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## Maine Campus\_Month of King programs, activities planned

Kathleen Brennan

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• Conflict

## UMaine faculty begin job action in protest over proposed contract

By Tony Hallett  
Staff Writer

The faculty members at the Orono campus of the University of Maine System have entered the fray of a system-wide protest over the failed contract proposal.

Faculty members across the campus have been asked by Associated Faculty of the University of Maine to cease participation on administrative committees without resigning, and a protest is planned for Monday.

"It was important to do something," Professor Doug Allen said. "To do nothing would be demoralizing."

Allen is the coordinator of the tactical action group that is responsible for planning actions on the part of the faculty.

Allen said AFUM is currently undertaking two methods of protest.

"We have asked faculty members who serve on committees to withhold labor, and for the committees to suspend operation," he said, adding this form of protest is a very slow and passive means. Picketing is much more assertive:

Starting at noon on Monday, Jan. 23, members of both AFUM and other unions on campus will be picketing the Board of Trustees meeting in Wells Commons, with further action being planned if necessary.

Meetings of both AFUM and the action group are scheduled throughout the week in preparation for the event.

Faculty members are not the only people affected by the re-

cent contract failure.

"People don't realize none of the units (employees of the University) have contracts," Allen said. Secretaries, clerical workers, teamsters and other professionals are also without definite contracts.

"The tactical action group is bringing a resolution to the AFUM union to support the struggles of other unions for a fair contract, and that they support us," Tina Passman, associate professor of classical languages & literature, said.

The faculty is also seeking the support of the student body. Though some say the students will not feel the effects of a campus-wide work stoppage, Allen said the students are at-

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• Tribute

## UMaine honors memory, message of Dr. King



U.S. Rep. John Baldacci meets with UMaine African-American Association Adviser James Varner (center) and Ricardo Tubbs, the association's president, at the tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. in the Memorial Union Monday. (Page photo.)

By Kathleen Brennan  
Staff Writer

Although some students and faculty may have been upset about having classes on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, having students on campus in an academic atmosphere allows for reflection and learning from King's life. William Burney, mayor of Augusta, said.

"By suspending classes you would not get an opportunity to bring people together. It is important we have time together to discuss King's goals," Burney said.

Burney, along with many others from the campus and the community, gathered to discuss "Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute: A Time for Personal Commitment to the Dream" in the South Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union on Monday.

All of the speakers, invited by the UMaine African-American Student Association, found strength in King's words and hope in America's and Maine's future.

"If everyone around the dinner table said something good about Martin Luther King, the day would be a success," James Davis, president of the Maine Association of Black Professionals, said.

Davis added, with the support of the other African-American speakers, that identifying as a black man is not always easy, but with the help of King's works and words it is made easier.

"He gave an identity to African-American people that you don't see in the media," Davis said. "You see either one extreme - drugs and crime, or the other extreme - the best athletes. Somewhere in between lies the average African-American who has the same dreams as everyone else."

Burney agreed, saying about kids in Maine, "They don't want race to be an issue. A lot of what they see is what is thrust in front of them because of the media and TV stereotypes."

Frederick Moore, worshipful master at the Masonic Lodge of Bangor, said Maine is an interesting state because although it is not diverse, it is open to diversity.

"I've been here for over 17 years. I've traveled to many different places, but I have to say, 'may God bless the state of Maine.' It is truly unique," Moore said.

Burney agreed adding there is a wealth of talent in Maine that needs to be drawn from.

"I hope the new administration in Augusta sees that talent and reaches into the community to tap that talent," Burney said.

During the tribute all speakers agreed that with the help of King's words, racial injustice and prejudice can be overcome.

"When I walk from my apartment in Washington, I see all children walking to school. Their inno-

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• Student Government

## GSS targets Greek council salaries with new resolution

By F. J. Gallagher  
Staff Writer

The General Student Senate has taken steps to rein in what many senators feel are excessively large salaries paid to the officers of the Greek student boards.

Senator Andrew Weymouth introduced GSS Resolution S38-12-6-94, seeking to limit student board spending to "no more than 15 percent of its Student Government allocation on salaries" for their officers. The resolution was amended to allow salary expenditures of 20 percent and passed on Dec. 13, 1994.

"It is absolutely ridiculous for these organizations to be using such a large percentage of their budget for salaries," GSS Vice President Charles Allen said. "We don't put too many checks on the boards, and we think this is a good one."

According to figures provided by GSS Vice President of Financial Affairs Dave Gagne, the Interfraternity Council spent 45 percent of its 1994-1995 \$10,000 budget on salaries for

officers. The Panhellenic Council spent 50 percent of its \$10,000 allocation on officer salaries.

The Greek organizations, ostensibly representing about 10 percent of the student body, are the only organizations currently in violation of the new rule, according to the VPFA's data.

In addition to the cap, Allen

said, the IFC has had its salaries frozen because of apparent improprieties in the group's last election.

"We haven't issued them checks out of this office since the last week of last semester," he said.

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Amir Reza looks over a course directory while waiting to add a class to his schedule. Add/Drop week sees many students spending time in line for similar reasons. Story on page 3. (Geyerhahn photo.)

### WEATHER



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cence is beautiful. That innocence does not have to be destroyed," US Representative John Baldacci said, stressing the importance of community commitment to ending racism.

President of the UMaine African-American Association Ricardo Tubbs said education is the key to overcoming prejudice. Tubbs discussed what King means to him personally. Towards the end of his discussion, he directed the same question to the audience.

One audience member, Tony Brinkley, said it was the right to be respected and to respect everyone. King's birthday allows him to be the person he wants to be.

Fred Moore, an audience member and student at Bangor High, said King's birthday is an opportunity "to get together and watch more than one movie on King. You can have a discussion."

When asked what King would think about

racial issues in 1995 if he were alive today, James Varner, advisor to the UMaine African-American Student Association said King would most likely say we have a long way to go. Varner cited Susan Smith, a woman who accused a black man of kidnapping her children, as a perfect example of the struggle for equality.

"We need to examine why she said a black man took them. That act in itself is racist...What is going on in the educational system to make people think like this?," Varner said.

Varner said education is important to dispel stereotypes. He added that a more diversity campus population is needed so students do not enter the real world and experience culture shock.

Varner, and other speakers, have a real hope for the future.

"Together, hand in hand, we can have and impact," Varner added.