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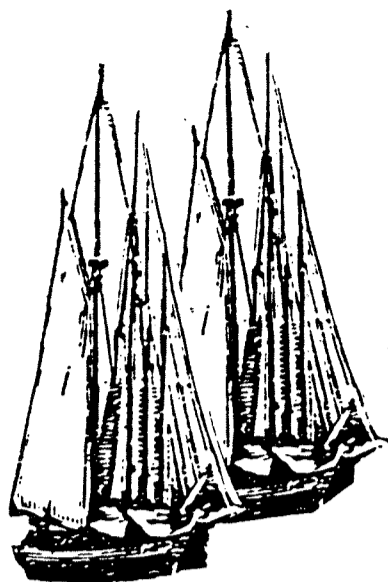
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# University of Southern Maine CURRENTS

Volume 4, Number 13

March 24, 1986

## What's Inside

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A Unit of the University of Maine

## Obtainable Dreams: "GYNT" Fulfills Its Own Theme

What is real? What is fancy? What is fantasy? The lines between them frequently blur for Peter Gynt, the central character in USM's original musical "GYNT," whose fantasies get in the way of a successful life. It is only after a nightmarish episode among the trolls that he realizes that his dreams — to come true — must be grounded in obtainable reality.

But, for the play's co-authors, alumni Sam Rossi and Flash Allen, and its director Walter Stump, theatre professor, the reality of "GYNT" on Broadway becomes more obtainable with each new award. The latest accolade is a \$4000 prize from ASCAP — The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers — recognizing "GYNT" as the outstanding original collegiate musical at the national level. (See related story p.2.) The prize joins one for best collegiate play from the New England region of the American College Theatre Festival, making it one of the top six nationally, and another ACTF award for best scenic design in New England.

"'GYNT' has everything Broadway wants, a hopeful story and great music," said Stump. "It's got potential for spectacular scenic effects and wonderful choreography." Stump, who has nurtured and directed "GYNT" this far, went on to say, "I predict that it will be the American 'Cats'," a reference to the hit Broadway show based on a work by T.S. Eliot and imported from Great Britain.

"That's my dream, for Flash and me to be considered the American version of Webber and Rice (Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, the British collaborators on 'Jesus Christ Superstar')," said Rossi just days before a strenuous rehearsal schedule was set to begin.

Stump recognized "GYNT's" potential almost from the beginning. Once, that is, he overcame his prejudice against Henrik Ibsen's "Peer Gynt," upon which Rossi based his book and lyrics. Stump had always considered Ibsen's eight-hour, two-day play "cumbersome and overblown."

"I thought Sam had done a good job of cutting, and I realized that he had created a lot of original material. He'd done a good job with the lyrics, too...and once I heard Flash's music, I was convinced," Stump recalled.

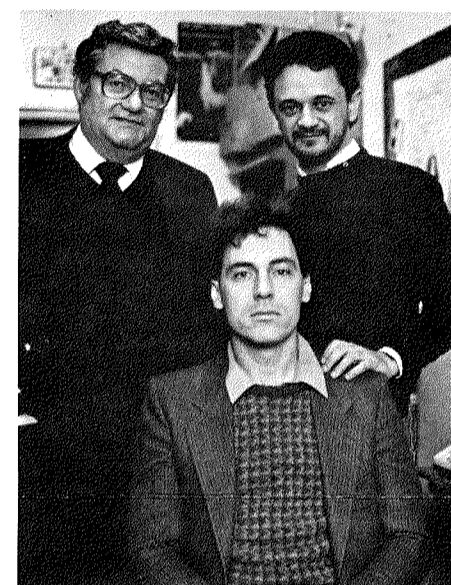
As the play progressed through successive rewrites and successful rounds of competition in the ACTF — its own nightmarish episode among the trolls? — Rossi and Stump became increasingly confident about the possibility for Broadway. Allen, however, remained more reticent with his hopes. Thinking about going to work in a paper mill, "once this 'GYNT' thing was finished," he finally realized the play's potential at an informal breakfast critique with one of the ACTF judges after the UNH regional performance in January. The judge told Allen and Rossi that their play was a good show and that he could easily see it on Broadway, or at least off-Broadway, according to Allen who now unabashedly shares the dream.

"I'd like to see 'GYNT' be the new blood on Broadway, literally turn it

upside down, because Broadway seems to be in the dumps and has been for a couple of years. I'd like to see 'GYNT' be a little jewel," admitted Allen.

If the play is indeed Broadway-bound, Stump's long involvement with his two former students and their collaborative effort will end. "I think that's the point where I must bow out of the triad with Sam and Flash. They have to go to Broadway and get a Broadway director and go on from there. But the fact that I've brought them along this way means very much to me," said Stump.

Rossi and Allen's "GYNT," under Stump's direction, will enjoy four benefit reprise performances this week. The curtain will go up at 8:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, March 25-28. Faculty/staff/student rates of \$4 are in effect. Call 780-5483 for reservations.



Allen (seated) with Stump (left) and Rossi. (Greaves photo)

## NEH Head Delivers Honors Grant

In an unusual personal visit, the acting director of the National Endowment for the Humanities presented a grant to support development of introductory Honors Program colloquia.

John Agresto, acting chairman of NEH, presented the \$28,500 grant to Martin A. Rogoff, honors director, at a special breakfast meeting last week. The money, awarded from the NEH program called Promoting Excellence in a Field, will be used to develop curricula for the USM Honors Program slated to begin next fall.

In response to a local reporter, Agresto said that he personally brought the grant to USM because our Honors Program "is exemplary for other places. If my being here can somehow hold it up and have others see it and others pay attention to it, then I am doing a real good service to these ideas [humanities] and to the country."

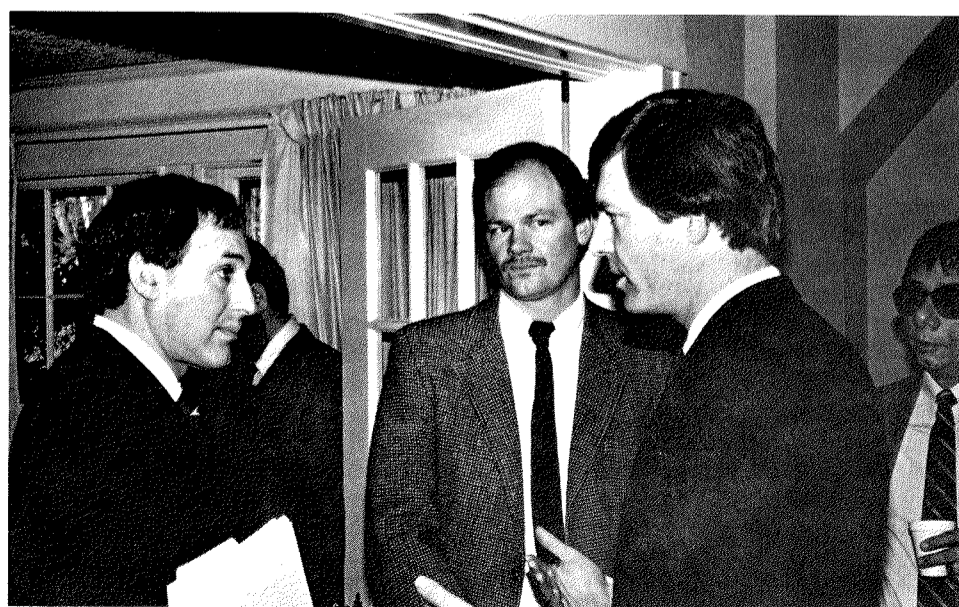
Agresto noted that there is a movement to restore the study of the humanities and again referring to USM's Honors Program remarked, "And nicely enough we're restoring them in places where all can have access to them, and not just a select few. This is incredibly healthy, incredibly

American and incredibly civilized."

Also at the breakfast was Representative John R. McKernan Jr., a former law student of Rogoff. McKernan had supported Rogoff's attempt for the grant and was pleased at its award. "I think it demonstrates the importance the University of Southern Maine is

placing on academic quality and academic opportunity for the diverse student body that there is at USM. And, I think that kind of attitude is going to mean that USM is going to be in its rightful place as one of the premier post-secondary educational institutions

(cont. on p.4)



Martin A. Rogoff, Honors director, Robert B. Loudon, assistant professor of philosophy, John R. McKernan, Republican congressman, and Raymond P. Neveu, professor of finance chat briefly before NEH grant presentation earlier this month. (Kuntz photo)

## Bequest Benefits Maine's Youngsters

Nearly 200 books and other publications have been donated to our Child and Family Institute to augment resources available to people serving Maine's young children.

The material was donated in memory of the late child therapist Dr. Dorothy W. Gross. Established in 1968, the institute (formerly the Maine Children's Resource Center) delivers

cess to the kinds of resources that this generous gift provides," said Beth I. Warren, USM executive director for human resources. The Child and Family Institute is a unit of USM's Division of Human Resources.

A resident of Buxton and consultant to the USM institute, Gross led training programs in early childhood development for VISTA and Head



Milton Gross reviews the new collection with the Child and Family Institute staff and administration. Pictured standing, from the left, are: Christine A. Long, library assistant; Alma H. Newell, assistant to the director; Anne Campbell, project coordinator and child development specialist; and Priscilla S. Diamon, child development specialist. Seated are Beth I. Warren, executive director for human resources; Milton Gross, and Norman Lapointe, director. Not pictured is Elpiniki Leodas, child development specialist.

(Caswell photo)

courses, library materials and other resources statewide to parents and staff who serve Head Start/day care programs, foster parenting homes, and handicapped children.

"With deep gratitude we are honored to accept Dr. Gross's collection of publications selected for the institute library," said Director Norman J. Lapointe. "It is our full intention to circulate widely these valuable resources to the parents and staffs serving Maine's young children. We also plan to expand the collection through donations already received in Dr. Gross's memory," said Lapointe. Included in the donated collection are books on child abuse, child development and related subjects.

"It has become increasingly important that people who work with young children can become more informed and receive better support through ac-

cess. She also was selected as one of five people to evaluate early childhood programs in New York City.

A graduate of New York University, Bank Street College (New York) and Queens College, she established and directed the Bank Street College Graduate Program in Infant and Parent Development. She also taught at Sarah Lawrence College and Barnard College, among other institutions.

More recently, she had a private practice in Portland as a parent and child guidance counselor. Considered a national leader in early childhood education, Gross also advised the Maine Department of Human Services on a program to identify and help young children at risk. She died last August at her Buxton home following a brief illness.

## Freshmen to get First Chance for Dorms

Steadily increasing demands for dormitory space have led to a new policy that will favor incoming freshmen.

Traditionally, all students have been assigned to a dormitory on a first-come, first-served basis. But now incoming freshmen will be given priority over transfer students and students applying for readmission to USM.

"We simply felt that freshmen should be given the first opportunity to experience life on campus," said John F. Keysor, USM dean for educational services. "This new policy doesn't absolutely guarantee that every freshman will be given a dormitory room but most freshmen who have been accepted for admission to the fall semester prior to late spring should find themselves in a dormitory."

The nine Gorham residence halls accommodate just under 1,100 beds.

## Lifeline is Ten Years Old

Lifeline — USM's adult fitness program that began with 10 people in one class and now enrolls 4,000 people in more than 30 activities — will kick off its 10th anniversary with an open house.

The event will be held from 7:30 to 9 p.m., Monday, March 31, in the USM Portland Gymnasium, Falmouth Street. The public is invited to attend free of charge.

The March 31 open house will feature clinics and information booths on senior fitness, yoga, racquetball, weight training, nutrition and health education and other programs. Refreshments and special prizes also will be available.

"Lifeline remains one of the University's most visible and best received public service programs," said USM President Robert L. Woodbury, "and we're proud of the many contributions

## "GYNT" Scores Again



The "GYNT" cast sing one of the songs that made it the 1986 winner of the ASCAP Musical Award. (Luise photo)

The American College Theatre Festival recently announced that "GYNT" has been named the 1986 winner of the ASCAP College Musical Award.

ACTF established the award five years ago with the support of ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) to recognize outstanding original musicals at the collegiate level. USM alumni Sam Rossi and Flash Allen wrote the book/lyrics, and the score, respectively.

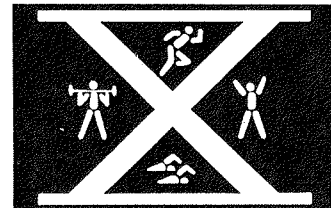
Judges for the 1986 ASCAP award were Martin Charnin, lyricist and director of the hit Broadway show "Annie" and Stephen Schwartz, composer and lyricist of the popular 1970s show, "Godspell." To make their decision, Charnin and Schwartz reviewed the "GYNT" script and an audio tape of the original musical score. "GYNT" director and USM theatre professor Walter Stump was notified of the award earlier this month.

To be eligible, a play also must be entered in the American College Theatre Festival competitions. The ASCAP award comes on the heels of news that the ACTF had selected "GYNT" as one of the six best collegiate productions in the nation. The six plays were selected from more than 70 productions presented in 12 regional competitions. Now in its 18th year, the ACTF sponsors programs and competitions in support of college theatre.

As an ACTF finalist, USM will stage "GYNT" on Friday and Saturday, April 11-12, in Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The ASCAP award — including cash awards totaling \$4,000 to the institution and writers — will be presented at the D.C. performances. The audience at the national showcase traditionally has included theatre critics and producers in search of new material.

The ASCAP College Musical Theatre Award is supported by an arm of ASCAP called the ASCAP Foundation. The foundation was established with private donations to fund awards and other programs to recognize the works of up-and-coming composers. ASCAP is a performing rights society that collects licensing fees from public performances and dispenses those fees in the form of royalty payments to composer members.

## USM LIFELINE



10th ANNIVERSARY  
1976-1986

it has made to the better health of literally thousands of people."

Lifeline opened in 1976 with one exercise class attended by 10 people. Among its present 31 programs are a Heartline cardiac rehabilitation program for victims of heart disease; weight training; the medically oriented Low Back Exercise Program; aerobics; walk/jog classes; and an Employee Wellness Program that delivers com-

prehensive wellness services to area businesses.



University of Southern Maine  
**CURRENTS**

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Materials should be submitted no later than Thursday noon, 11 days prior to publication to: 601 CRAS, Portland. Distribution is free. Third class postage is paid at Portland, ME 04103.

# Assertiveness Expert to Keynote Conference

Nancy Austin, co-author of the new best-seller, "A Passion for Excellence," will keynote the largest and most successful conference for women in New England, namely Women in Management.

Sponsored by our Department of Community Programs, the 1986 conference will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, April 8-9, at the Sheraton Inn, South Portland.

Credited with spurring a revolution in management thinking and practice, Austin also is known as co-author of "The Assertive Woman," a 1976 book that is widely used in business, education and counseling settings around the world. "A Passion for Excellence" creates a blueprint for achieving excellence at all levels of an organization and for turning corporations into "humane, challenging and fulfilling

places to work."

In her keynote address, Austin will discuss in practical detail the day-to-day acts of leadership that add up to superior performance.

Another main speaker at the seventh annual Women in Management conference will be John W. Rowe, president and chief executive officer of Central Maine Power Company. Noted for his aggressive recruitment of talented executives, Rowe will discuss how opening doors for women has changed CMP and what contributions women bring to a cultural shift.

A chance to hear and talk with leading businesswomen who have achieved their success in Maine is a third feature of the conference. Four panelists representing four different fields will talk about their role models, how living in Maine affected their pro-



Nancy Austin

gress and what defines "the top." Panelists will be Pamela Gleichman, president of Gleichman and Co., real estate development firm; Lynn Goldfarb, the first female vice president of CMP; Anita Stickney, chair of the board of Deering Ice Cream; and Beth Warren, executive director for human resources at USM. Joan Chadbourne, career specialist and management consultant with Mahoney Rand Associates of Portland, will moderate.

In addition, more than 30 workshops are scheduled during the two days on topics ranging from employer-supported child care to equity financing.

A limited number of tuition waivers are available. For more information, contact the Department of Community Programs at 780-4045.

## At Your Service: Preparing Yourself and Your Suitcase for Travel Abroad

by Veda J. Burtchell

Travel abroad can be a very exciting and stimulating experience. There are some things you might want to keep in mind as you plan your sojourn across the ocean.

Be sure to take with you a flexible attitude. You are going to find things different than they are at home. This is one of the joys of traveling. If you expect everything to be just as it is here in Maine, then you best stay home.

Although English is spoken in the major cities of Europe, don't take it for granted that everyone will speak English. Signs will most always be in the language of the country.

Learning the currency of the countries you visit is an interesting endeavor. Some are easier than others to learn, and to equate to our own. It can be a shock to deal in increments of thousands of lire, for example, rather than 20 or 30 dollars. It is appreciated by the merchants when you can give them the correct currency, just as it is here at home.

There are several different ways to travel abroad. Join a tour group. All your arrangements will be taken care of for you, and you will travel with the same group from beginning to end. With the aid of a travel agent, make your own plans, and have all of your travel and hotel reservations made before you leave home or, make only your reservations for flights across the ocean and a place to stay the night you arrive, then make all other arrangements while you are there. Finally you can backpack, camp, walk, etc., — the most inexpensive ways to travel anywhere in the world. Using a book such as "Frommer's Guide" you can find youth hostels, and very inexpensive hotels.

If you plan to move about extensively while in Europe you might want to consider buying a Eurail Pass before leaving home. This entitles you to unlimited use of the trains. If visiting London for a week or more, purchase a week pass for the underground. You will find this convenient, and can save

you quite a bit on subway and bus fares.

If you are planning to visit the cathedrals of Europe, please note that you are not admitted with bare shoulders or bare legs. Therefore, it is incorrect for men to wear shorts or go without shirts, and it is also incorrect for women to wear shorts or sundresses without a jacket.

In some of the major cities of Europe there is a crime problem just as there is here in the United States. It is smart, therefore, to protect your valuables. Be careful where you carry cash, and where you leave jewelry. By using common sense you can have an

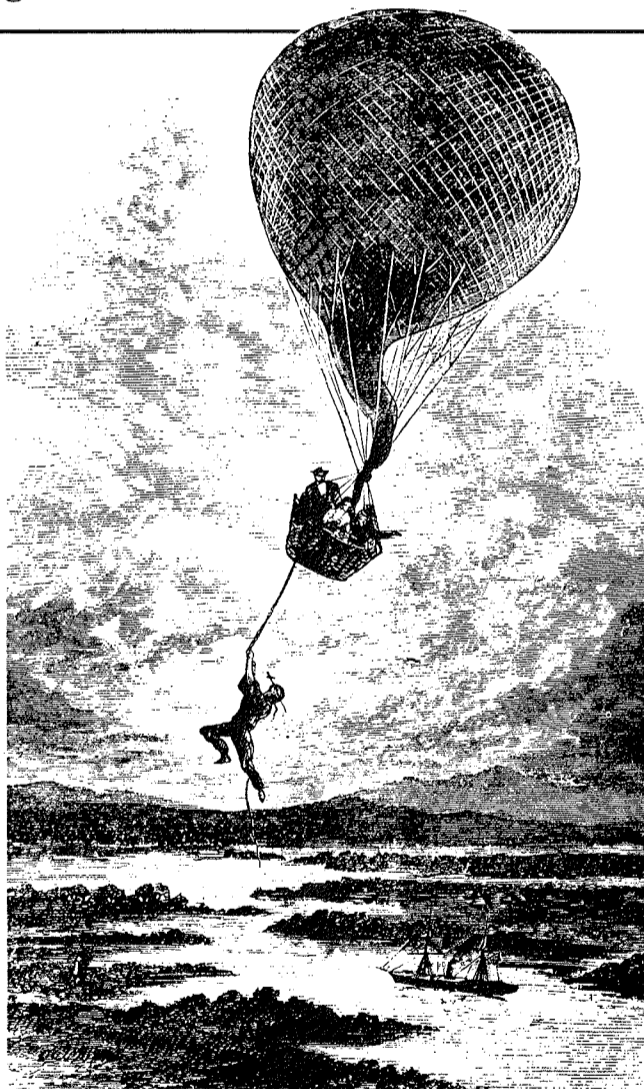
enjoyable trip and avoid problems.

Carry your money in travelers checks. This is the safest, and they are easy to cash and convert anywhere. Also, Master Card, Visa, Diners Club, and American Express cards are handy to have with you. You can use these abroad just as you do at home. Personal checks are useless.

Guide books of the areas you visit will give you a lot of valuable information. These are available at bookstores.

### Packing Tips

*Don't take more than you can carry.* At some time or other during your trip



you will have to handle your own baggage. It can be extremely tiring and exasperating to struggle with more than you can easily handle.

**Shoes** — Pack shoes that are comfortable for walking. Ladies, be sure that you take shoes that you can wear with any of your outfits, not more than two pair. Shoes are bulky, and hard to pack.

**Rain gear** — It is always smart to have some kind of light, easy-to-pack rain gear. You never know when it might come in handy.

**Toilet paper** — There are some places where the toilet paper is quite unsatisfactory to an American.

**Medications** — Take more than enough for the days you will be away, in case something happens, such as an airport strike, and you are there longer than you planned. Also, take copies of your prescriptions in case you lose your medicine. Carry these in a separate location from the medicine.

**Eyeglasses** — Take an extra pair, in case you lose or break the ones that you are wearing.

**Tissues** — Hotels in Europe do not provide tissues.

**Hangers** — Very few hangers are found in the hotel wardrobes.

**Washcloth** — You will be provided with towels, but never washcloths.

**Steamer** — It is handy to have a steamer to steam the wrinkles out of your clothes. These work really well.

**Conversion Kit** — Since European countries use DC current, and many different kinds of electrical outlets, it is necessary that you bring an electrical conversion kit in order to use any American appliances.

Take care in your planning and preparation, and have a good trip.

*Veda J. Burtchell is coordinator of space and scheduling and the national student exchange. She has traveled to the countries of Great Britain, Scandinavia, Russia and Yugoslavia, among others.*

## What We're Doing

**E. MICHAEL BRADY**, associate professor of adult education, has had his poem "Seeking Iodine," accepted for publication in *The New York Quarterly*.

**JOHN BROIDA**, assistant professor of psychology, presented a lecture, "The Future of Behavioral Endocrinology," at UMO in February.

**ROBERT W. COAKLEY**, associate professor of physics, coauthored a paper titled "The Pressure Variation of the Glass Transition Temperature in Atactic Polystyrene" which was published in the January 1986 issue of *The Journal of Chemical Physics*.

**MELISSA COSTELLO**, director of clinical experiences, College of Education, attended the annual conference of the National Association of Teacher Educators in Atlanta, Ga. in February. She also attended meetings of the ATE Delegate Assembly as Maine's higher education representative and meetings of the corporate by-laws committee. She is serving as an editorial consultant for the spring issue of the ATE journal, *Action in Teacher Education*.

**LUCIA diBENEDETTO**, associate professor of French, has a review of Gilles Carpentier's novel, "Les Manuscrits de la marmotte," in the February issue of *The French Review*.

**LOUIS L. GAINEY JR.**, associate professor of biology, is coauthor of a paper titled "A Preliminary Study of the Behavioral and Physiological Effects of 'Gonyaulax Tamarensis' on Bivalve Molluscs," published in *Toxic Dinoflagellates*, the proceedings of the Third International Conference on Toxic Dinoflagellates, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada, Elsevier Press, New York.

**ROY A. GALLANT**, planetarium director, has been appointed to the manuscript review panel for "Science and Children" of the National Science Teachers Association.

**WILLIAM F. GAYTON**, professor of psychology, recently spoke at UMA on "The Role of Attention and Arousal in Optimal Athletic Performance" and at UMO on "Understanding Spectator Violence at Competitive Athletic Events."

**MICHAEL S. HAMILTON**, assistant professor of political science, has been named to the Technical Advisory Group of the Governor's

High Level Nuclear Waste Task Force. The Task Force was created by Governor Brennan to coordinate the state's response to the U.S. Department of Energy's proposal to consider two locations in Maine for permanent storage of radioactive waste.

**JOHN G. HANNA**, professor emeritus of English, has been appointed to a three-year term on the Advisory Council of Southern Maine Senior Citizens. He is also chairman of the SMSC Committee on Public Relations. Hanna recently addressed a Lewiston-Auburn group at the Auburn Public Library after a showing of films adapted from short stories by Sherwood Anderson and William Faulkner. The event was sponsored by the Maine Humanities Council and the Auburn Department of Adult Education.

**ANNETTE HANSER-BUTRYN**, executive secretary, Honors Program and Core Council, has had a short story, "Among the Buried," accepted by Kennebec, the annual Maine creative writing publication out this spring.

**ROSE MARASCO**, assistant professor of art, is exhibiting some of her works in a show, "Art in Public View: Percent for Art in Maine," at Alexander Hall Gallery, Westbrook College through April 22.

**LAWRENCE F. RAKOVAN**, associate professor of art, has had a large pastel drawing of Ragged Island, Maine, accepted in an international juried competition. The work will be exhibited April 5 - May 10 at the Harrisburg Art Association, Galleries and School, Harrisburg, Pa.

**WILLIAM STURNER**, professor of management, has had his article, "Life's Journey: The Four Crucial Questions," accepted for publication by the Association for Humanistic Psychology. It will appear in the fall, 1986 edition of *AHP Perspective*.

**JAMES V. SULLIVAN**, coordinator and professor, Therapeutic Recreation Programs, spoke to the South Portland/Cape Elizabeth Rotary and to the Yarmouth Lions Club about his recent trip to Brazil.

**JURIS UBANS**, professor of art, participated in annual meetings of the American College, University and Community Arts Association and the College Art Association in New York City in December and February.

## Russell Chair Nominees Sought

That biennial event, the selection of a Russell Chair Scholar, is underway.

President Woodbury is seeking nominations for the Walter E. Russell Endowed Chair in Philosophy and Education. The chair was established in honor of the second principal of Western Maine Normal School at Gorham (one of our predecessor institutions) in the will of his widow, Winifred S. Russell.

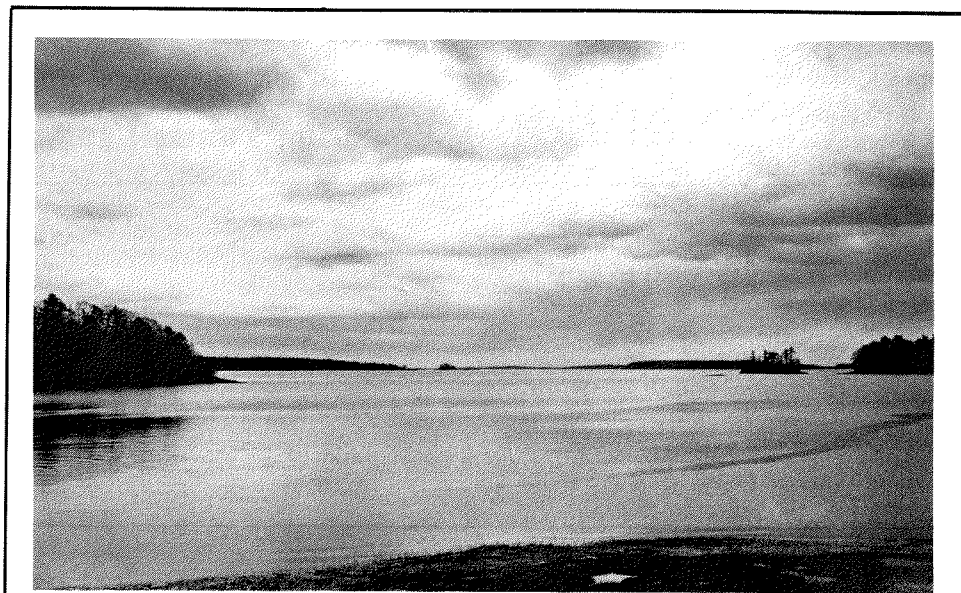
Previous occupants of the Russell Chair have included Gloria S. Duclos, professor of classics, (1980-1982) and H. Draper Hunt III, professor of history, (1982-1984). The current Russell Chair occupant is William J. Gavin, professor of philosophy.

Individuals selected for the biennial

appointment must have a distinguished record of service at USM and demonstrate significant achievement in teaching and scholarly activities involving education or philosophy and public service.

The Russell Chair Scholar must deliver at least one public lecture each year of the appointment. These lectures are then published and distributed to the University community and elsewhere. The scholars receive an honorarium of \$2000 each year plus an additional \$500 to support their activities.

Announcement of the 1986-88 Russell Chair Scholar will be made at a special ceremony later this year.



The shore at Wolfe's Neck Farm reflects the passage of winter.

(File photo)

## • Honors Grant (from p.1)

in the higher educational system in Maine, and that's important for all of us who live in southern Maine."

The Honors Program has begun to recruit students for the fall 1986 semester. It is designed to offer special interdisciplinary courses, independent research projects and an advanced seminar on a current topic to high-achieving students.

The NEH grant will be used for a two-part project to produce reading lists, research exercises, written and oral assignments as well as methods for evaluating students. The first phase consists of a series of meetings by a curriculum development staff followed by a three-week workshop in June. Professor Jonathan Z. Smith, Robert O. Anderson Distinguished Service Professor in the Humanities and former dean of the college at the University of Chicago, will be the workshop's keynote speaker. Other scholars will also join in the USM working group during the first week of this workshop to provide guidance in the areas of themes, teaching strategies and suggested readings.

The curriculum development staff will consist of USM faculty and administrators and two recent college graduates.

Eight faculty members have been selected to be part of this curriculum

development staff. They are Kathleen M. Ashley, associate professor, English; Jeremiah P. Conway, associate professor, philosophy; Craig Dietrich, associate professor, history, and director, Core Curriculum; James Friedman, associate professor, law; William J. Gavin, professor, philosophy; Robert B. Loudon, assistant professor, philosophy; Richard J. Maiman, professor, political science; and Dennis Patterson, lecturer, philosophy and law.

These faculty will be joined by two recent college graduates selected because of strong backgrounds in the humanities. "They have excellent undergraduate records," explained Rogoff, "and are highly regarded by the USM faculty as intelligent and sensitive persons of good judgment." The two are Ernest Freeberg, a student activities assistant here, and an English graduate of Middlebury College, 1980; and Thomas T. Downey, lecturer, English and former director of UM Summer Institute for Gifted High School Students. He is a 1983 USM graduate with a degree in philosophy.

Also participating in the curriculum development are Harris Kennedy, reference librarian, and David Silvermail, director of testing and assessment.

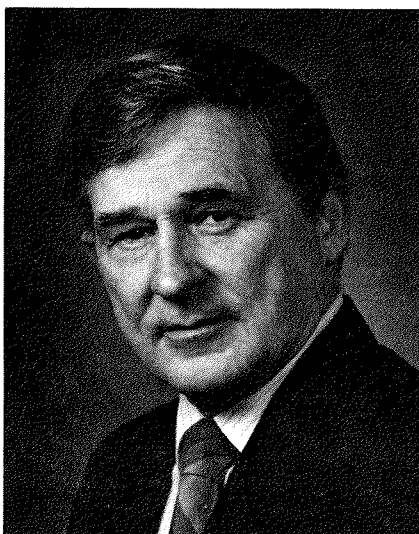
## Bowder's "Tracings" Performed

Composer Jerry L. Bowder, chair of our Music Department, recently had one of his works performed by the Champaign-Urbana (Ill.) Philharmonic Orchestra, as part of its regular subscription series.

The composition called "Tracings" is a one-movement piece for orchestra featuring a string quartet as soloists. The March 1 concert was under the baton of the Philharmonic's conductor Paul Vermel, Bowder's long-time friend.

The two originally met in the mid-1960s when Vermel came to Maine to head-up the Maine Chamber Orchestra and later the Portland Symphony Orchestra. As PSO conductor, Vermel performed Bowder's "Second and Third Symphonies," and as a guest conductor, his "Fourth Symphony."

Bowder has been an active composer for more than 30 years. His compositions include four



Jerry Bowder

symphonies, a string quartet and numerous other works. He has received many commissions and awards including a Pulitzer Prize nomination in 1972 for his "String Quartet No. 1." In 1976 he was named composer for the Maine Bicentennial.