVito
Jamie Lee Curtis
Neve Campbell
call: 777-film for movie times

Many nations under 'God'

By Andrew Hepkins
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Lately, my appearance has become less important to me, and I've been "letting myself go," so to speak. It seems as if things more philosophical in nature have become more significant in my life than clothes or money.

One day, I decided to wear a pair of ripped jeans just to see what people would say. They are an unusual pair, because only one of the pant legs is torn. A clown by nature, I do a lot of similar silly things just to observe reactions from people. I like to bewilder people by pretending that I honestly do not see anything wrong.

As expected, a few friends attacked me. These people all knew I could have afforded a pair of good jeans, I just wasn't wearing them. What was the big deal? The "big deal" is that those worn, torn jeans aren't as acceptable in a society governed and controlled by money. And then, I slowly became aware of more profound issues regarding money.

I spent quite a long time reflecting on the evils of money, and how they have affected us all. I realize now that imperialism and "westernization" have ruined the world in irreparable ways.

The indigenous tribes of the world used to live of the earth and by the strength of their arms. Man used to live in communities in which decisions and events involved everyone who belong to that specific clan. And perhaps, most importantly, man used to be a very spiritual creature, made in God's image. The existence of spirits and supernatural forces used to be a reality for the indigenous peoples of the world. Questions regarding life and spirituality were at the forefront of each person's conscious thought. But unchecked evil in the hearts of godless men has led us to our current situation.

As time went on, across the globe, powerful nations rose and expanded. European nations conquered other nations, which gave birth to new ones. These nations continued to spread their social and economic influences around the world.

Centuries later, between the years of the Civil War and 1900, the US began its apprenticeship as an imperial power. In the 1850's, the United States was sending its military to Japan, Uruguay, Argentina, Nicaragua and China, as well as eyeing sugar-rich Cuba for annexation purposes.

"I realize now that imperialism and 'westernization' have ruined the world in irreparable ways."

Along with the other European nations, the United States leaped into the race for power and world conquest. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the United States pursued an aggressive policy of expansionism, extending its economic and political influence.

The latter half of the nineteenth century was spent in industrializing, installing, and upholding social order-within the framework of a new economic infrastructure-that would prove complimentary to capitalist expansions and self-preservation.

All this brings us to where we are now in the new millennium. But before you wave your flags with pride, realize that our competitive strategies were executed in reprehensible iniquity. Justifying imperialism is justifying the disruption of several cultures and exhausting other small nations for their natural resources, for our profit.

Realize and never forget that the Native Americans, who used to live free and of the earth before us, had been killed off this land. The remainders were forced to conform to this satanic, capitalist society. Africans were brought to this country; their descendants forced to conform to this "superior" way of life. We've been taught to judge each other by physical differences and we've been taught the value of money and power over many other, more important things.

We lose our souls to get it.

I grew up in religious environments and observed how we religious groups simplify the meanings of holy doctrine to appease our civilized, comfortable lives. "Though shall have no other gods besides Me"-most [Commandments and doctrines] sound easy enough to follow. But don't let anyone fool you-in this day, money is god. Observe your lifestyle and preemptive decisions on anything and everything-swallow the bitter fact that money is your god.

Being without money affects your self-worth. Without money, you will own nothing. In the eyes of the affluent, you are nothing-nothing, despite the eternal soul inside of you that they do not see or acknowledge. All

thoughts, actions and decisions are blindly made in subservience to money.

Even drugs that come from the earth are taken as "controlled" substances used to make money legally and illegally. It shouldn't surprise anyone that there is a major drug problem that, unfortunately, may never be remedied. More and more people will continue to lose their souls to things that cannot have without "god."

Now, when souls are born into this world that has been created for us, nothing is ours until it is earned through this early system. Medicine, land, and food is no longer ours. One must find work in this capitalist system to obtain money-money that will give you everything that you "need" and everything you "want."

The fact that money allows people to purchase whatever they need develops a psychological fixation on earning money whether it is needed or not. The fact that money allows people to have whatever they want, presents incalculable evil possibilities. Satan has designed it so that everything you need in this life is objectified-and this is dangerous. Through time, our souls have become clouded by materialistic, worldly affairs. We've become less spiritual. In fact, spirituality and the existence of an afterlife are not taken seriously by those of us who are preoccupied with the materialistic "necessities" of life. Through the workings of evil, we have been given something to live for, something that takes our minds away from acknowledging the spiritual warfare, and from using our inner consciousness. We don't believe in God. We don't even know our own true identities.

I stand alone and caught between two worlds-two realities that haunt, twirl, and intertwine at surreal moments. I do a lot of things for money because I have to, but I refuse to let myself conform to the ideals of this world. Money will not decide my destiny for me. I fear that a lot of my opinions will be considered bizarre or radical, but I will try not to let the unpopularity of my opinions affect my resolution. It's liberating to be able to see beyond earthly walls and confines.

As a challenge to everyone, I ask that you make up a top-ten list of things that you want most in life-then reflect on it.

On a lighter note, I'm going to continue to wear my torn jeans. In a way, I've grown attached to them.

Units of trouble

Why use units?

By Mike Deeb
Wagnerian Staff Writer

What is the Unit system? Why are we the only college that uses it? What is its purpose?

I surely do not know. All I can say for sure is that it is substandard. I don't see what the problem with a "credit" is-it works just fine for the other thousand or so colleges and universities around the country. I don't think that I want to be dissimilar when it comes to academic standards-not when it has to do with a lot of money.

I am infuriated that we are limited to a certain array and number of courses because of this system. I am spending an extra two thousand dollars a year just to keep up to par with the amount of academic coursework that students in other institutions have at no extra cost.

I suggest that we eliminate this ghastly system, which angers not only myself, but my fellow students as well. I feel like I'm forced to spend more than eight semester here at Wagner, and that's not daring to say the word, "internship," or the phrase "study abroad."

What about a 10th unit?

By Kinsey Casey
Wagnerian Staff Writer

There are numerous reasons why allowing students to take a total of 10 units, rather than nine, for the academic year would be beneficial. The first on my list is that I do not feel as though I am being challenged with only four or five classes per semester. This semester, I have only four units, an internship (again, not for credit), in addition to working two jobs, and I still have way too much time on my hands. In fact, I actually watch television on occasion.

I like to learn, and I want to learn as much as I can, which is why I would like to be able to take more than nine units per year. Furthermore, I think adding a 10th unit would expand the integrity of Wagner College by allowing students to increase their education and knowledge. In addition, a 10th would allow more students to double major/minor, get credit for internships, or even add a half unit for dance class or a voice lesson.

While speaking with music education majors, I learned that it is actually impossible to receive a BA in four years from Wagner College. Likewise, many upperclassmen, who are on the credit system, complain that they can take the same class as a sophomore or freshman, and they will receive three credits, while we receive the equivalent of 3.3 credits. That means we only need 36 classes to graduate, whereas those on the credit system need 42 or 43.

I am not completely opposed to the unit system-as hard to believe as it may be, there are a number of schools that are switching to unit systems. However, for those students who transfer in or out of Wagner, the unit system tends to collide with the credit system. At a college or university that is on the credit system, my classes would transfer at only three credits. Thus, I would have only been taking 12 or 15 credits per semester, which is not enough!

Is he in or is he out?

Darryl Strawberry is suspended from baseball for a year

By Jenn Siudy
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Three Strikes, and your out." For all you baseball fans, this is known as the golden rule in America's pastime.

This golden rule, has been the highlight of the press the last few weeks. As many of us know already, Darryl was suspended from baseball for one full year, after failing a drug test. It just seems to be another crack in the road, for a man who has hit every obstacle that life has thrown to him.

Darryl has had many chances throughout his career to get his life back in order. He was at the peak of his career in the early

1980's with the METS. He was Rookie of the Year, and years later was given another chance with the YANKEES, but Strawberry continued with the drugs.

Many believe that this is a disease, not just an addiction. Yes, I too believe it is a disease, but you need to fight the disease. Darryl didn't fight the disease; instead we are going down this road for a third time, for a man who apparently didn't want to be saved.

It comes down to the question, "Is this the end of his career?" I think it is. If Darryl has any dignity and respect for him and his family, I believe that he should end his career. Returning to the sport would be an act of selfishness.

In life we all usually try to follow a creed that was taught to us when we are very young. If you do wrong, you pay the consequences. The consequences for Strawberry are a little different. I believe that he owes



Afflicted ball player Strawberry

the sport and the fans something for all the disappointment that he has given them.

Finally, Strawberry knew that he was in the media. Being in the media means you will be a role model for many children. Strawberry has disappointed many in his time. Even by doing what's right now, still won't erase the mistakes that he has made. I think Strawberry took advantage of him being higher than the law, and it finally caught up to him: "I think he's out!"

The Deer Hunter: The ritual, the hunt, the kill

For this master marksman and experienced hunter, the wait is the killer

By Sydel Greco
Wagnerian Staff Writer

"I start to get crazed around August 18th," says Russ Six.

Hunting season won't start for another two weeks, but his mind is already wandering into the woods. The contents of his plastic bags are laid out on the back porch for inventory and repairs: knives, a compass, a deer drag, a bow and three arrows (only one of which will be used), binoculars, and a spool of thread.

According to his ritual, each item gets carefully checked over: knives are sharpened, the bow is covered in camouflage, and the arrows are tipped with light-weight Wasp razors.

Six's camouflage jumpsuits, a daypack, gloves, hoods and gaiters (which have also been stored in plastic bags all year so as not to collect any household scents) will be washed with no soap. After they air dry, he will pack them in plastic bags with cut pine branches and crushed acorns.

"Scentless is the word of the day," Six explains. "I even change my diet from meat to pasta and salad. If they pick up a human odor, you're all done."

His vial of doe scent, which he says is "Chanel No. 5 to a lonesome buck," gets tucked into his breast pocket.

He is ready to go.

When the alarm goes off at 4:00 a.m., excitement rushes all over his body. The yearning to be in the woods subsides as he pulls up to his spot. As he steps out of his truck, all of the traffic, work, places to be, the running, phones, and televisions fade into obscurity with the silence of the forest.

"There is no hurry," he sighs. "And for these brief moments in time, I am without the cares of my busy life."

Having spent most of his life in the New England forests where he grew up, Six finds that he is most comfortable there.

"I am most free in the cedar swamps, pine groves, and oak stands. There is no need for defining who I am," he confesses. "I am just part of the picture, and I am immersed in the joy of just being."

During the hunt, Six tries not to interrupt the peacefulness of woods. He gets his gear on almost silently, and moves into the trees slowly, feeling everything beneath his feet before committing his weight. Any sudden snapping would bring all eyes in his direction.

He is familiar with this area of the woods, and moves on instinct. As he approaches a small mound, he can see the oaks thin out into spread-out swamp maple, and the hip-high plants growing among them. The area just before a pond, about 100 yards across, is a good place to catch deer off guard.

"All I have out here are my senses. I've got to strain to hear anything I can," Six says. "And noticing any movement has become second nature to me."

Just over the top of the mound, a snort and a thrashing of leaves sound off like a shotgun in his ear.

But the day is not awake yet, and makes vision difficult. He carefully, silently, pulls an arrow from the quiver, and peers into the dimness ahead.

"Nothing to do but wait out there for the perfect shot," he says. "Seconds seem like hours and minutes like days when your heart is pounding and the adrenaline is pumping."

Suddenly, he sees her.

Her ears flicker, her head drops sharply for another mouthful. The rest of this doe is out of sight, but this experienced hunter plans a shot for either side of her. The silence is deafening.



A buck in the wild
photo by Iowa Bowhunters Assoc.

"Wait for the shot," he coaches himself. "One shot...clean kill,"

And just as she moves into his shooting lane, and Six begins to draw the bow, he notices another head pop out. Then another.

"Yup, it was a doe with two fawns," he smiles.

They would never make it through the winter without her, and taking her never enters his mind. Content with just watching them play in front of them, Six decides to practice his calls. Cupping his hands over his mouth, he gives a quick, low grunt. "Hello," this says to her. Her ears twitch as she looks in his direction. Another grunt gets the attention of her two fawns.

And then he hears a low grunt to his right.

Moving only his eyes, Six notices the six-point buck about 40 yards away from his chest up. The animal sniffs the air intently and grunts again. Satisfied with his query, he drops his head, giving the hunter a split second to put his hand on the string.

"I gave another grunt," he recollects, "and kicked the leaves twice like another buck pawing at the ground."

Being so early in the season, and premature for any rutting behavior, he says that this was a gamble. It peaked the buck's curiosity, and, like the doe, he too began moving.

"I remember he moved to my left at first, which gave me a poor shot. And I just kept waiting until he closed in to about 20 yards," Six says. "I kept praying for him to turn broadside...that he'd give me a heart shot."

Six kept his hand in motion, following the buck's every movement.

Broadside. Finally.

He draws back the string in slow motion. His thumb reaches the knock point at the corner of his mouth. He puts the site pin just behind the animal's foreleg. His finger relaxes slowly.

The arrow is in flight for 20 yards without making a sound. As it hits its mark, the buck lurches forward and disappears into the undergrowth. The master marksman listens to the cracking of dead branches as the buck tries to run.

He is dead, but he doesn't know it.

Women's Lacrosse seeks success

By Lindsay Maynard
Wagnerian Staff Writer

The Wagner Seahawk Women's Lacrosse Team sometimes starts their day before the sun rises, and this is just one aspect of the work ethic of the team. They practice very early in the morning, improvising in the space allotted to the athletic teams. The Wagner's women's lacrosse program is entering its fourth year of varsity, and the girls are ready to make a statement this year. The team has been working hard since the fall with hopes to make it to the Northeastern Conference Tournament and to obtain a winning record. They have never had a record above .500, and they hope out this year.

The 1999 and 2000 women's lacrosse team is lead by a new coaching staff. Heather Dent, a former Virginia Tech player, is the head women's lacrosse coach.

The assistant coach is Heather Bleuvault, who formally played for Monmouth, one of Wagner's top rivals. Denise Murphy, a former Wagner Seahawk herself, is assisting the team with her expertise.

Although the Lady Seahawks may appear to be young, the three seniors and strong upperclassmen have helped to show the inexperienced freshmen the way to success. The three captains, Tricia Brogan, Marcy Latino and Janet Sobieski, are good solid leaders. Returning juniors include Lindsey Cook, Natasha Davis and Krissie Fischer. Sophomores who contribute to the team are Katie Lilly, Jackie Losquadro and Joelle Kozyk. The freshmen are comprised of Monica Copobianco, Layne Doman, Amanda Emmes, Nicki Hahn, London Jones, Kate Maisto, Lindsay Maynard, Kelly McVeigh, Julie Rudderow, Kim Thompson and Tayna Wowk.

"This is almost a brand new team because both the upperclassmen and underclassmen have had to adjust to the recently new coaching staff with an entirely new setup," said Captain Tricia Brogan. "But this season we finally came together as a team and this has been evident this spring with our 5-2 record," Brogan claimed.

"This being mine, Marcy's and Trisha's senior year, I am extremely happy to see that our teams hard work is finally paying off, and contributing to a winning season thus far. With this hard work I really hope that we make the tournament this year," said Captain Janet Sobieski.

The Lady Seahawks pounded St. Boneventure in their season's opener 17-0, and the next day went on to beat LaSalle 8-7 in overtime. The home field victory over LaSalle was sweet because they lost to them last year in overtime.

Their third game against the UCONN Huskies was a disappointing loss, showing the team that they had much room for improvement.

"We try not to focus on our opponents but on our own team, and we learn from both our wins and losses," Dent stated.

As they approached the fourth game of the season, the team fell in a close heartbreaker to Columbia, 8-6. The fifth game of their season was a victory over Marist. The lady Seahawks won their first conference game against Central Connecticut 13-8, and this is one step closer to the teams ultimate goal, which is the qualifying for the conference tournament. After the team's win over Central Connecticut, they proceeded to stomp on Siena, a well-known rival, 15-0. They will now work towards improving and becoming the best team possible, all in the hopes of contending for the Northeastern Conference Title. This tournament will be played right here at Wagner.

If all goes well for the Wagner women, they will earn their first trip to the NEC Conference Tournament and obtain a record over .500. This is a goal that the entire team is striving to achieve. Now the question is whether the team will achieve their goals, which of course will only be answered on the field.

Swimteam goes "O'For"

The Seahawks meet endless losses

By Mary Mohan
Wagnerian Staff Writer

Wagner Swimming coach, Katie Dolan, sadly describes "O'For" as having a season without any wins. Despite the fact that nearly all of the swimmers achieved their personal best times, the team was unable to come up with any wins.

The swimming Seahawks, only two years young, made Wagner College history as they held their first home swim meet on October 30th, 1999, against Iona College. Iona christened Wagners Spiro pool with their 111-94 win.

Wagner came in first in only four out of the 11 events. Iona cut through the Wagner waters in almost every event, especially the 400-yard medley relay (four laps of each stroke), the 50-yard freestyle (two laps), the 200-yard individual medley (8 laps), and the 400-yard relay.

Freshmen Seahawks Gina Sulpizio, Audrey Fischer, and Jess Powers closed the eight-point gap in the 200-yard freestyle-

third event. The girls were followed strongly by their teammates as they let loose during the 50-yard, fourth event freestyle, which brought the Seahawks up to a 37-point tie with Iona. Unfortunately, the Seahawks did not keep that wind in their wings throughout the rest of the meet.

On Nov. 10th, the Seahawks' swimming ability was tested once again by Stonybrook College. Amy Vallebuona, sophomore Seahawk, came in first for the 1000-yard freestyle (11:47.66), the 200-yard freestyle (2:05.68), and the 500-yard freestyle (5:43.22). Vallebuona, combined with the efforts of her teammates, was unable to hold down the water. StonyBrook took the meet home, leaving with a 109-94 win.

Throughout the season, the swimmers practiced each day, working harder and harder with each practice. Dolan felt that the girls, "were focused, and worked hard." But with all their practicing, the Seahawks couldn't avoid losing each meet.

The Seahawks' last home meet was supposed to be against St. Francis NY and Sacred Heart College on Jan.29. At the last minute, St. Francis backed out.

Said Dolan, "They [the Seahawks] would

have had a very good chance against St. Francis and a fair chance against Sacred Heart.

"The meet wouldn't have been as dense as it was if St. Francis had shown up," Dolan continued. "We could have had places one through four instead of one through six as we faced Sacred Heart in the dual meet."

Sacred Heart won by three; the final score 103-100.

The Seahawks had eight lifetime best times this season, and Dolan expressed hope that these times would improve into next season.

As far as next season goes, things look positive; the team looks stronger and stronger, the recruiting going well, which could increase the Seahawks' number of wins.



Sophomore Amy Vallebuona
photo by Mary Mohan