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Suspect flees from Security, local cops

by Steve Kolowich
ORIENT STAFF

A sting operation conducted by the Department of Safety and Security resulted in a car chase last week when a man suspected of theft fled from campus security and then led state and local police in a high-speed pursuit.

Last Friday, an undercover officer dressed as a student observed Matthew Lajoie, 19, a Brunswick resident, exhibiting suspicious behavior in the northwest corner of the basement of Hawthorne-Longfellow Library shortly after 1 p.m.

According to a security report, the officer heard the sound of items being placed into a backpack and the sound of a backpack being zipped. The officer moved toward the carrel where the sounds originated, and noticed that Lajoie had retreated into the stairwell.

The undercover officer used his

Polar bear stands steadfast and silent



Drew Fulton, The Bowdoin Orient

Students decked the polar bear in observance of the nationwide Day of Silence Wednesday. The day's purpose was to bring attention to the issue of harassment of queer students in schools. See news brief, page 5.

radio to notify his colleagues, who were positioned outside the library near its main entrance. Officer David Mercier confronted Lajoie as he exited

the library, and Lajoie took off running up College Street toward Maine Street.

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J-Board case highlights free speech, bias issues

Student disciplined for placing religious pamphlets in library books

by Bobby Guerette
ORIENT STAFF

A Bowdoin student's allegations of anti-Christian hostility sparked investigations into the conduct of two faculty members and one administrator. Though college officials have cleared all three staff members of any wrongdoing, the cases shed new light on the discussion about intellectual freedom and the role of religion on campus.

The story of Ryan Helminiak '05 encompasses his student disciplinary case for placing more than 1,000 religious pamphlets in library books, along with what he perceived as religious discrimination during classes taken in the fall of 2001 and spring of 2003.

Helminiak is making his full allegations public with names for the first time. His story provides an inside look at Bowdoin's student disciplinary system, which operates behind closed doors. In an op-ed submitted to the Orient, Helminiak

shared details about alleged academic bias at Bowdoin, his meetings with deans, and the disciplinary action taken against him. In order to allow officials the chance to respond, the Orient chose not to publish the piece and instead investigate the allegations. He later provided written statements to the Orient and granted an extended phone interview from his home in Pennsylvania.

Helminiak also provided waivers permitting college officials to share confidential information about his case. These waivers allowed the Orient extraordinary access to information from his student disciplinary file, along with the Judicial Board's decision for his case.

Though he said he discussed some of his allegations with students and submitted anonymous testimony to the College Republicans for submission to the Maine Legislature during consideration of an academic bias bill last year, Helminiak has a new rationale for his going public with complete details.

"Now it's more for the purpose of fighting anti-Christianity," he said.

Helminiak, a biology and history double major, completed his course-

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College continues property acquisition

by James D. Baumberger
ORIENT STAFF

College growth continues to head south. Literally.

With the recent purchase of two additional houses south of College Street, Bowdoin is continuing to slowly acquire residential property in the neighborhood that separates the College's main campus from its Farley Field House athletic complex.

Bowdoin has purchased 17 properties between Farley and College Street in the past 10 years, an Orient analysis has found.

Since the campus is bordered on three sides by residential neighborhoods, the purchase of nearby houses by the College has been a key long-term expansion strategy for decades. A campus planning study completed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM) and made public in 2004 affirmed Bowdoin's approach.

"The major emphasis or 'take away' from the SOM study was that

the campus would likely grow toward the South, in the direction of the Farley Field House," Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration and Treasurer Katy Longley told the Orient.

According to Longley, the College's most recent acquisitions, 30 Longfellow Ave. and 66 Harpswell Rd., were finalized last Friday. Longley declined to release the sale prices until trustees have been notified.

For the time being, the two houses will join the 23 other homes throughout Brunswick that Bowdoin uses to house faculty and staff. The new purchases are located in a residential zone, which limits their use to family dwellings.

With the purchase of 30 Longfellow Ave., Bowdoin has nearly completed the acquisition of a corridor down both sides of Coffin Street, which leads south from the main campus to Farley. Currently,

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EXPANSION MAP

See a map of how Bowdoin has grown Page 2



Features

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Students urge cleaner energy use

by Evan S. Kohn
ORIENT STAFF

Members of the new student group Clean Energy Now plan to present a letter to President Barry Mills and Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration and Treasurer Katy Longley today urging the College to purchase 100 percent of its electricity from clean, renewable sources of energy. Such electricity is produced by wind power, hydropower, or biomass, and not by fossil fuels that emit greenhouse gases.

As of press time, the group had also gathered over 430 signatures for a petition and it plans to soon begin a faculty and staff letter drive.

The 13 students from the new group who signed the letter—many of whom have been active with Sustainable Bowdoin and the Evergreens—wrote, "There is no better opportunity to fulfill...our commitment to the common good than through the purchase of renewable energy for the campus."

"We ask that the College commit to a purchase of 100 percent renewable energy in its coming contract, which will demonstrate its continuing commitment to environmental stewardship and social responsibility," they continued.

Ben Smith '06, a member of Clean Energy Now, said there are several ways the College can achieve the use of electricity from exclusively renewable sources of energy, one of them being buying renewable energy credits. The College could also simply switch to an entirely green source of energy for its electricity.

"It doesn't matter to us how they

do it," he said, as long as they achieve 100 percent renewable-energy electricity use.

When contacted by the Orient, Longley said she wanted to see the letter and petition before responding to the group's drive. She did not respond to questions regarding the amount of clean-energy electricity the College currently uses, when its next electricity purchase would be, the potential financial costs of buying 100 percent of the College's

electricity from renewable sources, and her views on the feasibility of the plan.

"I think we have taken many steps to be more environmentally responsible with our energy purchases and energy use at Bowdoin. But there is more to do," she said. "The challenge is balancing the environmental goals with the realities of our budget. Right now especially, we are

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Bears dominate Jeffs in home field win



Mike Ardolino, The Bowdoin Orient

Matt Chadwick '07 pushes past an opponent in Saturday's game against Amherst. Chadwick posted three goals and three assists for the Bears, securing the men's lacrosse team's 15-9 victory. See story, page 13.