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Ensler's 'Monologues' brings V-Day cause to Bowdoin



Drew Fulton, The Bowdoin Orient

Sophia Seifert '09 and the cast of "The Vagina Monologues" work to raise awareness about sexual violence against women worldwide at Bowdoin's annual production of Eva Ensler's play. See article, page 7.

College admits new dean of admissions

William M. Shain's application to become the new dean of admissions and financial aid has been placed in the "yes" pile, the College announced this week. He will begin July 1.

"I don't come in with an agenda that I will impose," Shain said in a phone interview from his office in Tennessee when asked if he plans any significant changes in Bowdoin's admissions philosophy.

Shain said his "commitment to diversity is profound" and that he would not come to a college that did not share that commitment.

The decision comes after a long search process by a committee of members from the College community. Shain, now the dean of undergraduate admissions at Vanderbilt University, will replace the current dean of admissions at Bowdoin, Dick Steele.

"My wife and I are very pleased," said Shain. He said he is "very much looking forward to coming to Bowdoin" and working with the admissions staff.

President Barry Mills announced the selection of Shain to the campus Wednesday in an email to all students and faculty, noting that "Bill's admissions career spans four decades." Shain, a graduate of Princeton University and Columbia Law, has served as a regional director in Princeton's admissions office, as dean of admissions at Macalaster College for 17 years, and as dean at Vanderbilt since 1998.

In the email, Mills said, "[Shain] is committed to liberal arts education, to providing opportunity through financial aid, and has a proven track record of building and sustaining regional, racial, socioeconomic, and other

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Bush budget proposal would cut student aid

by Adam Kommel
ORIENT STAFF

President George W. Bush's budget request for the 2007 fiscal year includes a plan to eliminate the Perkins Loan Program.

The Perkins Loan Program provides needy students with loans at a fixed interest rate of 5 percent that only takes effect after the student graduates. Without the loans, students would likely turn to more expensive Stafford Loans, credit cards, and banks.

Bush made a similar attempt last year, but Congress rejected it.

"If Perkins was saved in the last budget, it will be saved again," Director of Student Aid Stephen Joyce predicted.

In addition, Bush's budget would keep the maximum Pell Grant at \$4,050, even though the program's budget has a current surplus of \$273 million.

"He's eliminating a subsidized loan source that is very useful, especially for Bowdoin students," Joyce said.

Students who are currently using Perkins would not be required to pay back their loans faster than normal, but would not be able to take out any future loans.

Bush's budget would also elimi-

nate Upward Bound and Talent Search, two central components of the TRIO program. Bowdoin utilizes Upward Bound to attract low-income students from 18 Maine high schools.

"Under the plan, over 450,000 low-income and first generation high school students across the country will lose critical support for college. Without Upward Bound and Talent Search, 91 percent of those students are not likely to go on and earn degrees," noted Bridget Mullen, Bowdoin's director of Upward Bound. "With TRIO, they're four times more likely to attain a bachelor's degree by age 25."

"Dismantling TRIO programs, particularly in this economy where a post-secondary education is so critical to moving out of poverty, is simply short-sighted," she said. "The good news is that TRIO programs have enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress. I'm hopeful that Congress will once again respond to the calls from their many constituents who understand the importance of TRIO."

The 2007 federal fiscal year begins October 1, so a budget must be approved before then. If not, a temporary budget would be extrapolated from the 2006 budget until a settlement is reached.

Salman Rushdie to speak today

College heightens security for the event

by Chris Marotta
ORIENT STAFF

Today's Common Hour speaker, renowned and controversial author of "Midnight's Children" and "The Satanic Verses," Salman Rushdie, has had a death threat out on him since February 14, 1989. The threat was renewed on its anniversary in 2005. The fatwa, or sentence of death, was issued by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, then leader of Iran.

The fatwa reads, "I would like to inform all intrepid Muslims in the world that the author of the book entitled 'The Satanic Verses,' which has been compiled, printed, and published in opposition to Islam, the Prophet, and the Qur'an, as well as those publishers who were aware of its contents, have been sentenced to death. I call on all zealous Muslims to execute them quickly, wherever they find them, so that no one will dare insult the Islamic sanctities. Whoever is killed on this path will be regarded as a martyr, God willing."

With a fatwa on Rushdie's head,

the Department of Security has also taken a unique focus on this Common Hour.

"We will be prepared if something unusual happens," Director of Safety and Security Randy Nichols said.

"We've been in touch with Salmon Rushdie's staff."

Rushdie will also "have some accompaniment here," according to Nichols. Despite these extra security concerns, both Bowdoin Security and the events department have been

trying to keep a normal environment surrounding the event.

"It will be as much a normal Common Hour event as possible," Nichols said.

"Security will not be evident to the casual attendee. We will have some uniformed presence and some un-uniformed presence," he said.

Many students have expressed frustration at their inability to find

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Drew Fulton, The Bowdoin Orient

Hopefuls wait in line at Smith Union on February 10 for a ticket to Salman Rushdie's Common Hour lecture. Tickets were gone within two hours.

Abroad apps sway toward spring

by Anne Riley
ORIENT STAFF

The Class of 2008 has just submitted its study abroad applications, and with 50 more students requesting permission to study away in the upcoming spring than in the fall, the Off-Campus Study (OCS) Office is scrambling to persuade applicants to change their minds and even out the numbers.

"We ask students in the application why they want to study in the spring or the fall," Director of Off-Campus Study Stephen Hall said. "The students have nearly all addressed that

question, so we're looking for students who don't seem to have a strong need for the spring over the fall."

"We've asked for volunteers [to switch to the fall semester], but we've only received one student," Hall said.

This trend toward more students wanting to study away in the spring than the fall has been common at Bowdoin for years and only with the Class of 2007 did the College send more students away in the fall than the spring. This year, 41 more students went abroad in the fall, creating sizeable housing strains on the Department of Residential Life.

Residential Life does not yet know how next year's housing situation will be affected by the Class of 2008's study abroad plans.

"As the application process is just wrapping up for study away, it's too soon for me to tell yet how this will impact residential life for next year," Director of Residential Life Kimberly Pacelli said.

"It actually imposes quite a strain on the College to have a disproportionate number of students on campus in the spring and fall," Hall said in a previous interview with the Orient in September.

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INSIDE



Sports

Women's basketball defeated Tufts 52-41 at the first round of NESCACs.

The team looks to dominate Wesleyan at tomorrow's semi-finals.

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