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BOWDOIN VOTES 2006



Tommy Wilcox, The Bowdoin Orient

Students watch live election results in Hubbard Hall's Shannon Room on Tuesday night. The Department of Government sponsored a "war room" where students and faculty tracked up-to-the-minute returns.

Hundreds cast Maine ballots

by Nat Herz
ORIENT STAFF

At least 400 Bowdoin students turned out across the state to vote on both state and local issues on Tuesday, according to an estimate by the Bowdoin College Democrats (BCD).

According to Charlie Ticotsky, co-president of the BCD, his organization transported around 200 students to the polls, and he estimated that 200 others voted on their own in the area.

Charlie Priest, a Democrat who

MORE BOWDOIN VOTES 2006

ABSTAINING STUDENTS: The Orient checks in with students who chose not to participate on Tuesday. **Page 3.**

FACULTY REACT: Two Bowdoin political scientists provide insight and analysis on Tuesday's results. **Opinion, page 15.**

was elected to Maine's House of Representatives in the 63rd District, of which Brunswick is a part, said that it was "terrific" that Bowdoin students are voting in local elections. He also said that he thought they were well-educat-

ed about issues and candidates.

"I think most Bowdoin students are serious about elections and want to find out what the issues are," he said.

Assistant Professor of Government Michael Franz, who teaches the course Campaigns and Elections, said that Bowdoin students were thoughtful about the way they approached voting.

"I think they pay attention to the issues," Franz said. "I think they're a fairly informed electorate. They do

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'NESCAC rash' leaves cross-country scratching

Eight Bowdoin runners treated for swimmer's itch after championship

by Gemma Leghorn
ORIENT STAFF

After running through thigh-deep water, torrential rain, and 50 mph winds at Connecticut College's NESCAC championship race, cross-country runners would never have guessed as they crossed the finish line that their worst problem was yet to come.

Twenty-four hours later, many of Bowdoin's men and women cross-country runners, as well as runners from all the other schools attending the October 27 meet, came down with a severe and painful rash, now

notoriously known as the "NESCAC rash."

Though initially some theories proposed that the rash was caused by jellyfish, Connecticut College has determined that the rash was caused by a parasite in a swamp on the course. When these parasites, called cercariae, are present in water, they can cause a skin reaction that is commonly known as "swimmer's itch."

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the rash is an immune reaction to the parasite, which cannot grow inside humans.

Though Connecticut College has been using the same cross-country course for about 20 years, this is the first time that students have acquired

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INSIDE



Features

Two students are ready to respond to local fires at a moment's notice.

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Campaign aims for \$250 million

The Bowdoin Campaign begins at Kennedy Library in Boston on Friday

by Beth Kowitt
and Bobby Guerette

ORIENT STAFF

The College is scheduled to formally launch its \$250 million capital campaign in Boston on Friday. Officials believe The Bowdoin Campaign will be the largest fundraising drive in Maine history.

William Torrey, senior vice president for planning and administration and chief development officer, said that Bowdoin is already "more than halfway there" to reaching the \$250 million goal.

"You want at least 40 percent of the goal committed before you go public," Torrey said. "Our hope was 40 to 45 percent, so we're pleased where we are right now."

The exact amount raised to date will be announced at the kickoff at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum on Friday evening.

"I want to save it to surprise people," he said.

The College is looking to raise \$76,550,000 for financial aid, which Torrey said is "the hallmark of Bowdoin fundraising."

"Financial aid resounds more than any other single goal," he said, but noted that the categories to which donors allocate their money "all depends on the donor and what their

COUNTDOWN TO LAUNCH

The College will officially launch its new capital campaign on Friday. Top priorities for The Bowdoin Campaign are:

- Financial aid: \$76,550,000
- Academic affairs: \$69,500,000
- Student affairs: \$32,750,000
- Other building projects: \$28,100,000
- Operating budget: \$43,100,000

TRUSTEES TO CONVENE: The Board of Trustees is meeting in Boston this weekend and will discuss Darfur. **Page 2.**

ALMA MATER REMIX: A remixed alma mater will premiere at the campaign's launch on Friday. **A&E, Page 9.**

NEXT WEEK: Orient reporters travel to Boston to cover the capital campaign launch. **Full coverage next week.**

interests are."

The College hopes to raise about \$70 million for academic affairs, including funding for 12 new faculty positions. Torrey said donors have already committed funds for six of those positions.

The campaign also includes approximately \$33 million for student affairs line items, including a new Center for the Common Good program and a new hockey rink. Other priority areas include funding for some building projects currently in progress, and operating budget support.

Torrey said that around 530 people will be at the launch, including

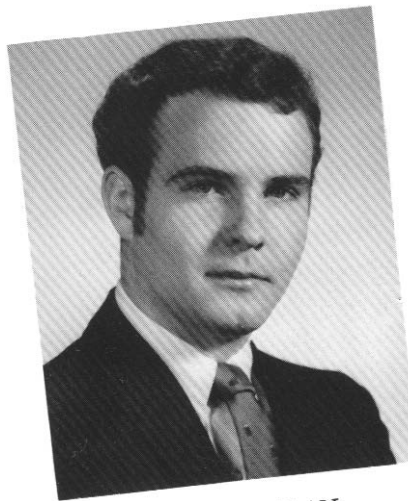
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FEATURE PROFILE: PART ONE

THE MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Dick Mersereau has helped drive Bowdoin's evolution over four decades.

BY JOSHUA MILLER
ORIENT STAFF



RICHARD ALAN MERSEREAU
Hamilton, Mass.
Chi Psi
Government

Secretary of the College Richard "Mers" Mersereau '69 has been at Bowdoin for a long time. Starting as a student and continuing as an administrator, career counselor, and coach, he has been here, with the exception of four months in the military and a year at graduate school at Wesleyan, for more than 40 years.

Mers, the nickname he goes by, has seen enormous change during his time at Bowdoin. He has seen the College's recent history and, almost always behind the scenes, has had a hand in shaping the institution Bowdoin is today—and the place Bowdoin will be tomorrow.

This two-part profile of Mers will follow his

career at the College—from an assistant director of admissions, to assistant director of the senior center, to director of summer programs, to director of communications, to an executive assistant to the president, to his current position as secretary of the College—and, in doing so, take an in-depth look Bowdoin since 1965.

"In some ways, Mers is the glue of the Bowdoin community," President Barry Mills said. "I think trustees see him in that way, and alumni view him in that way as well."

As secretary of the College, Mers works with the Board of Trustees, helping to keep board members up to date about issues on-campus and providing

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