



# THE BOWDOIN ORIENT

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## Student residences creep into downtown



Karsten Moran, *Bowdoin Orient*

The College has rented two apartment buildings to accommodate overflow housing requests. Students are living at this School Street building and in other apartments located on Elm Street.

by Priya Sridhar  
ORIENT STAFF

This year students may be taking more than a little stroll to get from their campus housing to their classes. After a unusually long wait list had reached 78 students by the end of the summer, the Residential Life office was forced to rent out apartments on Elm Street and School Street.

The apartments are used by Maine State Music Theatre over the summer, but are usually vacant during the year.

Thirteen students were affected by the decision, but all were given the option of living in places on campus or waiting for spaces to open up. Only one set of roommates has complained about the situation so far and hopes to move to closer housing.

Residential Life made an effort not to put any seniors in these apartments because the theater needs them during Senior Week.

Interim Director of Residential Life Kim Pacelli attributes the sudden housing crunch to an increased demand for on-campus housing.

Residential Life said 93 percent of students chose to live on campus this year, as opposed to 92 percent in 2003-2004. Due to the increase, officials needed to find 15 to 20 extra housing slots.

The Residential Life staff also decided to turn Coleman Hall's fourth floor, normally used for first-year housing, into sophomore housing. The College does not know if it will continue to rent the apartments on Elm Street and School Street next

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## Estate sale nearly complete

*Breckinridge deal follows summer squabbling between York, college*

by Beth Kowitt  
ORIENT STAFF

When Mary Marvin Breckinridge Patterson gave the College River House in 1974, it's unlikely she anticipated the controversy that would surround the property thirty years later.

Last fall, the College decided to put the 23-acre, 25-room manor house, then called the Breckinridge Public Affairs Center of Bowdoin College, on the market for \$5.3 million. A purchasing sale agreement with two buyers, Mark Toney and Daniel Hartigan of Cape Neddick, is

scheduled to close this fall.

"I think people understood it was impractical for us to hold on to [Breckinridge]," said Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration & Treasurer Catherine Longley. "Conference centers are difficult to run in the black."

Officials said the estate's distance, an hour and 15 minutes from Bowdoin, made use by faculty and staff difficult. It was also unusable during the winter.

"Campus use of Breckinridge had declined over the years," said Del Wilson, Director of Facilities Administration. "If more than 19 people wanted to stay there they needed to find local accommodations."

And while some did approve of

the College's decision to sell the property, other York residents were less than pleased at the prospect of developers taking over the land.

Several residents approached the York Historic District Commission in the hope of designating the estate a local landmark. The Commission found that Breckinridge should be a local landmark and made its recommendation to the York Selectmen.

Vice President for Communications and Public Affairs Scott Hood said that not every York resident was against the College's actions. He said that a small group of people objected and wished to place the property under the jurisdiction of the town.

"Our first [feeling] with this was

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## No housing crunch here: Student sets up camp on Quad



Karsten Moran, *Bowdoin Orient*

Sara Schlotterbeck '08 takes advantage of a sunny day to catch up on some reading outside Hyde Hall.

## H&L spaces to undergo overhaul

*As library renovates, student opinions sought for cozy study spots*

by Anne Riley  
ORIENT STAFF

The College will begin the second stage of an extensive renovation to the Hawthorne-Longfellow Library in December. This phase deals exclusively with the second and third floors of the building and is the final portion of the 2001 renovation, which tackled the basement, first floor, and portions of the third floor.

The primary goal of this year's renovation is two-fold. Currently, the Special Collections section is in danger of being damaged in its current location by condensation that affects only the outer rooms of the building.

One focus of the renovation is the transfer of the rare book storerooms from the exterior walls of the library to an enclosed central room with a climate-controlled environment.

The other objective is to install a sprinkler system on the top two lev-



Karsten Moran, *Bowdoin Orient*

This first floor study area was part of a previous renovation.

els of the library.

The library staff also plans to address students' requests for changes to the second and third floors.

Librarians Sherrie Bergman and Judy Montgomery met with interested students on Tuesday to discuss preferences and concerns regarding the renovation. The two tried to assess what kinds of changes in study spaces, furniture, and lighting students would like to see accompany the construction.

Students primarily discussed individual and small group study spaces. Few predetermined small group work areas currently exist.

When the library was first built in 1965, the need for group work space was minimal. In recent years, however, professors have started to assign more group projects, and students are having a difficult time finding practical spaces in which to work.

"As teaching assignments have changed, libraries need to respond," said Bergman on Tuesday evening.

When designing small group study areas, the library staff is hoping to create a variety of work

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## Top Maine Dems will lead convention

by Bobby Guerette  
ORIENT STAFF

College Democrats are preparing for their first-ever state college convention to be held at Bowdoin next Friday and Saturday.

Maine's highest-ranking Democrats will headline the event, dubbed the Maine College Democrats of America College Convention. Governor John Baldacci will be the keynote speaker during Saturday's activities. Congressmen Tom Allen and Mike

Michaud will speak on Friday evening.

About 100 Democrats are expected to attend the full convention, which will include a variety of lectures and training sessions. Participants will learn processes for registering voters, hear from Kerry campaign officials, and participate in other classes. They will also elect members to vacant positions in the state leadership structure.

"The overall goal is to unite the

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