

Spring 4-9-2009

Maine Campus April 09 2009

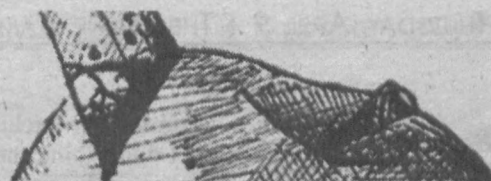
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The Maine Campus

Thursday, April 9, 2009 Vol. 127, No. 40

Computer store may disconnect

Consulting firm recommends closure of Computer Connection in the union

By William P. Davis
Web Editor

Budget

The University of Maine and the University of Southern Maine should consider closing their computer stores, according to a report commissioned by the University of Maine System.

The report, done by the Huron Consulting Group, evaluates the effectiveness of switching computer sales to an online-only solution.

Vice President for Admission and Finance Janet Waldron said the university has no immediate plans to shut down Computer Connection, but said, "it's important to take it [the report] seriously."

The report focused on the procurement policies of the seven state universities.

"In many instances the suggestions were that UMaine has been doing excellent procurement and that it would be to the advantage of others to use our

contracts," Waldron said. "But in the course of that they look at Computer Connection ... and USM has a computer store also, and they recommended we look at closing both computer stores."

According to the report, switching to an online store would save payroll costs and eliminate inventory carrying costs. If the report's recommendations are followed, buyers will work for the system office, not at USM or UMaine. The report also recommends establishing an Apple storefront in the bookstore to maintain discounts.

Waldron and her counterpart at USM are investigating the suggestions made by the report.

"I'm concerned that Huron did a very quick review, that it wasn't at the level of detail, that I didn't see the analysis that really supported the conclusion they came to," Waldron said. "So before taking any action, I need to spend more time going back, looking at what level of detail they have, not just high-level statements."

William Wells, chief informa-



Edward Fontaine ♦ The Maine Campus

Mike Lapointe, right, and Ben Rioux, employees of UMaine's Computer Connection, help student Aaron Bickford.

tion officer for USM, has not seen the full report yet, but said the parts he has seen do not accurately reflect the USM computer store.

The report states the store employs three people, but it employs two. Some of the suggestions of the report, such as tight integration with Information Technologies and implementing computer standards are already in place.

Wells said USM already works closely with Computer

Connection on contract negotiations with computer companies.

"I don't really have any problem, in fact I think it's a very wise idea to have a single or unified contract ... for computer purchases for the system," Wells said.

In the end, Computer Connection does not cost the university anything. The store covers its operating budget and, at the end of the year, puts any excess funds in a reserve account. It has not yet had to

draw on the account, according to Derek Husson, a sales manager for Computer Connection.

The store sells 2,500 units a year — including computers to 75 percent of each year's incoming class. The store also services the University of Maine campuses in Machias, Fort Kent, Presque Isle, Augusta and Farmington and assists many K-12 schools in the state, according to Doug Marchio, manager of Computer Connection.

See **STORES** on page 2

Senate cuts budget, SE funding increases

By Mary Emmi
For The Maine Campus

Student Senate

The university expects lower enrollment rates next year, as the economic downturn continues to affect students. This has forced Student Government to adjust its budget.

Vice President of Financial Affairs Justin Labonte presented the Student Government budget for fiscal year 2009-2010 during the April 7 General Student Senate meeting. Labonte geared the budget toward the university's expectation of fewer students enrolling in the 2009-2010 school year. This decrease is projected to be almost 900 fewer students and a \$76,000 reduction in revenue

for Student Government.

"I'm being very conservative this year, because I want us to be prepared for the worst case scenario," Labonte said.

Labonte also made modifications to the budget to coincide with the rise in the cost of living. The Consumer Price Index, the measure of the average price of consumer services and goods, jumped to 4.9 percent for food in February 2009, which has trickled down to affect the cost of living.

The compensation portion, which accounts for office salaries, increased contractual raises for several nonstudent staff members working in the office.

"There's nothing I can do about compensation," Labonte said, "It's the law."

Student Entertainment received a

See **BUDGET** on page 5

Workers give UMaine pep talk on Free Choice

By Emma Thieme
For The Maine Campus

Politics

Employers intimidating unions, the Employee Free Choice Act and secret-ballot worker elections were covered during an April 6 symposium.

The symposium included 13 speakers, including well-known author and activist Barbara Ehrenreich.

"All too often the law has turned against workers," said William Murphy, director of the Bureau of Labor Education at the University of Maine.

According to the Bureau of Labor Education, the Employee Free Choice Act would allow places where the majority of workers who have signed union authorization

cards to become certified as bargaining representatives. This is called a card-check process and represents the voluntary recognition of unions.

Since Congress recognized the Wagner Act in 1935, employees became legally protected to form unions. According to many of Monday's speakers, employers use intimidation and fear to stop a union from forming.

The Employee Free Choice Act would ensure early bargaining on contracts, put an end to delays and employer intimidation tactics and strengthen the enforcement of worker's rights, according to the speakers. Under the act, employers would face greater penalties for participating in unfair labor conditions when employees negotiate a first contract. Those penalties include back pay awarded to the employees discriminated against, and — in

See **CHOICE** on page 5

Stores

from page 1

In addition, the store sells a variety of computer accessories, such as cables and external hard drives. The store worked with a company to develop a unique warranty program for Apple computers the store sells. The warranty program, which is cheaper than Apple's factory warranty, covers accidents such as spills and drops, as well as manufacturer defects.

The report focused on the needs of departments and faculty,

according to Marchio.

"I don't think the UMS solution is going to address the needs of the students. I think it only addresses the needs primarily of the departments," Marchio said.

He stressed the personal service employees of Computer Connection provide to customers.

"We ask you what your needs are. Are you a power user, do you need Photoshop, do you do music? So we get an idea of what kind of computer user you are, and then we can recom-

mend a unit to you. And that's hard to do on a Web page," he said.

Waldron said she understands the personal service Computer Connection provides but isn't sure Huron does.

"I also want to make sure that they understood ... the level of service that we provide through the Computer Connection and the importance of that service to students, parents and faculty, and how that service will end up being provided absent the Computer Connection," Waldron said.

Same-sex marriage discussed at senate

By Mary Emmi
For The Maine Campus

Student Senate

"Britney Spears can go out and marry any drunk on any night of the week in Vegas, but gay and lesbian couples can't," said Victoria Blanchette, volunteer leader for Equality Maine and guest speaker to the General Student Senate on the April 7 meeting. Blanchette addressed the senate about the upcoming bill in the Maine legislature regarding same-sex marriages.

"This is giving same-sex couples the right to marry in Maine," Blanchette said. "We really want to make this happen."

Blanchette urged senators to contact their legislators. She asked senators to ask the student body to do the same.

"Have constituents contact their legislators and put some heat under their fannies," Blanchette said.

Blanchette encouraged senators to support the same sex legislation by going to a public hearing on April 24 in Augusta at Cony High School where legislators will listen to testimonies from each side.

"We really got to hold their feet to the fire and force them to make a decision," Blanchette said.

A few questions were raised by senators about the proposed legislation.

"Are there currently any legislators proposing amendments?" Sen. Nate Wildes asked.

Blanchette said advocates of the same-sex legislation were trying to force legislators to make a decision instead of having the bill "amended to extend to a people's vote."

In the new resolutions portion of the meeting, Sen. Ben Goodman spoke about a resolution he wrote that the Policy and Procedure Committee sponsored. Goodman said the resolution would have provided more substantial channels and "better television coverage than Fox News." The resolution called for the Wade Center television to be

tuned to more political shows or other patriotic and UMaine events.

"I'm not comfortable funding people who watch Roseanne," Goodman said.

Controversy arose over the resolution and Sen. Christina

Soyden asked, "Are you saying that you do feel comfortable limiting the freedoms of students to watch what they want?"

Soyden's question was not answered, and the resolution failed.

Vice President of Financial Affairs Justine Labonte presented the annual budget to the senate for the fiscal year 2009-2010. The budget passed unanimously.

In new business, Sen. Jennifer Dana was elected to the Student Organizations Committee.

Four allocations were presented: \$510 to the Sociology Club, \$900 to Men's Lacrosse, \$1,000 to Microbiology and \$1,087.30 to the UMaine Cycling Club.

"Have constituents contact their legislators and put some heat under their fannies."

Victoria Blanchette
Volunteer leader
Equality Maine

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Talking their way to the top

Speech team's chance to compete no longer debatable

By Rhiannon Sawtelle
Features Editor

A University of Maine team has trumped Ivy League schools, brought home dozens of trophies and qualified for nationals the past three years. It never quite made it.

Members haven't given up though. The UMaine Forensics Team is making a comeback.

Better known as the speech and debate team, the group is preparing to step foot into a national arena. Although members have been qualified to compete for the past two years, funding issues have held them back.

Last month, General Student Senate allocated \$600 to help the team with traveling costs.

The money will allow three team members — Joseph Moran, James Lyons and Clint Snyder — to travel to Missouri to compete against 125 other colleges with more than 1,000 competitors. The three members will participate in speech competitions. No members from UMaine qualified for the debate portion.

"We're still growing and developing as a team. We wanted to make sure we were ready," said Steven Moran, the team's advisor.

The competition will be held at Drury University and Missouri State University — an entire day's drive away.

They will be accompanied by Steve Moran, Joe Moran's older brother. Steve Moran started the team as an undergraduate three years ago. He is now the graduate assistant for Student Organizations.

It will be a marathon of an event. The four-day event starts April 16. It could be extended

another day if any of the UMaine members qualify for quarter or semifinals. Because the team plans to drive, it will have to leave Orono Tuesday, April 14.

"We'll have to take shifts driving," Steve Moran said.

This means missing almost a week of classes — the reason four other qualified team members cannot attend.

The competition is broken into 11 categories of speech — two limited preparation, four prepared and five interpretive. Each team member is allowed to participate in a maximum of five events. The speeches are ranked on a scale from one to six and points go toward a team total.

"It's like a track meet," Steve Moran said.

The team will need all three members to score points to remain competitive in the event — a task that comes easy to them. Last March, they placed first in the Northeast Regional Forensics Tournament with eight members. They beat out schools including Harvard University, Suffolk University and Emerson College.

In addition to the speech, speakers are also graded on their organization, preparedness and delivery.

The Moran brothers and Lyons, all student leaders, use these skills daily. Steve Moran and Lyons have both held the office of student body president, getting plenty of time to deliver speeches to their peers and the public. Joe Moran is president of Residents on Campus.

Joe Moran will deliver an "after-dinner speech," a humorous talk on a serious subject. His subject: shrinking alligator phalluses.

"I'm definitely nervous. It's a huge competition," he said.

Lyons will take a more serious approach, delivering an informative speech on the genetics of fidelity. He will also participate in two impromptu speeches, where the subject is unknown until game time.

"I am feeling good and have put a lot of work into preparation," he stated in an e-mail.

They all speak in a tame manner, delivering their

"We're still growing and developing as a team. We wanted to make sure we were ready."

Steven Moran
Forensics Team advisor

thoughts in a precise and clear way. Seated behind their various desks on campus, they inspire confidence in their speech. They always make eye contact and maintain a positive attitude.

Their friendly demeanor is key to their success. While in their office, or walking on campus, members of the UMaine community are quick to greet them.

Steve and Joe Moran were both quick to chat with passers-by, asking about weekend plans and concerts.

For now, the team is preparing by practicing speeches, reading news articles and giving each other critiques. They meet once or twice a week throughout the year but recently have been

meeting for up to 10 hours a week to prepare for nationals.

They work on their own or as a small group.

"It's a lot of memorization, a lot of perfecting your delivery," Steve Moran said.

The team also prepared by judging high school competitions. Throughout the semester, the team judges at Bangor and Orono high schools, earning practice and small cash bonuses.

They also attend five or six regional competitions a year in Boston. UMaine does not compete against any other Maine schools and must travel to Suffolk University to compete against teams such as Harvard and Emerson.

And they hold their own.

"We try to learn from the environment around us," Joe Moran said.

A participant must take first place or place in the top half of an event if there are 13 or more competitors to qualify for national competition.

Joe Moran took three first-place titles this year. He won in the after-dinner, impromptu and duo-interpretation categories.

He was surprised by how much he enjoyed the competition.

Although he never participated in speech competitions until college, he acted in high school, making him a natural in the spotlight.

"I really didn't think I'd enjoy it [Forensics Team] that much. But I did," Joe Moran said.

He has
seen

progress in the team and finds it much more competitive than when the team started.

Both Joe Moran and Lyons have been on the team for three years, and Lyons competed for three years in high school as well.

UMaine has not had a Forensics Team this strong in decades. Steve Moran said there was a solid debate team in the '80s, but the team fizzled out and was missing from the community until 2004. However, poor leadership and a lack of funding left the team in the dust until Steve Moran pulled it back together in the spring of 2006.

The team hopes its appearance on the national level will bring it more recognition on campus. Recruiting new members and continual funding are among their concerns.

"I have great hopes for the future, although I will only be around for one more year. We have some good, young talent now and hope to pull in some more for next year," Lyons said.

"It's our hope to keep the numbers going ... We're changing the perception of what speech and debate is," Joe Moran said.

As he sat on his desk in the Wade Center, Steve Moran's enthusiasm for the team was evident in his chatter.

"I love this. I could babble about it all day," he said.



Forensics Team trophy photo by Amy Brooks ♦ The Maine Campus

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Police Beat

The best from Orono, Old Town
and UMaine's finest



On bail, back to jail

Police and an ambulance responded to the fourth-floor of Androscoggin Hall to attend to an intoxicated male at 2:35 a.m. April 4. Police found the male, Cody Knight, 19, Orono, to be extremely intoxicated, but he was not in need of hospitalization. During the investigation, police learned Knight was on bail for a previous arrest and one condition of bail was not to possess or consume liquor. He was charged with possession of liquor by minor, placed under arrest for violation of condition of release and transported to Penobscot County Jail.

Not the average cigarette

An officer patrolling Rangeley Road watched a group of people leave Oxford Hall and prop open the door at 1:21 a.m. April 4. The officer approached the building to close the door and smelled the odor of burning marijuana in the entrance hallway. Exiting the building, the officer spied a male smoking a hand-rolled cigarette. When the male, Kyle St. James, 19, Orono, saw the officer,

he did a double take and threw the cigarette to the ground. The officer picked it up and found marijuana inside. St. James was charged with possession of marijuana.

Ghost driver

An employee of the Steam Plant watched a driverless Jeep roll out of its parking space and strike a parked Subaru in the Steam Plant Parking Lot at 10:09 a.m. April 6. The Jeep was moved, and there was no apparent damage.

Seven years of flat tires

A Kennebec Hall resident assistant found three damaged items in the building at 2:38 p.m. April 5. A first-floor south end window was broken; a mirror in the fourth-floor men's room was broken; and a bike had been dropped from the fourth-floor down the center of the stairwell to the basement. Police are unsure if the damaged items are related. Damage to the window was \$30; the mirror was \$40; and the bike was \$30. Police are looking for the owner of the black Mongoose

18-speed bike. The case is under investigation.

Wake up, Oxford

A fire alarm brought police and Orono Fire to Oxford Hall at 1:15 a.m. April 5. A second-floor pull station had been activated. Police found no reason for the pull and labeled it malicious. The case is under investigation.

Late night road fight

Police responded to a report of two males fighting on Long Road in front of the Memorial Gym at 2:38 a.m. April 5. A female was trying to break up the fight. When police arrived, they found one male and gave him a disorderly conduct warning. The female was present, but they did not locate the second male.

This tire is made for rolling

A student parked his pickup truck overnight in the Sigma Nu Parking Lot on

April 4, and when he returned at 9:15 a.m. April 5, a spare tire and rim had been stolen from the truck bed. Soon after police were called, the tire was found on College Avenue and returned to the owner. Police say it appears the tire was taken and rolled down the hill.

Bathroom doodles

A custodian reported graffiti on the wall of the first-floor men's bathroom of Stevens Hall at 7:16 p.m. April 6. The graffiti was a complex symbol of unknown origin, drawn on the wall sometime between April 4 and 6. The case is under investigation.

Two-wheeler stealers

A student chained his bike to a rack outside Knox Hall on the evening of April 5 and returned to find the bike and chain stolen at 12:55 p.m. April 6. The bike, a green L.L. Bean 18-speed Acadia Cruiser, is valued at \$600.

A student reported his bike stolen from outside Kennebec Hall where it was locked to a light pole at 12:59 p.m. April 3. The lock was cut from the bike, a silver Pacific 500 men's mountain bike, valued at \$200.

The cases are under investigation.

Compiled by
Aislinn Saracki
Staff Reporter

Choice

from page 1

cases of multiple violations by employers — fines up to \$20,000 for each violation.

Three workers, Linda Morris of the Red Cross, Marylee MacDonald of Eastern Maine Medical Center and Steve Husson of DHL, shared their union experiences.

"Immediately you have to start speaking [with the employer]," Husson said, who remembers the initial steps of forming a union at DHL Express, an international mailing company.

Morris, MacDonald and Husson told stories about employers' intimidation tactics. Their testimonies described forced office meetings in which employers made employees speak with them one-on-one about their unions. Employers required employees to listen to an anti-union lawyer and read negative literature about their cause.

MacDonald remembered the forced separation between workers. Employers did not allow employees to take breaks alone. The word "union" was forbidden in the workplace.

According to Husson, DHL employees were required to hold a secret-ballot election. Seventy percent of employees signed authorization cards — the union won by a single vote on the ballot.

"The word 'union' equals fear," Husson said.

According to EFCAexposed.com, a Web site created by the Labor Relations Institute, the Free Choice Act would end the secret-ballot practice that gives power to unions. Cynthia Phinney, a union boss for workers of Bangor Hydro and Central Maine Power, told Monday's audience that this is false information. The act will not stop the secret ballot; the bill will make it impossible for employers to force a secret ballot on employees, even after the union has been achieved through a card check — similar to what happened during the organization of DHL's union. If employees wish to

vote on their union through a secret ballot, it will still be legal for them to do so.

"Workers have no rights because of the groups that are campaigning against EFCA," Ehrenreich said.

Ehrenreich is the author of the book "Nickel and Dime," in which she accounts her experiences in blue-collar working conditions firsthand through investigative reporting.

Ehrenreich described blue-collar working conditions where there was little contact with co-workers and few bathroom breaks.

"You could be fired for just about anything," Ehrenreich said. "We work at-will in America — The boss's will."

There was a question-and-answer session at the end of Ehrenreich's presentation, during which she stressed that the first step in securing workers' rights is passing the Employee Free Choice Act.

"Establish your rights with the strength that the union provides for you," Ehrenreich said, who believes the Employee Free Choice Act is a step away from totalitarianism and toward democracy.

Audience members were encouraged to contact Maine senators to show their approval of the Employee Free Choice Act.

One of the final speakers, Barbara Lambarida, director of the Maine State Nurses Union, left the audience with words of encouragement.

"The best part of being in a union is standing up with my coworkers, having a voice and not worrying about being fired," Lambarida said.

Mario Moretto, co-chair of the Wildcat Student Labor Action Project encouraged students to get involved in the Free Choice Act movement by joining Wildcat SLAP, which works on both a community and national level to achieve worker justice. Wildcat SLAP meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the Totman Room of the Memorial Union. Contact Moretto on FirstClass for more information.

Budget

from page 1

6.5 percent increase from the previous year's budget, giving Student Entertainment \$16,500, which Labonte said compensates for the increasing costs of providing entertainment.

"This budget is very similar to last year's budget except for the standard increases in compensation and Student

Entertainment," Labonte said.

The Student Government-funded boards are composed of: the Interfraternity Council, the Off-Campus Board, the Panhellenic Council, Residents On Campus and the Student Athletic Advisory Committee. The 2009-2010 budget cut these organizations' funding by \$14,000 Labonte said.

The ROC movie channel was cut earlier in the school year, and the money previously

allocated to the organization, \$9,000, helped absorb some of the shock the student government boards had cut from their budget.

Labonte's conservative projections will leave senate in a better position than the previous year.

Sen. Nate Wildes said underestimating the amount of students that will enroll will help the senate in the financial long-term.

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Computer Connection a valuable service

The Issue: A consulting group advised UMaine to close Computer Connection
What We Think: Computer Connection doesn't cost the University any money and provides a valuable service. Keep it open.

A report commissioned by the University of Maine System recommends reducing the quality of yet another student service on campus. The report, by Huron Consulting Group, recommends closing Computer Connection and its sister store at USM and replacing them with an online store run by the system.

Closing Computer Connection would be severely detrimental for students. The store provides large savings and personal service to UMaine students, faculty and five other University of Maine campuses. The store does not cost the university any money, and already works with other schools to achieve the best contracts. In other words, Computer Connection is as close to a centralized store as it can be without compromising quality.

The administration has signaled that, although they take cost savings seriously, they are cautious when considering closing such an advantageous service. They understand the personable service Computer Connection provides and are skeptical such personalization can occur over an Internet connection.

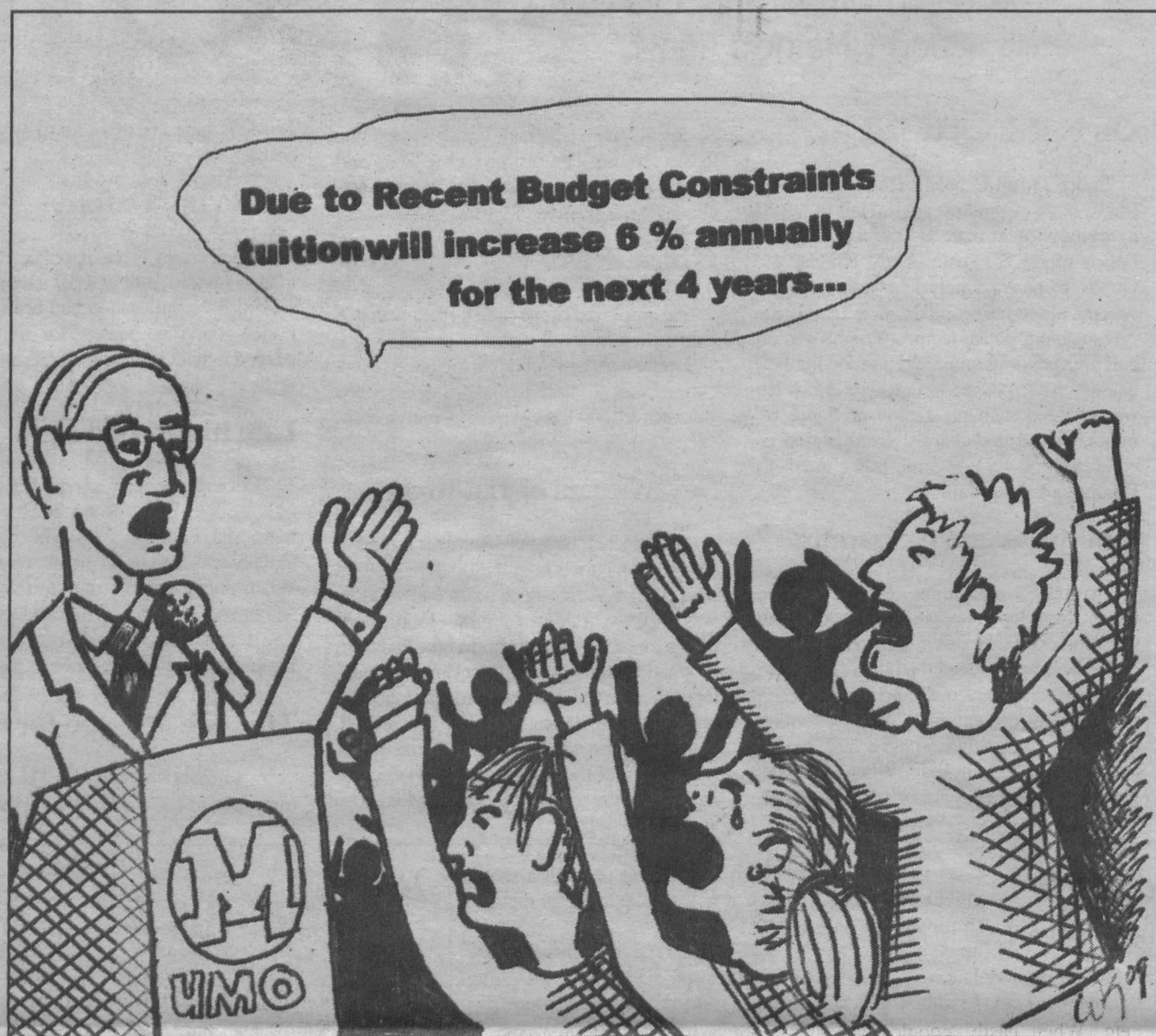
This sort of report is typical of the system office, which operates with little regard to the level of service provided and constantly seeks ways to expand their power. We are glad the administration has decided to stand up to the system on this issue, and can only hope they do everything in their power to continue to avoid centralization in the future.

While it is important to consider all potential savings, reports such as this one by Huron are based solely on financial potential, not on community impact.

The above editorial is written by the editorial position board, whose members are Eryk Salvaggio, Mario Moretto, Heather Steeves, Zach Dionne, William P. Davis and Amy Brooks.

Opinion

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2009



Readers Speak Best of Web comments

Re: "Rite Aid workers mistreated by bosses"

This would really matter if Rite Aid was not on the verge of bankruptcy. The union truly wasted their time with Rite Aid. The union should focus on Wal-Mart.

-Chuck Mikaitis

Re: "RPGs: A special kind of escapism"

I used to play my fair share of Dungeons and Dragons and would still play World of Warcraft if I had the money, but I'm going to have to take the side of the article. Yes, people can get sucked into sports, music, the stock market and Facebook. However, there is one major difference: reality.

I've seen hockey players hit the puck out of the air to score a goal. I've seen Devin Hester run back a missed Field Goal attempt for a touchdown. I've heard jazz artists play 9,000 notes a minute (not really but you get it). I've never seen a drow rogue sneak out of the woods and pickpocket the guy in front of me.

While pretending to be Gorak the Blood Elf Pally Off Tank can be tons of fun, what are you accomplishing in real life? Again, I'm not saying LARPing and DMing should be eradicated. In fact, I think they help expand imaginations, vocabulary and social networking. However, living real life as two different people or one person that isn't you seems counterproductive.

- "Notsocloset Gamer"

Fantasy sports are real business



Adam Clark

changed the face of sports.

Fantasy sports have become increasingly popular since the internet boom in the mid-1990s. Fans are given the keys to their own team. They draft players to their squad, trade them, add and drop them and set their lineups to their own liking. The owners of these fantasy teams then compete against friends, co-workers and others from around the world to compile the best overall statistics from their players in an effort to win the fantasy sports championship. With that, you get the highly-coveted bragging rights and a hefty payday.

I have been a fantasy sports guru since my middle school days and have often been in leagues with adults. This past year I participated in several basketball, football and baseball leagues. Buy-ins for the league range from \$10 to \$50 and many pay hundreds for a chance at winning the glory.

With so much attention paid to pure statistics though, are fantasy sports ruining team allegiances?

For me, it isn't so bad. My teams still come first and a

down fantasy year can be erased if my beloved Red Sox win another World Series.

But for others, it's different. My fantasy basketball league this season has been running for several years and trash talk floods the league message board 24 hours a day. However, several owners have lost interest in an actual team or even watching the games. Instead, they sit by their computers using StatTracker to see exactly how their fantasy team is faring against the rest of the competition.

When your wellbeing boils down to Akinori Iwamura getting an RBI single, Louis Williams hitting two three-pointers or Cedric Benson rushing for 60 yards and a touchdown, then you have become another victim of fantasy sports.

Fantasy sports have undoubtedly had many victims since their initial inception. Yahoo and ESPN are two major fantasy sports Web sites where you can sign up and play for free. There are countless others. There are special sites such as RotoWorld that specialize in fantasy sports analysis. Yahoo and ESPN have several fantasy sports analysts. ESPN even has programming to help you in your fantasy draft, tell you who not to pluck off the waiver wire and which rookie is destined for stardom.

According to the Fantasy Sports Trade Association, 29.9 million people age 12 and above in the United States and Canada played fantasy sports in 2007. Fantasy sports are even estimated to have a \$3 billion to \$4 billion annual impact across the sports industry. Who knows, maybe fantasy sports are the key to getting the country out of the recession, President Obama.

Adam Clark is sports editor for The Maine Campus.

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Advertising Manager Shayna Cavalieri
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No one loses when same-sex marriage is legalized

Mario Moretto

It's no secret that I'm a pretty liberal guy — dare I say, "a leftist." Despite my own political leanings, I am usually able to understand, at least in some way, the position and logic of those I disagree with.

Then there are debates where I can't for the life of me figure out what the big deal is. Gay marriage is one of them.

A lot of issues in American politics and culture divide people not because these people have different goals, but different beliefs and conceptions about how to best achieve the goal. For example, most Americans want our country to prosper, but this doesn't stop us from debating, usually in a healthy way, on exactly how to do that.

Same-sex marriage isn't a matter of having different ideas for how to achieve a goal, this is a case where one side of a debate wants to specifically and legally keep one group of people — same-sex couples — from having the same rights as another group of people — straight couples.

Opponents of marriage equality sometimes argue that same-sex couples are less stable, make for unfit parents, etc. When easily googled statistics prove these accusations wrong, we're left to see the real argument made by those opposed to same-sex marriage: They don't like it. It offends them, usually on religious grounds.

Even though I'm an agnostic, I understand that some people's religious beliefs and convictions lead them to believe that homosexuality is immoral or wrong. I can follow this logically to see that, believing homosexuality to be immoral and wrong, they are offended by the idea of same-sex couples getting married. Where I get lost, and stop understanding, is at the point where opponents of marriage equality get the idea that being offended — even for religious reasons — is a legitimate reason to pass laws that prevent equal access to something as

basic as the right to marry whoever you love.

Luckily, the courts aren't buying it. A precedent is being set on how to overturn discriminatory laws in states whose constitutions have an "equal protection" clause. Last week, the Iowa Supreme Court ruled that "the exclusion of gay and lesbian people from the institution of civil marriage does not substantially further any important governmental objective." It went on to rule further, "If gay and lesbian people must submit to different treatment without an exceedingly per-

suasive justification, they are deprived of the benefits of the principle of equal protection upon which the rule of law is founded."

The court also discussed the religious nature of opposition to same-sex marriage, stating that "In pursuing our task in this case, we proceed as civil judges, far removed from the theological debate of religious clerics, and focus only on the concept of civil marriage and the state licensing system that identifies a limited class of persons entitled to secular rights and benefits associated with marriage."

Yesterday, Vermont's legislature voted to override a Governor's veto to establish same-sex marriage in the green mountain state.

While this is certainly cause to celebrate, it is important to realize that same-sex marriage is still illegal in 43 states, and 29 states have constitutional amendments that specifically define marriage as a union between a man and a woman. Hopefully, more states can follow the lead of Iowa, Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut in realizing that giving gays and lesbians civil, secular marriage rights is more important than protecting personal religious beliefs from ever being confronted or offended.

Mario Moretto is opinion editor for *The Maine Campus*

It is beyond me how any person could truly believe they have a legitimate reason to deny equal marriage rights to same-sex couples



Dem spending will leave us all crying

Jonathan Zappala

In an April 6 article of *The Maine Campus* ("Obama's successes glanced over by those too quick to judge"), Joseph Audette wrote that those who are calling President Obama a failure are doing so too soon. He also took a shot at me and other conservatives who have written articles since the election complaining about how we think what Obama is doing to remake our government is wrong.

I guess after eight years of speaking out against the president was cool, anyone who does so now is a "whiner" and could be more mature according to Mr. Audette. It seems what goes around comes around, and some Democrats don't like it when they are the ones who are on the receiving end of criticism.

For the better part of the past eight years, the liberal leaning media criticized President Bush on every issue they disagreed with. During the Democratic Party's primary in January 2008, Hillary Clinton said presidency should not be above criticism and Americans that disagree with the president should voice their opinions. At the time, she was talking about President Bush, but why should that be any different today for President Obama?

Liberal journalists have failed to do their job in holding the president accountable to his campaign promises. He said that there would be no more pork or wasteful spending, yet he signed into law two of the biggest pork bills ever, and has already allowed Congress to spend more money than the United States has in its previous 233 years. Nobody from the liberal media got down to the bottom of what is in the stimulus bill, and they are not holding the government accountable to the people it serves.

Obama is receiving criticism because he is cre-

ating a big, power-hungry socialist government, not sticking with the plan the founders put in the Constitution. Mr. Audette does not see any problems with socialism, and there aren't — if you like the higher taxes that come as a result of paying for expensive social programs. Higher taxes will affect everyone Joe the Plumber was worried about, not just the rich. By signing the first stimulus bill Obama committed our country to pay billions of dollars, not to mention the giant interest it will accrue. He mortgaged the future for security today, which is why he has already failed.

It will either take many years of higher taxes or many years of minimal government spending to recover from this decision. Mr. Audette also said socialism is better than the "executive level McCarthyism" of the past eight years. But it is the Democratically controlled Congress that investigates CEOs — private citizens — and criticizes them for using private jets and forces AIG employees to give back money. This witch hunt trumps what Sen. McCarthy did in the 1950s.

The fact is that Obama has failed to produce any of the results he promised. The economy has made some small gains, but unemployment has only gone up. Once it is time to pay the piper, higher taxes will only bring America back into the recession.

President Obama is the one who needs to learn from the great depression, because WWII brought its end, not FDR's New Deal. Like Hillary Clinton said, it is the job of citizens like me, who disagree with the president, to voice my opinion. I will not be the one who "needs a tissue" when the government's handouts run out.

Jonathan Zappala is a junior psychology student.



It's time to make a choice in Minnesota

William P. Davis

You may be surprised to learn Minnesota only has one senator. It isn't some constitutional quirk, it's the undecided race between two certified crazies: Norm Coleman and Al Franken.

The contest has been tied for five months now, with both candidates receiving just under 42 percent of the vote. The third-party candidate, Dean Barkley, was, as Gail Collins of *The New York Times* put it, "an under-funded Independence Party candidate who did rather well by running on a platform that boiled down to: 1) Not crazy, 2) Not Norm Coleman and 3) Not Al Franken."

After months of court cases and recounts, a winner has yet to be declared, but it seems to be an uphill battle for Coleman. The race now hinges on absentee ballots, which seem to be more in favor of Franken.

Coleman's lawyers have said they will appeal the case to the Minnesota Supreme Court on grounds of unequal treatment of ballots. He has a valid point — recounts are less about counting every ballot and more about getting the ballots you wanted counted. However, there is little, if any, evidence of disenfranchisement in Minnesota. I agree every, and I mean every, vote should be counted, but what is Coleman hoping to achieve?

Coleman is fighting a legitimate and consequential battle. Both sides are certainly facing tremendous pressure from their respective political parties. Democrats are intent on achieving the "magic" 60 senators they need to bypass any potential filibuster — and there will be plenty. Republicans are intent on

stopping their quick flow out of Congress. The Coleman-Franken race would be hard fought in any election year, but this year it has taken on epic proportions. But when is it time to admit defeat?

Doug Tice, political editor for the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, said it is unlikely there will be a resolution to the race soon. Both sides are intent on taking the case as far as it needs to go. Little, if any, consideration has been given to a special election, though it seems like a fairly simple and sensible solution. Both parties are more interested in blood.

We have entered a new age of political races, where every victory will be close and hard-fought. Any sense of chivalry or dignity politicians once held is now gone. In North Carolina this year, Elizabeth Dole ran ferocious ads against her opponent featuring wild accusations of atheism. Not that it matters, but her opponent was a Sunday school teacher. In Alaska, Ted Stevens, who ran for re-election while under investigation for corruption, recently had the charges against him dropped when it was discovered prosecutors withheld evidence from the defense. Stevens, who apparently has no shame, has proclaimed newfound innocence and is asking for a special election so he can be re-elected.

Those three races are just a taste of what's to come. Next year's midterm elections will be even nastier than before, as Republicans nastily guard the few seats they have left in Congress.

William P. Davis is Web editor for *The Maine Campus*.

Be Heard.

The Maine Campus strives to provide a public venue for UMaine community members to express their opinions in attempts to encourage constructive discourse on the issues that matter to students.

For more info, e-mail opinion@mainecampus.com

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 300 words in length and should include the author's name, address and academic major or job title. *The Maine Campus* reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity.

The Maine Campus
5748 Memorial Union
Orono 04469-5748
opinion@mainecampus.com

Style & Culture

Thursday, April 9, 2009

Playing Dead

Student performance too macabre for
Maine Masque will debut in new theater

Travis Bevrassa ♦ For The Maine Campus

Lydia Dawson opens a red tin can to reveal five clay baby toes.

"This one is my favorite," she says while holding up the largest toe. She examines the toe's wrinkles and the tiny nail carved into it by a prop-maker.

Soon these toes will be covered in stage blood and shoved into an actor's mouth.

Dawson, a 20-year-old University of Maine psychology student, is directing "The Pillowman," a dark comedy by playwright Martin McDonough.

In the play, two detectives interrogate a writer whose stories about child murder have been acted out in real-life crimes. The writer must defend his innocence and the legitimacy of his grisly tales. Speaking through a mouthful of baby toes is just one of his obstacles.

Dawson found her own obstacles while organizing the production. Maine Masque, the university's student-run theater troupe, denied her sponsorship on account of the play's gruesome themes.

"Cars slow down when they see an accident. They don't slow down when they see a lemonade stand," Dawson said in defense of her dark production and its audience appeal.

Maine Masque president Sarah Farnham noted that the troupe wished to "take a different direction" with this year's production, the much less graphic, "Boys' Life."

Members of UMaine's theater department warned Dawson that directing "The Pillowman" would be difficult. The play deals with themes such as free speech, religion, pedophilia and mental disability. If these themes were handled incorrectly, the play could be perceived as offensive or, worse yet, ineffective. Without sponsorship, Dawson had to find her own funding for a venue, advertising and securing the rights to perform the play. She turned to the theater department and the School of the Performing Arts for assistance. With help from theater professor Tom Mikotowicz, Dawson turned the production into an independent study course.

Mikotowicz was pleased to mentor his student on such a large project.

"She's an exceptional student who never takes the easy road," Mikotowicz said. "If she were

going to take the easy way out she would pick something less controversial. She's up to the challenge."

This will be Dawson's first full-length production. She's directed two one-act plays before. She wrote both.

Dawson is also presenting the play as her Honors College thesis. The college provided grant money to help fund the touchy production.

Dawson still saw herself fit to direct the play. The 20-year-old psychology major found the themes intriguing and worth discussing.

"'The Pillowman' chose me," Dawson said. "It keyed into a lot of things I have been thinking about, like what makes us do things that we perceive as wrong."

Nobody in the Memorial Union notices the can of toes. Dawson, a short redhead, seals the can and folds her arms over it. Potential onlookers are now safe from the morbid props, a safety Dawson will not provide for her "Pillowman" audience.

"The Pillowman" will be presented in the Experimental Black Box Theatre, a newly renovated venue on the second floor of the Class of 1944 Hall. The Black Box is much smaller than Hauck Auditorium — actors, audience members and bloody toes alike will be up close and personal during performances.

"It's such a small setting, the actors are right in your face all the time," Dawson said.

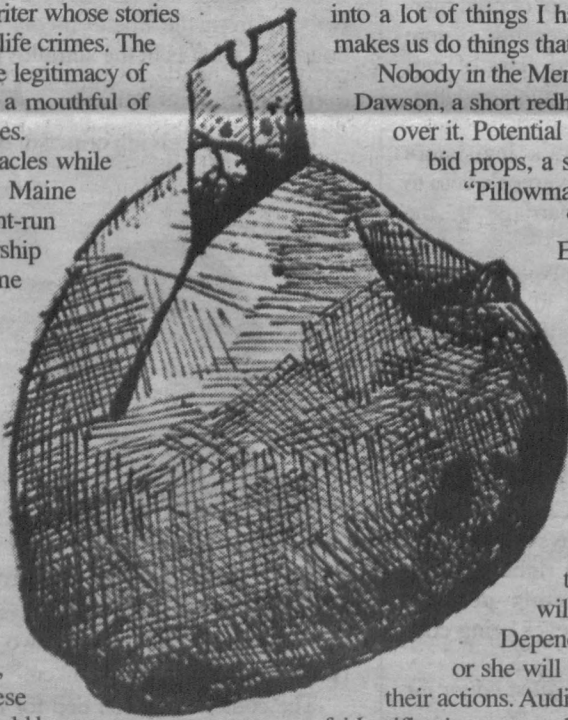
She plans to seat the audience along three walls of the theater. The characters will interact near the middle of the room.

Depending on where an audience member sits, he or she will have a different view of the characters and their actions. Audience members may form stronger feelings of identification — or disgust — with the characters who face them. Some characters may have their back to a portion of the audience for an extended period.

Dr. Mikotowicz and Dawson agree audiences will feel challenged by "The Pillowman's" themes before they are offended by them. Dawson thinks audiences will be attracted to the play's frank discussions.

"I didn't get what was controversial about it. If it was a movie, it could be a PG-13 movie," said Derek Francis, a mass communication student who plays Kapulski, one of the detectives who harasses the main character.

"The Pillowman" will be performed on Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Experimental Black Box Theatre. Tickets are \$3 at the door. A donation jar for the National Coalition Against Censorship will be located outside the theater.



WMEB Spot:

Station Manager Tom Grucza

By Kegan Zema
Staff Reporter

It's a typical afternoon at WMEB, the University of Maine's student-run radio station. One student is perusing over a stack of CDs to be reviewed, another is discussing this year's T-shirt order while the latest indie rock song by a band you've probably never heard of is blaring over the speakers. Meanwhile, Tom Grucza, WMEB's station manager since the fall of 2004, sits calmly in his office, talking with another employee about the latest goings-on at the station.

Grucza's continued commitment to WMEB has kept the station relevant through a time when the music world has undergone drastic changes. Modern radio, as with most of today's media, has been severely affected by the Internet. WMEB has been able to not only stay current but to flourish under Grucza's management.

Independent and alternative music has played a huge role Grucza's life. Growing up in Strongsville, Ohio — just outside Cleveland — he was afforded the opportunity to see a lot of concerts.

"My first concert was Pearl Jam when I was in eighth grade," Grucza said. "Iggy Pop opened. I didn't know who Iggy Pop was at the time; I just knew he was kind of weird because he didn't have a shirt on."

Grucza's love for local college radio began during his freshman year of high school when he

started listening to a college station in Ohio. He surrounded himself with new and different music at an early age.

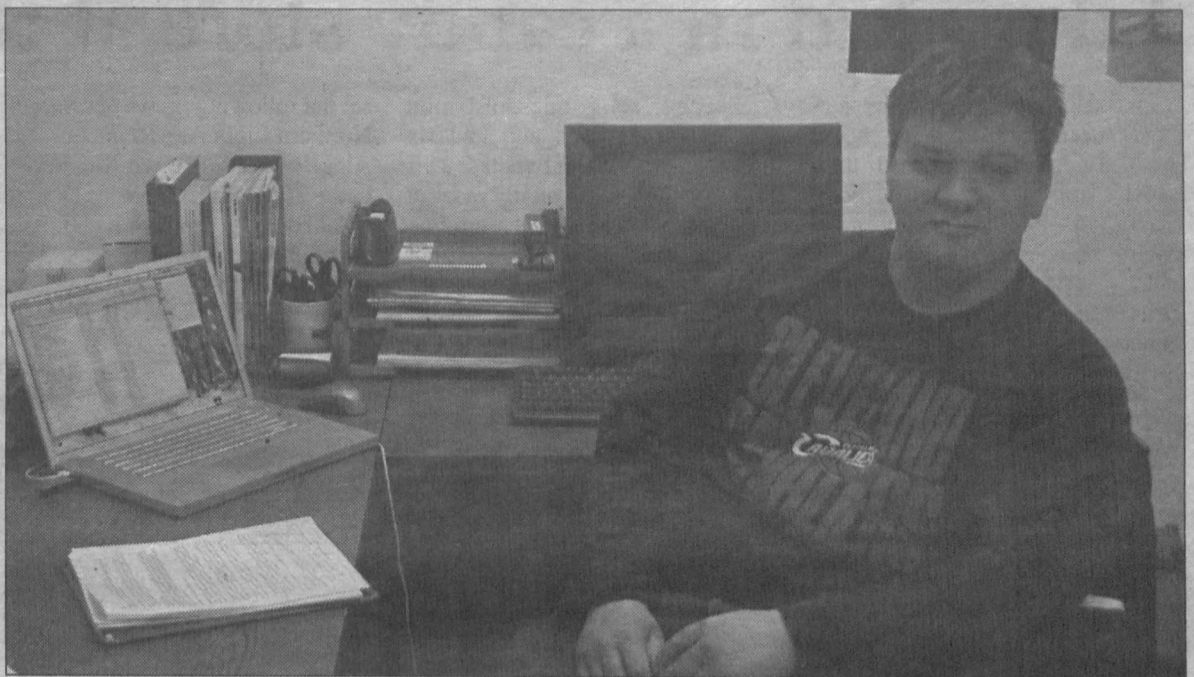
"What really started leading me into more indie stuff was the fact that 107.9 [a Cleveland modern rock station] had the full six-and-a-half minute version of 'Paranoid Android' [by Radiohead] in their rotation," Grucza said. "They were playing it like three or four times a day, and I just had to know more about this band."

It is Grucza's passion for local, independent college stations like WMEB that has driven him to do all he has done for the station. Grucza works an average of 20 hours per week for WMEB, while extra-busy weeks require up to 30 hours. He said he is committed to making sure a station like WMEB exists in this area because when he arrived in Maine in 2003, the radio had very little variety.

"From the beginning, I wanted to make sure that this station has as much exposure as possible and was the best that it possibly could be with the limited amount of resources we have," Grucza said. "We're fulfilling that niche and making sure that people that want to discover new music can."

As the station manager, part of Grucza's job includes being in charge of the paid eight-person staff.

"Tom does a good job keeping everything at WMEB organized and makes sure we are all on top of any projects that need to get done, whether it's me running



Edward Fontaine ♦ The Maine Campus

"Tom strives to have the station be different from what's on regular radio," said program director James MacKay.

promos about the slogan change, helping Rose [Cortega] with upcoming shows and promotions or giving Tim [Grucza] and Jay [Grant] some new music to check out and get in the bins," said Rob Moriarty, productions director at WMEB.

The staff understands Grucza's devotion to the station's image, as well.

"[Tom's] the one who strives to have the station be different from what's on regular radio," said James MacKay, program director at WMEB. "Some people might not like that or understand it, but over my four years at WMEB, I've gradually understood why WMEB needs to be different to offer variety at a time where radio has probably seen the least amount of diversity. Tom has been essential in continuing that tradition at WMEB."

Grucza has certainly been afforded a unique opportunity by

keeping his position for so long. After being asked by the previous staff to apply for the job when he was only a first-year, Grucza has been able to see many projects over the course of his five years. He said students often hold positions for less than two years.

So what exactly will be passed on when Grucza leaves his post? Drawing on his own lessons as a business student, Grucza worked to revitalize the station's image. He feels his biggest contribution has been in promotions. Grucza's first act as manager, in 2004, was the creation of a promotions department whose sole job was hyping the station.

"When I leave here next year, I'd like to think the main thing I did was increase exposure," Grucza said. "Through the promotions department, selling apparel, doing the outdoor broadcasts and putting together some

really kick-ass concerts, I think we've really expanded the listenership exponentially from where it was in 2003."

Without actual data, Grucza said it's hard to tell, but the increase in both positive and negative feedback from the community through word of mouth and e-mail shows an increase in the amount of people paying attention to WMEB.

Whatever the case, it is clear that Grucza takes his job seriously, and in doing so for such a long time, he has solidified the station's place as a valuable tool for discovering new music.

"If there's one thing I can say about Tom it's that he's a professional," MacKay said.

Grucza says his experiences at WMEB may lead him to a career in the radio industry, although with the music business's uncertain outlook, Grucza's future plans remain uncertain.

From boys to men in three acts

Student theater troupe Maine Masque performs male coming-of-age tale

By Spencer Morton
Staff Reporter

Masculinity, manhood and the struggles of post-college life will be on full display this week when the student run theater group Maine Masque presents "Boys' Life."

The plot follows the lives of three males who have recently graduated from college. It details the pains they feel growing up. Relationship problems, drug use and personality flaws are put under the microscope.

"These three guys have really juvenile mindsets," said director Simon Ferland, a fourth-year theater student. "It focuses on these intense internal struggles that all college guys will face."

As intense and as dramatic as it may sound, "Boys' Life" is a comedy.

"The play is written in such a funny, sarcastic manner," said Craig Douglas, who plays the role of Jack. "It's like a cross between 'American Pie' and 'Pineapple Express,' minus Seth Rogen."

A fitting comparison, since Jason Biggs, star of "American Pie," played the role of Phil in the 2008 off-Broadway revival of the play. "Boys' Life" was originally written in 1988 by Howard Korder, and earned him a Pulitzer Prize nomination.

As the story progresses, "The Boys," Jack, Phil and Don, deal with their struggles and irresponsibility in separate ways. One is lost, depressed and looks for a way to come to terms with his unhappiness. Another is vulnerable and sad and masks it



Courtesy of Deanne Dutton

Abby Coulter and Craig Douglas play Maggie and Jack in "Boys' Life."

with sarcasm and cynicism.

"This is such a relevant show. It delves so deeply into the psychology of males. It's something a lot of people are going to relate to," said Sam Watson, a second-year theater major who plays Phil.

"Boys' Life" is a completely student-run production — everything from direction to production to set-design. The cast and crew have been rehearsing for five weeks and are now ready to show off their efforts.

"It's been hard work so far, and it will be

really nice to have an audience," Ferland said. "We went for a comedy that has meaning. There are some hilarious and some extremely serious moments here."

"Boys' Life" opened last night and will continue through Saturday in Hauck Auditorium at 7:30 p.m., until the finale on Saturday. Tickets are \$10 but are free with a MaineCard.

"It's got sex, drugs, alcohol, humor and some deep meaningful moments," said Douglas, a third-year business student. "It's going to be a fun time."



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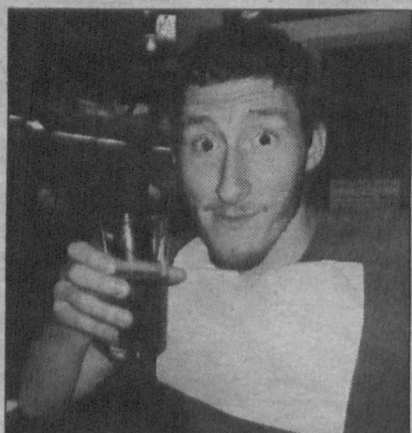
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Like a kid in a candy store at the Sebago Brew pub

I finally figured out why I've never been completely on board with Samuel Adams and their mostly uniformly quality beer: There are just too many great Maine breweries. Maybe one day if I live in a place where Maine's outstanding brews are scarce, I'll become more of a Sam's-head (not likely with so many other regional craft beers to try), but as long as I'm in Maine and New England, I'm going to cherish my state's excellent styles.

That's all a long way of saying I went to the Sebago Brewing Company pub in Gorham on Monday night. It was the first time I'd had a bunch of miniature glasses to sample different tap offerings since the Real Ale Festival in Wales and England this time last year. It feels a little strange to drink from several tiny glasses while your friend sips from a tall pint, but if you're a beer geek and love collecting new tastes, it's worth it.

Sebago sells one-third pint glasses for \$1 each and had six brews on draft when I visited. This brewery showed up on my radar at a Sea Dogs game last summer, when it was Sebago or Bud Light



to complement the afternoon ballgame. The brewery picked up steam in my favorites with the Slick Nick Winter Ale. I couldn't wait to try a slew of their stuff at the pub.

The knowledgeable bartender

set the following brews out for me: Northern Light Ale, Runabout Red Ale, Boathouse Brown Ale, Frye's Leap IPA, Full Throttle Double IPA and Lake Trout Stout. If, as a beer fan, you're not salivating right

notebook, that's a good sign. It was super drinkable with superior hops that barely approached bitter — although bitter isn't bad, it's interesting to drink something with a lot of hops and only a little bitterness.

pick for the night.

Trying Sebago's standard and double IPAs back-to-back was a blast. If, in terms of hop intensity, the standard IPA was like eating an orange, the double was like chomping down on an orange peel. Intense. Unrelated note: Later that night, I heard a guy order an IPA phonetically — "I'll take an ee-pah."

This brought me to the Lake Trout Stout, the end of the light-to-dark line of taste testing. A great oatmeal, mellow, thick stout, it proved Sebago doesn't deal in missteps or weak points.

Before I graduate and light out for the territories (Martha's Vineyard) on May 15, I'm hoping to make it to Shipyard Brewing Co. in the Old Port and the Oak Pond Brewery in Skowhegan. Don't hesitate to send me an e-mail at style@mainecampus.com if you have any recommendations for the last one or two columns.

Cheers!

Beer Police

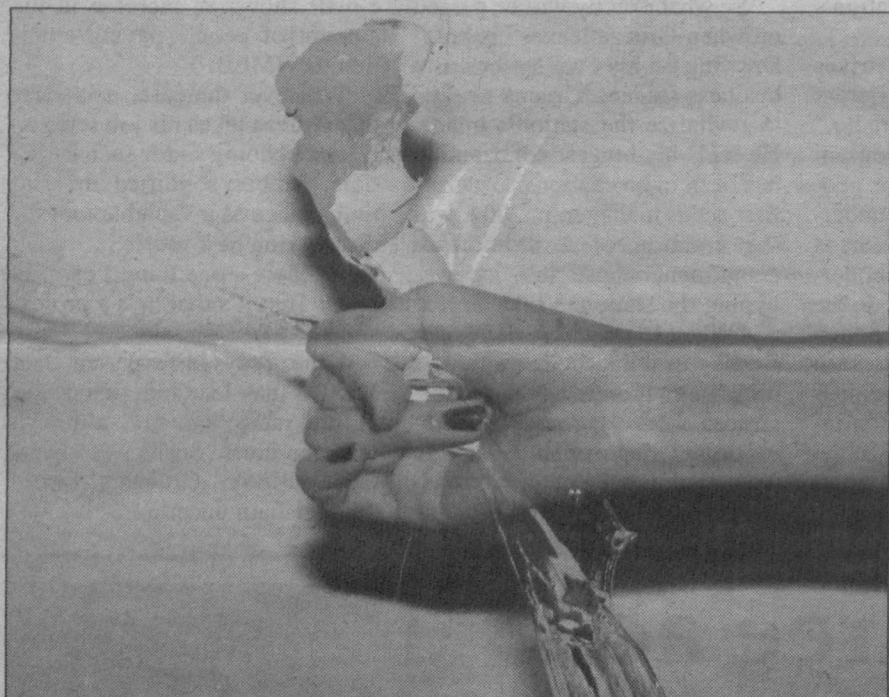
By Zach Dionne

now, check your pulse.

I've always been surprised to hear friends recommend a light beer as their favorite from a micro-brewery. With the Northern Light Ale, I could actually see that. When I write "wicked tasty" in my

The red and brown ales were both solid. The red's taste got a little victimized by the onion rings I was scarfing, but the brown only reassured me that this is one of my favorite styles of beer. With this bias, the brown ale was my choice

CD: Yeah Yeah Yeahs



Courtesy of Interscope

By Kegan Zema
Staff Reporter

New York City Low-Fi Garage Rock: a genre revered by all true Lower Manhattan hipsters, as well as every youth across America who wishes they were living in a dingy apartment on 8 Street. The music is loud and dirty, yet when done well, is artistically beautiful.

The Yeah Yeah Yeahs are critically acclaimed pioneers of the genre, and their latest release, "It's Blitz," will assuredly help them keep that title. Sure they may have ditched some of their fuzzed-out guitar licks for equally distorted synth lines, but the dirty, dancy rock that propelled them onto the scene opening up for bands like The Strokes and The White Stripes is intact.

If anything, the band has crafted even catchier tunes. "Fever To Tell" and "Show Your Bones" were rock albums to the core. "It's Blitz" is still a rock album, but it demands at least some moving and grooving.

The album starts out guns blazing with "Zero" and "Heads Will Roll." These two songs are dirty, synth-heavy tracks beckoning to be blaring out on the dance floor, or at the very least, out of an NYU dorm room. The screechy synthesizer lines at the end of "Zero" are a perfect compliment to Karen O's eerie vocal work.

Vocalist Karen O screams at the beginning of "Heads Will Roll," "Off

with your head / Dance 'til your dead!" If this band had stuck to their old guns the formula would have gotten boring. By changing their game just enough, they have managed to stay just as interesting as they were back in the early part of the decade.

Unlike many garage rock bands, The Yeah Yeah Yeahs don't always have to be beating their listeners in the face to elicit a positive reaction. The dreary "Skeletons" features some spacious instrumentation and phenomenal vocal work. The album does a great job of keeping the listener guessing, yet keeps the same level of energy throughout, even on the slower songs.

Fans of the band's traditional approach to songwriting need look no further than "Dull Life." This features mainly guitar unlike most of the album and does a great job proving they've still got it to any haters. The guitar doubling the vocal line on the chorus is an amazing effect, and the drums are just as simplistic and perky as ever.

Perhaps the band will never recapture the elegant splendor of "Maps," or the jagged edginess of "Phenomena," but with "It's Blitz" The Yeah Yeah Yeahs have crafted a great record capable of redefining their sound. That is a lot more than many bands can say, across all genres. Musical growth is crucial to artists and these New York City punks are getting more and more mature.

Grade: B

FILM: Fast & Furious



Courtesy of Miramax

By Kayla Riley
For The Maine Campus

If fast cars, short skirts and huge muscles could carry a movie to greatness, "Fast & Furious" would be at the top of the heap. Unfortunately, a well-formed plot, dialogue and good acting are generally required for an enjoyable film experience. "Fast & Furious" follows the previous three testosterone-driven vehicles in a highly predictable fashion.

Although none of the earlier films were Oscar-worthy, they each offered something for viewers. "The Fast and the Furious," "2 Fast 2 Furious," and "The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift" could at least be considered guilty pleasures, but "Fast & Furious" left a bitter taste and none of the light satisfaction of the others.

"Fast & Furious" returns with the heavily muscled and slack jawed Dominic Toretto (Vin Diesel), along with his tough and trusty girlfriend Letty (Michelle Rodriguez). Also returning in this unnecessary sequel is Paul Walker as Brian O'Conner, the moody FBI agent who holds a rivalry with Dominic.

When trouble befalls Letty, our two star-crossed actors are brought together like a bad jigsaw puzzle. Before we can bat an eye, they are a dynamic duo overcoming their differences in the search for a notorious drug lord. This jumbled rat race leads Dominic and Brian over the U.S.-Mexico border, where they fight for justice. Their journey concludes with a cliffhanger, which hopefully doesn't allude to yet another fast and furious mess.

As soon as the film begins, the audience is met with a high-octane action scene, and it seems that it is headed in its usual direction. This wouldn't have been so bad. Unfortunately, this scene spirals into a drawn-out disaster so filled with awkward stares, stutters and plot holes that it's nearly impossible to focus on the road ahead.

Diesel has never been lauded for his acting chops, but at least in the first movie he served as a somewhat intriguing meathead. In "Fast & Furious," he garners no empathy for his troubles and spends his screen time filling out tight shirts and staring into the distance.

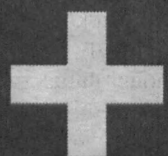
Likewise, Walker has lost his charm since 2001's "The Fast and the Furious." He looked old and tired and acted lackadaisically, only coming alive to punch someone or press the gas pedal. It is no great mystery as to why audiences haven't seen much from these two in years.

There are some decent car chases and shoot-em-up moments. The shiny cars and fast women are back in full force, so fans of the franchise might not be disappointed. But as far as good movies go, "Fast & Furious" doesn't fit the bill. The plot bounces back and forth and expects viewers to understand that it was set sometime before "The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift." Movies such as this are to be enjoyed like chocolate — as a treat, but not as a steady diet. "Fast & Furious" can't even fill this requirement. It is a fast and infuriating disappointment.

Grade: D

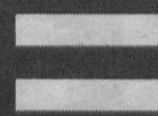
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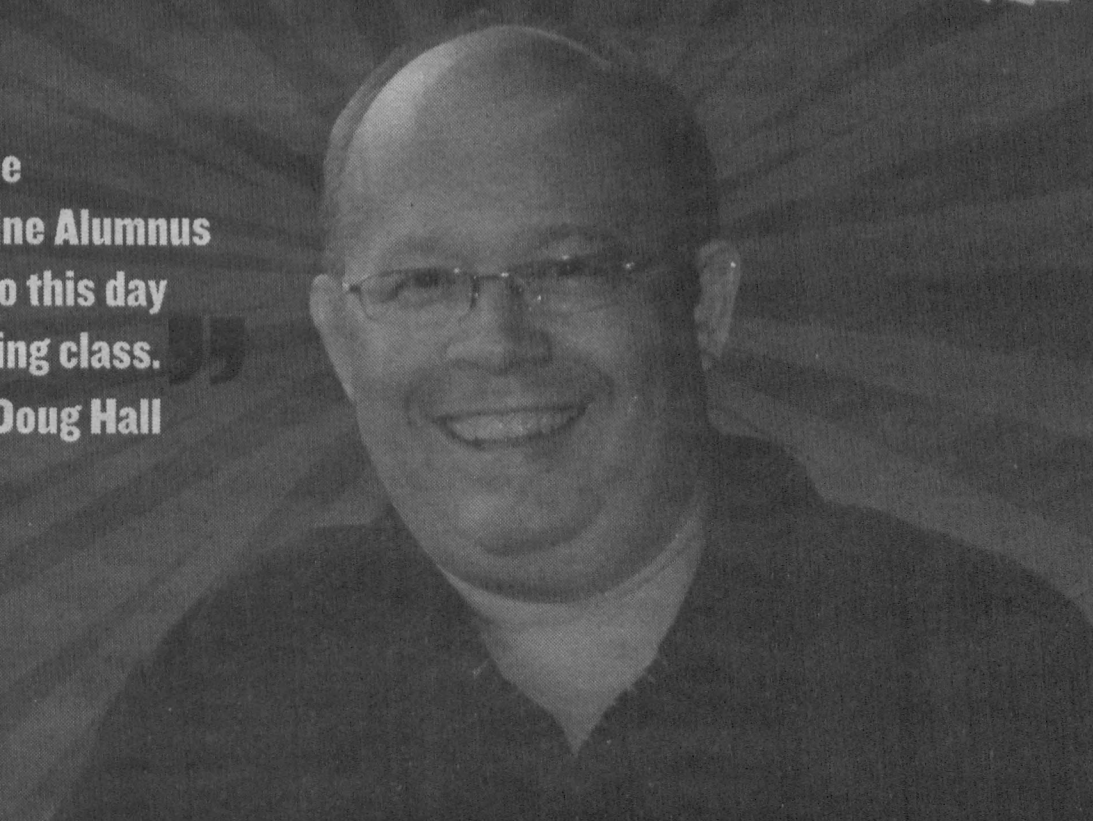
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When I was a student I was offered the opportunity to take a class with a Maine Alumnus who was "famous" I blew it off - and to this day regret not taking Stephen King's writing class.

-Doug Hall



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go! calendar

All events free unless stated otherwise

Thursday, April 9

Socialist and Marxist Studies

Series: Writing Socialist History

Feat. David Roediger, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

12:30 – 1:45 p.m.

Coe Room, Memorial Union

Efficiency: Cost Cutting, Long and Short Term

4:30 – 6 p.m.

Walker Room, Memorial Union

Opera Workshop

7:30 p.m.

Minsky Recital Hall, Class of 1944 Hall

Students free with MaineCard

\$6 public

Diversity Film Series presents

"Girlhood"

7:30 p.m.

Bangor Room, Memorial Union

"Boys' Life"

Annual Maine Masque Theater production

7:30 p.m.

Students free with MaineCard

\$10 public

Pub Mix:

Trivia Through the Decades

8 p.m.

Bear's Den, Memorial Union

Friday, April 9 cont.

Opening reception for Student Art Exhibition

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Award ceremony at 6:15 p.m.

Lord Hall

"Boys' Life"

Annual Maine Masque Theater production

7:30 p.m.

Free with MaineCard

\$10 public

Kickin' Flicks: "Frost/Nixon"

7:30 and 10 p.m.

Bangor Room, Memorial Union

Spring Fling to the Rescue

8 p.m.

Student Recreation and Fitness Center

Saturday, April 11

"The Way We Get By"

A film based on the experiences of the Maine Troop Greeters

12 p.m.

Collins Center for the Arts

\$7

"Boys' Life"

Annual Maine Masque Theater production

2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Free with MaineCard

\$10 public

Faculty violin recital by Anatole Wieck

7:30 p.m.

Minsky Recital Hall, Class of 1944 Hall

Students free with MaineCard

\$6 public

Bob Marley: Live comedy

8 – 11 p.m.

Collins Center for the Arts

\$5 – Umaine community only

Friday, April 10

Enernet: Internet Lessons for Solving Energy

Feat. Bob Metcalfe, Polaris Venture Partners, inventor of Ethernet

2:10 p.m.

100 Neville Hall

"The Way We Get By"

A film premiere based on the experiences of the Maine Troop Greeters

4:30 and 7:30 p.m.

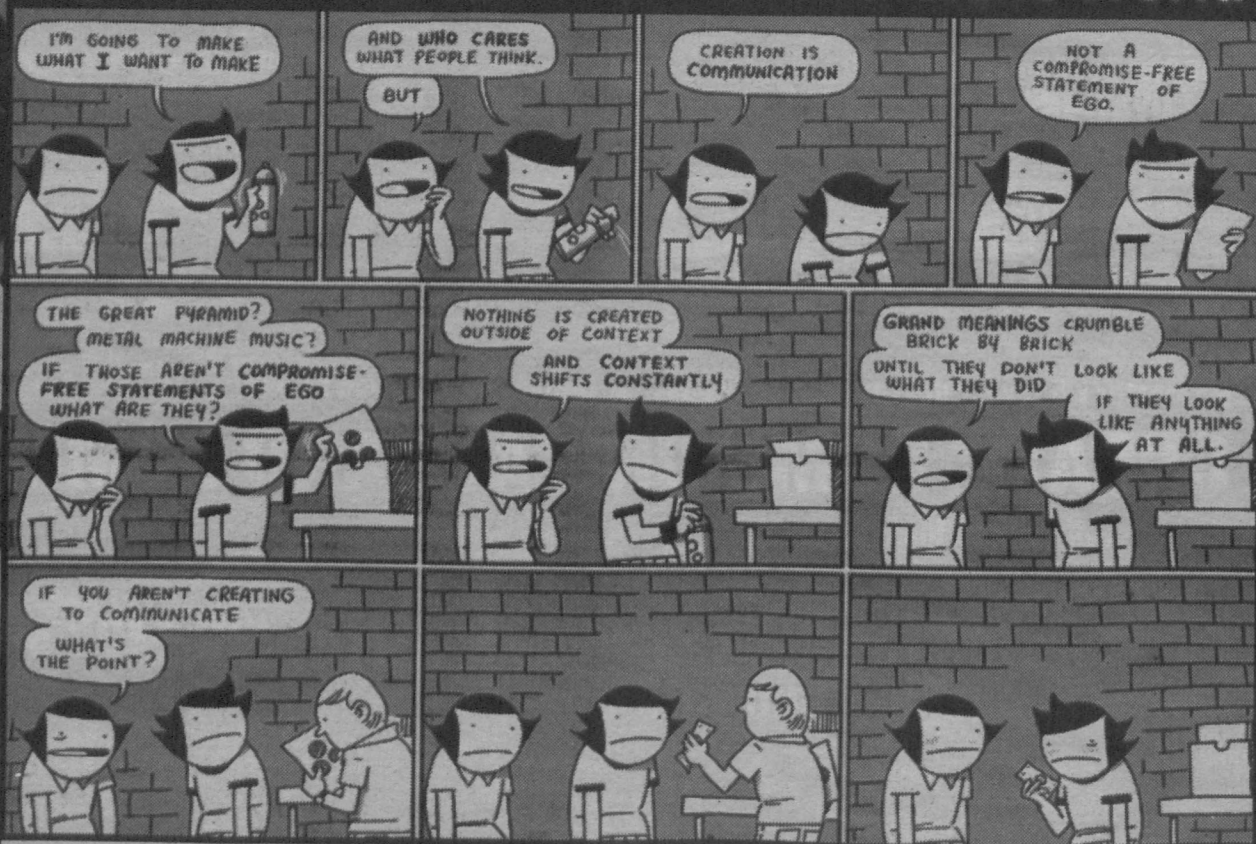
Collins Center for the Arts

\$7

Cat and Girl

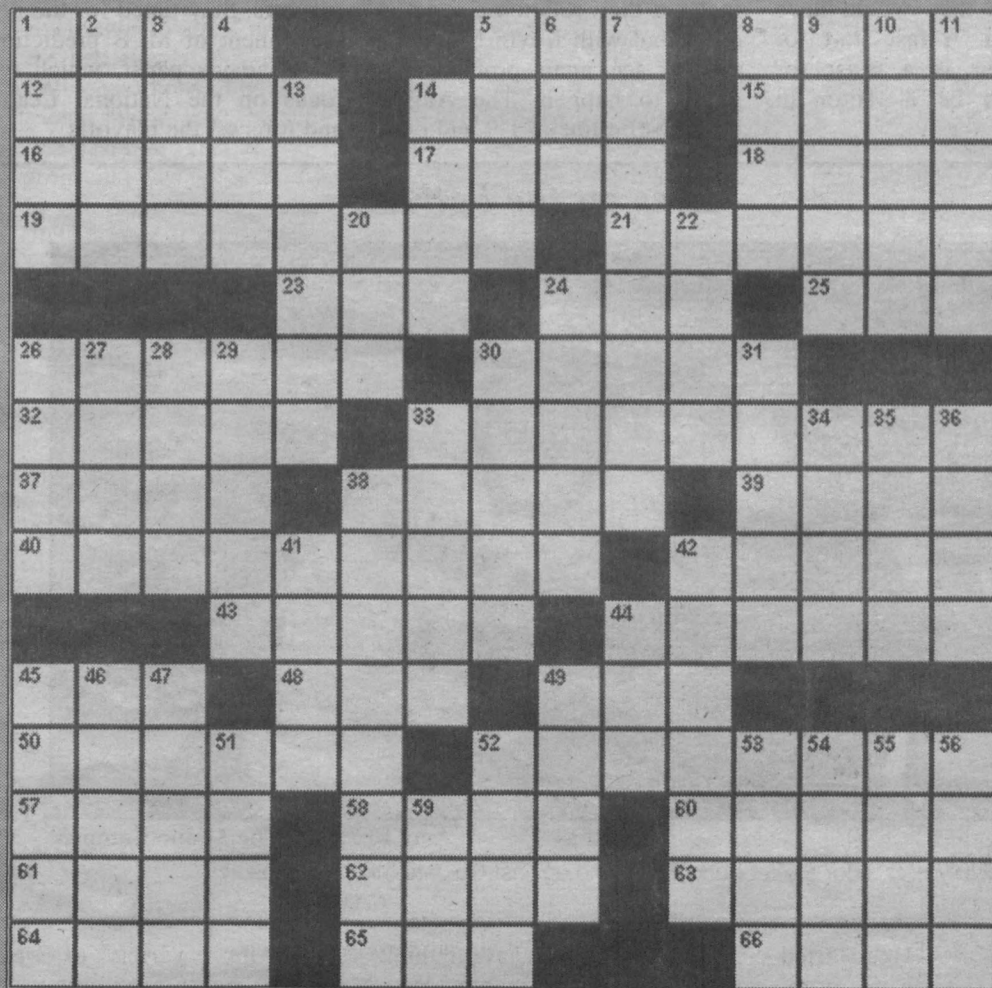
by Dorothy Gambrell

Eight Track Wonders of the Ancient World



catandgirl.com

DISTRACTIONS



CROSSWORD

ANSWER KEY FOUND IN SPORTS

ACROSS

- 1- Energy units
5- Sense of self
8- Short tail
12- Lasso
14- Went through, as the paper
15- Detest
16- Israeli desert
17- Purina competitor
18- Understanding words
19- First principles
21- Rule
23- Not for a Scot
24- Bother

- 25- Non-dairy milk
26- Winged child
30- Stylish
32- Scoundrel
33- Dense growth of shrubs
37- Shrinking sea
38- Sound of a horse
39- Flying start?
40- Small shell-shaped cake
42- Favored
43- Meat stew braised in red wine
44- Threadlike
45- Irregularly shaped disk
48- Madrid Mrs.

DOWN

- 1- Sea-going eagle
2- Monetary unit of Cambodia
3- Plum variety
4- Wineglass part
5- Long fish
6- Hiatus
7- Recording odometer
8- Switchblade
9- Lawsuits
10- In _____ (unborn)
11- Itty-bitty
13- Wide street
14- Charge per unit
20- Arrest
22- Gumbo veggie
24- Icon
26- Jam-pack
27- Israeli round dance
28- Old-fashioned exclamation of surprise
29- Governed
30- Gilsten
31- Track
33- Silk cotton
34- Fix up
35- Son of Zeus in Greek mythology
36- Veinlike deposit
38- Mild personality disorder
41- Go the distance
42- Little drink
44- Fine hair
45- Brace
46- Lofty nest
47- The house of a parson
49- Director Vittorio De _____
51- Small recess
52- Diarist Frank
53- Wife of Jacob
54- _____ breve
55- _____ do-well
56- Formerly, formerly
59- "_____ don't say!"

Crossword puzzles provided by
BestCrosswords.com.
Used with permission.

Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 to April 20

You will finally earn a nice sum of money from a business you have been taking very seriously. Your excellent communication skills will help you solve conflicts among your coworkers.

Taurus

April 21 to May 20

In the morning you will manage to solve a problem for a younger member of your family. Work is going well and you will soon have the opportunity to implement new ideas and plans.

Gemini

May 21 to June 21

You could have to leave on an unexpected trip in a family interest. In spite of all the obstacles, you will manage to complete an intellectual task you have been dealing with for a while.

Cancer

June 22 to July 22

Superiors and coworkers will appreciate your excellent ideas. You will be making sound decisions and will manage to complete all your tasks.

Leo

July 23 to Aug. 22

You have good chances to succeed professionally. Education and travelling are in your future as well. You are advised to take advantage of such auspices. You will have the chance to broaden your intellectual horizon.

Virgo

Aug. 23 to Sept. 22

You are being very creative these days and are planning to enter a new stage in your life. You could dedicate a good part of your spare time to devising plans for a new business. Chances are you will find ways to achieve your goals with minimum expenses.

Libra

Sept. 23 to Oct. 23

Your exceptional creativity will be of great help for you in business. You will have the opportunity to make a major investment that will prove to be profitable sooner than you expect.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 to Nov. 22

Friendships are going very well. You will be appreciated for your determination and reliability. You will be able to solve professional and domestic problems easily.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 to Dec. 21

You will be busy, but you will manage to complete everything you have on your agenda. You can succeed both professionally and financially.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 to Jan. 20

Today is a good time for education and for making oneself noticed in society. You have very good ideas and may start a new project.

Aquarius

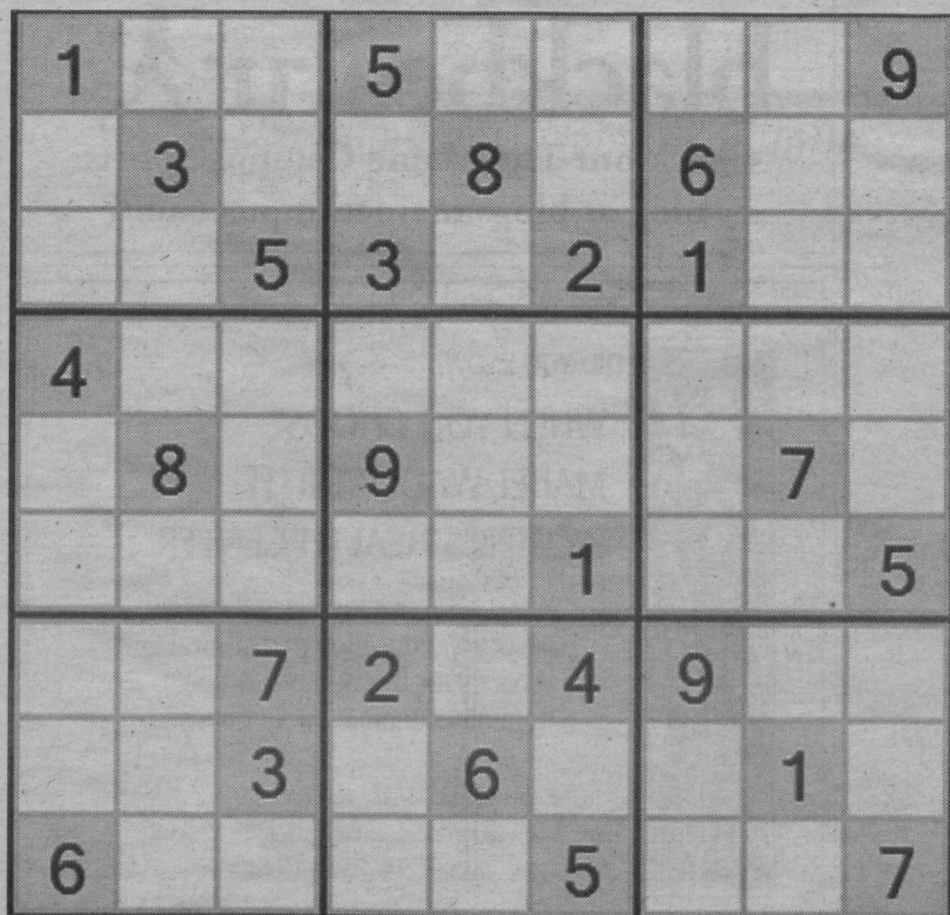
Jan. 21 to Feb. 19

You will make a major decision that will soon prove to be quite inspired. If you are proposed a side job, go for it. You can earn a nice sum of money.

Pisces

Feb. 20 to March 20

You are likely to succeed in business and/or at work. You will have to run several errands and make a small investment. You might encounter bureaucratic difficulties.



SUDOKU PUZZLE

HOW TO PLAY

● Each row (horizontal line) must have numbers 1-9 in any order but each digit can only appear once.

● Each column (vertical line) must have numbers 1-9 in any order but each digit can only appear once.

● Each 3x3 box must have numbers 1-9 in any order but each digit can only appear once.

There is only one correct answer.

Difficulty level: **HARD**

Saturday, Apr. 11

Baseball (DH)
vs. Hartford
12 p.m. in West Hartford, Conn.

Softball (DH)
vs. Binghamton
1 p.m. in Vestal NY

Men's and Women's Track
TBA in Amherst, Mass.

Sunday, Apr. 12

Softball
vs. Binghamton
11 a.m. in Vestal, NY

Baseball (DH)
vs. Hartford
1 p.m. in West Hartford, Conn.

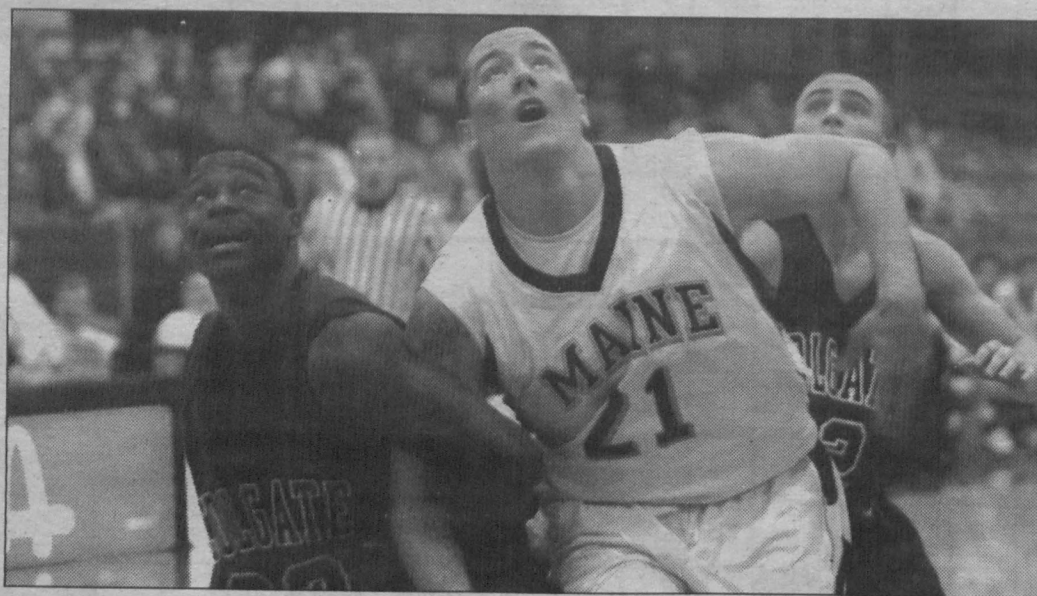
Baseball seasons again, while their fifth starter is

slated to be Bartolo Colon. Colon might be solid, as long as he doesn't overexert himself swinging a bat. The Indians should win the division with new addition Kerry Wood closing games which they would have lost last year. A fast start for Travis Hafner is a must for Cleveland to be a factor in October.

In the West, the Angels are the team to beat once again. Oakland could contend with an overhauled offense including Nomar Garciaparra, Matt Holliday, Jason Giambi and Orlando Cabrera. Their chances hinge on their young rotation getting the job done, but that is highly unlikely. Texas may also be a factor if their rotation can get in order, but with Kevin Millwood as their ace, again probably not going to happen. The Angels have a solid lineup 1-9 and once

John Lackey, Ervin Santana and Kelvim Escobar return their rotation will be the one of the best in baseball.

So there you have it, spring time and baseball are back again. It should be another interesting summer, so keep an eye out, but don't count on all that spending getting the Yankees far in the playoffs. Stay tuned for the next installment of MLB predictions in Monday's paper, which will focus on the National League and forecast the playoffs.

Eyes on the ball

Amy Brooks ♦ The Maine Campus
Sean McNally battles for the rebound in a game against Colgate this past season.

Ball from page 16

"He started at point guard a couple times for us, and from day one to now, he has made huge improvements with his ball handling and leadership ability."

Leadership is one thing that the Black Bears will not be short of next year, especially on the front line. The team will return McNally as well as juniors Troy Barnies and Malachi Peay. The six-foot-six Peay earned a majority of the starts at power forward when healthy, playing alongside McNally, who stands six-foot-seven. Even though they are slightly undersized, they do not let that bother them.

"You just gotta play tough, you can't think about, this guys

bigger than me. You have to think about how can I get by him? How can I score on him? How can I rebound on him?"

UMaine has only one signed recruit so far and that is Jacob McLemore, younger brother of Gerald McLemore. He was rated as a top prospect at one time, but has since fallen off of scouts' radars, making him a potential steal for the program. Gerald describes his brother as "a scorer that can play point and two-guard and provide some extra scoring on the floor."

Woodward likes what Jacob can bring, but notes that he is not a clone of his brother.

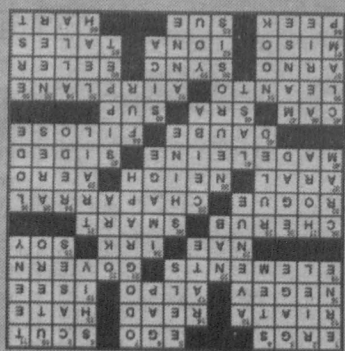
"He is a different player than Gerald," he said. "More of a combo type guard that really plays well in the open court and

scores in a variety of ways. [He's] lightning quick on defense. I really like the way he plays the game and the things he'll be able to bring us over the next four years."

There is still a lot of young talent on this team, and those guys will see plenty of minutes, but if this team is going to be successful, it will be because of the veterans according to Peay.

"The upper class will lead us. We have been together, we know each other, how each other play, what each other can and can't do, and we just have to be there for each other," he said. "Leadership, that's what we need."

If the upperclassmen provide that leadership, then the immediate future for the Black Bears looks bright.

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Kansas, 'Cuse favorites to advance to Indy

Flynn, Aldrich top POY candidates, NBA Draft, freshmen will shake out other top teams

By Adam Clark
Sports Editor

On Monday night in Detroit, the University of North Carolina was crowned the NCAA men's basketball champions. The fifth title in team history and the second in the past five years, the storied program was picked by many to win from the beginning. As a UNC homer, it was a shining moment seeing Tyler Hansbrough and the rest of the Tar Heels cut down the nets. But as one season ends, preparation begins for the next. Here is a look at next season.

Top five teams

5. Villanova-The Wildcats finished in the top four of the toughest conference in recent memory. The Big East toughened up Jay Wright's squad and they

advanced to the Final Four before falling to the eventual champion. They pride themselves on tough defense, offensive rebounding and good shooting. They lose three starters, but they retain Scottie Reynolds, Corey Stokes and Corey Fisher. With a top recruiting class — including two top guards — and Duke transfer Taylor King, they will fight for the Big East title and look to get back to the Final Four in Indianapolis.

4. Michigan State-Their run to this year's championship was unforgettable. They knocked off Kansas, Louisville and UConn before bowing out to UNC in the title game. They lose Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year Travis Walton and talented big man Goran Suton, but they return their top two players along with a talented bench. Kalin Lucas and

Raymar Morgan are two of the best players at their positions in the nation and will look to get over the hump and win the title next season.

3. Duke-The Blue Devils are always highly-rated but seem to fizzle out in the tournament. They rely too much on three-point shooting and lack an inside game. This ranking hinges on the return of Gerald Henderson, their top player and a game-changer. If he returns and holds off the NBA for another season, they will be at the top of the ACC with a good recruiting class coming in.

2. Syracuse-Jim Boeheim's squad is one of the most talented in the country, but they lacked depth this season. Jonny Flynn is a potential national player of the year. With his return, along with the rest of the squad, makes this

Sweet 16 participant dangerous. The addition of transfer Wesley Johnson adds depth and the sweet-shooting of Andy Rautins and Eric Devendorf should put the Orange in the title mix.

1. Kansas-They remind me of the 2006 UNC squad that lost their whole team after winning the 2005 championship. They surprised everyone with a great recruiting class, and the rise of Cole Aldrich and Sherron Collins pushed this team to the brink of the Elite 8. They return basically everyone, and if Aldrich stays, and Bill Self pulls in top recruit, Xavier Henry, they will probably be the favorite heading into 2010.

Sleeper Team: North Carolina-Much like last year's Kansas team, the young Tar Heels will still be a force in the ACC as they keep on reloading.

With the top recruiting class coming to Chapel Hill next season and the possible addition of super-point guard John Wall, there will be plenty of raw, but NBA talent playing in the Dean Dome. Ed Davis is a potential number one pick in the 2010 NBA Draft. His return, along with Deon Thompson, makes the inside game formidable. If they can grow up fast and Davis continues his development, UNC will be a tough out once again.

Player of the Year: Jonny Flynn and Cole Aldrich. The guard and big man returning to the top two teams next season are candidates to the premier individual award. They are the best players on their respective squads and with a ton of talent around them, they will always be in the spotlight. Voters will see plenty of them.

Down and ready



Amy Brooks ♦ The Maine Campus

Ashley Waters gets ready for the pitch this past weekend against Stony Brook. The Black Bears dropped two out of three to the Seawolves. Walters' UMaine squad played a doubleheader against Boston University. A recap of those two games will be in Monday's edition.

NBA

coach called his declaration for the draft "a total surprise." It's not so hard to believe that he only played in three NBA games before being shipped overseas.

2. Kwame Brown - Brown's name is much more recognizable to basketball fans because he has had a little more success than Young. The reason he cracks the list ahead of Young is because he was taken with the first overall pick in 2001. Brown has played for four different teams since then and averaged a whopping seven points per game. College degree, anyone?

1. Omar Cook - Unlike the other two, Cook actually went to college. He attended St. John's University for one year and ranked first in the Big East and second in the nation in assists in 2000. Success at that level should automatically translate to the next level, right? Wrong. Cook played in a total of 22 NBA games for two different teams. He has since been a virtual nomad in the basketball world and will likely never step on an NBA floor again.

There's no telling how much success Hansbrough will have at the next level, but at least he won't have any regrets when he looks back.

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SOFTBALL
MAINE VS. HARTFORD
Sat. Apr. 16th at 1 p.m. - Double Header
Sun. Apr. 19th at Noon

BASEBALL
MAINE VS. UMBC
Sat. Apr. 16th at 1 p.m. - Double Header
Student Day - Starts at Noon!
FREE pizza and drinks for students!
Prize drawings for t-shirts, gift cards, pizza coupons, t-shirts and more!
Second annual UMaine Idol Contest
Admission is FREE for UMaine students at all home baseball games.
Sun. Apr. 19th at 1 p.m. - Double Header

Kevin McAvoy #1
Senior, Infield/Outfield

THE MAINE CAMPUS sports

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2009



Woodward, Bears hope for better results

Men's basketball returns bulk of team, eager to rise to the top of America East in '09-10

By Michael Pare
For The Maine Campus

A season of peaks and valleys for the promising young University of Maine men's basketball team has come to an end. Once again, the Black Bears lost in the first round of the America East Tournament, this time at the hands of the last place University of Hartford.

The loss in last month's conference tournament capped a season-ending stretch that saw the Black Bears drop 10 of their last 11 games to finish the season at 9-21, a marginal two-win improvement over last year. The lack of measurable progress is of course disappointing, but head coach Ted Woodward attributes that, in part, to the competitiveness of the conference.

"Our league was a tremendous basketball league this year," he said. "We ended up finishing 16th in the country, which is the second highest we have ever been. So we knew that every single team we were playing against was going to be a challenge."

"We were extremely close to getting over the top in a number of different games and we are in a situation where we are extremely competitive," he added. "We just

have to get a little bit more mature, more veteran to get where we are going, but I never lost faith in these guys—not once."

That faith could be rewarded next season, when the senior dominated America East conference is purged of much of its top talent, while UMaine will only lose 2 players: senior Kaimondre Owes and junior Mark Socoby, who opted to transfer.

The players, both guards, combined to score 20.8 points per game last year, with Socoby leading the team at 12.3, and were two of the team's best outside shooters. To fill the void they leave on offense, UMaine will have to lean more heavily on America East All Rookie Team honoree Gerald McLemore (12.1 ppg) and sophomore forward Sean McNally (9.6 ppg, 7.4 rebounds per game).

"Gerald is a guy who is an all rookie player and the biggest jump is usually between freshmen to sophomore year," Woodward said. "If he continues to make a great jump, he is going to be a dynamic player."

"McNally has had a constant upward slope as far as his development," Woodward said of the Gardiner native. "He was a guy in the late part of the season we were able to go to. His last home game scoring 24 points against

[conference] defensive player of the year, Marques Blakely, shows what he is capable of doing."

Gerald McLemore downplayed his likely role next year as the team's go-to scorer, saying "it's always going to be a team effort," but also said that if called upon he would be ready to take that role on.

Junior Bernal and freshman Andrew Rogers split time playing point guard and both should see plenty of minutes next year. Bernal was honored for the second year for his efforts in the classroom. The Black Bears' assist leader, with just over three per game was named to the All Academic Team.

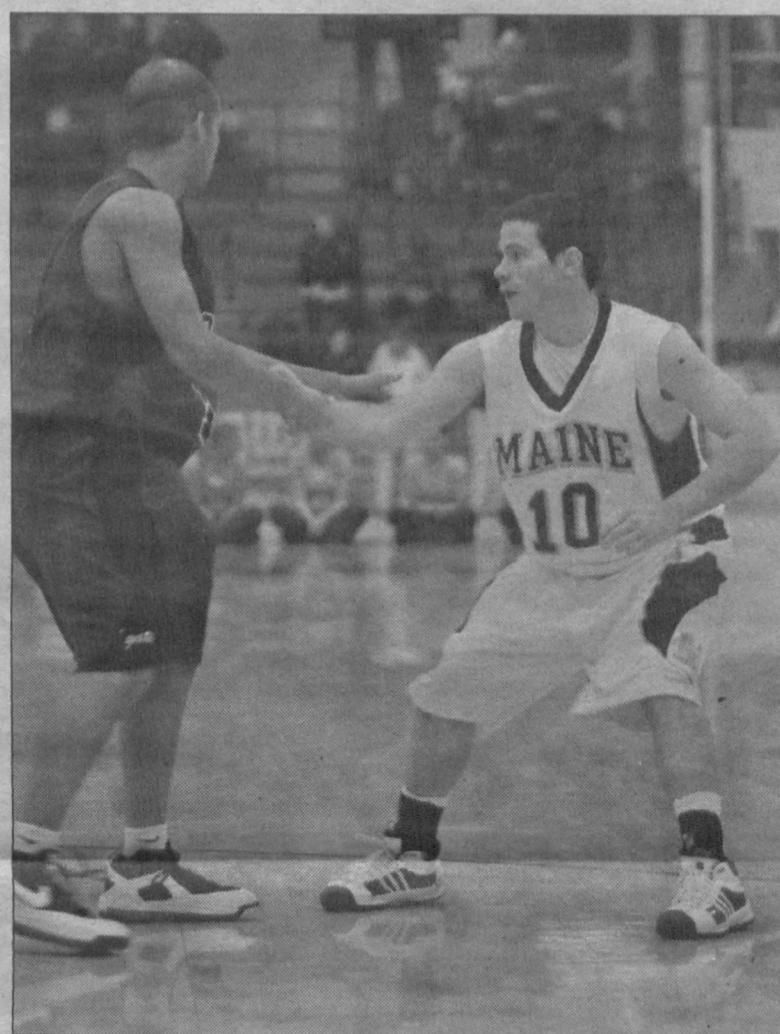
Bernal's minutes took a hit with Rogers in the fold, but Woodward was impressed with the development of both players.

"Junior had a very good year," he said. "His percentages drastically went up, his assist-to-turnover ratio went up and he really made a lot of improvements. Andrew Rogers got very comfortable, and I expect him to make an incredible jump next year."

Rogers caught the eye of McLemore as well.

"He made a lot of strides this year," he said of his classmate.

See **BALL** on page 14



Amy Brooks ♦ The Maine Campus

Andrew Rodgers defends his opponent in a game last season. The freshman guard will be key for the veteran Black Bears next season.

To NBA, or not to NBA

Cook, Brown headline worst draft decisions

By Mike Brusko
For The Maine Campus

University of North Carolina senior Tyler Hansbrough completed the final chapter of his storied career on Monday night, winning an NCAA National Championship. It was one of the most lopsided victories in recent championship memory, but Hansbrough gave college basketball fans something that has become unique in this day and age: a commitment to his school for all four years of his eligibility.

Until two years ago, there were no restrictions on high schoolers entering the NBA draft after they graduated. As the rule stands now, a player must be at least one year removed from high school before he can declare for the draft. Either way, we are in an era where jumping to the NBA has become as common as a Ryan Howard strikeout. For that reason, it is refreshing to see a guy make the right decision about staying in school.

I wouldn't consider myself a Hansbrough fan, nor would I call myself a hater, but whichever category you fall under I think we can all agree that he has done himself a favor by developing as much as possible before making the leap. I personally don't think he has the athleticism or size to be much of a factor at the next level, but he has

certainly added a number of moves and shots to his offensive arsenal since his freshman year of college. Oh, and one more minor detail that probably doesn't hurt his case: Had he left school early, he wouldn't be walking around with a ring the size of a small asteroid on his finger.

Please don't get the wrong idea though. I'm all for a guy taking a multimillion dollar contract when it's basically served to him on a dinner plate. The chances of those guys ever needing a college degree is about as likely as the Detroit Lions actually winning a game next year. Anyway, college isn't going anywhere. On the other hand, the game of basketball is too unpredictable to take your health for granted. There are a ton of guys that made the right decision like LeBron James, Kobe Bryant, Kevin Garnett, Dwight Howard. The list goes on and on. But Hansbrough's case makes me think of the equally long list of guys that did not make the right decision. In order to save too much monotony, I'll simply share what I believe to be the three worst decisions of all time:

3. **Korleone Young** - Okay, let me guess what you're thinking: "Umm...Who?" Yeah, that was my reaction too. Young was drafted 40th overall in 1998. All you need to know is that Young's own high school basketball

See **NBA** on page 15

Sox, Yanks back at it

Pitching, young guns, depth pace Boston

By Alex Leonard
For The Maine Campus

As two seasons conclude, one season is just beginning. I am, of course, talking about baseball. For my money, baseball season is the greatest of them all. It starts on the cusp of spring and helps lead us into summer, which means no more cold, snowy weather. While baseball begins with great expectations, especially if you are a Red Sox or Yankees fan, the NBA and NHL playoffs are right around the corner. If you follow Boston sports, there is a lot of excitement as the season winds down. The Bruins are the number one seed in the Eastern Conference and the Celtics will be in the top three of their conference. Both teams look to go deep into the playoffs, but that discussion is for another day.

Instead, I would like to talk baseball. While the offseason saw the Yankees spend like a spoiled rich kid, most teams realized they had to budget their money. Most free agents got the money they sought, namely Mark Teixeira, Francisco Rodriguez and CC Sabathia. Some, including Manny Ramirez, Adam Dunn and Jason Varitek didn't. The season begins with several teams in serious contention in both leagues.

Starting with the American League, the

East division is loaded again. The Rays bring back a terrific starting rotation and add Pat Burrell's big bat to the middle of the lineup. This will help them, but it is doubtful they will repeat as division champions. The Yankees paid to upgrade their pitching, and Teixeira will add some pop, but the pressure is mounting on a franchise that does not handle losing. The new Yankee Stadium will provide some thrilling moments along the way, but the Yankees are probably destined for the wild card. That leaves the Red Sox. With a lineup that features a healthy Mike Lowell in the seventh spot there is no way this team will not make the playoffs. Instead of spending more than \$400 million this off-season, the Sox locked up young guns Dustin Pedroia, Kevin Youkilis and Jon Lester for a fraction of the cost. Throw in John Smoltz, Brad Penny and young reliever Ramon Ramirez, and this team could very well make and win the World Series. I pick them to win the East.

The Central division is a three-way race and could come down to the last day like it did last year. The Twins are the early favorites but the injury to Joe Mauer could be tough to overcome. Chicago will be a factor but they rely heavily on John Danks and Gavin Floyd to have superb

See **BASEBALL** on page 14