



THE BOWDOIN ORIENT

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

April 8, 2005
Volume CXXXIV, Number 19

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

Community reflects on pope's passing

by Bobby Guerette
ORIENT STAFF

For today's Bowdoin students, Pope John Paul II is synonymous with Catholicism—he was the pope who had held the papacy from before their birth until only six days ago.

The pontiff was given a final goodbye early this morning in a funeral ceremony at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. But for many members of the Bowdoin community who shared their reflections with the *Orient* this week, his legacy will endure.

His power was evident to Sarah Clark '06, who was in Rome last weekend when the pope died. Clark, who is studying abroad in Denmark, had spent the previous week in the city.

"The atmosphere at the Vatican was awe-inspiring. It was amazing to see a crowd so large be so quiet and respectful," she said. "You could feel the love and respect that people had for this wonderful man."

Four million pilgrims have visited Rome with hopes of filing through St. Peter's Basilica. Officials estimate that up to two million of them may have passed by the pope's body over the previous week.

Daphne Leveriza '07 knows what

it is like to join the masses in a pilgrimage. She attended World Youth Day in 2000 and heard the pope give a lecture and a mass.

Leveriza recalled John Paul II's "charismatic" personality—at one point, the aging pontiff danced in his chair, and at another, he responded to the crowd's chants of "JP II, we love you" with "JP II, he loves you too!"

Yet there was something more than celebrity at play.

"It was so obvious that he had such a strong relationship with God and a strong gift of faith," she said.

Melanie Conroy '05, who attended an Easter Vigil mass led by John Paul in 2000, was inspired for similar reasons.

"He sought peace and reconciliation with those who opposed him, radiated charity, and lived a prayerful life," she said.

"When I saw him he was disabled and elderly, but all I could think is about how strong he seemed; committed and brave," Conroy said. "It puts your own life in perspective."

Assistant Professor of English Mary Agnes Edsall was an usher when John Paul II visited New York and led a mass in Central Park.

Edsall remembers the diversity of the enormous crowd flocking into

Please see POPE, page 2

On the Quad for a cause



Mike Ardolino, *Bowdoin Orient*

Aki Makino '04 prepares a cardboard shelter before sunset on Thursday. Students slept on the Quad last night to raise awareness for issues of homelessness and poverty in Maine.

BSG says no to VP changes

by Beth Kowitt
ORIENT STAFF

Members of Bowdoin Student Government voted this week against a constitutional amendment that would have led to the biggest revamping of personnel since the current constitution was written three years ago.

The meeting's agenda consisted purely of constitutional changes as the organization looked to restructure its staff in its last big move of the year.

The amendment failed despite a push by BSG President Haliday Douglas '05. Thirteen of BSG's 23 members supported the measure, which needed a fourth-fifths majority to be sent to a vote by the student body.

"I think it had incredible potential," Douglas said of the amendment. "I think either way, what does need to happen in the future is that BSG needs to constitutionally build in more functionality to its officer positions."

The amendment would have con-

Please see BSG, page 3

Students win big with fellowships



Photo Illustration by Hans Law, *Bowdoin Orient*

Selena McMahan '05 will use a \$22,000 Watson Fellowship to participate in and study clowning on three continents.

by Haley Bridger
STAFF WRITER

Bowdoin students have once again successfully competed for several annually awarded national fellowships and scholarships. Two students have been awarded Goldwater scholarships, one student will receive a Watson fellowship, and five students so far have been selected to receive a Fulbright. Bowdoin students have had great success in

achieving these awards in previous years, and the addition of a new Fellowships and Scholarships Faculty Committee has strengthened the process, according to Director of the Career Planning Center Anne Shields.

Selena McMahan '05 won a Watson Fellowship, which consists of a \$22,000 stipend that she will use for a self-designed international independent study. Beginning in July, McMahan will travel to coun-

tries in Africa, Asia, and South America, where she will explore and participate in one of her favorite activities: clowning. McMahan will work with Clowns Without Borders and other clowning programs to help bring hope to people who have experienced trauma. Additionally, she hopes to learn about other cultures through clowning.

"Clowns are a part of every culture, and I'm looking forward to learning about different clowning traditions in other countries," McMahan said.

The Fulbright is also designed to allow seniors to gain cross-cultural understanding by spending one academic year conducting research or studying abroad. Students are given Full Grants, Travel Grants, and/or Teaching Assistantships, and are awarded the Fulbright based on their

Please see FELLOWSHIPS, page 2

Fifth class restricted

New rule removes ability to beat the system by registering extra classes

In the past, many students signed up for five classes, only to drop one right before the end of Phase II. This left empty seats in popular courses, depriving others of the chance to take those classes.

According to recent statistics compiled by Registrar Christine Cote, almost one-third of students who signed up for five full-credit courses finished their semester with four full-credit courses.

Associate Professor of Biology Barry Logan, the Chair of the Recording Committee, announced the new policy at Tuesday's faculty meeting. There was no opposition.

This policy change is "intended to

Please see CLASSES, page 3

Education splits minor

by Kira Chappelle
ORIENT STAFF

The Education Department made some cuts this week.

Splitting its minor into two, the department will now have students choose either "Education Studies," for those who do not plan to teach, or the Teaching minor, which emphasizes practice-based teaching method courses in the junior and senior years.

Assistant Professor Charles Dorn, who will become the Education Department chair following Professor Penny Martin's retirement this year, said that the Education Department is making every effort to make this transition as smooth as

possible.

"This change has been coming for a number of years," Dorn said, although it is only in the last year and a half that the department has taken action to plan and execute the minor change.

The motivation for the separation of the minor is the result of two different groups of students that minor in Education.

"There are a group of students at the College who want to study education as...a humanities-related study," Dorn said, "and a group of students who are interested in teaching in some capacity."

While the interests of the two

Please see EDUCATION, page 2

INSIDE



Sports
Men's tennis
serves up
a winning streak
Page 14