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Admins Facebook the facts

by Steve Kolowich
ORIENT STAFF

Early last summer, first-year Jessica Song created a group on Facebook called “First Night Party!!” She got the idea from friends who had made a similar group at another college and thought that it would be fun to make one for the Bowdoin network.

To Song’s surprise, her new classmates, whom she had never met, began joining the group in droves. Before long, “First Night Party!!” had over 100 members in the Class of 2010. A number of them were also posting on the group’s message board.

When she arrived on campus this fall, Song said that students recognized her as the group’s creator. At a dorm meeting during Orientation, the proctors in Winthrop Hall teased her about the group.

“I didn’t think that it would turn into such a big deal,” she said.

The same might be said of Facebook itself. Since it was

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Laffey presents views in 1980s columns

In undergraduate op-ed, Senate candidate calls Social Security ‘immoral’

by Bobby Guerette
ORIENT STAFF

Newspaper columns that Stephen Laffey ’84 wrote during his studies at Bowdoin could play a role in his highly contested Republican primary Senate race against incumbent Lincoln Chaffee in Rhode Island.

Late last month, the Providence Journal published excerpts of columns about homosexuality that Laffey wrote for the Bowdoin Patriot, the College Republicans’ campus newspaper. In a search of its own archives, the Orient found that Laffey was vocal about politics and active in student government. In one op-ed published during his senior year, he described Social Security, foreign aid, and gun control laws as “immoral.”

In that November 1983 column, after arguing that individuals should be able to engage in voluntary transactions, Laffey wrote, “For this reason I deplore welfare programs, foreign aid, Social Security and a host of other government programs, not for their inherent inefficiencies (of which there are plenty) but because they are immoral.

“Immoral because they deny individual rights,” he continued. “The U.S. government, at the implicit point of a gun, orders Americans to give up part of their money so they can transfer it to other people.”

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Annual lobster run leaves runners red



Tommy Wilcox, The Bowdoin Orient

Ross Jacobs ’10 crosses the finish line of the lobster run at Bowdoin’s annual lobster bake. The race, a two-mile trek through the Farley fields, was won by Kate Knowles ’10 and Thompson Ogilvie ’10.

Brunswick PD plans underage sting ops

Police department will hire students to solicit outside local stores

by Joshua Miller
ORIENT STAFF

Next time an innocent-looking teen standing by a supermarket entrance asks you to buy them a six-pack of beer, think before you answer. They might be on the payroll of the Brunswick Police Department (BPD) and, if you answer yes, you might be going to jail.

Early this summer, encouraged by the Office of the Maine Attorney General, the BPD began engaging in undercover sting operations aimed at catching adults willing to buy alcohol for people under the age of 21 in association with other regional law enforcement agencies. After a short hiatus, these operations are recommencing.

According to Brunswick Community Police Officer Terry Goan, the BPD “is going to kind of continue on [with the program] this fall, with Bowdoin students being back.”

With these stings, “the idea is to combat the furnishing of alcohol to

people who are underage,” Director of Safety and Security Randy Nichols explained. “I think college campuses should expect to be targeted by these operations.”

Nichols, who served as an officer in the Maine State Police for 27 years, assured students that Bowdoin Security had no intention of engaging in undercover stings to catch alcohol violations.

“Our job here is to prevent alcohol violations from taking place,” Nichols said. “We have a positive relationship with the student body and we value that and it’s critical to our overall safety to have that,” he added.

In an interview with the Orient, Goan explained how the sting operations work. “What we have been doing is getting a decoy—over the summer it has been a female—approaching people who appear to be over 21 at certain stores and basically asking ‘Hey, uh, I’m not old enough [to buy alcohol], can you go in and get me some flavors of whatever.’”

So far, the operation has targeted 16 people, five of whom agreed to

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CHANGING FACES: 3 DEANS, 3 WEEKS

Dean Foster: Collaboration is key

by Beth Kowitt
and Bobby Guerette
ORIENT STAFF

Though he may be taking over the reins of the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs, Tim Foster is ready to reach out beyond his department.

In laying out his plans and goals for the semester and beyond, Foster stressed the need to look across departments, especially on issues like diversity that affect all aspects of the College.

“In order for us to move to the next place, we’re not going to be able to do things as the division of student affairs or the division of academic affairs,” Foster said. “We’re

going to have to collaborate together.”

Foster, who was previously the senior associate dean for student affairs, plans to apply this approach to the issues and challenges that face his division.

“We’re not going to do something in isolation because it just won’t build the traction that’s necessary, and we need to do it in an intentional way,” Foster said. “People are going to support what they help to create.”

While Foster did not point to a No. 1 challenge, he did say that one of his major concerns was the “magnitude and trends” of alcohol use on campus, in particular the number of

ABOUT THIS SERIES

All three top dean positions received new occupants this summer. Each week, the Orient will sit down with a dean and learn about his or her plans to leave a mark at Bowdoin.

students of students who are binge drinking and drinking with the intention of getting drunk, as well as the percentage of students who are playing drinking games.

According to results from last spring’s student health survey, 36.4 percent of students binge

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Mills readies Darfur policy recommendation

by Nat Herz
ORIENT STAFF

President Barry Mills plans to make public his recommendations on Bowdoin’s investment policy regarding the humanitarian crisis in Darfur within the next two weeks.

Last February, Mills created a nine-member advisory committee to determine an appropriate college response to the crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan. After a period of investigation, the committee issued its recommendations in a letter to Mills and the Board of Trustees in May.

“Over the summer I spent a good deal of time investigating what other colleges have done that are thinking about the problem,” Mills said. “I am working and nearly done with

coming to my conclusions of what I would recommend [to the trustees].”

Committee chair Gerald Chertavian ’87 said that the committee’s job was to provide Mills with recommendations, and that Mills would later draft his own proposal to be presented to the trustees.

“We were the first step in the process of gathering information

from the students, faculty, and staff and trying to assess the situation,” said Chertavian.

“We recommended something with the president and then discussed that with the trustees. The next recommendation will come from the president.”

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A & E

Kerry Burke ’84 of Bravo’s ‘Tabloid Wars’ gives the Orient the inside scoop
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