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BOWDOIN VOTES 2006



Photo illustration by Tommy Wilcox, The Bowdoin Orient

With taxing and spending limitations under consideration and a proposal on the table that would consolidate town K-5 facilities, schools like Longfellow, above, may face changes in the near future.

Schools at stake?

TABOR would affect taxes, town services

by Nat Herz
ORIENT STAFF

Student groups are gearing up for what could be a close vote on the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR), a referendum issue on the November 7 ballot.

If approved, the referendum would set strict limits on tax and spending increases at the municipal level that could only be waived with a two-thirds city or town council majority, and then by a simple majority of the public. The language of TABOR also indicates that the state would be bound by these limits, though an analysis by the attorney general has determined that it does not apply at this level.

Proponents of the referendum say that if passed, it would curb rampant taxation in a state

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School board to face elementary questions

by Steve Kolowich
ORIENT STAFF

While the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) is getting the majority of the attention on the Bowdoin campus, a race for at-large school board representative between incumbent Malcolm Andrews and challenger Kathy Thorson highlights an issue that could have a similarly significant effect on local public schools.

Last November, Brunswick Superintendent of Schools James Ashe proposed a plan that would close Longfellow School and Hawthorne School, both local K-5 (kindergarten through fifth grade) elementary schools, and eliminate K-5 schools from the Brunswick system altogether.

Under Ashe's proposal, Brunswick kindergarten, first grade, and second grade students

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MORE: FOR A COMPLETE VOTER'S GUIDE OUTLINING VOTING RULES AND PROCEDURES, SEE PAGE 5

Misconduct policy in final stages

by Mary Helen Miller
and Bobby Guerette
ORIENT STAFF

Bowdoin is taking measures to adopt a new sexual assault and misconduct policy for students. The policy creates a refined definition of consent, designates procedures for a non-college third-party to investigate allegations, and differentiates between sexual assault and misconduct allegations.

Associate Dean of Student Affairs Mary Pat McMahon said the proposed policy is more comprehensive than current rules and "anticipates the questions people might have."

The 14-page policy, which was adapted from the policy used by the University of Virginia, is currently

open to the public for review.

"We're in the phase where we're asking for feedback from people," McMahon said.

Under the policy, allegations may be considered a case of sexual assault or sexual misconduct. With the misconduct standard, the alleged assailant would fail to gain "effective consent" but would have not intended to harm the victim.

The policy holds that consent consists of "words or actions that show a voluntary agreement to engage in mutually agreed-upon sexual activity."

"The definition of consent, to my mind, is vital," McMahon said. McMahon led the creation of the policy for the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs.

The policy does not detail specific words or actions that would indicate consent. If a student opts for a formal hearing with the Sexual Assault and Misconduct Board, the board will determine whether consent was given.

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Cultural groups may be moved

Some students irked by potential relocation from Boody-Johnson House

by Will Jacob
ORIENT STAFF

There is a plaque in Boody-Johnson House recognizing the Abromson family's provision of "funds for the promotion of ethnic, cultural and religious understanding in this house." However, the 2007-08 academic year may find this plaque, along with the College's cultural student groups, inhabiting 30 College St. instead.

Currently, 18 multicultural student groups on campus have access to Johnson House for meetings, club events, and gatherings. Three students live in the building as club representatives, and Hillel, Latin American Student Organization (LASO), Asian Students Association (ASA), and Korean Students Association (KASA) maintain in-house offices.

Bowdoin officials and student members of the affected multicultural organizations attended a meeting about a potential move on Friday, October 27. Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs Margaret Hazlett, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Director of Multicultural Student Programs Wil Smith, and Director of First Year Student Programs Stacey Jones explained the proposed change of location and sought student input.

Currently it is unclear how the multicultural groups would share 30 College St., whether any students would live there, or if it would be office or programming space.

BOODY SHAKE-UP

Currently, Johnson House is a space for different cultural student groups.

- Last Friday, Bowdoin officials held a meeting to discuss the future of Johnson House, announcing a plan to move these groups to 30 College St.
- According to Dean of Student Affairs Tim Foster, moving these student groups from Johnson House would free up space that could be used for academic departments and programs.
- Some students open to a move, and others disheartened by lack of input in the decision-making process.

"I think relocating all these functions closer to the center of campus in a multicultural/multifaith house would give us the opportunity to create a more dynamic living and meeting area in a space that could more naturally connect students, faculty and staff," said Dean of Student Affairs Tim Foster in an email.

"This move would also open up Johnson-Boody for academic program use. What that use would be is not clear but there are all kinds of space challenges for academic departments that could potentially be addressed," he said.

Foster said the goal of the meeting was to explain the College's commitment to its students and dedication to make the switch next year.

"There are still a number of important issues to work through, but if we are able to move ahead, we have resources we can use to make some simple renovations to 30 College St. These might include

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Power outage puts prospectives in dark

by Chris Marotta
STAFF WRITER

Prospective students in town for the Bowdoin Invitational last weekend got a sense of what a Maine winters looks like, as a power outage left the campus dark early in the afternoon.

At approximately 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, campus security officer Amy Boyd noticed that Security had ceased receiving communications from the Smith House fire and emergency systems.

Several minutes later, the south

side of campus lost power, touching off an almost campus-wide power outage that left students and tens of thousands of other Brunswick residents in the dark.

Bowdoin responded promptly to the outage. With more than 15 buildings equipped with generators, much of Bowdoin life was able to continue as normal.

Running on generator power, dinner at Thorne Hall continued as usual. In addition to dinner, Thorne also was able to serve Super Snack

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Runner Phil Shaw '08 competes in 100-mile ultra-marathons.

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A & E

The Orient previews the upcoming play, 'The Skin of Our Teeth.'

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