

# YESTERDAY

**YESTERDAY ...**  
**10 years ago - June 16, 2006**  
(As reported in the Bangor Daily News)

BANGOR — A row of girls in pale pink tights and black leotards lined up along the edge of the fourth-floor dance studio at the Thomas School of Dance last weekend, giggling to themselves and playing with their hair. Rehearsals for the Bangor Youth Ballet's production of "The Little Mermaid" have been held here since February.

The opening performance will be Sunday, June 18, at Bangor High School, and the 32-person company of young dancers are putting on the final touches. It's been a four-month process of endless rehearsals, homemade costumes and sets, and good old-fashioned hard work - from the cast to the all-volunteer crew - and everyone was a little antsy about getting started with that day's practice.

The ballerinas age 11 and under took their positions, while the other dancers flopped down in a pile on the far side of the studio to watch their classmates practice their scene from the original ballet, conceived and choreographed by Bangor Youth Ballet artistic director Heinrich Snyder.

Their instructor, Thomas School of Dance owner and director Jane Bragg, called for their attention.

"If you are not dancing, keep your zippers on!" she shouted, miming zipping her mouth shut.

"Well, we are dancing, so we can jabber!" said one dancer, jumping with anticipation to begin. The girls had been gossiping about losing their baby teeth, and giggling about the hunky Prince Gustav, played by 16-year-old Bangor High School student Ben Malone.

"Well, you need to keep them on too!" Bragg said, sternly but kindly, her silver hair swept up with a tortoiseshell clip, pink satin ballet slippers peeking out from beneath her jeans.

The thunderous sounds of the "Storm" sequence from Rossini's opera "William Tell" blared over the speakers, as the girls bounded and leaped across the floor, arms raised, conveying the destructive power of the hurricane. The storm wrecks Prince Gustav's ship, leaving him stranded on a rock. The Little Mermaid, Cecelia, played by the lithe, delicate Erin Vasil, 17, of Swanville, finds him there and falls in love with him.

One doesn't normally associate a fourth-grader with hurricane-force strength, but talk to Mikayla Lindsay, a Bangor dancer who's 91/2 (almost 10), and you'll see that she's very serious about her craft.

"The hurricane scene is so interesting because it's so different," said the ballerina. "There's a lot of moving of the arms. But I like the piranha scene, too. We jump up and down a lot, and it's really upbeat."

Her friend, dancer Skyler McLean, a 10-year-old from Amherst, agreed.

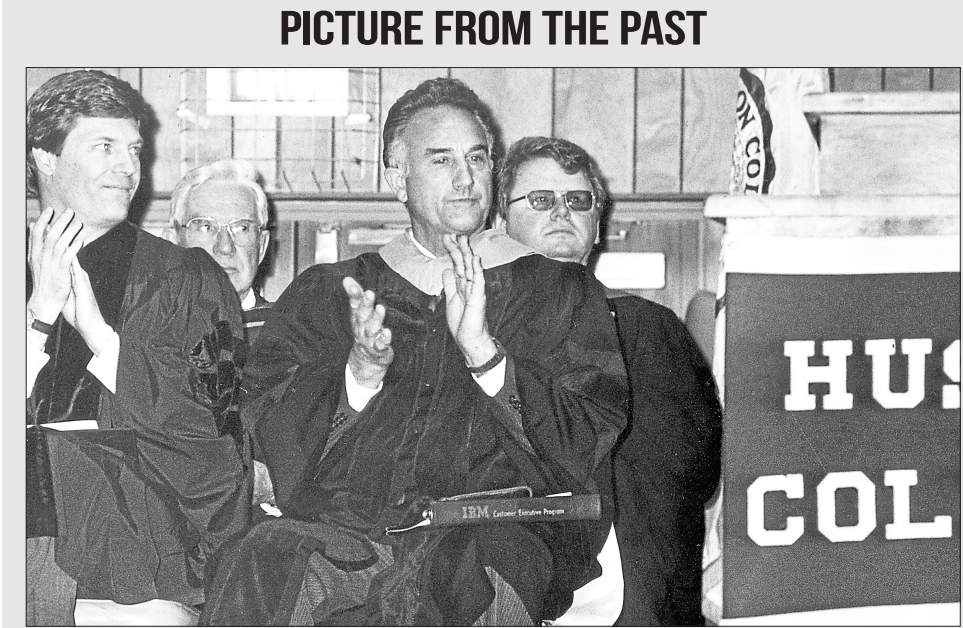
"We move around a lot," she said. "I'm a tropical fish, too, so we follow around the Little Mermaid like pets."

Downstairs from the studio, Bangor Youth Ballet vice president Lee Bickerstaff and costume designer Bonny Black daubed shimmering green paint onto plastic vines for one of the many costumes created for the ballet - when you have to clothe the piranhas, caimans, butterflies, tropical fish, parrots, sea foam and a bunch of mermaids, there's a lot of sewing to do.

"We've been down here all day, every day, for weeks," said Bickerstaff with a laugh. "Thank God Jo-Ann Fabric had ocean-related stuff half-off. It's hard work, but it keeps us out of trouble."

The costumes for this production are full of sparkles and shimmers, with subdued, dreamy shades of blue and bold greens and yellows. They're all made by volunteers, mostly parents, some of whom drive their children from as far away as Deer Isle every day to practice. This year's ballet also features new set pieces and a backdrop, thanks to a successful fundraiser last winter that brought in several thousand dollars.

It has been worth the effort so far. For many of the



BANGOR DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO BY MARC BLANCHETTE  
**Blah Gov. John R. McKernan and Delmont Merrill, President of Husson College, at the 1987 Husson commencement ceremony, Saturday, May 16, 1987.**

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dancers involved, this is the first ballet they have performed in, and the excitement shows in the levels of energy maintained after months of practice.

The impetus for Snyder's original version of Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale came several years back.

"This has been gestating for about two years," said Snyder, 41. "I read the story and thought it was a potential ballet. What the Little Mermaid goes through in the story appealed to me. She can't make [the Prince] love her, so the only way she can return to the sea is if she kills him. But her love is so deep she can't bring herself to do it. It's the tragedy of trying to be something you're not."

The dances he has created for the ballet offer challenges for both the younger dancers (overseen by Bragg and ballet mistress Samantha Lott) and the older, more experienced ones, who have been taught by Snyder himself. It also involves some unexpected elements, including the scene in which Prince Gustav and his sailors celebrate the Prince's birthday. Snyder has choreographed the scene to include a dance similar to a sailor's hornpipe, with lots of clapping hands and syncopated rhythms.

In Snyder's vision of the story, South American themes abound, especially in the character of the Sea Witch, who gives Cecelia her legs. Here she is a jaguar named Papaya who lives in the Amazon and is played by 16-year-old Brooke Black, an Eddington resident and student at John Bapst Memorial High School.

"This is my first real big solo," said the dark-haired, graceful Black. "It's classical, but it's still so different. It's a new character that no one is used to, and it's very dramatic, which is fun."

Malone, the Prince, is a relative newcomer to ballet. He started dancing only last October, but already he has landed a lead role. High athletic plies and confident lifts during his pas de deux with Princess Anna show that he's progressed rapidly, considering the short amount of time he's been learning.

"Around last September I heard they needed dancers for the Robinson Ballet," said Malone. "I tried it out, and now I love it. It's all I do now. I've been doing really intensive training. I've been instantly immersed in it. You learn it quickly that way, like a language."

BANGOR — Picture this: a grassy courtyard studded with trees and walking paths, filled with people playing with flying discs, relaxing at picnic tables or heading toward one of the neat, brick buildings surrounding the quadrant.

That's the vision that Eastern Maine Community College officials presented Thursday during a groundbreaking for a 165-person residence hall.

"We're taking steps to further transform the college," President Joyce Hedlund said.

The idea is to provide students with a "full college experience," she said, noting that the demand for housing is increasing as the school attracts more new high school graduates.

Some 75 people attended

the morning event, including administrators, faculty, staff and students; members of the EMCC Advisory Council; area legislators; and community members.

Scheduled to open in August 2007, the \$5.3 million dorm will end the school's three-year housing crunch spurred by its shift to community college status in 2003. Currently, 125 EMCC students are living in area motels.

"It will be really exciting to have them back on site," said Dan Belyea, director of facilities management, adding that the students will more easily be able to take advantage of the gym, bookstore and library.

Constructed of red brick with metal detailing, the four-story building will be located about two-thirds of the way down the parking lot and will match Maine Hall as well as the newly renovated Katahdin Hall which houses the Campus Center.

Funded through revenue from room and board costs, the dorm will feature a suite-type arrangement with a shared bath between two rooms. Each room will house two students. Also included in the building will be classroom space, a large meeting room and a computer lab.

Over the next few years, the college plans to build the courtyard as well as a 450-space parking lot in front of Penobscot Hall and a new entrance off Hogan Road which will redirect traffic along the outer edges of the campus.

The goal is to have EMCC "feel more like a typical college campus and less like a commuter campus," said Richard Graves of WBRC Architects/Engineers in Bangor.

Contractor for the new residence hall is Pizzagalli Construction Co. in South Portland. It also is building residence halls at Central Maine Community College in Auburn and Southern Maine Community College in South Portland. With one contractor for all three projects, the Maine Community College System was able to save money on the price of materials and speed the building process.

More than 30 people on the three projects' design and construction teams graduated from the community college system, officials pointed out.

EMCC plays an important role in helping people gain access to higher education and find career opportunities so they can stay in Maine and raise their families, said Michael Crowley, chairman of the EMCC Advisory Council.

"It doesn't seem possible" that the college began in the basement of the former Bangor High School on Harlow Street, he said.

"The campus is transforming itself. This is definitely the beginning."

Watching as officials picked up shovels and dug into the earth as part of the groundbreaking ceremony, Loring Kydd, a math instructor at EMCC for 37 years who recently retired, said the college is moving in the right direction.

"EMCC is finally getting the recognition it deserves," he said.

**25 years ago - June 16, 1991**  
ORONO — The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Division I North has announced that Erik T. Kel-

logg, a junior at Orono High School, has been selected to participate in the Academy Introduction Mission (Project AIM), which could lead to an appointment to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

Project AIM is sponsored by the Coast Guard Auxiliary and will be conducted at the Coast Guard Academy, New London, Conn., Aug. 1-7. During this program, participants live the routine of an Academy cadet. They are briefed on the Academy program and Coast Guard missions. Participants are selected for this program on a competitive basis and must meet the basic requirements for admission to the Academy.

NEWPORT — Brad Olsen's English students have done it again.

For the second year in a row, Nokomis Regional High School student writers have published a book. Last year, "Fire Engines are Red" was a hot seller both at the school and at Newport's Mr. Paperback store, which carried the mystery novel for sale.

This semester, Olsen initiated a short-story writing contest. The top six stories were selected and published in "Points of Interest, A Collection of Short Stories."

The six young authors are Mary Daisey, Stephanie Jones, John Redford, Mike Daisey, Drew Dover and Caleb Dolan. Three of the six writers graduated this year.

The collection, said Olsen, is based entirely in Maine. One story deals with a camp counselor's experiences at a camp for terminally ill children. Another details a man's return home after an extended period of time away. Memories of a family, the town of Etna's development, a typical Sunday afternoon and dealing with the death of a mother are the plots for the other four stories.

"Their writing is just amazing," said Olsen, who added that two of the students were only freshmen when their stories were written. Olsen said that copies of the collection will be available at Mr. Paperback within a few weeks and also at the school.

Olsen, who is leaving Nokomis High School this year, said he hoped the writing and publishing project will continue. He expressed deep gratitude to Ken Dow and Chuck Matson for typing the copy into the computer and handling the graphic arts end of the publishing. "They deserve much credit for the completion of this project," he said.

BREWER — At least two Brewer City Councilors have not changed their minds about the pier on the Penobscot River being offered free to the city by a retired Bangor dentist: It's a nice gesture, but that's about it.

Councilor Paul Hatt visited the pier last Tuesday evening. "It would be a tremendous liability to the city," Hatt said. "It's going to cost us a lot of money."

From Hatt's examination of the pier, he concluded high tides and the river's winter coat of ice are destroying the pier. "It's ready to wash out now," he added.

Councilor Larry Doughty said Thursday evening that the pier is "useless -- and

it's a liability." Additional land, Doughty said, would make the offer more attractive. "Otherwise, no way."

The dentist, S. Melvin Brown, said Sunday that there's a chance the city will have "access to more land." The pier has a foundation of solid ground, Brown noted, and is strong enough to hold vehicles.

Once used as an unloading ramp for oil barges, the pier behind Maine Motel Supply Inc. on South Main Street has not been used in 20 years.

One side of the pier is in desperate need of riprap, a foundation of broken stones. During high tide, it becomes a sunken island. City Planner Tom Kurth estimated that bringing the pier up to par would cost at least \$60,000.

Although Brown will conduct a survey of the property and clean it up, he will not pay for a study to determine the extent of oil contamination. City planners have requested such a soil test.

Such a study would probably show that oil has seeped into the ground, Brown said, but any contamination would be minimal.

In a letter to Hatt, City Attorney Joel Dearborn urged that the city have "adequate liability insurance" before anything is done with the pier.

The council was supposed to discuss the matter Tuesday during its regular monthly meeting. But only two of the five councilors showed up so the meeting was canceled.

Brown did not offer the pier to the city out of the kindness of his heart. The city took Brown to court a year ago because he was doing some cutting and filling at the pier without permits, Kurth explained.

The city gave Brown a timeframe in which to get the permits or to undo what he had done. Brown did neither, according to Attorney Dearborn, and later offered the property to the city.

"The wharf itself is not land to do anything with," Kurth has said.

Parking space is limited to a couple vehicles. Parking would have to be provided on South Main Street or another location. In his letter to Hatt, Dearborn urged the council to consider carefully the parking on South Main Street "as it would create a safety hazard."

**50 years ago - June 16, 1966**

A well-known Brewer artist, 28-year-old Thomas Hennessey, has received a letter of acceptance to exhibit selected paintings at the Abercrombie & Fitch Sportsman's Gallery in New York City.

Hennessey has also received an invitation to place paintings in the annual National Exhibition of Sports in Art in New York in August. He will also have a one-man show at the Massachusetts House Workshop at Lincolnville in August.

Hennessey's main interest is outdoor painting, featuring hunting and fishing scenes. He paints in both watercolors and oils and has had extensive exhibits in Maine, including the Farnsworth Museum at

Rockland, Camden, Lincolnville, Collier Gallery at Bar Harbor and two shows at Bangor. He has also exhibited at the Crossroads of Sports Gallery at New York.

The artist is married to the former Nancy Lobley and they have two children. Hennessey has been painting for about five years.

Grossman's lumber and building materials company celebrated its 70th birthday with the grand opening of the chain's 63rd store outlet in Bangor Wednesday.

Company officials and local dignitaries, led by Mike Grossman, president of Grossman Distribution Centers, officially opened the store at a mid-morning "board cutting" ceremony.

The new store is located on a three-acre site on the Odlin Road, off Interstate 95, just across from the new Howard Johnson's motor lodge. It is the second Grossman's cash and carry establishment in the state. The third will be opened today in a similar ceremony in Presque Isle on Industrial Street.

Grossman's also has operated a conventional retail store for many years in Eastport.

The grand opening featured free gifts, refreshments and do-it-yourself literature for customers.

**100 years ago - June 16, 1916**

The total number of voters registered at the board of registration office number 65, including 21 Democrats, 33 Republicans and 11 no preference. The first Chinaman ever registered in Bangor is on the list, his name being Ng Goon (D) from Ward 5.

Much interest is manifested in Bangor's first community move toward helping to better highway conditions. The committee wishes to emphasize the fact that everyone is invited to take part and that it is not necessary that they be members of any of the various organizations interested.

Besides offers of personal help and offers to furnish teams, numerous checks have been sent in for the use of the committee in defraying expenses. If this first day is a success, it is planned to have another one later in the season. It is likely, also, that nearby towns will fall into line, so that the aggregate result will be better roads all around.

It is expected that between 400 and 500 men will volunteer for Good Roads Day. This is not a big estimate compared with the outturnings in other and smaller towns. While the details have not been completed it is planned to divide the workers into companies and to start the ball a-rolling.

*Compiled by Ardeana Hamlin & Aimee Thibodeau*

## Something Happening Here

If you have news, email: [weekly@bangordailynews.com](mailto:weekly@bangordailynews.com) or write: **The Weekly**, P.O. Box 1329, Bangor, ME 04402

## Death Notices

- ALLEY, Lee H.**, 84, Orono, Dec. 9, 2016.  
**BRAGG, Hunter Michael**, 7, Bangor, June 4, 2016.  
**COATES JR., Arthur S.**, Holden; at Bangor, June 7, 2016.  
**CYR, Thelma Florence**, 85, Bangor, Feb. 11, 2016.  
**FOSTER, Barbara L.**, 81, Brewer; at Brewer, June 7, 2016.  
**GALL, Mary Jane Shurr**, Orono.  
**HARMON, Robert "Bobby"**, 49, Milo; at Bangor, June 5, 2016.  
**KEIRSTEAD, David and Faye**, Hermon.  
**MCCANN, George F.**, 81, Bangor; at Bangor, June 5, 2016.  
**MCLAUGHLIN, Myron E.**, 78, Brewer; at Brewer, June 5, 2016.  
**PENDLETON JR., Richard Collins**, 80, Bangor; at Bangor, June 8, 2016.  
**SHEPPARD, Edmund M. "Ned"**, Orono, June 5, 2016. Brookings-Smith, Orono.  
**SHERWOOD, Janet I. 86**, Brewer and Bangor, Jan. 30, 2016.  
**STINCHFIELD, Helen S.**, 92, Brewer and North Andover, MA, Dec. 31, 2015.



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