



THE BOWDOIN ORIENT

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Bowdoin College

Dancers float into December



Drew Fulton, *Bowdoin Orient*

Dancers perform in Thursday's December Dance Concert, which features campus and class groups. The show continues tonight and tomorrow at 8:00 p.m. in Pickard Theater. Tickets are available at the door and the Info Desk.

'Difficult semester' for BSG

by Evan Kohn
and Adam Baber
ORIENT STAFF

Bowdoin Student Government is struggling to implement its ideas and programs, is encountering difficulty in communicating with the student body, and is divided over its current state of affairs, an Orient investigation has found.

Of 25 proposals made by the winning officer candidates during campaigning last April, only six have been successfully realized, with the others either abandoned or proving more difficult to implement than initially thought.

BSG officers do point to some accomplishments, but nearly all conceded the group needs to do a better job communicating its plans and goals to students. Most officers are confident that BSG will be more visible in the second semester after spending a good deal of time on internal affairs and procedural issues during the Fall.

"It's been a difficult semester,"

President Hal Douglas '05 said. "We entered with a lot of expectations of ourselves."

Douglas mentioned as challenges working "without a paper trail" and working in an organization without an "institutional memory."

He also hinted at a disconnect between some members and the goals of the BSG. "As with any stu-

Vice President of Student Government Affairs DeRay McKesson '07 agreed that the semester has been challenging. "We're nowhere near where we need to be," he said.

"Honestly, there hasn't been a lot we've been doing except entertaining a lot of ideas."

Other BSG members had a more wholly positive view of the semester. Vice President of Student Organizations O.C. Isaac '06 admitted "things started rough," but later said he has "only positive things to say about BSG."

Vice President of Academic Affairs Timothy Ballenger '05 called the BSG a "very talented group" and singled out Douglas as an "excellent leader" who "works well with everyone."

"Everything is going extremely well," Vice President of Student Affairs Alex Cornell du Houx '06 said. "We're a little more proactive than last year."

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dent organization, I have found that you get individuals that are there not for the right reasons, which are to promote fun, represent a constituency, and to promote change," he said, adding that he felt some were on the BSG for the "name recognition" or to build a resume.

Nonetheless, he feels BSG has made a "great deal" of progress this semester, "the fruits of which," he added, "will be evident in the Spring."

Financial aid tops campaign goals

by Adam Baber
ORIENT STAFF

An expansion of the financial aid endowment tops the list of priorities in the College's recently-launched capital campaign, a move administrators say will help keep financial aid funding secure for the next five to ten years.

The current financial aid endowment stands at \$165 million, or approximately a third of Bowdoin's entire endowment of \$520 million. College officials hope that the capital campaign will bring in about \$80 million for the financial aid endowment.

In increasing the financial aid endowment, the College will ensure that it can stay need-blind in its admissions process. Bowdoin has been need-blind since the early 1990s, and trustee and campaign

Steering Committee Co-chair Deb Barker '80 said the campaign's financial aid goal is meant to continue its "long history of enabling and ensuring student access to the College through financial aid."

But remaining need-blind, Director of Student Aid Steve Joyce admitted, is a very expensive proposition.

"We have been living on the edge," Joyce said, noting that the College has just barely stayed within its financial aid budget in the past few years. He points to President Barry Mills' efforts to raise \$35 million for financial aid early in his tenure as important to maintaining the financial aid budget.

Part of the challenge is that much of what determines the demand for financial aid is beyond the College's control.

"College costs are up and the

economy is somewhat shaky," Joyce said, also pointing to potential variations in the applicant pool as an influential factor.

President Mills said he feels that it is going to continue to become harder and harder to pay for the rising cost of a college education, including people in the middle class.

Dean of Admissions Jim Miller agreed, and pointed to the changing demographics both at colleges and in the United States at large. "If you look at the changing demographics in America," he said, "in ten to 15 years we'll be drawing from a bigger pool, and that will likely be less affluent. Inevitably we're going to need more dollars."

That, coupled with the College's continued commitment to a diverse student body, will guarantee finan-

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College still committed to diversity recruitment

College drops Posse program, but will still reach out

Despite the recent decision to end its affiliation with the Boston Area Posse program, the Office of Admissions says it will continue to reach out to students from across the country with special admissions events and help from organizations nationwide.

Rather than establishing quotas for the students of varying ethnicities, the college has shifted its efforts toward recruiting students who represent all aspects of diversity, including racial, sexual, and socioeconomic factors.

"We think of diversity in the broadest sense," President Barry Mills said.

The College "resolve[d] to create opportunities for students from across America representing all aspects of the country," he said. "We are trying to get into high schools and let people know about the opportunities that Bowdoin provides, and the results show that it can be successful."

"We've had a number of programs in place to reach out to students of color and first generation college students of all ethnicities," Dean of Admissions Jim Miller said. In its efforts to recruit students from

a range of backgrounds, Bowdoin looks to programs such as Upward Bound, the Arkansas Experience, One Voice in Los Angeles, the Cathedral Scholars in Washington D.C., and the Philadelphia Futures program.

One Voice, Cathedral Scholars, Philadelphia Futures, and the Arkansas Experience work with lower-income high school students

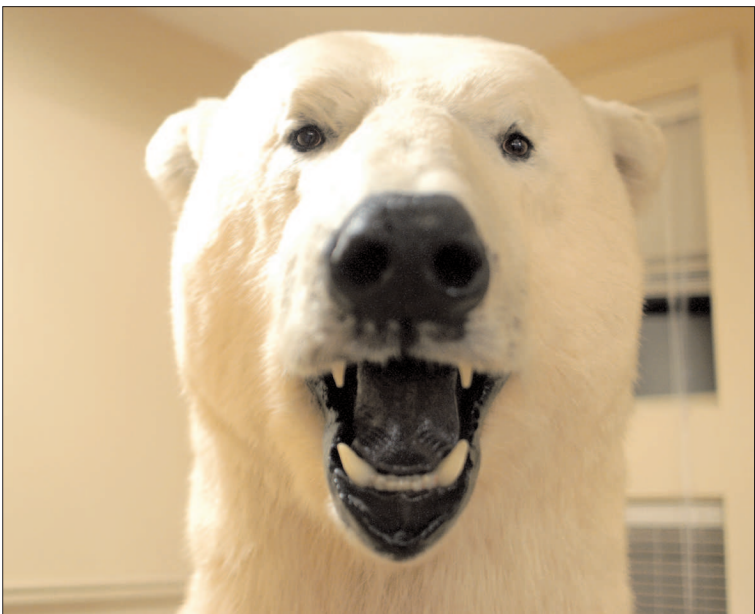
in order to prepare them for college. The Upward Bound program targets first-generation college students. These programs support students academically throughout high school and then help them to obtain scholarships at an affiliated school of their choice.

These connections "have all helped [the College] to bring talented students here who would not have ordinarily considered Bowdoin," Miller said. "They identify and support promising students that can come to Bowdoin and be successful. We've made great progress over the past five or six years in bringing different kinds of students to the campus."

The Bowdoin Invitational program in November and the Bowdoin Experience program in April are

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Scientists: Polar bears face extinction



Karsten Moran, *Bowdoin Orient*

Bowdoin's mascot could be a casualty of global warming within the century.

by Anne Riley
ORIENT STAFF

While the polar bear may seem livelier than ever at Bowdoin sporting events, the reality is that outside of Brunswick, our fluffy, white mascot is quickly going the way of the dodo bird.

The polar bear, whose natural habitat is sea-ice in the most northern regions of the globe, is quickly losing its long-time terrain due to global warming patterns.

According to the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA), if the average global temperature continues to rise at the current rate and summer sea-ice continues to disappear, the polar bear may be extinct before the end of this century.

The average global temperature has risen as much as 5.8 degrees

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