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## Editorials regarding racist attack

Maine Campus Staff

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# Let the truth be told

**L**ost so far in the discussion surrounding Sunday morning's assault on two black students at the University of Maine is the facts.

Orono Police Chief Daniel Lowe asserts that the incident was not begun as a racial incident. He refuses to speculate if, after the incident began, it then became racially-motivated.

Various students on campus are outraged by this. They see the entire episode as racially-related, period. Slurs were exchanged. Nine whites attacked two blacks.

Chief Lowe refuses to name the assailants. He says the matter is still under investigation.

Meanwhile, UMaine broils with the hatred and anger that is racial tension.

So far, no eyewitnesses have been heard from. Due to legal complexities, Aaron Phillips and Quester Hannah, the two men who were attacked, are not saying much to the media. We can't find the assailants. We also have no idea who else was there to see the event unfold, because they haven't made themselves known.

If we ever expect to find out what happened, or, as the focus seems to be right now, why it happened, those involved need to speak out. (DHV)

# *Racial or not, the damage is done*

**T**he attack on two black students by several white men on Crosby Street early Sunday morning has left a scar on the University of Maine.

The damage has been done and it is irreversible.

The weekend incident is not the first occurrence of this kind. Things like this have been happening everywhere in the world for quite some time, despite attempts to uproot racial tensions and prejudices. It is simply a reflection of occurrences elsewhere.

However, that does NOT justify what happened. It does NOT justify the emotional and physical damage inflicted upon the victims, nor the hurt felt by their families and friends.

In Maine, it seems that people tend to forget prejudice and racism exists. This region does have its biases, but perhaps not so strong and obviously displayed as they may appear elsewhere. Unfortunately, prejudice exists — everywhere.

At UMaine, we pride ourselves at our open-mindedness and our acceptance of diverse people and their cultures. With the mixture of beliefs and tradition that exist in Orono, a special understanding is expected of us if we are to live in some sort of stable, peaceful surroundings.

We **have** to respect that. We **must** respect that, or we will be forced to live under the extreme tension, violence and rivalry that other places experience.

Unfortunately, some people have forgotten this and lack the respect everyone needs and deserves. What happened on Crosby Street is disturbing. The damage has already been done, whether it was racially motivated, or not. (ECH)