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Schuberth questions Cornell du Houx's motives

Campus responds to criticism of student Marine's impending deployment

by Anne Riley
ORIENT STAFF

As Maine College Democrats President Alex Cornell du Houx '06, a vocal opponent of the War in Iraq, prepares for his upcoming active duty with the U.S. Marines in Iraq, members of the Bowdoin community are responding to the news of his deployment with shock, gratitude, and in some cases, criticism.

"I applaud Mr. Houx [sic] for his service, just as I applaud any other soldier who is brave enough to take up arms in defense of this country," Dan Schuberth '06, secretary of the College Republican National Committee, said in a statement aired on a Bowdoin Cable Network news broadcast this week.

"I find it troubling, however," Schuberth continued, "that one of the most vocal opponents of our president, our country and our mission in Iraq has chosen to fight for a

Fall paves paths of gold



Drew Fulton, The Bowdoin Orient

Parents will arrive just in time to experience the Quad in its autumnal glory. See the back-page calendar for a schedule of weekend events.

cause he claims is wrong. Mr. Houx's [sic] rhetoric against the war on terror places him in agreement with the most radical fringes of the Democratic Party, and I am left to question his logic and motivation."

When contacted by the Orient, Schuberth said, "I stand by my comments."

President Mills responded to Schuberth's comment in an interview with the Orient, saying, "I have enormous admiration for Alex. I

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College construction on schedule, budget



Drew Fulton, The Bowdoin Orient

Hyde Hall, gutted by a construction crew, is being renovated alongside Appleton Hall this year to prepare for the Class of 2010's arrival.

by Nat Herz
ORIENT STAFF

As campus-wide construction continues, some students are becoming increasingly agitated and resigned to the prospect of additional disruption. While acknowledging the necessity of the construction, students expressed their frustration with the noise and aesthetic problems

generated by the numerous projects.

"The benefits of construction are important but at the same time they're not taking completely into consideration the desires of current students," Will Voinot-Baron '07 said.

"To see the Quad with construction on it and to know that it's going

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Grade inflation a Bowdoin reality

by Miranda Yaver
ORIENT STAFF

Following a national trend, Bowdoin is seeing a consistent pattern of grade inflation, with students earning a rising number of As and Bs across the different academic disciplines.

According to Director of Institutional Research and Registrar Christine Cote, the average grade increases every year. The average grade earned by students has increased from 3.20 to 3.33 on a four-point scale in the last ten years.

Cote noted that grade inflation is not at all specific to Bowdoin, and said that colleges across the nation are seeing similar trends.

Dean of Student Affairs Craig Bradley agreed.

"I think you'll find that grade inflation is a fact of life in colleges and universities," Bradley said. "The corollary is monetary inflation, but they differ in one important way—monetary inflation does not have a fixed ceiling, whereas grade inflation does [an A or 4.0]. This means that grade inflation causes compression at the top," he said.

Princeton University, whose students were also earning increasingly high grades, recently embarked on a campaign against grade inflation. It aims to reduce the percentage of As distributed to no more than 35 percent in undergraduate courses and no more than 55 percent in junior and senior independent work, according to a recent article in The Chronicle of Higher Education.

One of the measures taken in reducing the number of As distributed by Princeton professors was to eliminate the so-called "mercy A-minus."

Though the vast majority of academic departments at Princeton saw declines in the number of As distributed, none reached the objective of 35 percent. In the 2004-2005 academic year, 40.9 percent of grades were As, compared to 46 percent

Mills supports 'no' vote on Question 1

"Queers and Allies" works separately to unite campus against referendum question

by Dan Hackett
and Evan S. Kohn
ORIENT STAFF

President Barry Mills announced his plan to vote in opposition of Question 1 November 8 in a letter to the Orient this week.

If passed, the referendum would repeal legislation passed last spring that makes it illegal to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in housing, employment, credit, public accommodations, and education. Religious corporations, associations, or organizations that do not receive public funds are exempt from this provision.

"As a Brunswick resident and cit-

izen of Maine," Mills stated in the letter, "I believe current efforts to repeal these protections at the polls in November are wrong and inconsistent with the fundamental principle of equality in America."

Mills cited Bowdoin's longstanding position against discrimination in the letter, and said that "the protections provided by Bowdoin College to its students, faculty, and staff do not promote one lifestyle over another. They simply provide equal footing for all to participate in our learning community."

Mill's decision to publicly oppose Question 1 pleased the newly formed Queers & Allies (Q&A) organization, a group that has taken on the mission of opposing Question 1. The organization planned on publicly

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during the previous academic year.

Because Princeton students are being evaluated not just on the grades they receive, but rather within the context of their college and its policies, some question whether grade inflation is a particularly serious issue, or whether new grades are being assigned in spite of similar standards of evaluation.

According to Daniel Levine, a history professor at Bowdoin, "The letters they give are different but the meaning is the same. They haven't changed the standards in looking at quality of work...The grading process hasn't been too disrupted."

Professor of English William Watterson said the trend of rising

grades is due to the rising caliber of the Bowdoin student body.

"There has been some grade inflation, but I think the students are better prepared and smarter than those who were here in '76," Watterson said. "The middle range is demonstrably stronger," he said.

Watterson attributed the rising caliber of Bowdoin students in part to the leadership of Interim Dean of Admissions Richard Steele, and said Steele "did an amazing job of improving Bowdoin's image. He exercised high standards and got the word out that Bowdoin was improving itself rapidly," in effect creating

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Dudley Coe considers limited weekend hours

by Chris Marotta
ORIENT STAFF

With the flu, mono, and fuzzy memories of the Saturday night before abounding at Bowdoin, some students are questioning why the health center is closed during the weekends. Dudley Coe Health Center is currently closed from 5 p.m. on Friday until the following Monday morning.

"Health problems don't stop just because the Dudley Coe Health Center is closed," Lindsay Bruett '09 said.

"I think it's a legitimate issue that

women don't have access to Plan B [on the weekends]," said Maine Hall Head Proctor Joel Presti '06. Plan B is emergency contraception available to female students through the health center.

Many students have been asking officials why the health center is closed during what may be the most active time of the week.

"Lately there has been a lot of interest expressed by students," said Associate Dean of Student Affairs Tim Foster.

In the past, student health care

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John Richardson
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