



THE BOWDOIN

Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine
The Oldest Continuously Published College Weekly in the U.S.

ORIENT

April 1, 2005
Volume CXXXIV, Number 18

1st CLASS
U.S. MAIL
Postage PAID
Bowdoin College

College admits next class

by Joshua Miller
ORIENT STAFF

After receiving the largest number of applications in the history of the College—5,026—and making some tough decisions, Bowdoin has sent out acceptance letters to prospective members of the class of 2009. They are expected to arrive on Monday.

The students chosen by the admissions committee are a diverse group of young men and women. They hail from all states except North Dakota. A particularly large number of Mainers and a record number of Californians were accepted this year along with fewer Massachusetts residents than usual.

In terms of first-year class size, “there is a little creep [upwards]” this year, with an expected class size of 480, Dean of Admissions Jim Miller said. He expects classes in the following years to be slightly smaller.

Thirty percent of the admits for the Class of 2009 are students of color. Many different socio-economic backgrounds are represented as well.

According to Miller, all admits share strong academic qualities despite their disparate and varied back-

Staying out of the gutter



Mike Ardolino, *Bowdoin Orient*

There are only a few more Thursdays for bowling before the Class of 2005 hopes for a strike in the game of life.

grounds. Students’ academic qualities “are judged holistically,” Miller said. Continuing Bowdoin’s 35-year-

Please see ADMISSIONS, page 2

Howard leaves for love

Student Activities Director will move to Chicago’s Northwestern University

by Kira Chappelle
ORIENT STAFF

The College will lose a key community member this year in Burgwell “Burgie” Howard, Director of Smith Union and Student Activities, and Assistant Dean of Student Affairs.

After eight years at Bowdoin, Howard will be taking a job at Northwestern University in Chicago as Special Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs beginning this summer. Howard is going to Northwestern to be with his fiancée, Jennifer Richeson, who recently accepted a tenured professor position at Northwestern.

“It’s a chance for us to start a life together,” Howard said.

Although Howard’s new position at Northwestern University is still being formulated, his responsibili-

ties will include alumni relations and tending to the large off-campus population.

“It’s sort of a catch-all, troubleshooting position,” Howard said.

Howard’s position at Bowdoin has included a broad variety of responsibilities. In addition to managing Smith Union, he oversees the hundreds of student organizations and clubs on campus.

The College is currently in the process of searching for Howard’s replacement.

“I expect we’ll be interviewing candidates on campus later in April,” said Dean of Student Affairs Craig Bradley, “and I aim to name Burgie’s successor by Commencement.”

“What brought me to Bowdoin was a chance to change and improve an already great school,” Howard said. “My understanding of Bowdoin before I arrived was that it was a quiet liberal arts institution, mostly dominated by frats...my job was to improve and enhance the out-of-

Please see HOWARD, page 2

Upward Bound wins one round

by James D. Baumberger
ORIENT STAFF

The fight to save Upward Bound and other federal education programs slated for elimination in President Bush’s proposed budget has cleared an initial obstacle in the U.S. Senate. The body passed an amended version of the 2006 federal budget that included immediate increases in Pell grants and restored funding for the TRIO programs, of

which Upward Bound is a part.

The budget bill as introduced in the Senate mirrored cuts proposed earlier in the year by President Bush. Before the Senate passed the legislation, senators successfully added an amendment sponsored by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), which restored many of the proposed education cuts.

Senator Susan Collins (R-Maine) supported Kennedy’s amendment.

“Pell grants truly make the differ-

ence in whether students have access to higher education, and a chance to participate fully in the American dream,” Collins told the Orient. “The amendment also provides funding for TRIO, Perkins Vocational Education, and GEAR UP, all programs which have long been a priority of mine.”

Collins and fellow Maine senator Olympia Snowe were among six

Please see UPWARD, page 2

Reporter brings poverty home

Prize-winning journalist shares stories from her seven month investigation

Barbara Walsh sat in the bathtub as she interviewed Brittany, a 12-year-old girl who lived with her mom and sister in a Portland motel room.

As she interacted with her Polly Pocket dolls, Brittany told Walsh that sometimes, she plays in the bathroom. At other times, she goes in there to read. Or she brings in her pillow and takes a nap. She has nowhere else to go.

“That bathroom was her quiet little space,” Walsh told a crowd of 30 at MacMillian House on Wednesday. Walsh, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter, came to the College to talk about her *Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram* five-day series “Castaway Children: The Hidden Faces of Poverty” as part of kNow Poverty Week.



Hans Law, *Bowdoin Orient*

Barbara Walsh shows a page from her five-part newspaper series about Maine children living in poverty. Her talk was part of kNow Poverty Week, which aimed to raise awareness about poverty in the state.

For seven months, Walsh traveled the state, spoke to more than 700 people, and reviewed over 4,000 pages of documents. Her mission: find and tell the stories of children whose families were struggling to make ends meet.

“If you talk about poverty just

through numbers, no one cares,” she said. Instead, she said, we need stories. “That’s the only way anyone cares.”

Walsh discovered the story of Brittany, whose only refuge was the

Please see POVERTY, page 3

INSIDE



Features
Students help
and learn
on Spring Break
Page 4