

# UMaine's class opera *Figaro*

PREPARATIONS HAVE begun to bring *The Marriage of Figaro* to the Hauck Auditorium stage in February — and to classrooms across campus this fall.

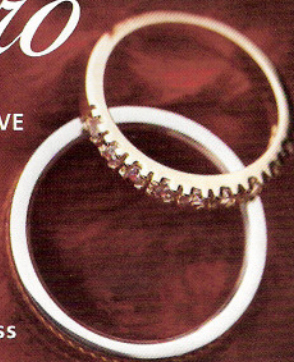
*Figaro* is UMaine's first-ever "class opera" in a project that melds the inspiration of a class book with the University of Maine's operatic roots. The Mozart opera, to be sung in English, will tap the talents of music, theater and dance students and faculty throughout the School of Performing Arts. It also will be the springboard for discussions in courses on history, philosophy, sociology, women's studies, political science and French literature.

One goal is to involve as many performing arts students as possible "for a true school-wide production," says Stuart Marrs, chair of the Division of Music in the School of Performing Arts. In addition, other liberal arts classes are picking up on the opera's references to such topics as pre-French Revolution history, class struggle and Enlightenment philosophy.

Also scheduled around *Figaro* are guest lectures, study guides and postshow discussions with the cast, crew and faculty.

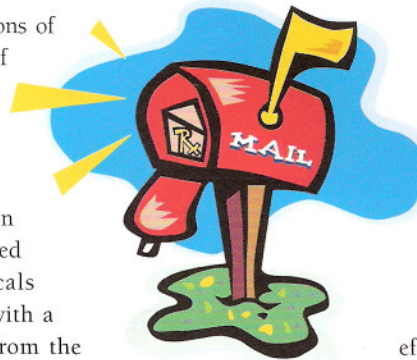
"Productions like this have the potential to bring everyone — students, faculty and departments — together," says Professor of Theatre Tom Mikotowicz, the stage director for *Figaro*.

*Figaro* revives UMaine's classic opera tradition that, up until the late 1980s, featured an annual production. It also honors the long academic and performance career of music professor Lud Hallman, who has taught at UMaine since 1970 and will be *Figaro's* musical director.



## Safe Return

TO HELP KEEP tons of medications out of the environment and away from children, the University of Maine Center on Aging has launched a pharmaceuticals return program with a \$150,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



The Maine project includes an inventory of the types and quantities of drugs being returned. The inventory data could be used by the medical community to change prescription practices in an effort to reduce the incidence of unused medications in

people's homes.

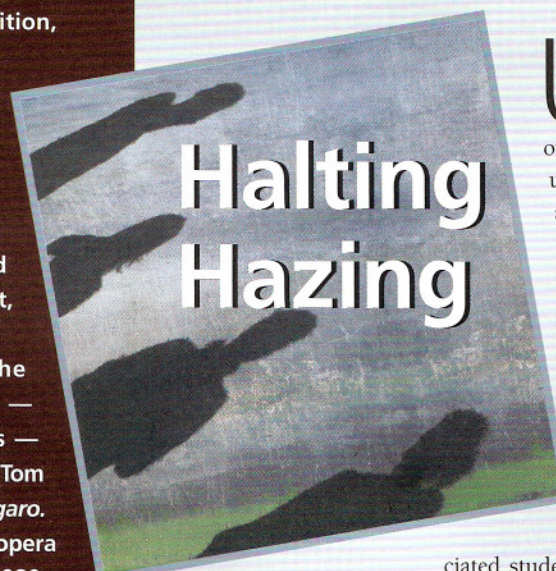
The Maine mail-back and inventory aspects of the program are firsts in the country, according to EPA Project Officer Kathy Sykes.

Typically, unused, unneeded or expired medications are flushed down toilets or thrown in the trash, and ultimately can make their way into the environment. Since compounds in many medications are destroyed only through incineration, they often pass through landfill and wastewater treatment plants, and end up in waterways and groundwater.

Unused and unneeded drugs stored in homes also can wind up in the hands of children or thieves.

The mail-back pilot project is expected to remove 1.5 tons of unused over-the-counter and prescription medications from homes or the waste stream, according to Len Kaye, director of the Center on Aging. It also is the first step in implementing the Maine Unused Pharmaceutical Disposal Project, adopted by the state legislature in 2004.

An estimated 6,000 postage-paid mailers are now available to the public through participating pharmacies in four counties. In addition, an educational campaign is focusing on the hazards caused by the improper storage and disposal of unused medications.



## Halting Hazing

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE researchers Elizabeth Allan and Mary Madden have moved into the second phase of their groundbreaking research on hazing with a survey of more than 14,000 full-time undergraduate students from 52 institutions from across the country — the largest and most comprehensive survey of its kind. Allan and Madden hope the results of the survey will shed new light on the type and frequency of hazing behaviors, and students' perceptions regarding such practices.

"One important discovery that we made in the pilot survey is that our

### UPDATE

definition of hazing and the students' definitions are not the same. This latest survey and the asso-

ciated student interviews are aimed at helping us better understand how students perceive hazing on campus," says Madden. "Our goal is to make a difference in terms of the culture of hazing on postsecondary campuses, and we need to fully understand the students' views in order to have an impact."

The final results of their comprehensive, nationwide survey are currently being tabulated as Allan and Madden work toward developing recommendations for addressing the problem of hazing in postsecondary education.