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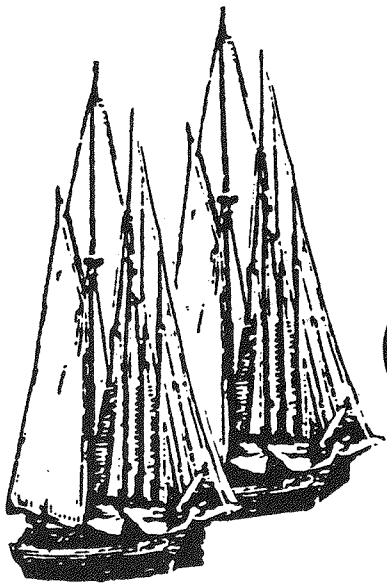
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University of Southern Maine CURRENTS

Volume 6, Number 3

October 12, 1987

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New Impetus to Research in School of Nursing

Janice L. Thompson, associate professor of nursing, is quick to explain her interest in the cultures of Southeast Asia. "They can teach us a lot about living," she says. "We can be one-sided in the West and place too much of an emphasis on a mechanistic, rational approach to life. These people have a spirituality in their lives that is not separated into formal religion. I've grown a lot and learned a lot by working with them."

Thompson has been named the first recipient of the Nursing Research Scholar Award, an honor which brings a reward more important than mere recognition for Thompson—the means to help some of the estimated 2400 refugees living in Maine.

The new award—made possible by a gift from an anonymous benefactor—will be presented every two years to a member of the School of Nursing faculty to support research. The first presentation ceremony was held last Monday evening, October 5, honoring Thompson before an audience of faculty, staff, President Plante and other administrators as well as members of the Greater Portland health care community.

Last year, Thompson directed a

study for the Maine Department of Human Services that showed that more than half of the refugees (primarily Southeast Asians but including Poles, Iranians and Afghans) have significant psychological problems. Many recent refugees, especially those from Southeast Asia and Afghanistan, carry the emotional scars of war and terrifying escape. Some have lost or been separated from family members. And all confront the issue of adjusting to a very different, and often unsupportive, society. Treatment of the resulting problems poses many difficult questions.

Thompson's 1986 study recommended that doctors and nurses—the refugees' first point of contact in the health care system—be better trained to diagnose and perhaps treat mental health problems. This form of mental health service might be less threatening and stressful to refugees than passing the patient along through referrals to specialists.

The Nursing Research Scholar Award will allow Thompson to focus her research on refugee women. She hopes to help them better understand the symptoms of depression related to

Cont. on back page

Doctoral Stipends

The gift from an anonymous benefactor that has funded the Nursing Research Scholar Award to nursing professor Janice L. Thompson (see story, next column) will also support other members of the nursing faculty as they pursue their doctoral degrees.

The Nursing Scholar Trust Fund Committee also announced that the following faculty members have received Doctoral Study Stipends to help support them as they pursue studies in a doctoral program: Helen Peake-Godin; Dorothy W. Smith; Phyllis F. Healy; Jill Tiffany; Sallie C. Nealand; Marianne W. Rodgers; Jeanne G. Normandeau; and Janet Burson.

"The committee," wrote Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs Kathleen I. MacPherson in announcing the awards, "commends these faculty members for their dedication to the pursuit of a doctoral degree."

Manufacturing Dreams

President Plante has spoken at numerous events in the two months since she took office, but few occasions have meant as much to her personally as the recent open house for the Saco-Biddeford Center. The center is now located in new quarters in the renovated Saco (Factory) Island complex.

"This facility has special meaning for me," she told the center's staff and invited guests at the Tuesday, September 29 reception. "Ninety years ago my grandparents were children working in this mill. Now only two generations later, I'm standing here as president of the University that's providing greater access to education through this converted factory. They were manufacturing things, but now we're manufacturing dreams."

The president went on to underline the role of the center in the university's mission of extending opportunity for education and restated her belief in the importance of education to Maine's future. "There will be no further economic development in the state without a first class university," she said.

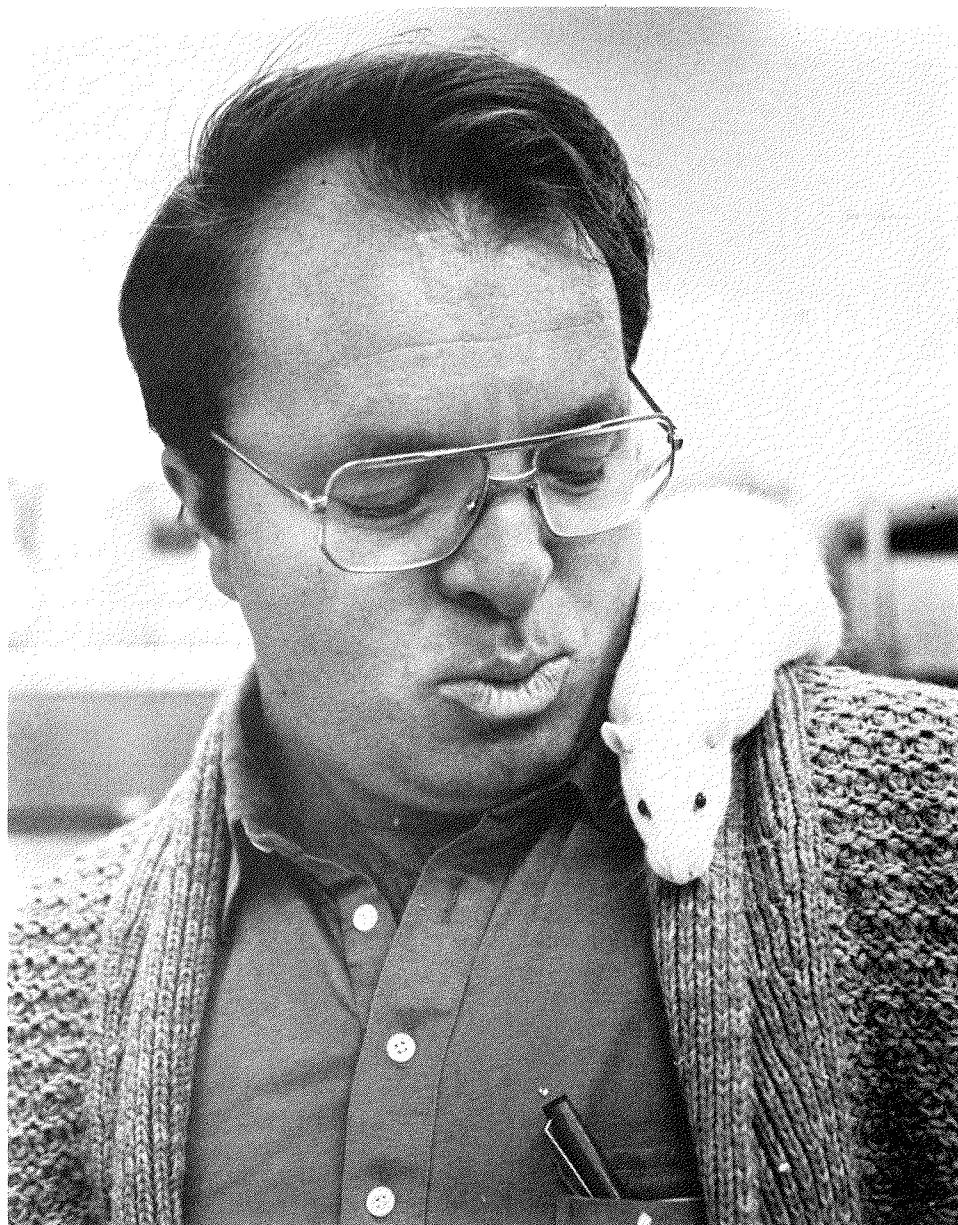
This theme was reiterated by Trustee Richard Marshall, who predicted that the Saco-Biddeford Center will be a catalyst to furthering educational opportunity in York County, and by Ruth Tewksbury, a senior citizen from Kennebunk who is returning to school to study art at the center after many years of working as a medical technician.

A similar celebration was held at the new Bath-Brunswick Center earlier in the month. That center—operated in conjunction with the University of Maine at Augusta—has moved to a new location at 275 Bath Road. President Plante was joined by UMA President George Connick in welcoming community and university guests and congratulating Director Dennis Hatch. President Connick pointed out that facilities that move can predict a drop in clientele, but that the Brunswick Center, despite a series of moves, had maintained enrollment growth. "There couldn't be a stronger indication of the need for this educational center or the loyalty of its students," he said.



Janice Thompson's office reflects her strong interest in the cultures of Southeast Asia.

(Kramer photo)



John Broida, assistant professor of psychology, with friend.

(Hughes photo)

Alcoholic Rats Help Answer the Age Old Question

"We have the idea that there are psychological differences between men and women, but we don't know if these are physiologically based," John Broida says. It's an age old question, but the assistant professor of psychology says we still don't have the answer. "Are gender differences hormonal or learned?"

Broida is fascinated by hormones and substances which affect hormones. He also likes rats. "And there are those who would say I'm very interested in alcohol," he says with a laugh. His new study, underwritten by a grant from the National Institute for Alcohol and Alcohol Abuse, combines all three. His research will probe the effect in a rat population of prenatal exposure to alcohol on the hormonal and therefore sexual development of rat fetuses. His hypothesis is that prenatal exposure to alcohol causes behavioral and physiological abnormalities in male offspring by suppressing the release of testosterone.

"It is clear from previous research," he explains, "that the brain can be deformed by alcohol. It isn't known, however, if this results from alcohol directly damaging the nervous system tissue or from the effect of alcohol on the endocrine system and therefore on the growth of tissue." Putting it simply, large amounts of alcohol stress the body, causing the adrenal glands to release adrenalin, which suppresses production of testosterone. Testosterone organizes combative and

sexual responses in males while inhibiting female behavior patterns.

Broida hypothesizes that a similar process happens in female fetuses, but his study will look at male rat populations only. It is also possible, he suggests, that other substances, such as cocaine and caffeine, could similarly disrupt hormonally controlled social behavior. Even severe emotional stress, in his opinion, might affect release of hormones and fetal development.

It's basic research, but according to Broida it may have practical applications. If his hypothesis is proved, he'll go back to the National Institutes for Mental Health, the umbrella organization for NIAA, with a larger, more expensive proposal. This initial project is funded for \$15,000 plus additional funds to cover indirect costs. The next step would be to explore the possibility of reversing the effects of alcohol damage through hormone replacement therapy.

"We're just beginning to understand the role of hormones. They have a great effect on the brain and the body and circulate all through the system. We've found, for instance, that estrogen doesn't affect just menstrual/ovulation cycles, but is important to vision, audition, taste—all the senses. It's an exciting field because we're learning more all the time. At one time we thought there were only 15 or 20 hormones. Now we're up to 50 and we're still finding new ones."

U.S. Leaders at World Affairs Council

Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger is pictured at a recent World Affairs Council-sponsored visit to Portland. The Council, now located on campus at 126 Bedford Street, Portland, was established to help educate the public about foreign affairs through the sponsorship of a variety of programs. The Council's Fall Series on the theme "Media and the World: How Are We Informed?" will continue next Monday evening, October 19 with a talk by Fox Butter-

curacy in the Media, Christopher Hitchens of The Nation, and a panel of local reporters and editors will be held in the Campus Center, Portland. Admission is \$3 for faculty and staff, and \$1 for students. For information on dates and times, call the Council at 780-4551.



(Seymour photo)

field of The New York Times. Butterfield will speak at 7:30 p.m. in the First Parish Church, 425 Congress Street, Portland. Two other Monday evening lectures featuring Murray Baron of Ac-

A Graduate and Professional School Information Day will be held in the Campus Center (Portland) on Thursday, October 15 from 10 AM to 2 PM. This event will bring representatives from 25 nationwide graduate programs to USM to discuss study options in social work, law, dentistry, counseling, business, osteopathic medicine, communication, international studies, library and information science, optometry and other fields. The event is open to the public and admission is free.

A free workshop on "Preparing for Graduate School" will be held in the amphitheater of the Campus Center from noon to 1 PM. For more information, contact Mary Ann Benson at the Counseling and Career Development Office, 122 Payson Smith Hall, 780-4050.

Challenging Society: Education and the Handicapped

by Suzanne Cooper
Director of Handicapped Student Services
University of Southern Maine

EDITOR'S NOTE: October is National Handicapped Awareness Month. At USM, the month began with a week of art, lectures and films focussing on lifestyles and challenges of the handicapped. The week of awareness activities, which ran from October 5 to 8, was organized by Suzanne Cooper, director of the Office of Handicapped Student Services.

Thirty years ago a child with a disability was often considered an embarrassment or a burden for their parents, their school and society. Early on, these children were "warehoused" in school basements and institutions with no expectation they would become productive, contributing members of society.

Even ten years ago when Gloria Davis was an undergraduate student at the University of Southern Maine, most schools were not prepared for handicapped students. Davis remembers having to skip a lot of her classes because she simply couldn't get into some of the buildings in her wheelchair. And of course there were problems in using bathroom facilities, water fountains and telephones. She overcame these difficulties and received her B.A. from USM, where she now teaches a course on Concept of Self in the Handicapped Person, but many other students simply gave up.

New laws passed in the '70s and '80s mandated that every child from pre-school to college age have access to a free and appropriate individualized education. Today, children who have benefitted from these laws are reaching college age and facing the many challenges of college study. USM's Office of Handicapped Student Services functions as a resource system for these students and ensures that no handicapped student, because of a disability, be denied the opportunity to succeed.

Handicapped Student Services coordinates a wide array of services on a case-by-case basis to students with hearing, vision, speech, mobility and health impairments or disabilities and learning disabilities. A hearing impaired student may need someone to take notes; a visually impaired student may need help in recording assignments and tests; a learning disabled student may need tutoring and extended deadlines. And USM's campuses today are barrier-free so that students like Cindy Leach, who was barred from public schools as a child and sent to a school for crippled children, can earn a degree and later a living.

For our society, removing barriers to education is a good investment in the future.



Three coaches, Dick Costello, Joey Bouchard and "Dusty" Drew, in front of the gym where they have worked with USM athletes for a total of more than 30 years. (Caswell photo)

A Triple Testament

by Al Bean

On Saturday, October 24, the USM Athletic Association will host a special testimonial dinner to honor three of USM's most distinguished coaches.

Joey Bouchard, Richard "Doc" Costello, and David "Dusty" Drew, who together have given USM nearly 60 years of athletic expertise, have retired from coaching. All three are staying with the department in various capacities.

David "Dusty" Drew was the first to hang up the cleats. After 12 years of guiding the Huskies' baseball teams, Drew elected to step down. In his final season, the Huskies participated in the college world series held in Lewiston, Idaho. Drew is now USM's trainer and equipment manager.

Costello capped his 10th and final season of coaching the women's basketball squad with a berth in the NCAA Tournament. His team responded by finishing in the top eight in the country. In the process Costello became the only coach in college basketball history to win over 200 games as a coach of both men's and women's basketball.

After coaching stints with both basketball teams, golf, baseball, and soccer, Costello has now settled into his full-time role as director of inter-collegiate athletics.

Joey Bouchard is leaving the hardwood after guiding the men's basket-

ball team for 14 seasons and taking them to two national tournaments. A veteran coach and student of the game, Bouchard earlier coached Husky teams in baseball, soccer, and basketball. He also has been an international basketball consultant for the U.S. State Department.

Bouchard remains a full-time faculty member in the College of Education and will concentrate on experiential education and Outward Bound programs.

In the past 30 years these three men have touched the lives of countless student-athletes. On October 24, we hope that many of those and others will come out and wish them well in their new endeavors.

The program will begin with a social hour from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Dinner will follow at approximately 7:15 p.m. followed by the program. At the conclusion of the formal festivities, you are all invited to dance and socialize with all of your old friends. The dance should begin at 9:30 p.m. and run through to 1 a.m.

Tickets for the testimonial are \$15 per person and may be purchased by sending check or money order to Al Bean, USM, Hill Gymnasium, Gorham, Maine 04038. The event will be held at the Dining Center on the Gorham campus. Tickets must be purchased by Tuesday, October 20.

Media Log

EDITOR'S NOTE: One indication of the respect and credibility that members of a university's faculty and staff carry in the community is the degree to which their expertise is used by the news media when looking for authoritative comment on current topics. With that in mind, we want to recognize the members of the faculty and staff who have taken the time to share their expertise with reporters and editors, and through them, with the public. The column below lists faculty members, the stories they commented on and who conducted the interview. If we have missed anyone, or if you have ideas on how your own expertise or the collective expertise of your department might fit into a news story, please feel free to call the Office of Media Relations at 780-4200. We will bring you updates on this column in future issues of Currents.

Juan-Ricardo Cojuc, assistant professor of communication, and **Susan M. Kohaut**, counseling psychologist, were interviewed by the Evening Express on video violence.

Joseph A. Conforti, director of New England Studies and professor of history, was interviewed by MPBN Radio and the (Portland) Evening Express on the topic of New England studies.

Roy A. Gallant, director of the Southworth Planetarium and adjunct professor of English, was interviewed by the Journal Tribune and WWGT Radio of Portland on meteor showers.

Eugene P.A. Schleh, professor of history, was interviewed by the Maine Sunday Telegram, on popular culture topics.

Karen Erickson, assistant professor of political science and director of international studies, was interviewed by WCSH-TV, Channel 6, WMTW-TV, Channel 8 and WGME-TV Channel 13 on the subject of arms control.

Richard H. Sturgeon, director of the Advising and Academic Information Department, was interviewed by the Lewiston Journal on the topic of adult learners.

Orlando E. Delogu, professor of law and public policy, was interviewed by WCSH-TV, Channel 6, and by numerous radio stations on the Moody Beach decision involving public access to beaches.

Raymond P. Neveu, professor of finance, was interviewed by WGME-TV, Channel 13, on the pyramid schemes employed by numerous organizations.

Andrew F. Coburn, acting director of the Human Services Development Institute, was contacted by the Omaha World News about health care financing.

SandraLee M. Hanisko, assistant professor of communication, was interviewed by WGAN Radio of Portland on Joe Biden's drop from the presidential race.

John Keysor, dean of educational services, and members of his staff were interviewed by numerous news agencies about the state's new immunization law.

Faculty members in the **Philosophy Department** were profiled in a feature story that was published in the Maine Times.

Faculty and staff are invited to contribute articles on events and issues of current interest. Please contact Media Relations at 780-4200.

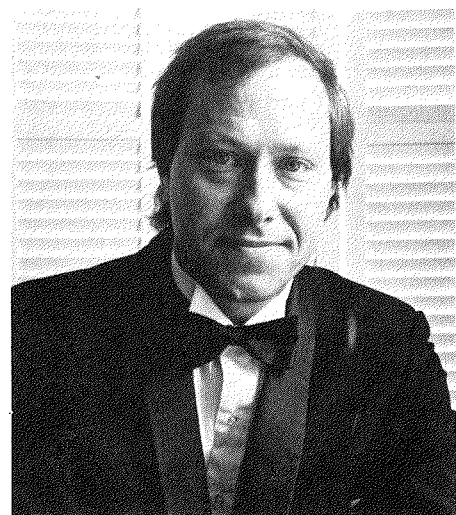


Thomas A. Martin, assistant professor of physical education and recreation, with the trusty steed that carried him across the nation. Martin and his two sons bicycled from Carlsbad, California to Rockland, Maine to raise money and recognition for the National Adoption Center in Philadelphia. The intrepid trio pedaled out of Carlsbad on June 16 and arrived at the Samoset Resort in Rockland on August 26. "It's a beautiful country," Martin said on arrival, "but we're glad to be home. As spectacular as the mountains are and as scenic as the desert is, it's not like Maine." Their adventure on wheels was sponsored by RCI, Inc., who solicited donations for the adoption center. (Sabre photo)



Michelle Damato and Stacey Knight in the Russell Square Players' performance of Neil Simon's female version of "The Odd Couple." Performances Wednesday through Saturday, October 14-17, at 8 p.m., Russell Hall, Gorham. Tickets are \$6; \$4 for students and seniors. For information/reservations, call 780-5480.

(Kramer photo)



(Kramer photo)

Southern Maine Winds, an ensemble of 10 professional wind players conducted by Peter Martin. Faculty Concert Series. Friday, October 23 at 8 p.m., Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham. \$5/\$3.

Early American Music

As part of the exploration of "The Constitution: Roots, Rights and Responsibilities," the 1987-88 Convocation will present Norumbega Harmony, a choral ensemble specializing in the music of early 19th Century America. The ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Stephen A. Harini, will perform on Sunday, October 25 at 3 p.m. in Luther Bonney Auditorium. Norumbega Harmony sings early American religious music—"fuging tunes," anthems and spiritual ballads—in traditional folk style, using shape-note hymnals. A primary source of hymns is "The Sacred Harp," a collection from 1844 by Benjamin Franklin White. The performance, which includes a concert and lecture, is free and open to the public. For more information, call 780-4440.

What We're Doing

JEANA D. BEARCE, professor of art, and LAWRENCE F. RAKOVAN, associate professor of art, were featured in a video tape of a session of the I.T.V. course, "Approaches to Art," which won first prize in the Annual Video Festival of the National Federation of Local Cable Programmers last July.

MARY I. COLLINS, staff development director, Division of Human Resources, will give a presentation, "Work and Family Stress: A Question of Balance," at the USM seminar, "Stress: Counter-Balancing," on October 30.

GLORIA SHAW DUCLOS, professor of classics, chaired the semi-annual meeting of the College Board Latin Achievement Test Committee, held at Princeton.

PATT R. FRANKLIN, professor of art, and JURIS K. UBANS, professor of art, were included in the show, "Maine Teachers," at Maine Coast Artists in Rockland.

WILLIAM J. GAVIN, professor of philosophy, gave an invited lecture, "Death, Dying and Modern Technology," at the fall seminar of the Maine Society for Respiratory Care at Sugarloaf.

JOHN G. HANNA, professor emeritus of English, gave a presentation, "Straight and Crooked Thinking," at the 1987 conference of the Danforth Associates of New England, on the theme of "Student Learning and Thinking—Teaching toward Creative, Logical, and Dynamic Thinking."

KATHLEEN I. MACPHERSON, associate dean for graduate affairs, School of Nursing, had an article, "Osteoporosis: The New Flaw in Women or in Science?" in the July/August 1987 issue of "Health Values."

ANDREW J. POTTS, professor of accounting, has been appointed a member of the Special Budget Review Committee for the Government Finance Officers Association in Chicago, Illinois which will review budgets of governmental and non-profit organizations.

FRANCIS SCHWANAUER, professor of philosophy, has authored "Philosophical Fact and Paradox," part of a series sponsored by American University Studies, and published by Peter Lang.

LEONARD J. SHEDLETSKY, associate professor of communication, has signed an agreement to write a chapter, "Research Areas Demonstrating Nonconscious Processing," for a graduate level reader on Intrapersonal Communication, to be published by Spectra, Inc.

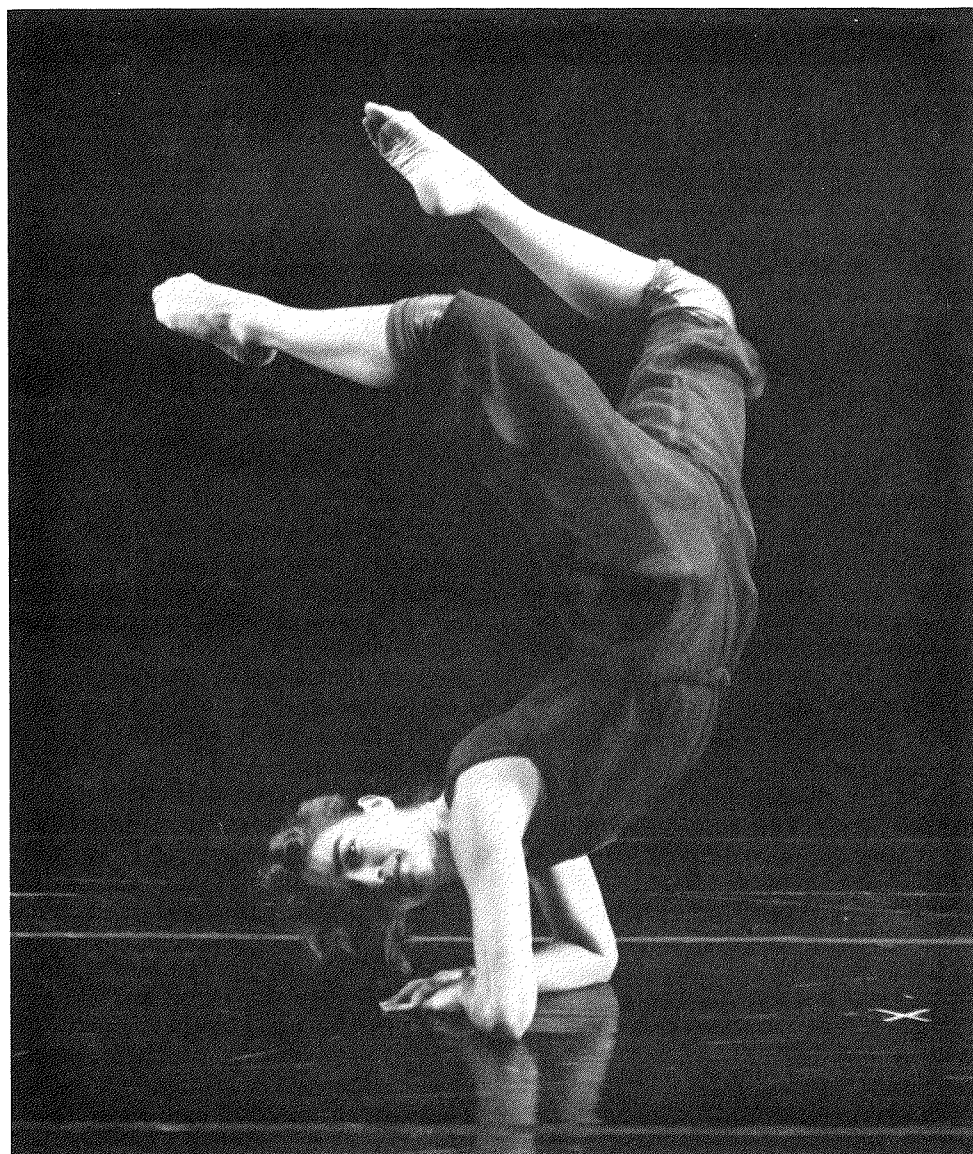
L. KINVIN WROTH, dean, School of Law, was keynote speaker at the University of Maine at Fort Kent's Constitutional Bicentennial Symposium, "We The People."

MELVYN ZARR, professor, DAVID P. CLUCHEY, associate dean, and ORLANDO E. DELOGU, professor, School of Law, participated in the Maine State Bar Association's "Legal Year in Review" continuing legal education program held in Augusta. Dean Kinvin Wroth was program co-chairman and moderator.

• Nursing (cont. from p.1)

their refugee experiences and through that, the means to deal with those experiences.

"She has been recognized nationally for her work related to critical scholarship in nursing and her work with the Southeast Asian refugee community," wrote Associate (Nursing) Dean for Graduate Affairs Kathleen I. MacPherson in a letter announcing Thompson's selection. "The committee (Nursing Scholar Trust Fund Committee) also believes that Dr. Thompson has been a catalyst in the development of a research culture in the School of Nursing."



Cheryl Mitchell, director of Oxygen Debt Dance Company, performing her own choreography, part of a dance/music concert, "No Time for Moderation," Friday, October 16 and Saturday, October 17 at 8 p.m. in Corthell Concert Hall. Performances feature music and dance faculty and students as well as other artists. Tickets are \$7 and \$5 for students and seniors. For more information, call 780-5265 or 799-2497.