



# THE BOWDOIN

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## Medical coverage revamped

by Joshua Miller  
ORIENT STAFF

Bowdoin's student health insurance program faces drastic changes in the near future.

Beginning in the 2005-2006 academic year, students who can prove they are covered by insurance that the College considers adequate will be able to "'opt-out' of the Bowdoin plan," according to a statement from the Office of Communications and Public Affairs released Thursday.

Students who do not have the required coverage will have to buy one of the two policies Bowdoin will offer. The first has a coverage cap of \$50,000, while the other has a coverage cap of \$250,000.

The Office of the Dean of Students Affairs is not disclosing the yearly fee of either plan.

The Student Aid Office will provide assistance to those required to buy an insurance plan but unable to afford it.

The new plan differs significantly from the College's current requirement that all students, regardless of their personal health coverage, must enroll in Bowdoin's health plan and pay a "health fee" on top of tuition. This year the fee was \$357, insuring

## V-Day arouses awareness



Karsten Moran, *Bowdoin Orient*

Alison Driver '08 performs in the opening of the *Vagina Monologues*, which is sponsored by V-Day. The show continues tonight and tomorrow evening. Tickets are available at the Smith Union Info Desk. See story, page 10.

all students for medical costs of up to \$10,000.

Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs Tim Foster estimates that the change in policy will allow the 65 to

70 percent of students with personal coverage deemed sufficient by Bowdoin to forgo paying the cur-

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## Influenza outbreak plagues students

As Dudley Coe reports  
hundreds of cases,  
College encourages rest

by Krystal Barker  
ORIENT STAFF

Approximately 300 students have reported contracting the flu during the past two weeks, according to the Dudley Coe Health Center. However, officials say that the worst may be over.

"It does seem to be waning this week," said College Physician Dr. Jeff Benson.

Students have missed classes due to the flu. Professor Allen Springer, chair of the Government department, said many absences have occurred during the last couple of weeks.

Many faculty members have also caught the flu.

"I know several members of the department have had it and at least one has had to miss classes," Springer said.

Because students and faculty members can miss valuable class time due to being ill, these individuals have to judge the number of classes they can afford to miss.

"Obviously it's always better for students and teachers not to miss class, but it's also a judgment call," Springer said. "I know faculty really

don't like to miss class, but there are times when it is virtually impossible to lecture or your coughing can be so annoying and distracting not that much gets accomplished."

If a professor misses class due to illness, it is up to that faculty member to determine how to make up for lost class time. Similarly, students who miss classes should be prepared to make up missed assignments.

Dean of Student Affairs Craig Bradley noted that students can visit their dean to help them find ways to make up the work more quickly.

Benson recommended for students to stay in bed to rest if they have the flu. This not only increases the speed of recovery for the student, but it also helps reduce the likelihood of that person's spreading the flu to other people on campus.

Bradley concurred.

"If a student is not well, she or he should take the time it takes to get well. That may mean missing class," said Bradley.

"The other concern, of course, is that the flu is contagious, so from a public health perspective the less exposure an infected person has with groups of people, the healthier the population as a whole will be," he said.

Benson noted that people can

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## Women's basketball to welcome tourney

Third-ranked Bears hope to best the Bantams at home tomorrow

by Carolyn Dion  
STAFF WRITER

For the fourth consecutive year, the Bowdoin Women's Basketball Team will play host to the NESCAC Championship tournament after its third-straight undefeated conference season.

With a 21-2 record, Bowdoin finished the regular season as the third-ranked Division III team. In the first round of the conference tournament, Bowdoin will face the eighth-seeded Trinity on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale at the information desk and are free with a Bowdoin ID.

In the final regular season game of the season, Bowdoin triumphed over Maine Maritime 58-46 on Wednesday

in Morrell Gymnasium. Although the Mariners are not NESCAC rivals, they boasted an impressive 19-3 record.

"It was a physical game, but we managed to dominate it," said sophomore Julia Loonin, who left the bench to start against the Mariners in her first game of the season. "They are a young team, but in a couple years we might really see progress."

Bowdoin managed to out-manuever and out-shoot the Mariners. Despite a scoring drought in the first few minutes, the first and only tie of the game was at 12:58 (8-8).

The early challenge by the Mariners was held by Michelle Gott, who scored 13 of the team's 18 first-half points. By the end of the game she racked up an impressive 20 points and three triples.

In the last three minutes of the half, Bowdoin scored six points

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## Foreign applications plunge

Fewer international students apply to Bowdoin, grad schools

Brunswick, Maine may not be as appealing for foreign students—and it's not because of the weather.

According to the Office of Admissions, 18 percent fewer foreign students have applied to Bowdoin in the past two years. While foreign students offered 581 applications for the Class of 2007, those trying to enter the Class of 2009 have offered only 476. The two-year decrease in international applications contrasts with the five-percent growth each year in domestic applications.

The Office of Admissions cited numerous reasons for the recent decrease in foreign applications.

"Quite frankly, who's in the White House right now may be detrimental," Hazlett said. "There has been a significant decrease during Bush's term in H1B work permits, which allow foreigners who have graduated from American colleges to work here."

The process of obtaining a student visa has also become increasingly expensive and time-consuming, discouraging potential applicants from even considering schools like Bowdoin. Hazlett said that applying for an F1-Student Visa is a lengthy and often aggravating process that



Hans Law, *Bowdoin Orient*

Jessy Gharthour '07 and Eddie Kim '07 advertise the Middle East Students Association at a table in Smith Union.

requires Bowdoin sponsorship, evidence from the U.S. consulate indicating the student can support him or herself, multiple interviews, and fees that range from 50 to 200 dollars.

"Sometimes they have to renew them every year," she said.

Beyond political agendas and bureaucratic paperwork, Abhijeet "Sunny" Jha '08, a native of Nepal, said that Bowdoin's international application pool may be suffering due to purely economic reasons.

"Financial aid is extremely important, but Bowdoin is not need-blind with international admissions," Jha said.

He also said that American and

foreign students are not treated equally because an expected summer earnings contribution complicates the timing of traveling.

"It cuts out all chances for international students to go home during the summer because it's not possible to earn that much back home," he said. "It also forces international students to stay on campus all the time, as visa status does not allow them to work off campus."

Moreover, foreign students may overlook Bowdoin as an option because of what Sunay said is frequent reliance on Internet rankings. Bowdoin may rank second in quality

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