

Wagner College president Dr. Norman Smith points out the school's growth.

# WAGNER COLLEGE

Things are looking up on Grymes Hill campus



Dr. Smith uses a chart to detail Wagner College's turnaround during the last five years.

## ADVANCE STAFF REPORT

After five years at Wagner College, president Norman Smith is up.

Admissions are up, the average Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score of new students is up, and Smith says Wagner College is up to the challenge of getting "to the top of the lists" of small colleges nationwide.

The president of Wagner met with members of the Advance Editorial Board recently, to show off his campus and to discuss the past five years at Wagner under his leadership.

In his paneled office, which allows a remarkable view of Staten Island from atop Grymes Hill, Smith stressed a forward look. He plans to increase the school's

endowment and wants to build a new athletic complex.

The president boasted that this year's entering class has an average SAT of 1,000 points, higher than in any other year. However, SAT scores reportedly have risen in the past year nationally.

Freshmen who began the fall term three weeks ago were positive about entering Wagner. Many echoed selling points that Smith has been using to build the college's image.

Jacqui Rodda came to Wagner "for the theatre program."

"I'm a singer and when I visited I got a really good feeling about it," she said. Ms. Rodda also said she was influenced by a friend she made who "really wanted to go here."

Many students who spoke with an Advance reporter said that Wagner was their first choice.

One 18-year-old prospective business major from Stamford, Conn., put it this way: "This is the only college I applied to. It's a small school and it's close to New York."



The student computer center in Spiro Hall

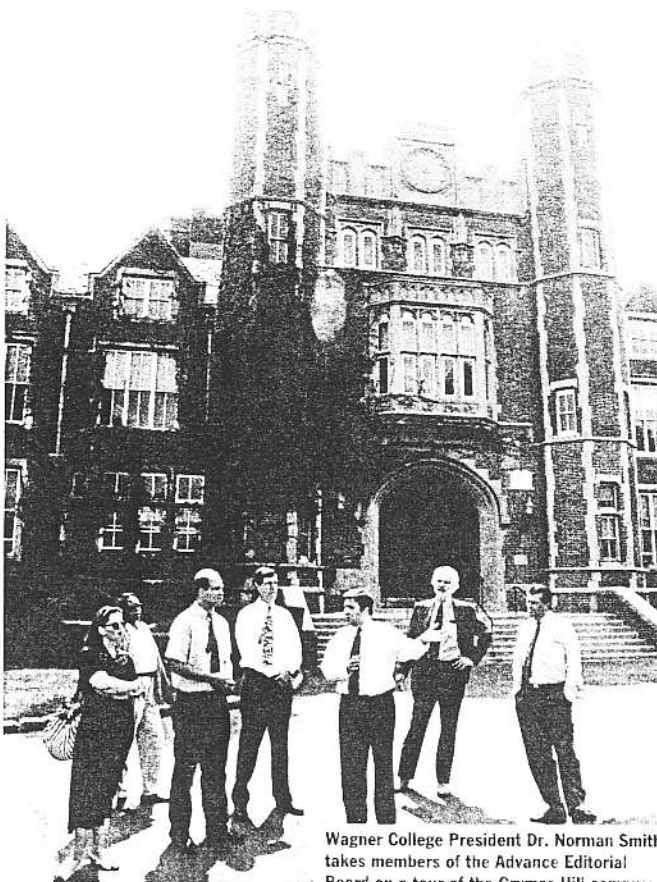
## Smith: A man on several missions

Wagner president a fund-raiser, administrator, cheerleader

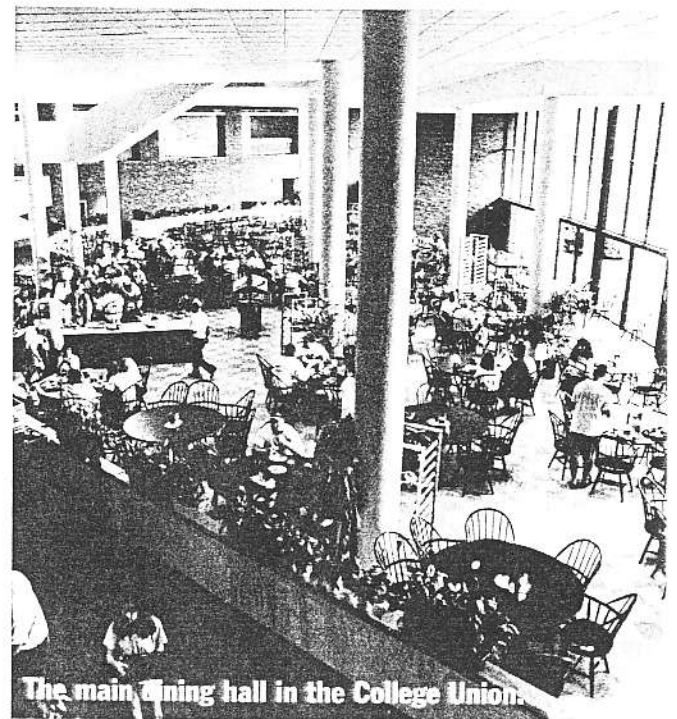
Dr. Norman Smith moves through Wagner College's Grymes Hill campus on a mission. Which mission, depends on which Smith one encounters.

Smith segues from being a fund-raiser, an administrator concerned about

day-to-day duties, a cheerleader for his school, and for private colleges in general. Throughout it all, the former assistant dean at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government is animated and relentless.



Wagner College President Dr. Norman Smith takes members of the Advance Editorial Board on a tour of the Grymes Hill campus.



The main dining hall in the College Union.