



THE BOWDOIN

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

ORIENT

October 22, 2004
Volume CXXXIV, Number 6

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

Mills tackles tax initiative at Chapel ceremony

President Barry Mills announced his opposition to Maine's Question 1, the "Palesky tax cap," as part of his remarks at the rededication of the Bowdoin Chapel last night. The event also included a showcasing of the Chapel's organ and a reflection from Associate Professor of Art History Susan Wegner.

The rededication ceremony was attended by over 200 students, faculty, and alumni on hand for Homecoming events this weekend.

"History tells us many important lessons were learned here," Mills said of the Chapel, recalling a time when students would gather at the

Please see CHAPEL, page 2

Bears take on the high seas



Karsten Moran, *Bowdoin Orient*

Samantha Bilbao '07 adjusts her sail during team practice on a chilly fall afternoon Tuesday.

Students could face confusion at polls

away. Party lawyers will also be stationed at the College to provide legal assistance.

Multiple campus voting districts and misconceptions about student voting could create confusion on Election Day for many students planning to vote in their first presidential election. Town officials, college administrators, and student organizations are working to ensure that voting goes smoothly, but in the event that students have difficulties, the major political parties have attorneys in place to provide assistance.

"Given the large numbers of lawyers hired by both sides in Maine alone, we know that this is a serious issue," said Maine College Republicans Executive Director Chris Averill '06.

Maine College Democrats Co-President Alex Cornell du Houx '06 said his party plans to place student monitors at all polling places to ensure that no students are turned

In the 2000 election at least ten Bowdoin students were initially refused the right to vote by a town official. Congressman Tom Allen '67 sent an attorney to Brunswick to assist the students. Students also called on then-professor Marc Hetherington, who helped negotiate with the town.

"The students were well within the law," Hetherington said in 2000.

Barriers to student voting are a major issue nationwide. A *New York Times* editorial last month encouraged election officials and colleges to make sure that students are registered and can vote without interference. The national voting initiative Rock the Vote references Bowdoin's problems in 2000 as one example of college voter "suppression."

Please see VOTING, page 3

MTV: I want my STD

Gideon Yago talks to students about sexual health



Karsten Moran, *Bowdoin Orient*

MTV News Host Gideon Yago interviews a student for an MTV special. Yago is visiting three colleges for a show on STD and pregnancy issues.

by Stefani Duelfer
ORIENT STAFF

MTV News Host Gideon Yago and an MTV production crew visited Bowdoin Monday to film part of a new program titled "Campus Guide to Safer Sex."

Yago said he enjoys traveling to schools like Bowdoin to talk to students about important issues.

"I have always felt that I have the best job ever. It's great that MTV gives so much support to programs like this and I get to be a part of it. I really am the luckiest kid in America," Yago said in an interview with the *Orient*.

The half-hour show will cover topics including the prevention of HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, and unintended pregnancy on college campuses.

The crew met with the women's varsity soccer team, residents of the Pine Street Apartments, and Quinby

House, and a variety of student volunteers to gather student experiences, stories, and perceptions about sex at Bowdoin.

Producer and Director Cheryl Horner Sirulnick was impressed with the Bowdoin visit. "Everything has been just as we asked for; perfect even. We found a lot of students—guys and girls—who were very candid about their experiences with sex and protection," she said. The crew will also be visiting Temple University and the University of Washington in Seattle over the next month.

The show will include interviews and information gathered on the three campus visits, as well as personal stories about teen mothers and teens living with HIV and STDs.

The crew spent most of their visit doing "on the paths" interviews with student volunteers. Interviews were

Please see MTV, page 4

Question 1 would reduce taxes, services

by James D. Baumberger
ORIENT STAFF

Most Bowdoin students do not own property in Maine, but on Election Day those registered here will vote on a property tax cut proposal that may have serious ramifications for local schools and public safety services.

Question 1 on the November ballot, known as the "Palesky tax cap," is a statewide referendum to limit property taxes to one percent of the assessed value of property. Passage of the referendum would result in significant tax cuts—and budget shortfalls—for many Maine localities.

Local government property taxes are the principal source of funding for education, police, fire, and other public services. Opponents say the cap would lead to budget cuts that would seriously threaten these services.

Dean of Student Affairs Craig Bradley said that a decline in schools and local services will make it difficult for Bowdoin to attract good faculty and staff.

"We will be competing with one arm tied behind our backs," Bradley said. "It is going to be a pretty unattractive place in terms of the quality of public education and other public services."

Supporters say the cap is a necessary solution to Maine's high tax burden.

Spokesperson Jen Webber for Tax



Karsten Moran, *Bowdoin Orient*

The Brunswick Fire Department would face major cuts if Question 1 passes. The statewide referendum calls for a reduction in property taxes.

Cap YES!, the campaign organization supporting the measure, told the *Orient* that the "overwhelming tax burden turns a lot of people and businesses away from Maine." She pointed to a study that showed as a percentage of personal income, Mainers pay the highest property taxes in the nation.

Government professor Allen Springer, chair of the Brunswick School Board, agreed that Maine needs tax reform. But, he said, "this is not the way to do it."

The tax cap would result in significantly less funding for Brunswick's public schools.

A joint assessment by the Town of Brunswick and the school board showed losses of approximately \$9.5 million in yearly tax revenue due to the cap. Assuming that budget cuts would be shared equally between education and other public services, the assessment predicted a 17 percent reduction in education funding.

The assessment was a hypothetical scenario analyzing what the impact would have been had the tax cap been in place for the current fiscal year. The school administration projected a set of cuts that would like-

Please see REDUCE, page 3

INSIDE

Opinion
Spooner:
Let "freedom" ring
Page 9

Sports
Rugby shuts
out Colby
Page 13

