
Editorial

OUR OPINION

Bravo to Wagner College

Nearly lost in the welter of late-summer commotion in this borough was a piece of very good news that bears emphasis.

Wagner College has always been something of a well-kept secret among college-bound students outside of Staten Island. It has a jewel of a campus, and unlike most other college campuses, Wagner's offers breathtaking views of the New York Harbor region, from the Manhattan skyline to the New Jersey Highlands, with the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge as a centerpiece in a perfect composition. It's no wonder that it's a favorite location for photographers. And Wagner also has New York City itself, and all the cultural treasures it holds.

But a college, of course, is more than a campus, and Wagner has much to offer in other respects. Its physical plant, from traditional buildings to modern structures (including a new fieldhouse under construction) is everything a college student could ask for. And its vibrant college atmosphere, nurtured by a core of bright and engaging professors, has always been conducive to learning and intellectual exploration.

But somehow, Wagner has never gotten recognition for its assets. Suffice it to say that the perception outside the Wagner community seldom paral-

leled the intense satisfaction within it.

That could be changing, at last. U.S. News & World Report, in its report, 1999 Best Colleges, ranks Wagner College in the "top tier" among 200 private and public colleges and universities of all sizes (but not including those offering doctorate degrees) in the Northeast region (from Maine to Maryland). That ranking is based upon a wide array of factors, ranging from graduation rate to freshman retention, faculty-student ratio, class size, SAT scores, the percentage of freshman applications accepted and the extent of alumni involvement.

Wagner president Dr. Norman Smith, who has been the driving force behind the effort to upgrade the school's good name and put it on the educational map, said he was "surprised" and "elated" to have finally drawn this national attention from a respected authority on academic institutions. He should also be proud.

Now, to go along with its first-rate campus, location, atmosphere, Wagner's acquiring a reputation to match. Congratulations to Dr. Smith and all those in the Wagner College community for their well-deserved, enhanced prestige.