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## Currents, Vol.6, No.4 (Oct.26, 1987)

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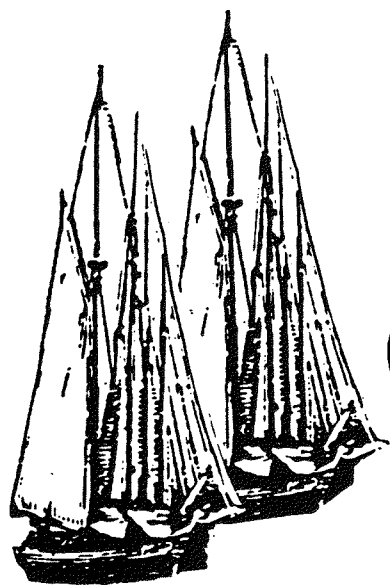
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# University of Southern Maine CURRENTS

Volume 6, Number 4

October 26, 1987

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## O'Donnell Has A Better Idea



Michael O'Donnell, professor of education, on reading: "The only way to learn is by doing it."  
(Kuntz photo)

Sometimes the simplest ideas take the longest to gain favor. Take Michael P. O'Donnell's idea: children learn to read by reading.

For 17 years, USM's professor of education has been telling educators to place much less of an emphasis on the teaching of rote skills such as consonant identification in favor of creating a literary environment in the classroom that will entice students to read. It has not always been a popular cause.

"Even five years ago I was something of an outcast in the education community," said O'Donnell. Times have changed. Just last year the New England Reading Association recognized him for research in the field of reading instruction. And earlier this month the 1000-member Maine Reading Association named O'Donnell a 1987 recipient of its Celebrate Literacy Award. The award cited him for being a "...longtime proponent of language and literature-based approaches to reading instruction who has inspired teachers in Maine and elsewhere by providing them with the knowledge base they need to design and implement sound reading programs."

"Students need to be immersed in an environment where they want to read and write," said O'Donnell of his approaches to reading instruction. "You simply can't break (the teaching and learning of) reading into step-by-step skills." In O'Donnell's view, teachers are too often technicians intent on

detailed methods of reading instruction. He recommends that teachers look at the teaching of reading as an overall process, "as a puzzle to be solved."

In considering the ideal reading program, he described the achievement of Gorham Junior High in creating an individualized reading program for 120 students. "These students are selecting their own books, they are reading at their own pace. They are learning to read by reading."

Though his literature-based approach is catching on, the compartmentalized method of reading instruction is still used in 95 percent of Maine's elementary schools. Research also shows that students spend six minutes a day reading in the classroom. "That's criminal," he said. "They ought to be reading for a minimum of 30 minutes."

Reading experts agree that the success of any reading program is heavily dependent on the literary environment at home. But statistics indicate that the environment is poor in many homes. "There are 60 million people in this country who can't read or write," said

O'Donnell. "There are 100,000 people in Maine who can't read or write, and that's a conservative estimate."

A graduate of the University of Maine and Syracuse University, O'Donnell had firsthand experience with those statistics while a high school teacher. "I worked with high school students who simply could not read. I was shocked." Since then, O'Donnell has created staff development materials for the U.S. Department of Education and has authored numerous books on childhood education and adult literacy. More recently, he wrote a reading series titled "In the Know" and just completed the book "The Development of Literacy" with Margo Wood, USM associate professor of education.

O'Donnell is now working with four school systems as they review reading programs. "The response has been tremendous," said O'Donnell. The climate for change has improved dramatically, he said, since the release of the national report "Becoming a Nation of Readers." "Time," said O'Donnell, "will sustain this effort."



Children first learn to love reading by being read to.

## New Initiatives Against Drug Abuse

Across America alcohol and drug use on college campuses has been on the rise. In Maine the problem of drug and alcohol use on campus may be particularly acute. Associated with the generally low educational aspirations and self-esteem of Maine students is an increased dependence on social acceptance through alcohol consumption.

"Students believe alcohol fills a social need," said Ira Hymoff, a clinical psychologist and director of USM's Department of Counseling and Career Development. "To many students drinking is synonymous with having fun. It's that attitude we have to change."

Last week, during national Alcohol Awareness Week, USM announced a \$113,700 grant from the national Drug Prevention Program to undertake new initiatives in substance abuse and prevention.

"USM has made concerted efforts over the last few years to identify the extent of substance abuse problems on campus and to develop remedies," Hymoff said. "But we need to move now to develop programs aimed at changing fundamental attitudes toward alcohol and drug use among the general student population. In addition we must support the non-drinker. This two-year grant will provide us with the necessary resources to back our program."

The need for the program is evident, said Hymoff, author of the grant proposal. In the fall of 1986, for example, more than 80 percent of the violations of the student conduct code were alcohol or drug-related.

The University has taken a strong stance against alcohol abuse by increasing penalties, according to Hymoff. At the same time, health professionals, counselors and student life staff have been encouraged to further their knowledge in the field of drug abuse prevention. A committee on substance abuse is being formed and will sponsor a variety of educational programs, including films, a forum on legal issues, and freshman seminars.

Project planners hope to promote student self-confidence and social relationships not based on alcohol through

(Cont. on p.3)

# Notes from the President's Desk



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** We are pleased to include for the first time "Notes from the President's Desk." President Plante will share important information with the USM community through this column from time to time.

1. At its meeting in Fort Kent on September 27-28, the Board of Trustees gave its unanimous approval to the administrative reorganization plan which I described at the Faculty/Staff Breakfast at the end of August. The searches for a Vice President for Development and External Affairs and a Vice President for Student Affairs have begun, and the following have agreed to serve on the committees that will attempt to recommend candidates for appointment in January.

## SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR A VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:

John Bay, Chair  
Richard Clarey  
William Coogan  
Nancy Greenleaf  
Joel Irish  
Anne Pringle (Maine Savings Bank)  
Walter Stump

## SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR A VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS:

Andrew Anderson  
Kathleen Bouchard  
David Cowie (President of the Student Senate)  
John Keysor, Chair  
Richard McKeil  
Remo Riciputi  
Susan Silvernail

Among the Vice President for Development and External Affairs' first priorities will be to help establish Alumni Chapters in various parts of the state and the country. These chapters will be asked to raise funds for talent scholarships and to recruit both undergraduate and graduate students. Dates have already been set for me to meet with our alumni in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and in Florida.

Among the Vice President for Student Affairs' first priorities will be to work with faculty and staff in developing an enrollment management plan that will place appropriate emphasis on criteria for admission to the University and on the retention of students once they are admitted.

2. While our enrollment for the Fall of 1987 is slightly higher than that of the Fall of 1986, our FTE continues to drive in the wrong direction. We now have 9546 students, an increase of 1.3% over last year. However, our FTE is 5681, a decrease of 0.9%. These figures are not cause for alarm, but they bear watching, for, as you are well aware, our budget is based on FTE. We must increase our efforts to attract and to keep full-time students. The obstacles, both internal and external, to our succeeding in doing that are not insignificant. For example, we need additional dormitories if we hope to recruit students outside commuting distances. We are now negotiating for additional dormitory space in Gorham and are seeking ways to provide our students with appropriate housing in Portland. But adding dormitory space must be done with the full realization that the lowest points in the decline in the number of high school graduates that began in 1979 will come between 1989 and 1995. After 1995, the number of graduates will begin to rise again.

We are living in interesting times.



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** One indication of the respect and credibility of faculty and staff is the degree to which their expertise is called upon by the news media. With that in mind, the Office of Media Relations wants to recognize faculty and staff who have taken the time to share their expertise. If you have an idea of how you or other members of your department might comment on a current news issue, please call the Office of Media Relations at 780-4200.

**Mark T. Swanson**, assistant professor of geology, was interviewed by WGME-TV, Channel 13 on causes of earthquakes.

**Richard J. Maiman**, professor of political science, was interviewed by numerous radio stations and by WGME-TV, Channel 13 on the Bork nomination.

**Melvyn Zarr**, professor of law, School of Law, was interviewed by WGME-TV, Channel 13 on the Bork nomination.

**H. Draper Hunt**, professor of history, was interviewed by WMTW-TV, Channel 8 on Christopher Columbus.

**James M. Friedman**, professor of law, School of Law, was interviewed by WGAN Radio on latest developments in the International Paper strike.

**Dorothy Woods Smith**, instructor of nursing, was interviewed on WCSH-TV, Channel 6 on the late effects of polio.

**Michael Hillard**, instructor of economics, was interviewed by the Lewiston SUN-DAY Sun-Journal on economic development in the service sector.

**Joseph A. Conforti**, director of New England Studies and professor of history, was interviewed by the (Portland) Evening Express on municipal issues in New England.

**Michael S. Hamilton**, assistant professor of political science, was interviewed by WWGT Radio concerning the upcoming referendum on Maine Yankee.



# Radioactive Waste: Disposal or Management?

**Michael S. Hamilton**  
*Assistant Professor of Political Science*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Michael Hamilton was a member of the Technical Advisory Group, Governor's High-Level Nuclear Waste Task Force for the State of Maine when DOE proposed a permanent waste dump be located in Maine.

In all the excitement over whether a high-level radioactive waste dump should be located in Maine, we do well not to lose sight of a basic question: is the disposal policy we currently have conceptually sound?

## Disposal is Legal Fiction

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 endorsed the fictitious notion that disposal of high-level radioactive waste is possible. We know from experiences with hazardous waste at Love Canal, NY that things we bury tend not to stay buried forever.

According to U.S. Department of

Energy (DOE) site selection guidelines, disposal means placement of highly radioactive materials in excavated holes 1,000-2,620 feet deep, where it will presumably remain isolated from the atmosphere, land, surface waters and surrounding rock "situated more than 10 kilometers in a horizontal direction from the outer boundary of the original location of the waste." Sites with groundwater travel time of more than 1,000 years from the original location of waste to the environment are considered potentially acceptable by DOE.

There is no legal requirement for complete or perpetual isolation of radioactive waste from the human environment.

This concept of disposal relies on luck in predicting the distant future, as distinct from management which depends upon continuous control. Deep geologic disposal of radioactive waste, required by current policy,

relinquishes control over radioactive materials to geohydrologic processes.

## A Proposal for Management

Given existing accumulations of radioactive materials, it appears the wiser course is to put them in secure, dry subsurface storage where we can keep an eye on them. This is preferable to the risks of putting them out of sight and out of mind, perhaps discovering them in some future generation's drinking water.

A new organization should be established separate from DOE to construct and manage radioactive waste facilities.

A new profession of radioactive waste managers must be created, separate from organizations and professions which have primary roles in promotion or use of nuclear technology. If the careers of these persons can be linked closely to—and only

to—long-term management of radioactive wastes, it is likely they will develop superior expertise in this crucial area and perform better than persons whose careers depend upon continued use of nuclear technology.

These employees should have advanced training in health physics and should receive bonuses for detecting and reporting safety violations or hazards in waste management facilities.

Merely prohibiting selection of a second repository site in the Eastern U.S. will not cure the basic flaws in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. The law should be thoroughly rewritten. There is no moral or ethical justification for protecting residents of Maine while allowing residents of any Western state to be victimized by a poorly conceived and poorly implemented national policy.



## Gish in Japanese



Nancy Gish, professor of English—reaching a wider audience.

(Kramer photo)

Nancy Gish is pleased and honored that her early work on T.S. Eliot has recently been translated into Japanese. But it's not her most important contribution to our understanding of English literature, she says. Nor does "Time in T.S. Eliot," published in 1981, represent her latest thinking on Eliot.

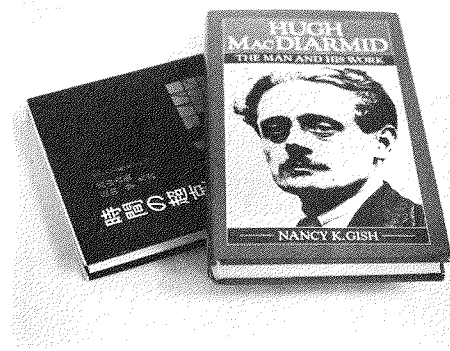
"It's a solid book, a good and helpful place to start in understanding Eliot, but it was written at a time when I accepted a lot of traditional assumptions about literature which I have since rethought. My new book on Eliot's "Wasteland," which will be out in February, is more in keeping with my current thinking."

Since writing her first book on Eliot, she has discovered her literary cause celebre—an attempt to gain recognition for the writing of Hugh MacDiarmid, a neglected Scottish poet whom Gish considers one of the great and most authentic voices of 20th Century literature. "My books on Eliot just add footnotes to a sizable body of work on him. I wasn't changing the direction of criticism. But in championing MacDiarmid, I am doing something important. It is promoting a new vision of literature to acknowledge what he does with language."

Gish contends that MacDiarmid was ignored by the literary establishment because his use of broad Scottish dialect was an affront to the powers of the English literary world. "He wanted to restore the Scottish language to serious, intelligent use, not merely as a quaint and provincial dialect. He was also anti-English and Marxist, which didn't help his standing."

Gish interviewed MacDiarmid a year before his death in 1978. "I was profoundly moved by his poetry and his mind," she recalls. "I wanted to write a book that would be adequate to the task of making a claim for him." MacDiarmid believed that the English language had lost its value for poetry

because English words have become too abstract, too removed from immediacy of meaning. Gish describes the poet's attempt to revive poetry by using a language which had lapsed but which is rich in meaning as "largely successful." "Her book, "Hugh MacDiarmid: The Man and his Work" was published in 1984. She is now editing a collection of essays on the poet and will present a paper on him for a panel on "Canonical Reconsiderations" at the Modern Language Association meeting in December.



## 53 Pass Maine Bar

More cause for celebration — 100% of graduates of the School of Law passed the Maine Bar examination in July at the first attempt. According to Registrar Frances Tucker, the successful examinees included 49 members of the graduating class of 1987 and four students who completed their third year at Maine but received the degree from another institution. Dean L. Kinvin Wroth said, "While we have always had a very high pass rate on the Maine Bar examination, I am especially pleased at this year's 100 percent record, and I congratulate all graduates who are about to enter the practice of law as a result." The Maine Bar exam is one of the most rigorous in the country.

## • Drug Abuse (cont. from p.1)

an extended orientation, with components borrowed from Outward Bound and other self-awareness programs. It is hoped that increased budgeting for special activities will encourage a non-alcoholic social environment.

The alcohol prevention project will improve identification of high risk students and make appropriate interventions, including referrals for diagnosis, treatment or education as needed. The University will also continue its education and support efforts through participation in National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week and Friends Care, an alcohol peer advising group.

## Jeffersonian Archaeology

The director of archaeology at the home of the third U.S. president will be at the University of Southern Maine in early November to discuss "Thomas Jefferson and the Pursuit of Happiness: The Archaeology of Monticello."

William M. Kelso will speak at 4:30 p.m., Thursday, November 5, in Rooms A&B of the Campus Center, Portland.

Kelso was named director of archaeology at Monticello in 1986. He has served as a resident archaeologist at the home near Charlottesville, Va. since 1979. Kelso's excavations have revealed information about Jefferson's landscape designs as well as aspects of the lives of the slaves and artisans who lived there.

A graduate of the William and Mary Institute of Early American History and Culture, and Emory University, Kelso has done archaeological work for the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. The Convocation, "Roots, Rights, Responsibilities" and the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Professional Development Funds are sponsors. For information, call 780-4440.

## Klibonoff Debuts at USM



(Kramer photo)

Jon Klibonoff, concert pianist and assistant professor of music, will round off National Music Week with a solo concert, his USM debut, on Friday, November 6 at 8 p.m. in Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham. The performance, part of the Faculty Concert Series, features works by Bach, Schumann, Schoenberg and Debussy. Tickets are \$5 and \$3 for students and senior citizens. For tickets, information, call 780-5256 or 780-5265.

## Blood Drive

USM's Department of Military Science and the American Red Cross are sponsoring a blood drive on Tuesday, November 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Portland Campus Center. "The Red Cross is in dire need of blood," says Sam Small, assistant professor of ROTC-Military Science, "so it's important to have a good turnout of staff, faculty and students."



James W. Pendleton, associate professor of physical science, addressing students, faculty and staff participating in the "Freshman Residential Experience" (FRE), a yearlong program for freshmen to help them adjust to their first year in college. FRE provides guidance in such areas as time management, study skills and career exploration. Peer advisors are available to participating freshmen for extra academic support. This is the first year that FRE has been offered by the Office of Residence Life. (Caswell photo)



## What We're Doing

**ROBERT ATKINSON**, assistant professor of human resource development, has had his book review, "Erik Erikson's Full Life History," published in *Psychology Today's* October, 1987 issue. This review discusses the book, "Erik Erikson, A Way of Looking at Things: Selected Papers from 1930-1980," edited by Stephen Schien.

**BETTY ATTERBURY**, assistant professor of music, attended the Music Educators National Conference held this July in Washington, D.C., where she represented the Maine Music Educators Association as state editor of the *MMEA* bulletin. This fall Dr. Atterbury is doing research for a textbook on mainstreaming in music education for the publisher Prentice-Hall.

**LEE BAIER**, associate professor of English, has had an article, "Sin and Repentance in 'Lycidas,'" accepted for publication by *Philological Quarterly*.

**THOMAS CARPER**, associate professor of English, has had new poems—"At the Sistine Chapel," "Fugue," "The Resident Poet," "Sitting Down to Read the Dust Jacket Once Again" and "Nobody at Treblinka" accepted by *Poetry*. Also, previously published poems will appear in the forthcoming *Anthology of Magazine Verse and Yearbook of American Poetry*.

**MONIQUE Y. CROCHET**, professor of French, presented a paper, "Women and Revolutions in France: A Feminist Perspective" at the Third International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women which took place in Dublin, Ireland, last July.

**JEAN GUTMANN**, associate professor in SBEM, presented a teacher development seminar on "Using Electronic Spread Sheets to Teach Accounting," at the annual Fall Conference of the Business Education Association of Maine in October.

**MICHAEL S. HAMILTON**, assistant professor of political science, convened a roundtable, "What Will We Do With All Our Waste? Reduce? Recycle? Recover? Regulate?" sponsored by the Section on Natural Resources and Environmental Administration at the Northeast Regional Conference of the American Society for Public Administration, New York City in October.

**DRAPER HUNT**, professor of history, spoke on the U.S. Constitution to junior high school students at Lyman Moore School, Portland, last September. **HUNT** and **RICHARD MAIMAN**, professor of political science, staged a debate on the U.S. Constitution for elementary school students at Waynflete School in October.

**JON KLIBONOFF**, assistant professor of music, appeared as piano soloist with the Denver Chamber Orchestra in performances of Beethoven's Second Piano Concerto last September. As a member of the Bowdoin Trio,

he appeared in concert at Christopher Newport College in Newport News, Va. Klibonoff also performed with the Altoona Symphony in Pennsylvania in an all-Gershwin gala concert. Upcoming performances include St. John's College in Annapolis, Md., Grand Junction, Colo., and New York's Merkin Hall.

**ROSE MARASCO**, assistant professor of art, was selected as a juror for the Society of Photographic Education's Conference exhibit, "Work from Two Decades," to be held at the University of Lowell October 30, 31, and November 1.

**HAIG H. NAJARIAN**, professor of biology, has been invited to be a member of the Tropical Disease Delegation to visit the People's Republic of China next spring, sponsored by the Citizen Ambassador Program of People to People.

**PATRICIA R. PLANTE**, president of USM, gave an address and workshop at the Annual Meeting of Academic Administrators in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education in Philadelphia in October; the theme of the conference was "Effective Change in Academic Organizations." President Plante has also been invited to serve on the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' national committee on Academic Affairs and has been elected to the Maine Medical Center's Board of Corporators.

**NEAL S. ROTE**, professor and director, Applied Immunology Program, was an invited participant in a National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute sponsored workshop on "Antiphospholipid Antibodies and Thrombosis," in September. Rote was named president-elect of the American Society for the Immunology of Reproduction and was selected as program director of the 1988 annual meeting of the society, which will be held in Portland. Rote was a visiting scholar at the Tri-Service General Hospital and National Defense Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan.

**DOROTHY WOODS SMITH**, instructor in the School of Nursing, was a presenter and panelist at the Fourth International Polio and Independent Living Conference held in St. Louis last June. She has also given presentations this fall on the topic of late effects of polio to the Southern Maine Post Polio Support Group, and to the physical therapy students at UNE. She has published articles on the late affects of polio in the *American Journal of Nursing*, *Epi-gram* and *Maine Polio Update*.


**L. KINVIN WROTH**, dean of School of Law, participated in a program, "Technological Advances in Education and Training," presented by the University of Maine at Augusta. Dean Wroth appeared with Christine Crocker, Continuing Legal Education Director of the Maine State Bar Association, on a panel, "Continuing Education for the Practice of Law," to describe the joint venture of the Law School and the Bar Association in presenting nationally produced, live continuing legal education programs via satellite in October.

## Cluchey Named Associate Dean

David P. Cluchey, University of Maine School of Law professor since 1979, has been appointed to serve as associate dean for a three-year term. The position will be "a challenge and an opportunity," he said. "I have gained a great deal from my association with the School of Law, and this gives me a chance to give something back."

Cluchey has just returned from a nine-month sabbatical in England at Cambridge University as a visiting faculty member. While on sabbatical, Cluchey developed a course on Comparative Trade Regulation that he will teach next spring.

The associate dean is responsible for the academic program at the School of Law. Cluchey hopes to promote faculty development, with emphasis on scholarly activities by faculty members, and will also teach halftime.



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**CURRENTS**

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Materials should be submitted no later than Thursday noon, 11 days prior to publication to: 209 Deering Ave., Portland. Distribution is free. Third class postage is paid at Portland, ME 04103.



The University Student Theatre Ensemble presents William Hoffman's award winning play about love and catastrophe, "As Is," one of the few dramas centering on AIDS. Performances are October 30, 31 and November 1, 6 and 7 at 8 p.m. with a 2 p.m. matinee on November 7. Tickets are \$6 and \$3 for students, with a \$1 donation from each ticket sale for the Portland Aids Project. For tickets, information, call 780-4089.

The Job Classified Program Joint Study Committee has released its final report on a revised Job Classification Program, which will cover all classified jobs in the University of Maine System. This report contains the proposed descriptions and specifications, including wage bands, for all classified jobs.

The report has been placed in the Portland Law Library and Portland and Gorham Campus Libraries (Reference Section) for review by all interested staff. In addition the report can be reviewed at the Division of Human Resources, 108 Corthell Hall. Representatives of ACSUM, Teamsters and USRC may be contacted regarding this report. Those representatives are: ACSUM, Lena Weiner-Sorgman, 780-4040; Chris Long, 780-5455; Teamsters, David Olson, 780-4160; Richard Pramis, 780-4160; USRC, Mary Schools, 780-4440; and Richard Rogers, 780-5226.

Any employee or supervisor of an employee in one of the jobs that is published in proposed form in the report may request a hearing of the Joint Committee if s/he believes that the job description or specification contains significant inaccuracies. Forms for requesting a hearing are available from the Division of Human Resources and representatives listed above. The deadline for filing a hearing is October 28, 1987, and hearings will not be scheduled for requests received after this date.



Calliope: A Renaissance Band will perform at 8 p.m. on Friday, October 30 in Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham. Tickets are \$7 and \$4 for students and senior citizens. This quartet of virtuoso musicians appears coast to coast, including performances at New York's Alice Tully Hall, the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., Wolf Trap, Dartmouth, UCLA and for Nonesuch Records. Using authentic period instruments, Calliope demonstrates the rich musical style of the Renaissance. For tickets, information, call 780-5256.

(IMG photo)