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the Maine Campus

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Monday, April 27, 2009 Vol. 127, No. 45



Gay marriage bill sponsor speaks at UM

By Dylan Riley
Assistant News Editor

Politics

After hearing Mainers' opinions on L.D. 1020 — the legislative bill that would re-define marriage to legally include gay couples — Sen. Dennis Damon came to the University of Maine April 23 to tell students why he sponsored it — despite at least one e-mailed death threat — and if he expects it to pass.

"I think that the [Maine Judiciary] Committee will report it out as an ought to pass ... but I don't know the strength of that vote," Damon said.

Damon said he expects Gov. John Baldacci to sign the bill into law if the Maine Legislature approves it, even though

Baldacci has not voiced any support or opposition. "It's

going to be tight. I think the House will probably pass it, and I think the Senate will be close," Damon said. "I have great hope that we will pass it and get it out."

Standing before several students and other listeners in the Coe Room of the Memorial Union, Damon said the hearing the day before was one of the most incredible events of his career. The hearing was originally scheduled for April 24. Damon said this

See **DAMON** on page 2



Damon

In the swing of things



Edward Fontaine • The Maine Campus

Derek Bizer takes a swing on the mall as (left to right) Steven Padgett, Dan Rafferty and Samantha York look on.

Bill to propose marijuana research at UMaine stalls

By Jeff Hake
Staff Reporter

Politics

A bill in the Maine Legislature would direct the University of Maine to grow marijuana. The bill, as a law, would direct UMaine to initiate a pilot project for studying the medical benefits of marijuana.

The bill failed in committee April 15, but will go back to the legislature for a final vote. It is not expected to pass.

The bill, L.D. 1070, would direct "the University of Maine College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture and the University of Maine School of Nursing to collaborate in a project to grow and dispense medical marijuana to authorized individuals and to study pain reduction and other beneficial effects of marijuana."

The Health and Human Services Committee voted the bill ought not to pass.

Money raised from the sale of the project's marijuana would have supported its expenses.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Leila Percy, D-Phippsburg, said she was acting on the needs and concerns of her constituency.

"I have constituents who use medical marijuana," Percy said. "It was [an] accessibility issue for them."

Percy expressed a need for more information on the topic.

"We kept finding ourselves asking questions like, 'Is it beneficial?' and 'Has enough research been done?'"

According to an e-mail from Marcella Sorg, a nursing profes-

sor and forensic and medical anthropologist specializing in policy issues concerning drug abuse epidemiology at UMaine's Margaret Chase Smith Center, the bill "was, appropriately, already voted not to pass by the Health and Human Services Committee and is essentially dead."

See **BILL** on page 5

"It would've gone a long way to help patients in Maine."

Charles Wynott
Founder of the Maine chapter of Americans for Safe Access

Campus fights alcohol abuse

Public Safety reports 147 cases of underage possession

By Kellen Safreed
For The Maine Campus

Student Life

Drunkenness on college and university campuses remains a problem, and the University of Maine is no exception.

"I don't believe the University of Maine has a worse problem than other campuses of a similar size when it comes to alcohol-related incidents," said Director of Public Safety Chief Noel March earlier this year. In his opinion, UMaine has more effective policing systems in place than most colleges, but he said underage consumption is still a problem. Last fall there were 147 instances of alcohol possession by a minor on campus.

"And the lion's share of drinking goes on off-campus," March said.

There were 36 alcohol-related ambulance transports on campus last semester, and they weren't just for overdoses. Drunk students accidentally

cut themselves, twist ankles and worse.

The death of 19-year-old UMaine student Dylan Lyford on Feb. 15 was partly due to alcohol. Lyford died of complications due to a skull fracture after falling down some stairs.

Not all the transports were UMaine students. Visitors, whether friends or locals, sometimes cause problems, said

Maida Cordero, community coordinator of Balentine, Colvin, Estabrooke, Penobscot and Stodder halls. March agreed.

"They don't have as much vested in this community. They're not paying a nonrefundable tuition ... and they don't have to go to class on Monday," March said.

Nor does alcohol's influence stop at injuries or drunken shouting.

"Of all the offenses we see on our campus, the fuel in the tank is the excessive and irresponsible use of alcohol," March said.

He listed off common crimes such as domestic violence or car break-ins and

See **ALCOHOL** on page 2

"They know what they're doing, they just don't care."

Chief Noel March
Director of Public Safety

Word of mouth

What is Chickenfest?



It's like a festival, isn't it?
Like a music festival.

Liza Balzarini
Junior
Secondary education

Uh, I guess it's a smaller
version of Harvest Fest.
It's the Harvest Fest of
UMaine.

Jon Hughes
Junior
Business finance



It's a crazy thing where
girls go around naked on
drugs. People get drunk
and flip cars.

Rachel Johnson
Junior
Childhood development
and women's studies



All I know is that it's a
secret.

Corey Colwill
Junior
International affairs



A hippie party that rages
out of control.

Garret Goodhue
Junior
New media



A music festival.

Ruth Stoddard
Junior
Physical ocean science



Damon from page 1

made his speech at UMaine either anti-climactic or more historically contextual.

He said he talked to Baldacci prior to the hearing, not to ask him for support, but to request the governor "do nothing," in that he not veto the bill. Damon said Baldacci did not promise to pass the bill, but that "he is willing to let the discussion and the dialogue go forward."

"I thought it [Damon's speech] was amazing," said Charles Chapin, a fifth-year psychology, child development and family relations student.

Chapin, a member of Wilde Stein, said he went with the group to the April 22 hearing. He said he respects Damon and thinks the senator can get the bill passed.

L.D. 1020 will go to a work session of the Maine Judiciary Committee Tuesday April 28, which will be open to the public. The work session may last more than a day, Damon said. He expects the bill will be voted out of committee some time within the next two weeks and that the Maine Legislature will vote on it in mid to late May.

Damon told students that some of his personal history prompted him to sponsor the bill. He said he watched an anti-war rally as a student at UMaine during the 1960s where protestors opposed the U.S. military presence in Vietnam. He said he was less tolerant during the '60s and joined in decrying the rally. After a dean showed him pictures of himself at the demonstration and told him to be more understanding, Damon said he learned to be more open-minded.

"I would have been one who would have been criticizing; I would have been one who would have been belittling," Damon said. "Seven years ago, I'm pretty sure I would not have sponsored the bill."

Damon said he initially felt he wasn't the best person to sponsor the bill, but said its drafters did and convinced him to support it. He said they felt he should sponsor the bill because he was a straight, older

male senator with political capital who represents a rural area, among other reasons.

"I was astonished," said Kathrine Anderson, a second-year chemistry student who attended Damon's talk Thursday. "I had no idea he could be so connected to people."

Damon said he has a fan page on Facebook and estimates 15 to 20 percent of the approximate 600 people on it are not supporters of the bill.

Damon said he originally had felt a referendum on the bill would be beneficial, because it would embolden legislators and remove some of the fundraising ability and martyrdom attitude felt by opponents.

*"I have great hope
that we will pass it
and get it out."*

Dennis Damon
State senator

"I thought that it would perhaps provide the cover that some legislators might need to vote on it because they could say, when they went back home to their districts, 'yup, I voted on it, and I voted on it to pass it, because I want to send it out to the people,' so that the people can ultimately vote on it," Damon said, who ultimately dismissed the referendum idea. "Our responsibility as legislators is to do the people's work — that's what we were sent there to do — and to simply send this out to referendum without a vote on it I think is wrong. We don't run our government that way. If we did that continuously, then there would just be a series of referendums."

Damon said the bill is not a "big deal" for young college students today; it is his generation that needs to change. He said "any religion, any church" will not have to perform a marriage that does not fit with their religious doctrine if the bill becomes law, and that notary publics — people authorized to

marry others — will also not be bound.

One listener asked Damon about L.D. 1020's sister bill, L.D. 1118.

"To me that's not it, and it smacks of 'separate but not equal,'" Damon said, who mentioned he had not met L.D. 1118's sponsor Leslie Fossel until a week ago.

Another listener asked about the argument of timing, whether it was time for a marriage-equality bill.

"It's a favorite argument, one that drives me nuts. ... It's always time," Damon said. "If it was next year, I guarantee you there'd be another reason why 'not now.'" Damon said he has dismissed this argument "as a shallow attempt" to stop the issue from progressing.

When asked whether religion will enter the Judiciary Committee's decision on the bill, Damon said some of its members are deeply rooted in religion and some are not. He feels the majority of Maine's legislators believe the state's laws are based on secular issues.

Damon praised the testimony from the supporters at the April 22 hearing.

"It seemed that the amount of testimony for the bill was maybe three times greater than the amount of the testimony opposed to the bill, and so by that sheer numbers alone, I think might have had some impact on the committee," Damon said. "I have been enlightened some by some of the testimony I heard."

Damon also commented on the economic benefits of the bill, saying a report he recently viewed at the Bangor Chamber of Commerce estimates the additional permitted marriages will bring \$60 million to Maine in three years. He said the Bangor Chamber of Commerce supports the bill because of the economic benefits and that the money side of the debate had not occurred to him prior to seeing the report.

"It's not any reason not to do it," Damon said.

Damon pushed people to continue their support of the bill.

"Don't give up. Don't give in. Don't give in to the opposers, and don't give in to your emotions," he said.

Alcohol from page 1

cited reckless drinking as a frequent factor for them.

"They know what they're doing; they just don't care," March said.

The Residence Life staff tries to curb overt drunkenness. "I'm not looking to bust people," Cordero said. "But if they're being disruptive, that's a problem."

She said drunks are often found because of a noise violation. If the drinking students are underage, Public Safety is called.

"It's important to have a sober friend watching your back," said Kylie Cole, clinician and coordinator of prevention at Cutler Health Center.

Cutler offers free, confidential alcohol counseling.

"If people come here, it's because they want to," Cole said.

A concerned friend or roommate most often approaches counseling services for advice. Cole implored students to watch out for each other and said the first and most effective defense against alcohol poisoning is

friends, a sentiment echoed by March.

If a student is charged with an alcohol offense, they are referred to the Alcohol and Drug Education Program, headed by Lauri Sidelko. ADEP takes a proactive stance on the issue.

"Alcohol is our job," Sidelko said.

She runs several activities on campus to educate students about alcohol, including Beer Goggle Wii and Mocktail Thursdays. ADEP works with faculty and the dorms to get the word out about basic alcohol facts, like alcohol-content per drink and how much it takes to overdose.

Eighty percent of underage college students nationwide have drunk alcohol, according to Sidelko.

"[As long as] they choose to drink, they know what they're getting into — that's our major goal," Sidelko said.

Though the overall volume of alcohol consumed per person has risen over the past decade, drunk driving has decreased.

Fraternity Alpha Delta and sorority Gamma Sigma Sigma offer the Late Night Local shut-

tle that drives around campus Friday and Saturday nights, supplying anyone they see with a free ride.

"There are more taxis in Orono and Old Town than there are squad cars," March said. "There's no excuse for driving drunk."

Students are often reluctant to call for help for fear of getting themselves or their drunken friend in trouble for underage alcohol use, explained Sidelko. She, March and Cole all stress the importance of getting help despite the consequences, which are fairly light for first time offenders.

"Never hesitate to call 911," March said.

A medical amnesty program UMaine is considering implementing in the fall would protect underage students from negative repercussions if they call Public Safety while intoxicated.

In the seven years March has been on the force, there have been three alcohol-related student deaths.

"And that's three more than I want to see," March said with a sigh.

Up in smoke

Students lose home, but find a community

By Rhiannon Sawtelle
Features Editor

On April 4, Eric Whitman returned to his home on Water Street in Old Town. He checked his FirstClass account, threw a load of laundry in the dryer and left the house. Hours later, it was on fire.

Whitman shared the house with his wife, Hope, and their two 5-year-old sons. Hope and Eric Whitman are both non-traditional, full-time students at the University of Maine.

Eric, 34, is an engineering student and Hope, 24, is majoring in marine biology.

Standing on the track in Morse Field, eyeing a handful of students practice football, Eric recounted the fire. He stood with his arms crossed, wearing a black football windbreaker and a white UMaine visor over his dark brown hair. He accepted returned jerseys and equipment from one of the players — part of his role as president of the U M a i n e Football Club.

Hope is treasurer of the club, and their sons often fill the role of ball boy.

"He lives for this team. He has done amazing things to keep the team going," said Benjamin Christy, a team member.

On April 6, when they were allowed back in the house to salvage their belongings, four carloads of football club players were waiting to help.

"They continued to come most of that week," Eric said.

"I helped out because he's not only a coach, but also a friend. And I know that he would do the same for any of us," Christy said.

Eric said they had so much help that piles of their belongings were stacked on the lawn before their truck could be filled.

"Our [club] officers stepped up as well," Eric said. He explained that team members helped take over practice while the Whitmans dealt with their

home. The team meets twice a week for practices and scrimmages.

At the time of the fire, the Whitmans were in the process of moving. The landlord they had been renting from had filed for bankruptcy and was letting them remain at the house until the bank took over. They had found a house on Bodwell Street in Old Town and were sleeping there most nights.

They were still using the house on Water Street to store most of their belongings.

"I was using the advantage of having an empty house," Eric said.

He would often spend time there in the early morning or late night, doing homework and studying for tests.

The cause of the fire is still unknown, but police and fire officials believe it started somewhere around the kitchen. Eric feared it was the laundry he had left drying. Fire officials said that wasn't the cause.

"They may never figure it out," Eric said.

The rest of the house is fine, but the fire destroyed the kitchen and laundry room.

"We lost three-quarters of our stuff," Eric said. "Those are the things that can be replaced."

Even in these tough economic times, the Whitmans have seen a gracious outreach from community members. They received two sets of used washers and dryers, homemade quilts from a Houlton church, bedding from an engineering department employee and a mattress from a friend.

"We got a handful of Easter cards with nothing in them ... but it made us feel good," Eric said.

He estimated that they lost \$20,000 worth of belongings.

"We're just broke students. [Financial] aid keeps going down; tuition keeps going up," Eric said.

He said they are banking on yard sales that pop up during the spring season. This will help them to replace some of their household necessities.

"The professors have been really good, too," Eric said.

Hands on his hips, Eric explained he had just taken a test that was two weeks overdue.

"It's hard enough being in the engineering program," Eric said.

The Whitman boys are having a hard time comprehending the fire. Eric said they don't understand why they can't have their smoke-damaged toys when they visit the old house.

"They don't understand. ... They don't like the fact," Eric said.

He said the boys are not too fazed by the fire, but are most upset about their handheld and video games that are no longer usable.

"At least we weren't there. ... I'd rather have my house burn down than lose my kids."

"Knowing them as I do, I feel like they will be able to get past this and continue on with their lives," Christy said.

"I'd rather have my house burn down than lose my kids."

Eric Whitman
President of UMaine
Football Club



COME AND SEE
THE ANNUAL MAINE CHANNEL
STUDENT
FILM FESTIVAL
2009



6:00PM APRIL 30TH AT THE
WELLS CONFERENCE CENTER
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Police Beat



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

Steward sparks

Fireworks were set off in the Steward Quad at 1:50 a.m. April 24. According to police, Public Safety officers checked the area, but did not find anyone or any fireworks.

Fun for all ages

A metal princess lunch box and a Leapster game system with games were left at Alford Arena. The items were placed in a box in the Alford Operations office. The owner was contacted, but the items were stolen from the office before they could retrieve them. The theft, valued at \$225, was reported to Public Safety April 23. The matter is under investigation.

"This is your second notice ..."

On April 21, a Doris Twitchell Allen Village resident received a phone call from

someone claiming the resident's vehicle warrantee had run out. The resident gave the caller his debit card information and his social security number. On April 23, he noticed \$500 was withdrawn from his savings account. Public Safety is investigating the case.

No "no skateboarding" signs

Facilities Management reported the theft of a "no skateboarding" sign April 23 from the Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King Plaza.

Caught with his pants down

A female student contacted Public Safety at 2:04 a.m. April 22 when a man exposed his genitals outside of Aroostook Hall. The man was standing in front of her window with his pants around his ankles. The subject was — based on the description given by the student — walking

by Estabrooke Hall. David Gerrish, 42, Naples, was brought to the Public Safety department where he was charged with indecent conduct. Gerrish was also given a criminal trespass letter banning him from university property.

Where there's smoke ...

Public Safety responded to a report of a car on fire at the Hilltop Parking Lot next to the Student Recreation and Fitness Center at 12:18 a.m. April 22 and found a black 1996 Volkswagen Golf with smoke coming from under the hood. There were no visible flames, but the cause was an electric fire. The fire department disconnected the battery and towed the vehicle. Public Safety was unable to locate the owner.

Compiled by
Melinda Hart
Staff Reporter

Bill

from page 1

Sorg said she testified in Augusta on behalf of the university and recommended the committee turn down the bill.

Two days before the committee voted, Sorg told its members UMaine believes the bill is inappropriate and that it would violate federal laws concerning marijuana.

"It is still against federal law to grow, possess or distribute marijuana," Sorg's written testimony said. "This L.D. would require the university ... to become, in effect, a pharmacy-like dispensary selling an illegal substance. Currently, Maine law ... does not permit dispensing of marijuana for medical purposes." She felt this could "potentially place university employees and federal-university relationships in jeopardy."

Sorg noted problems with the research side of the bill, saying many studies have already proved marijuana-derived pain medication works, making any research UMaine might conduct redundant, and that the Food and Drug Administration, "which regulates all pharmacologic research, has rejected the use of smoked marijuana for any medicinal purpose."

Percy said she does not know whether or not the bill will pass when it gets to the Legislature, adding, "you can never make ... assumptions in Maine." She hopes the conversation about medical

marijuana research and accessibility continues.

The debate about medical marijuana will continue even if the Maine Legislature rejects L.D. 1070.

Maine residents will vote on a medical marijuana referendum question in November. Medical marijuana advocates have collected the necessary 55,000 signatures to place a question on the November ballot that would ease access to medical marijuana for qualified patients. Charles Wynott, founder of the Maine chapter of Americans for Safe Access, which has been a leader in the medical marijuana petition drive, expressed his disappointment with the failure of L.D. 1070 in committee.

"I'm really displeased that it died [in committee]," Wynott said. "It would've gone a long way to help patients in Maine."

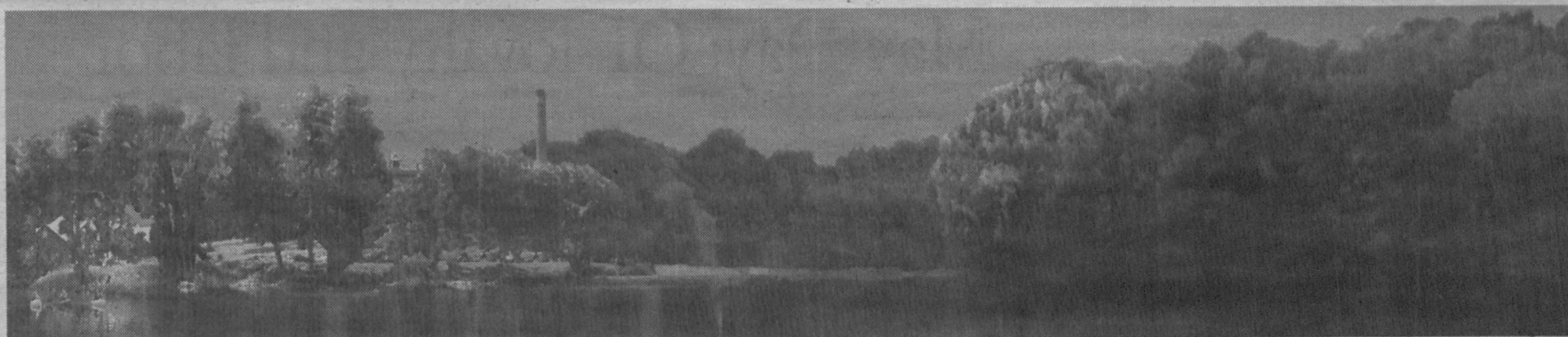
He said he has seen an increasing leniency toward drug policy in the Maine Legislature, but considerable resistance remains.

"Eventually they'll come to the realization that this is the right thing to do," Wynott said.

Wynott felt UMaine should play a role in researching medical marijuana.

"The citizens will benefit from it, and that's what [UMaine] is all about. It's an agricultural college. Why not use that to our benefit?" Wynott said.

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Effects of this year will go on in the next

The Issue: The end of the academic year is upon us.

What We Think: This year has laid the foundation for drastic change, both nationally and in Orono.

At a university, we operate on a different time span. One academic year spanned 2008 when Barack Obama was elected, and it was 2009 by the time our school began to grapple with 2008's housing and banking crisis.

All of this happened since the start of fall semester. Looking back, it becomes apparent that we are at the end of a year of major transformation. Beyond the progression from September into May, we've seen the election of the first black president; we've seen the collapse and the uncertain future of the banking and auto sectors.

Down the line it went, from the national economy down to Augusta, where state cuts have forced administrators to examine what we all had taken for granted.

We await the announcement of who will be among the 40 positions the University of Maine is cutting next year. UMaine has cut men's soccer and women's volleyball. The University of Maine at Farmington lost its dance program. Rumblings and hearsay about programs — and even entire schools — getting cut are commonplace.

There is no secret that this school year may be the last of its kind, but what will replace it is hard to say. Transformation and evolution may be hard, but they are necessary.

Next year may see a return to normalcy, but we doubt it. The changes flowing beneath the surface of this year will likely emerge in the next, and display themselves more dramatically.

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

Opinion

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2009



Readers Speak

Best of Web comments

Re: State debates gay marriage

I am glad Rep. [Emily] Cain has come around and has publicly chosen the right position in support of marriage equality. But I have to say, claiming it was the "main reason" she ran for office in 2004 appears to be a bit of revisionism.

Perhaps I'm wrong and it secretly was the main reason she ran, but as recently as a debate in fall 2006 when she was running for re-election, Rep. Cain said she was simply "not there yet" on same-sex marriage. I was there and remember it very clearly.

But like I said, I'm glad she has come down on the right side of the issue. I think it is a positive sign when public opinion has changed so much that elected officials like Rep. Cain feel compelled to take positions on the side of marriage equality, even to the extent of embellishment in this instance.

- Derek

Re: Naked green bikers

Isn't cycling without a helmet unsafe?

- Barney

May Day: Of loyalty and labor



Mario Moretto

It's crunch time for University of Maine students. The semester is wrapping up and this Friday, May 1, is the last day of classes before finals. By Friday, students will be relieved or stressed — or maybe a combination of both — in anticipation of the last big tests and papers of the year.

Doubtless, no one will be celebrating the little-known legal holiday that falls on May 1 — Loyalty Day. The U.S. Congress established May 1 as Loyalty Day back in 1958 for the purpose of reaffirming "loyalty to the United States and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom." Every president since then has made a Loyalty Day proclamation.

Loyalty Day is widely understood to be a repudiation of another worldwide holiday, also rooted in American history: International Workers Day, also called "May Day" by celebrants. In the late '50s, many Americans perceived May Day as a "communist" holiday. Perhaps this was a result of the Soviet Union celebrating it, but it was probably because of the dominant culture that brought us the Red Scare, the suppression of freedoms of speech and association legislated into law by the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947 and exacerbated by the witch hunts of Sen. Joe McCarthy.

International Workers Day is a celebration of the victories and struggles of the labor movement — the people

who brought us the eight-hour workday, workplace safety standards, minimum wage and even the concept of the "weekend." It's also a commemoration of the Haymarket Massacre, a story I'll have to save for another day.

Around the world, where the anti-left tradition has less of a stranglehold on dominant culture and institutions, thousands of people attend rallies, marches and celebrations of both the national and international labor movement. Despite the appropriation of May Day by the conservative nationalists of yesteryear, labor activists and union members all over our country will also be celebrating our vibrant union history.

International Workers Day is as relevant in our country now as it has ever been. The salaries of CEOs (the "robber barons" of today) skyrocket while the average worker's wage remains stagnant. Millions of Americans are living without healthcare. Single-minded, profit-hungry companies move overseas to exploit workers with little to no legal protection, leaving our communities ravaged by unemployment. A strong union movement is an important piece of the puzzle necessary to create a more just economy that works for everyone — not just the wealthy few at the top.

So this Friday, take some time away from stressing about finals (or take some time before that last big party of the year) to remember and celebrate the victories the labor movement has won for working families both here and abroad. We all benefit from the blood, sweat and tears shed by activists working together to build a better world.

Mario Moretto is co-chair of Student Labor Action Project.

The Maine Campus

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Stubborn GOP is a disservice to the welfare of America

William P. Davis

President Obama has never professed himself to be the solution to all our problems. His detractors seem to think Obama has failed just 100 days into his presidency. The idea any president can fail that quickly is preposterous. Obama has quickly and clearly identified his priorities, worked to mend a divided nation and extended good will to countries previously left out in the cold.

That's quite a feat in 100 days, and that's not even half of it.

Obama — like everyone else — must prioritize. After eight years of disastrous foreign and domestic policy, it will take years not months, to extract the country from Iraq, stabilize Afghanistan and repair relations with our former allies.

It will take years, not months, to repair our broken economy, find jobs for blue-collar workers and restructure this country's financial system.

Obama is already facing the job head-on, but nobody — neither Democrats nor Republicans — should expect instant change just because we have a new president.

Obama has actually been moving with incredible speed, despite Republicans digging in their heels every chance they get. Even after Obama handed Republicans billions in concessions — like tax breaks for Limbaugh's friends — no Republican congressional representatives and only three Republican senators voted for the budget proposal. How bitter can you get? After years of Democrats reluctantly voting for bills, lest they be labeled as

against the country's national security, Republicans apparently couldn't be bothered to vote for a bill that everyone acknowledged needed to be passed.

The reason was not because they're inconsiderate to the concerns of the workforce, just that they're more concerned about their own coffers. I can't blame them for not wanting to tax themselves, but they should at least

acknowledge the conflict of interest, not try to make Obama out to be a socialist. It takes a man to raise taxes on himself.

Nothing that took eight years to screw up can be undone in 100 days, and nobody should expect Obama to move that fast.

I for one am glad he's not trying to do it all at

once. I'd rather get a good economy now and a good national health care system later, rather than a recessed economy and a floundering health care system all at once.

Obama ran an impressive campaign, rallying the country around the idea of a president who will not shrink from a problem because it seems too big. He has already shown his willingness to take on big situations that others on both sides of the aisle would likely avoid. Instead of generically lambasting Democrats out of spite, Republicans should take a second to take stock and decide if they want to start making a substantive contribution to this country's political discussion.

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

Republicans should take a second to take stock and decide if they want to start making a substantive contribution to this country's political discussion



100 days of failure for a new president

Jonathan Zapalla

President Obama was elected running on the promise he was going to be the one to come up with a plan to fix the economy. Almost 100 days into his presidency, all he has done of substance is pass more stimulus plans and bailouts. The only good news has been a rise in home sales, which lead to the Dow Jones Industrial Average reaching 8,000 points recently. This has happened too early for any of the measures in the stimulus bill to take effect. It is also unlikely that throwing money at banks got people to buy houses. The most likely reason for the rise in home sales was that the free market was allowed to correct itself.

Home prices finally reached their bottom dollar value, a price determined by the market. It can all be explained by simple supply and demand. Many homes were built, the housing bubble burst and finally the price went down enough to move the supply of homes in a market where there is a low demand because of the recession.

The market corrected itself, which led to a boost in consumer confidence shown by a surge in the markets.

Regulation was supposed to be the answer to the recession — at least that is what the elected politicians told us. They told us the markets would not fix themselves and that banks needed to be regulated because they got us into this mess.

The fact is, this mess was caused by regulation beginning in the '90s when Congress told banks they had to give out more loans so everyone could own a home. Then — just as the banks expected — these people became unable to pay their loans when times got tough. All because of government interference.

Winston Churchill said, "I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle." He meant taxing the rich and spending their money in the way the government sees fit is futile and will not produce any results. Yet Obama, who says he is a "citizen of the world," would not agree with this famous statement.

Another one of the solutions to America's problems Obama has proposed is to tax the wealthy more and give more taxpayer money to the poor. The government should focus on making a favorable situation that promotes a strong economy while letting the markets run their course, instead of regulating the markets and taxing the productivity of those who run America's businesses.

The favorable situation should be limited to the laws that keep customers from being cheated by predatory companies who try to take advantage of them. The best solution, and one that has been proven to work before, will happen on its own. American ingenuity working in the capitalist system will cause the markets to fix themselves.

The best solution — the one our politicians are not considering — is to let the businesses that survive make the decisions on how to right the course we're on, rather than politicians. After all, politicians are paid the same whether they succeed or fail at running our country.

Jonathan Zapalla is a junior psychology student.



Faith serves to compliment reason

Tyler Francke

One of my Oregon friends lost his wife last Sunday. She was 26. She was kind and beautiful, and forever smiling. I knew her as a river guide, able to coolly direct a raft of 12-year-olds through brutal rapids in the morning and offer a tender hug when they got homesick in the middle of the night. I'm a grouch if my campers wake me up; I could have learned a lot from her.

I imagine people generally grapple with the same questions when death wrests a loved one from their grasp. For me, unable to conceive why such a wonderful person should be taken so young, I faced a choice. I could question God's existence. I could question his benevolence. Or, accepting that God doesn't take into account whether or not I will understand him when he does what he does, I could trust that he is, as the Bible says, good.

Realizing that none of the options would give me the answers I needed, and that one would let me keep the only parts of me I've ever liked, I picked door number three.

Faith sometimes seems profane to some people. Extremism is terrifying, sure, and fundamentalism, if it misses the point, is insane. But when did faith become something bad? And why?

Logic and reason rule academia. All truth must have proof, therefore God is irrational. Besides, we have beauty without him, dignity without deities. Faith is not welcome here.

But don't we need both? Immanuel Kant said faith without reason is blind, but reason without faith is empty. Have we so quickly forgotten?

Was it rationale that guided 50 men to sign a trea-

sonous document on a hot July day in 1776, knowing torture and death was their fate should their new country fall to the larger, more sophisticated British army? Did logic convince William Wilberforce and the abolitionist movement to battle the institution of slavery in the face of unimaginable hatred and violence in the 19th century? Could scientific data have led the American suffragists to fight millennia of tradition and a nation of derisive men in their quest for equality?

Without faith, these brave people would have had nothing to stand on. Reason would have laughed in their faces or told them to give it up when the odds were against them. Fortunately, they ignored common sense and followed something bigger.

Some who decry faith say science has found no proof of God. I say, what proof are you looking for? A copyright etched into the underside of Mars? A "GOD WUZ HERE" scrawled in stars across the Andromeda Galaxy?

Love, beauty, laughter, my existence and the small amount of good I've seen come from it — this is enough evidence for me. My faith can handle the rest.

I'm not advocating to reject reason, only that faith is a necessary and beneficial part of life. Religions typically do little but lock us in cages. But faith, founded on truth, sets us free. Real faith leads to the pursuit of justice, truth, kindness and equality. Faith brings hope; reason can kill hope. And faith, when properly understood, could never be a bad thing.

Tyler Francke is also partial to pie.

Wanna be paid for your opinion?

The Maine Campus is looking for one conservative and one progressive opinion columnist for the '09 - '10 academic year. To apply, submit a cover letter and two opinion clips by April 30 to opinion@mainecampus.com. E-mail Mario Moretto with any questions.

soapbox

Check out Soapbox for a guest column by Heather Steeves about the ways college ruined her life.

blogs.mainecampus.com

Style & Culture

Monday, April 27, 2009

ZACH DIONNE ♦ STYLE EDITOR

CHICKENFEST

PARTIERS TAKE TO MAINE
WILDERNESS FOR SECRETIVE,
ONE-OF-A-KIND EXPERIENCE

Chickenfest is cancelled.

It's three in the afternoon Saturday and I'm at a friend of a friend's house. Before it even got off the ground, the yearly underground romp in the woods has been busted or called off, depending who you talk to. This group is sitting on couches and lawn chairs in their yard, drinking beer and throwing a Frisbee. A piece of printer paper hangs above a brown, furry pelt and not-so-boldly proclaims this KangarooFest.

Back at my house, there's another substitute for the fallen Chickenfest: A neighbor's parking lot-style driveway is packed with cars, music and people.

My phone beeps with a text message. I look out my window and see the party next door has dissipated instantly.

Chickenfest, a secretive University of Maine tradition going back one or two decades — again, depending who you ask — is back on. It's a sojourn into the woods where anywhere from hundreds to thousands of people trek out for music, cookouts, fire, camping and intoxication. Who exactly chooses the spot, draws up the directions, sends the text messages? It's tough to tell. It's taken me four years of college to actually experience Chickenfest.

This year, the fest started deep in the Maine wilderness an hour and a half from Orono and was forced to relocate to a spot 30-ish minutes away. The drive takes a friend and I down winding roads farther and farther from civilization. When the route turns to dirt, we stop the car and listen for a minute, trying to discern party sounds from the cacophony of crickets and frogs. My friend was raised near a city and has never seen the stars this bright; we're nowhere near anything — no houses, no electricity, no traffic.

What sounds like a scream cuts into the night. It's followed by a trace of music. We're almost there. We get to a parade of parked cars and start walking. We try counting the seemingly endless vehicles at first and are smart to stop; a full count would number well over 100.

After a 15 minute walk in the dark, wondering what to expect from the evening, we're at Chickenfest. A handful of big fires dot the main gath-

ering area. Several RVs accompany tons of tents. A few dogs amble happily around. Hundreds of people dance in a pulsing mass while local bands and DJs jam on a sizable stage. The music, powered by a gas generator, will continue until dawn.

I have two beers — a can in pocket and a bottle in hand. This may not be in the spirit of the event, but I want to remember the night — as a senior, it's my first and potentially last Chickenfest. Accordingly, a stranger toasts my beer and says, "Happy chicken."

A growing group gathers atop a camper, standing and dancing between two kayaks on racks. As I wander deeper into the swaying crowd of glowsticks and dreadlocks, beards and Birkenstocks, the gargantuan size dawns on me — this is a party only a forest could contain.

Walking around all evening, I see friends at various levels of lucidity; some have been here since early afternoon, and some are in better shape than others.

An enormous grill is cooking food around the back of the stage. These guys not only hauled the apparatus out here, but bought 250 pounds of chicken to throw on it. They charge \$1 a piece. I'm starving, and whether it's the timeliness or the taste, it's some of the best chicken I've ever had.

Dancing in front of the stage, an intense heat hits my back: A couch is on fire. A couple guys are taking turns sitting on it nonchalantly. The couch erupts into a blaze and suddenly, whatever it's made of — could be polyester, could be dynamite — causes the couch to combust and vaporize. Someone in a yellow chicken suit runs around the inferno to high fives, cheers and a Chickenfest chant. This is anarchy.

By 2 a.m., it's impossible to take a step without stepping on crinkled beer cans and kicking strewn bottles. We walk by three police cars on the way to our car — they've located Chickenfest for the second time in a day, but the event has escalated to a size where the only manageable law enforcement is rudimentary ID checks and sobriety tests. We fold down the car seats and catch a few uncomfortable hours of shut-eye to drive home just before dawn.

Funk Thrust: This is the sound of partying

Kegan Zema
Staff Reporter

Every band has a different reason for playing. Some play to express themselves; for others it's an emotional outlet. But for Funk Thrust, it's all about having fun, feeling good and being surrounded by friends.

As I descend the rickety staircase to their basement rehearsal space, I am greeted by eight faces asking me which instrument I play. The sense of community in the band is overwhelming, and the line between "rehearsal" and informal jam session is razor thin.

Vocalist Jeff Williams introduces me to everyone in the room while I regrettably explain I am there for solely journalistic purposes. As I get settled he turns his attention to setting up, which includes the crucial task of twisting the cap off a 40 oz. and taking a big swig.

The band slowly gets their act together and music begins to materialize out of nowhere. Bluesy licks from guitarist Bryan Roach's Stratocaster quickly combine with tight beats from drummer Chris "Jesus" Drozell. As the jam progresses, rhythm guitarist Ian Larson starts strumming on his acoustic, and bassist Richard "Dickie" Serino turns up the funk and starts slapping away.

When Williams starts to sing and Keagan Rae decides to add his trumpet to the disarray in the basement, a real song arises.

The band has a few reggae-infused originals, but they stick to their cover songs most of the time. While some bands might feel boxed in by only covers, Funk Thrust thrive in their niche.

"It's a lot easier to get into the scene up here playing these type of songs," Drozell says. "Some musicians look down on what we do or whatever. We don't try to be anything we're not."

The band, which promotes itself almost exclusively by word-of-mouth, according to

Drozell, have never been bound by a consistent line-up. According to Larson, some members of Funk Thrust have used the name to play in Montana, and there are plans for a west coast Funk Thrust

Ian Larson
Guitarist
Funk Thrust

over the summer. Larson says he wanted as many people in the band as possible from the start.

"I wanted us to be like Wu-Tang Clan, but we play Skynyrd tunes," Larson says. "You never know who is gonna show up."

If there's one thing Funk Thrust knows how to do, it's have fun. From their small basement, to the wild frat parties, to the stage at Woodman's Bar & Grill and to parties in the middle of a field, Funk Thrust are just a great time. When it comes right down to it, that should be the job of any band.

"We like being a party band," Williams says. "We like to party."

Funk Thrust have been partying



Courtesy of Jeff Williams

"We like being a party band," vocalist Jeff Williams said. "We like to party."

and playing in some fashion for four years. The basement of Penobscot Hall was the first practice space for Williams, Larson and Roach when they were all freshmen.

"It was like, 'You play music? I play music too. We have to jam sometime,'" Larson says.

Drozell was drafted into the band on drums through some rugby connections. The band had a prior bassist but recruited Serino after seeing him perform with a group called Jimmy and the Sprinkles.

"They all thought I was Jimmy," Serino says. "I was just a Sprinkle."

The band frequently played in the basement of Sigma Nu while attempting to land other gigs.

"We started off at open mic nights right at the bottom,"

Drozell says.

Funk Thrust's popularity has steadily climbed, earning them regular shows around the Orono area.

As good as Funk Thrust are at bringing the party with them, the band is a party in themselves. At rehearsal, the band is working on the second song of the night, Carl Carlton's "She's a Bad Mamma Jamma." The band shines on this funky classic.

Between songs, someone hands a tambourine to one of the guys sitting on the couch. As he swaps his beer for the percussion instrument, Larson shouts, "It's the funkestra!"

Meanwhile, Drozell, referred to as Jesus, sits behind the drum set like it's a throne, quietly surveying the band and

playing flawlessly. As the band begins to rehearse "Play That Funky Music White Boy," the laid-back attitude continues to pervade their playing. What starts as a mess of disjointed riffs turns into an amazing spin on a instantly recognizable classic. Williams takes particular care to get the "Heyyy!" at the beginning of the song just right.

"Let's do it," Williams says as they start the song again. "If it sounds horrible, it's my fault."

For Funk Thrust, the music they play is the soundtrack to their crazy college lives.

"It's been fun as f---, and we've had a lot of parties," Roach says. "Honestly, you can write whatever you want about us. We don't really care."



Jesse Groening ♦ The Maine Campus

• The Tranny Roadshow took place at Minsky Recital Hall last Friday.

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NCUA

Disgust me, shock me, make me laugh

How can you take a great cast, give them a funny plot and still see your show crash and burn? This is the question I was asking myself while I watched Fox's newest show, "Sit Down, Shut Up."

It's disappointing to see such a failure from a comedy powerhouse like Fox. The network is best known for its animated shows "The Simpsons" and "Family Guy," but they also produced the classic "Arrested Development," which starred many of the same actors as "Sit Down, Shut Up." Jason Bateman, Will Arnett and Henry Winkler, who all shined in "Arrested Development," fail to lead "Sit Down, Shut Up" to comedic fruition.

It set me thinking: What makes a good comedy? There are shows like "The Office" and "30 Rock" that throw us in incredibly unrealistic, awkward situations,

shows like "Family Guy" that are intended to shock us and sitcoms like "Friends" and "Seinfeld" that riff on situations we have all been in and understand.

Is a teacher reading porn



magazines really funny if you're old enough to read porn? Are trannies really that shocking? Far be it from me to judge, since I can hardly be considered the master of comedy, but since I've nothing better to do, I'll say it:

Such over-the-top, yet not unexpected situations are simply not funny. Shows like "Family Guy" succeed because of completely unrealistic scenarios and a heavy reliance on the law of repetition,

either racist or xenophobic. Words with letters like K and Q are funny, as are platypuses (platypi?). Ultimately, the study found that there's no universal joke, except that a joke almost

an unseemly teacher buying "filthies" just isn't, which is why "Sit Down, Shut Up" is just not funny.

It's not that the acting is lacking, just that a deadpan delivery means less when every line is delivered deadpan; such is the curse of animation. It's less shocking to put breasts on an animated man than a real one.

SNL and other long-running shows have settled into a complacent groove as well. Despite everybody's objections, you can't tell me Fred Armisen's impression of New York Gov. David Patterson wasn't funny, though it certainly was also offensive. Unfortunately, such moments are few and far between nowadays, when you're more likely to see skits with actors who play a far too similar role from skit to skit. It can't be said that "Sit Down, Shut Up" falls into a groove. Instead, the creators never deliver in the first place.

TV Snob

by William P. Davis

which says a situation is funny the first three times, unfunny the next four times and then funny again the seventh time.

Not to read too much into it, but a pseudo-scientific study on comedy found the best jokes to be

always has to be shocking.

Somehow, every time Peter Griffin chops off a limb or runs over a baby seal with his yacht, it's unexpected and shocking. Somehow, a man taking birth control pills and growing breasts and

CD: Doom



Courtesy Lex Records

Andrew Catalina
Production Assistant

At one time, Doom — with aliases such as MF Doom, Viktor Vaughn, King Geedorah and the Supervillain — was the poster child for underground hip-hop. After withdrawing from the mainstream in the early '90s following his brother's death, Doom re-emerged in the mid-2000s with several high-profile collaborations and guest appearances, including the critically acclaimed "Madvillainy" and "The Mouse and the Mask" with Madlib and DJ Danger Mouse-supported production, respectively. Just when he was poised for a mainstream breakthrough — when it seemed like he was on more rappers' tracks than the ever-prolific Snoop Dogg — Doom took a three-year hiatus.

"Born Like This" may represent Doom's only new work since 2006, but stands testament to his dedication to the form and new direction. In particular, Doom seems to have contempt for his rediscovered fame and privileged, middle-class fan base. Following the suitably-esoteric intro track, Doom launches into "Gazillion

Ear," a sprawling state-of-the-industry-style address clocking in at an uncharacteristic 4:11. No stone is left un-thrown, with Doom insulting his relationship with his fans — "Once sold an inbred skinhead a n---a joke" — other rappers — "By remote, send in the meat wagon / Braggin' MC's packed in with they feets draggin'" — the industry — "My mistake, sign a track agreement / For more G's than lines and cracks in the cement / In any event it's fake like wrestlin' / Get 'em like Jake The Snake on mescaline" — and himself — "It's the return of the tramp / Who do a duet jam with 'Earnest Goes to Camp.'" More than any other track on the album, "Gazillion Ear" connotes Doom's return with a vengeance — his re-dedication to rapping, if only to spite everyone else.

The majority of the tracks find Doom in familiar sub-three-minute territory, mixing rapid-fire, disjointed metaphor with obscure sampling and token Wu-Tang collaboration. Doom stays true to his form through most of the album,

See **DOOM** on page 11

FILM: The Soloist



Courtesy DreamWorks Pictures

By Zach Dionne
Style Editor

The minute Robert Downey, Jr.'s jaded reporter meets up with Jamie Foxx's babbling musician in "The Soloist," it seems the film is going to be a treat. These terrific performers sharing the screen should and often do translate to gold, but it can't defeat a meandering, frustrating plot.

Los Angeles Times columnist Steve Lopez (Downey) wants to get a story out of the street musician who plays on two violin strings and introduces himself as Nathaniel Anthony Ayers Jr. (Foxx), spelling out every letter. Nathaniel is a musical genius who dropped out of Juilliard 30 years earlier when schizophrenia began to plague him. Now he sleeps on the streets of L.A., worships Beethoven, becomes frantic at the sight of litter and can only transcend his mental illness when he's channeling the splendor of music.

Downey and Foxx brilliantly inhabit these characters, based on actual people whose account was published in 2008 after a series of Lopez's columns focusing on the

troubled prodigy Ayers. The transformative performances and beautiful cinematography painting L.A.'s cityscape as both majestic and gritty are talking points, but the story can't decide what it wants to be or what direction to take in arriving at its destination.

The film paints L.A.'s cityscapes as both majestic and gritty, but the story can't decide what it wants to be.

"The Soloist" isn't a buddy movie or a redemption story, but a sad, noncommittal spin on urban homelessness and mental illness. The closing credits enumerate the amount of homelessness in Los Angeles, but to what purpose? To assert that if everyone befriended one homeless person, as Lopez did Ayers, everything would be a little

better? It's never clear, especially with an ending that inadequately attempts to wrap the story's moral in a bow.

Director Joe Wright, who last helmed 2007's "Atonement," takes some nice chances with the movie, like a prolonged, trippy visualization of how the musical wizard Nathaniel experiences classical music. A performance by Nathaniel on cello is also treated beautifully, played from beginning to end in an L.A. tunnel while traffic whirs and pigeons flap to provide the applause — it's the sound of the city Nathaniel adores. The movie isn't short of transcendental scenes like this, and it's stocked with humor from Downey's quips and Foxx's off-the-wall wardrobe of sequins and various headwear.

"I've never loved anything the way that he loves music," Downey tells his editor-slash-ex-wife, played by Catherine Keener ("The 40 Year Old Virgin"). That rings true, but similar sappy comments at the film's conclusion don't make up for the disjointed two hours that make up "The Soloist."

Grade: C+

Gamer-musicians prepare for shred-off

By Spencer Morton
Staff Reporter

Fingers will dance from green to blue, back to green, then on to red and yellow. Sticks will twirl and pound ferociously while the singer does his or her best imitation of some of the world's greatest vocalists. Local Rock Band bands will attempt to attain rock star status on Thursday, April 30, when the University of Maine Gamers' Guild hosts the Battle of the Rock Bands.

Four-piece bands can register up until the competition starts at 4 p.m. in the Union. Registration is \$20. Prizes will be given to the winning band along with the person with the best costume. Prizes include a free meal at Margaritas, GameStop T-shirts, Movie Gallery gift certificates and more.

"We want to see a lot of people rocking out," said James Robertson, vice-president of the Gamers' Guild. "I want to see guitarist kicking, drum sticks

twirling and people having fun."

The tournament set-up will be modeled after the World Cup format.

"There will be five team brackets with the top two advancing," said Justin Barker, president of the Gamers' Guild. "Bands will perform before a panel of judges, and they'll be scored on the number of notes they hit as well as showmanship."

Since showmanship will be a big factor, guitarists will have to kick around a la Axel Rose. Singers won't have to bite off the head of a bat, but creativity is definitely a plus.

"I'm going to try and do some cool stuff — something zombie related," said John Talbot, the guitarist for the Rock Band Rockapocalypse. "Maybe I'll go over and eat my partner's brains out or something."

Only one band has officially entered, but more will sign up. Justin Barker said there are a lot of unconfirmed bands.

In the opening round of the tournament, each band will play a set of four songs. Bands with the highest scores will advance. In later rounds, songs will be chosen by the bands, giving them the chance to impress the judges with songs they feel the most comfortable with.

The tournament has a very strict set of rules. Team names may not be vulgar in any way, and underage sobriety is required. No mention is made to the necessary level of sobriety for those of age.

The Gamers' Guild and WMEB will provide the equipment needed to play, but bands are allowed and encouraged to bring their own instruments and consoles. For more information on rules and registration, visit the Gamers' Guild folder on FirstClass.

Some will triumph while trying to nail Flea's smooth bass line in "Give it Away." Vocalists may find themselves in trouble trying to replicate Serj Tankian,

should their band draw "Chop Suey" by System of a Down. Talbot hopes to strum along nicely during Tenacious D's "Master Explorer."

Audience members are more than welcome to cheer on their favorite bands or heckle the less

than spectacular ones. Bands of all skill levels are welcome; those that can only handle easy level songs to those who jam on expert. The most important criteria for entering the competition — the willingness to be a bit foolish, have fun, and melt faces.

Doom

from page 10

with the beats building to something less of a catharsis than those on "Madvillainy," choosing the steady grate over poppy hooks. The album's only misstep comes with "Batty Boyz," set atop frantic horns and sampling, which will almost certainly be construed as serious

homophobia. More likely the track serves as a critique of homophobia in rap, but when Doom rhymes, "It's like a leotard fest / How it got started is any retard's guess," and "Posing Chester, legs open, couldn't stand worse / All that was missing was a bandana and a man purse," it's hard to tell where Doom's opinion truly lies.

Doom's signature lazy delivery seems less silky-smooth and

more raw, exhibiting the same thoughtful deliberation of his earlier work with more of the venom he only seemed to hint at and complexity in metaphor only surpassed in incomprehensibility by Aesop Rock. It may not be as instantly accessible as Doom's prior offerings, but "Born Like This" rewards the patient with uncharacteristic depth and meaning.

Grade: A

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All events free unless stated otherwise

Monday, April 27

Artificial Intelligence and LISP: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

By legendary hacker Richard Greenblatt
2:10 p.m.
Room 107, Donald P. Corbett Business Building

On or About 1950 or 1955 History Departments Changed: A Critical Step in the Making of the Modern History Department

By William Palmer, professor of history at Marshall University
3:15 – 5:30 p.m.
Buchanan Alumni House

Postmodern Observations on the Improvement of Mankind: Or, God is Dead and We Did It for the Kids!

By Colin Pearce, University of Guelph
3:15 – 4:30 p.m.
Room 100, Neville Hall

Senior Wine and Cheese Social Faculty welcome

7 – 9 p.m.
McIntire Room, Buchanan Alumni House

Tuesday, April 28

%#@\$!&' and Other Salutations: The Unstable Politics of Civility

By Author Mark Kingwell, offered by the President's Council on Women
3 – 4 p.m.
Room 316, Aubert Hall

Surface Water Management and Art By artist Buster Simpson

3 p.m.
Soderberg Auditorium, Boardman Hall and Dr. L.N. Edwards Wings

Ben Folds in Concert Sponsored by Student Government

7:30 – 11 p.m.
Collins Center for the Arts
Student Discount, Public Fee

To add your event to Go! cal,
e-mail the name, time, place and
cost to style@mainecampus.com

Wednesday, April 29

Maine Day

7 a.m.
Campus-wide event

A Workshop on Camps Civility Offered by the President's Council on Women

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Room 2, William C. Wells Dining Center

Broadway Nights: A Night of Music and Comedy

Part of the School of Performing Arts season
7:30 p.m.
Minsky Recital Hall
Students Free, Public Fee

Thursday, April 30

Ballroom Jam

Student-led dance lessons
8 – 9:15 a.m.
Room 22, 1944 Hall

Rock The Dog II: Charity BBQ & Live Bands

Music by The Sophomore Beat, A Good Night Sound Rush and the Exclusive; food and games; donation will benefit the Nathan Fund
4 – 7 p.m.
University mall

Rock Band Tournament

Presented by The Gamers Guild and WMEB
4 – 9 p.m.
Memorial Union
Registration required, \$20 per band
Free to attend

Improv Insanity

Think Outside the Box
5 p.m.
Black Box Theatre, 1944 Hall
Free, \$5 donation appreciated

Fundamental of Writing a Business Plan

A workshop led by Jim McConnon
6 – 7 p.m.
Foster Student Innovation Center

Thursday, April 29 Cont.

Student Film Festival

UMaine student films; free food; to submit a film contact Rebekah Doherty on FirstClass
6 – 9:30 p.m.
Conference Center Room 1, William C. Wells Dining Center

Dome Talk by David Batuski

Discussing the universe and strange answers that new telescopes and instruments are giving us to questions of its origin
7 – 8 p.m.
Jordan Planetarium, Wingate Hall

Friday May 1

Go Blue Friday

Members of the university community are to dress down, wearing blue and/or UMaine merchandise
8 a.m.
Campus-wide event

S.L.A.P. May Day Celebration

Food, music and fun
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
University mall

Photosynthesis in a Variable Ocean: Illumination Niche Partitioning Among Phytoplankton

By Doug Campbell, Mount Allison University
11:10 a.m.
Room 354, Aubert Hall

Green U-Me

1 – 4 p.m.
Bangor Room, Memorial Union

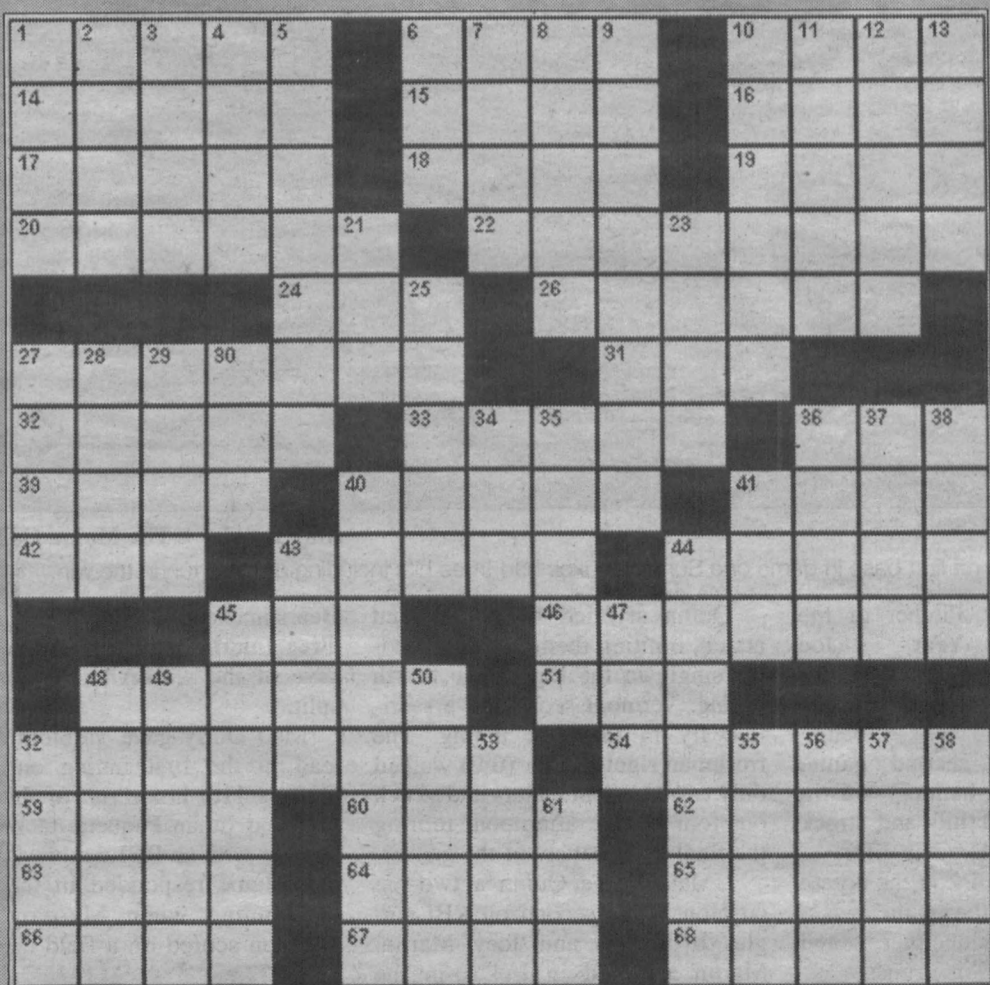
What's in the Water? Arsenic Disruption of Developing Neurons

A Hitchner Seminar by Doug Currie, University of Southern Maine
1:30 – 2:45 p.m.
Room 203, Hitchner Hall

Brass Night

Featuring performances by UMaine brass students; part of the School of Performing Arts season
7:30 p.m.
Minsky Recital Hall
Students Free, Public Fee

DISTRACTIONS



CROSSWORD

ANSWER KEY FOUND IN SPORTS

ACROSS

- 1- Molars, e.g.
- 6- Horn warning
- 10- Shot, briefly
- 14- Extremist
- 15- _____ account (never)
- 16- Crucifix
- 17- Instrument for threshing grain
- 18- Call for
- 19- "The Time Machine" race
- 20- Pardon
- 22- Native of the Sudan
- 24- Pro

- 26- Gladden
- 27- Pertaining to the distant past
- 31- Trauma ctrs.
- 32- Pale antelope
- 33- In _____ (unborn)
- 36- Acapulco article
- 39- Back
- 40- Agitates
- 41- A small town
- 42- Biblical beast boat
- 43- Classy pancake
- 44- Prevention dose
- 45- Miss Piggy's query

DOWN

- 1- Porous limestone
- 2- Wings
- 3- Greek vowels
- 4- Small combo
- 5- Capital of Nova Scotia
- 6- Whole bunch
- 7- Singles
- 8- Get the better of
- 9- Young children
- 10- Punta _____, south Chile city
- 11- Burrowing animals
- 12- Bullwinkle, e.g.
- 13- Comics canine
- 21- Limb of a felled tree
- 23- Dynamic beginning
- 25- Path
- 27- Zhivago's love
- 28- River in central Europe
- 29- Minn. neighbor
- 30- Needlefish
- 34- Apex
- 35- Construct
- 36- Burt's ex
- 37- Killer whale
- 38- Blueprint detail
- 40- Ceylon, now
- 41- Flop
- 43- Quarter, e.g.
- 44- Ornamental border
- 45- Unification Church member
- 47- Pompous sort
- 48- Big rigs
- 49- Sacred song
- 50- Pub perch
- 52- Rub the wrong way
- 53- Slippery swimmers
- 55- Roof overhang
- 56- Eye part
- 57- The Tower of Pisa does this
- 58- Tuscan river
- 61- John in England

Crossword puzzles provided by
BestCrosswords.com.
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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 to April 20

You should not have great expectations at work, for you may be disappointed. Before noon, unexpected events might occur which will interfere with your plans.

Taurus

April 21 to May 20

You may have to cancel a trip because of a health issue. Your friends will prove to be understanding. You should pay more attention to your needs for rest.

Gemini

May 21 to June 21

You might be facing some difficulties at work because of the rumours on your account spread by a lady who envies you. You may want to confront two of your colleagues.

Cancer

June 22 to July 22

Intuition will help you find out why a close friend has changed attitude towards you. Try to control your temper. Fights won't solve anything.

Leo

July 23 to Aug. 22

You may have to make a decision regarding a business partnership. An experienced person will give you valuable advice, helping you to better understand that financial benefits will not be worth your time.

Virgo

Aug. 23 to Sept. 22

Someone in your circle envies you. Starting a fight won't get you anywhere. You are advised to be tactful. Pay more attention to your need for rest in order to spare yourself.

Libra

Sept. 23 to Oct. 23

Relationships with your loved one and friends will be excellent. You are advised to remain cautious in business. This is not the time to go for easy benefits. In the afternoon you will have a good time in the company of your dear ones.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 to Nov. 22

You might receive a gift today. Chances are you will also receive a major amount of money at work. You may feel tempted to spend too much and are running the risk of quarrelling with your loved one.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 to Dec. 21

You will be offered a good part-time job, but your loved one won't agree to the extra working hours. Think twice before making the final decision.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 to Jan. 20

You will complete an important task. Solving family problems may prove to be troublesome. This is not the right time to buy a valuable item. You should wait for your financial situation to improve.

Aquarius

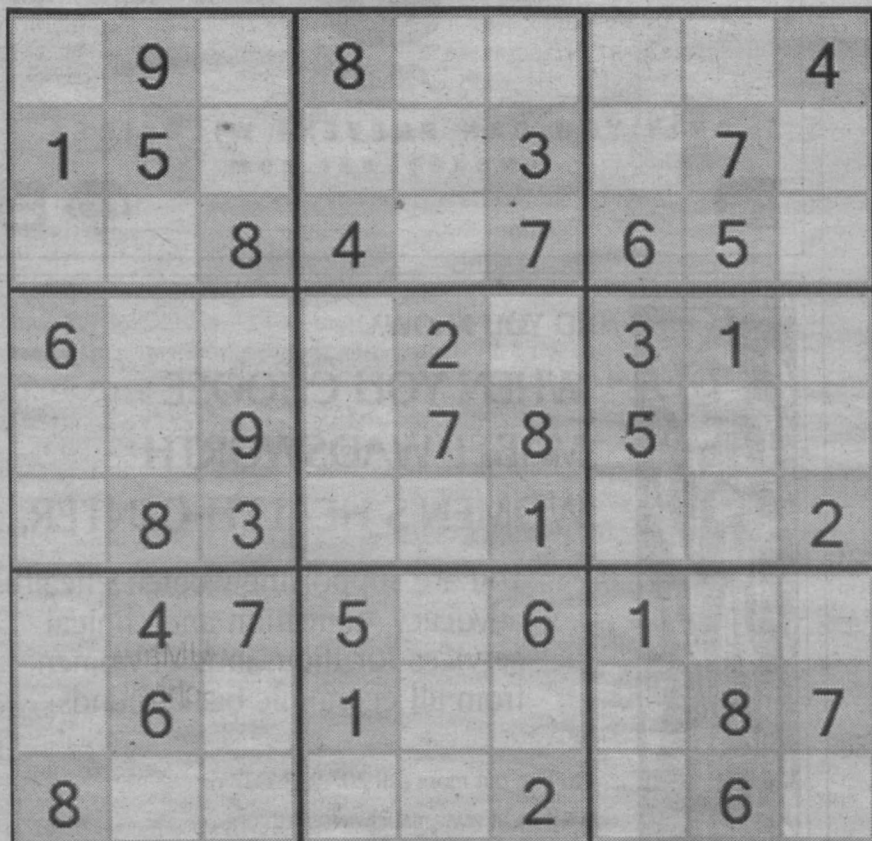
Jan. 21 to Feb. 19

You intend to take more responsibilities at work, but you are afraid that your boss will not agree. Relationships with colleagues may become somewhat tense.

Pisces

Feb. 20 to March 20

Superiors will appreciate your performance at work, but colleagues may not be happy about this. This is not the right time to speak your mind.



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: EASY

En-titled IX?

By Michael Brusko
For The Maine Campus

The University of Maine is the latest school to feel the effects of the economic recession. With money now a premium for so many organizations around the country, budget cuts seem to be the only reasonable solution to alleviate financial struggles. Our athletic department was forced to make these cuts, and they did so by dropping the women's volleyball and men's soccer programs. It's unfortunate these actions must occur, but it raises a major question in the athletic world: How successful has the implementation of Title IX been?

Title IX is an educational amendment that states, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." It did not originally contain any reference to athletics, but it has since become one of, if not the single biggest focus for high school and college athletic programs nationally. Schools are forced to provide equal opportunities, scholarships and teams for males and females. I'm absolutely an advocate for equality, but the truth is that there have been an enormous amount of issues with Title IX and the actions that surround it.

Female participation in collegiate athletics has increased by 456% since its inception because the average amount of teams a college offers for females has risen significantly. This means more money from the school's budget is being dedicated to these teams, which take away from funding for other teams. For this reason, some of the lower-revenue men's teams such as tennis, swimming, gymnastics and others have struggled due to Title IX. At several schools, these teams can't compete at the level that they would like to because they aren't receiving enough financial backing.

I mentioned I'm an advocate for equality, but I also believe in Social Darwinism, which means the strongest teams will survive, regardless of gender. There is no denying this would usually result in men's teams floating to the top, but that would not always hold true. For example, the University of Connecticut's women's basketball team most certainly brings in more money and publicity than its men's golf team. In this case, Title IX is hurting that female team because it forces the athletic department to dedicate less money to them. When it comes to athletics, Title IX was essentially created to provide equal opportunities for females. At the time of its creation, male participation in high school and collegiate sports was monumentally higher than that of females. In one regard, it has been successful in raising the participation level for females. On the other hand, it has taken opportunities away from some teams, which is exactly the opposite of its intentions. In most cases, male teams have felt its negative effects, but there is no doubt that it has been taken out on some female teams as well. Whatever happened to earning your keep?



Amy Brooks ♦ The Maine Campus

Jarrett Lukas leads off first base in game one Sunday. Lukas had three hits including a home run in the win.

Men's from page 16

loss for Vermont.

In Saturday's second game, Catamounts left-hander Justin Albert scattered 11 hits and struck out 11 in a complete game effort.

UMaine trailed 4-2 in the eighth inning and tied the game when McAvoy and Leisenheimer belted back-to-back solo home runs.

Vermont responded in the ninth, however, when Dave Soltis hit a solo home run off of reliever Keith Bilodeau (1-5).

In Sunday's first game, Pat Quinn tossed a complete game, one-hitter, allowing only one unearned run.

Pitcher of the Year, Joe Serafin, picked up the

Quinn stymied the Catamount attack, limiting them to just a lead-off single in the top of the fourth inning. Vermont scored on a sacrifice fly in the fifth inning. The freshman right-hander (6-0) walked only two Vermont batters and struck out four on the afternoon, retiring the final eight batters of the game.

UMaine gave Quinn a two-run cushion in the second on RBI singles by Lukas and Joey Martin. Martin knocked in Lukas in the fourth inning on a single to give UMaine a 3-0 lead.

Martin and Lukas led the attack with three hits each, including Lukas' solo home run in the fifth inning.

In game two of Sunday's twin bill, Keith Rakus held the Black

Bears in check for eight innings and Greg Lutton picked up his second save of the season to salvage the split.

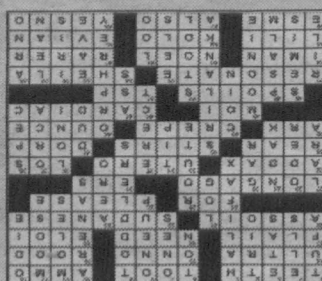
Matt Duffy gave Vermont a 1-0 lead in the first inning on Matt Duffy's 11th home run of the season, and Ethan Paquette tacked on another with an RBI double.

UMaine responded in the second inning when McAvoy and Stilphen scored on a field error to tie it 2-2.

Vermont took the lead back in the third inning, pushing across two runs, which is all they would need.

McAvoy belted his seventh home run of the season to pull within one run, but Vermont plated two more to put it out of reach in the eighth.

Crossword Solution



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Young runners lead U.S. rise in distance

Hall, Goucher lead charge in marathon, hope to challenge Kenyan distance running

By Steven McCarthy
Staff Reporter

It had been 24 years since an American male and female both stood on the podium after finishing in the top three in the Boston Marathon.

Last Monday, Ryan Hall and Kara Goucher ended the drought by both finishing third in the world's oldest annual marathon.

The race highlighted a promising group of young American marathoners who are making an effort to deter the distance-running dominance from Kenya, Ethiopia and Morocco. Kenyan men have won 16 of the last 19 Boston Marathons, and Kenyan women have won seven of the last 10.

Ethiopian Deriba Merga won the men's race this year, and Salina Kosgei of Kenya took the women's race. The last American male to win in Boston was Greg Meyer in 1982, and the last American female winner was Lisa Larsen-Weidenbach, who took home the crown in 1985.

In 2006, the five most prestigious marathons in the world — Boston, New York City, Berlin, London and Chicago — collaborated to form a race series known as the World Marathon Majors. Similar to professional golf's major tournaments, the prize money is increased for these events, adding incentive for runners to move up to the grueling distance.

Older runners have historically raced the 26.2-mile international marathon distance in the United States because they can no longer maintain the leg speed necessary to be competitive in the shorter distances on the track. Some exceptions to the age trend are 24-year-old Frank Shorter's win at the 1972 Munich Olympics, Alberto Salazar winning the New York City Marathon in 1980 at age 20 and Cathy Schiro's 2:34:24 in the 1984 Olympic Trials Marathon at age 16.

Lately, U.S. coaches have been assisting the transition of several young, elite 5000- and

10,000-meter runners who have had success in their own country in the events, but stand a better chance of competing with the Africans at the marathon distance based on their physiology.

Since 2006, nine American men under the age of 25 have run faster than 2:20.00 in their marathon debut. Eleven women since that time have opened with times faster than 2:45.00.

Hall debuted at age 24 and trained under coach Terrence Mahon of Team Running USA. Mahon felt Hall performed better in the longer duration workouts required of marathoners. Hall's college career at Stanford University was marred by injury, though he was a two-time All-American in cross country. He won the University of Maine's Murray Keatinge Cross Country Invitational in his collegiate debut.

Hall made a statement to the rest of the world in 2008 with a 2:06:17 in the London Marathon, giving him the fastest time ever clocked by an American-born

runner. The time seeded him first among eight Africans in the elite field at Boston who had all run sub-2:08.00 marathons.

Moroccan immigrant Khalid Khannouchi holds the American record of 2:05:38.

In November 2007, Hall and 26-year-old Dathan Ritzenhein took the top two spots on the U.S.A. Olympic Marathon Team. Hall went on to finish tenth in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, while Ritzenhein finished ninth.

Ritzenhein ran the London Marathon on Sunday and finished 11th at 2:10.00. The University of Colorado graduate ran his first marathon at age 23, competing in the 2006 New York City Marathon. His college track career was also shortened by injuries, and after a disappointing 11th place finish in his debut, Ritzenhein returned to New York City for the Olympic Trials and finished with a personal best of 2:11:07.

Goucher, 30, of Portland, Oregon, is coached by Alberto

Salazar. She burst into the world marathon scene last November when she finished third at her marathon debut in New York City. She competed in the 10,000-meter run on the track in Beijing and finished 10th in the final. Goucher had plans of running the Boston-London double after she felt the initial pace at Boston was too slow, but Salazar reportedly talked her out of racing on Sunday.

The young American contingent has inspired some of Maine's under-30-year-old talent to recent post-collegiate marathon success. In Boston, four of the top five finishers from Maine were age 30 or younger. Two were just 22.

Whether the youth movement is fueled by the appeal of trying something new or the potential success in an event traditionally cherished by the older generation of runners, the rest of the world should become more familiar with the young nucleus of American marathoners in the coming years.

Record Relay

Women's track competes at UNH

By Derek McKinley
Staff Reporter

With their meet at the University of New Hampshire cancelled due to budget constraints, the University of Maine track team focused its attention on a handful of runners who are competing in the 115th annual Penn Relays.

UMaine sent the women's 4x400-meter relay team of seniors Lindsay Burlock and Vicki Tolton, junior Ally Howatt and freshman Jesse Labreck. The relay bested the standing event record with a time of 3:47.66 in the preliminary rounds.

That record stood until the women became the first UMaine team to compete in the finals at the Penn Relays. After finishing 21st out of 84 teams, the Black Bears competed in the ECAC division, taking seventh place in a record-smashing time of 3:44.73.

Those in the relay also ran the 4x100 meter relay in a time of 47.74 seconds, which earned them 36th place out of 84 teams.

The women's contingent had yet to field a 4x800-meter team this outdoor season, but the team of senior Stephanie Jette, junior Vanessa Letourneau and freshmen Jenny Lucy and Corey Conner broke the standing record on their first attempt, running 9:07.96. The team earned 16th out of 29 places.

Throwers Rebecca Even and Jessica Bond were slated to compete in the hammer throw and javelin, respectively, but neither was listed among the final results.

Even's school record toss of 175'2" would have been good for the top spot.

The men's team fielded no

relay teams, but two individual performers competed. Junior Miles Bartlett, who stated earlier in the year that his goal was to qualify for the meet, earned a 9th place finish in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 9:21.95.

The winning time of 9:07.50 was still a far cry from Bartlett's school record of 8:53.69, which he still has hopes of breaking in the coming weeks.

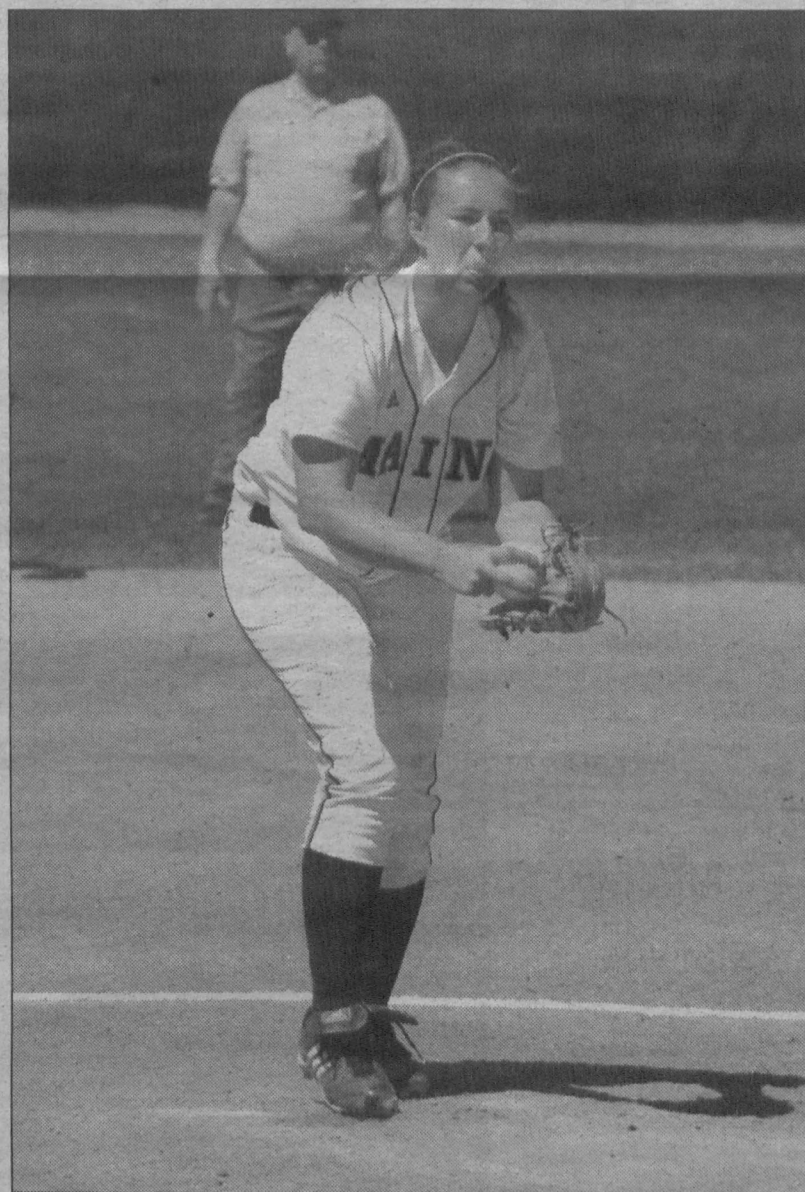
"Penn's definitely got me prepared for conferences and beyond by allowing me to get used to steepling in a pack," Bartlett said. "One of the hardest things to do is hurdle when you have people all around you. It gets messy, and if you get tripped at the wrong spot, your race could be over."

Freshman Riley Masters finished outside of the top spot for the first time this season, taking a respectable seventh place in the Olympic Development division of the 5,000-meter run.

Masters bested his own school record in the event with a time of 14:23.25, and was pleased with the level of competition offered at the national level.

"There were a lot of big name schools there, like Georgetown, Villanova and Arkansas, making the competition a lot more intimidating than our regular season meets," Masters said. "I was able to run a good seed time, which will set me up to do well at America East, hopefully."

The America East meet will be held next weekend in Binghamton, N.Y. Preseason polls peg the women to finish fifth and the men sixth in the conference.



Amy Brooks ♦ The Maine Campus

Ashley Kelley delivers a pitch in Sunday's game against Albany. The Black Bears dropped the contest, but took two out of three.

Ball

from page 16

Kali Burnham, who knocked a two-run single up the middle.

The inning didn't end offensively for the Black Bears, as Ashley Waters, batting with only one out, hit a deep pop-up to center, allowing Souhlaris to tag up and score the team's third run.

With UMaine leading 3-1, Albany immediately bounced

back at the top of the sixth as Butsch hit her second solo homerun of the game. The Great Danes followed with a single, a hit by pitch and an RBI single to tie the game at 3-3 heading into the 7th.

After a quick 1-2-3 top of the seventh for Balent, Maine came up once again facing Albany ace McIntosh who was brought in for Powell in the bottom of the sixth. Allen led off the inning with a sharp double down the first base line.

Lindsey Jenkins pinch-ran and advanced to third when Souhlaris got a bunt hit. With the winning run on third, Burnham once again came to bat with the opportunity to score some runs, and she didn't disappoint as she soon hit a walk-off single to take game two.

Sunday's game three was another battle of the bat as the two aces, Balent and McIntosh, again took the mound for the rubber game. UMaine got the scoring started in the bottom of the first with Kristen Calvetti hitting an RBI single to right to score Waters who had walked earlier in the frame.

Three straight two-out singles in the bottom of the second by Davis, Souhlaris and Burnham brought up Waters who knocked a double to right field, scoring two.

Hall kept the scoring going with her own double to score Waters and Burnham, giving Maine a 5-0 lead heading into the third inning.

The Great Danes answered in the top of the third when a walk, double and triple scored their first two runs of the game. Another double brought in two more runs and chased Balent from the game after just 2 2/3 innings, as she was replaced by Ashley Kelley who forced a ground-out to end the inning.

With a 7-4 lead in the last inning, Albany came back, tying the game and taking the lead when Kristine Bill hit a grand slam.

UMaine scored once in the bottom half, but that's all they could muster.

UMaine closed out their home schedule for 2009 this weekend and battled their way to the top of the America East in hopes of the playoffs.

Next Saturday, the team heads to the University of Vermont for their final three games of the regular season.

The Maine Campus sports

Monday, April 27, 2009



UMaine, Vermont split series

McAvoy, Leisenheimer lead squad, baseball in second place

By Adam Clark
Sports Editor

Through the first two weekends in America East play, the University of Maine baseball team stormed out of the gate. Facing the two worst teams in the conference, the Black Bears won seven of the first eight games, putting them in first place in America East.

This weekend, they hosted the University of Vermont, the third-worst team in the conference, in hopes of continuing to roll through conference play.

Despite taking the first game of each doubleheader, Vermont took both late games, capitalizing on UMaine mistakes to salvage a series split.

UMaine won Saturday's first game 11-8 before losing the second 5-4. On Sunday, the Black Bears took the first contest 5-1 and fell in the second 6-3.

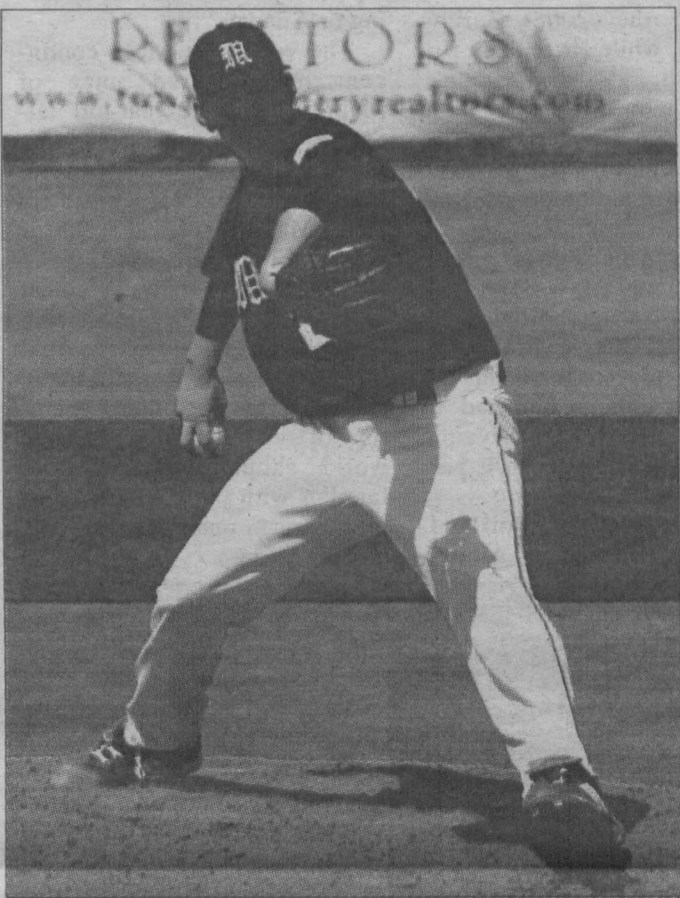
With the split, UMaine is 26-15 on the season and 9-3 in the conference. The

Catamounts are 12-25 overall and 5-7 in America East play. The Black Bears resume play Tuesday when they host Thomas College in a non-conference game before heading to the University of Albany for a four-game series starting next Saturday.

In Saturday's first game, UMaine scored nine runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to erase a 6-2 deficit.

Trailing in the sixth, UMaine sent nine batters to the plate before Vermont even recorded an out. Mykie Lugauber led off the inning with a double, Kevin McAvoy drew a walk, and Justin Leisenheimer followed with a three-run home run to deep center to make it 6-5. Jarrett Lukas and Tony Patane then hit back-to-back doubles, Patane's scoring Lukas to tie it. Kyle Stilphen put the Black Bears ahead when he hit an RBI single to knock in Patane.

Kevin Scanlan (3-3) picked up the win in relief, while reigning America East

See **MEN'S** on page 14

Amy Brooks ♦ The Maine Campus

Pat Quinn fires a pitch in Sunday's first game against Vermont. Quinn threw a complete game, one-hitter to pick up the victory.

Saturday sweep paces Bears

Softball takes two out of three from Albany, continues AE rise

By Maeghan
Connor

For The Maine Campus

The perfect weather conditions translated to a good weekend on the diamond for the University of Maine softball team. The Black Bears took two of the three games from the University of Albany, advancing their record to 30-21 overall and 10-8 in conference play, while the Great Danes fell to 31-12 and 11-5 in America East.

UMaine took both games (1-0, 4-3) in Saturday's doubleheader at Kessock Field before dropping the finale on Sunday 11-8.

Game one of Saturday's double-header pitted UMaine's ace Jenna Balent against Albany's Leah McIntosh in a pitcher's duel that was decided in the first inning of the game. Kali Burnham scored the game's only run following a single of her own when, in the bottom of the first, Terren Hall bashed an RBI double. While the Black Bears only managed one more hit in

the game, a slap hit up the middle by Brynne Davis, it would be all they needed with Balent on the mound.

Balent scattered four hits during the game, walking only one and hitting one while tallying four strikeouts.

Game two of the twin bill was an offensive battle in the late innings that came down to the last at-bat of the game. The scoring started in the top of the fourth when Albany's Meagan Butsch smashed a pitch over the left field wall, giving the visitors a 1-0 lead.

UMaine responded in the bottom of the fifth, taking advantage of some Albany mistakes in the process. The inning opened with catcher Stephanie George at the plate, who reached first when Great Danes pitcher Marissa Powell balked. After a Kirstin Allen sac bunt, Davis slapped a hit, reaching first and advancing pinch runner Melinda Corssino to third. Alexis Souhlaris followed up with a walk to load the bases for

See **BALL** on page 15

Amy Brooks ♦ The Maine Campus

Kirstin Allen holds an Albany baserunner at first base in Sunday's game. Albany won the game 11-8.

YEAR IN REVIEW

By Adam Clark
Sports Editor

The University of Maine 2007-2008 sports season was a disappointment, as none of the 19 athletic teams recorded a winning record. The 2008-2009 athletic year was a major improvement over last year and had its fair share of ups and downs. Here are the major headlines for the year:

1. Football advances to FCS playoffs

Coming off 4-7 (3-5 Colonial Athletic Association) campaign, the CAA pegged UMaine to finish in fourth place in the North Division. After a 45-3 whooping by Iowa to open the season and a 2-3 start, the fourth place finish appeared to be reality. However, Jack Cosgrove's squad led by All-American Jovan Belcher persevered and won six straight games heading into the season finale against the University of New Hampshire. The Black Bears lost a heartbreaker to the Wildcats, but advanced to the FCS Playoffs, where they eventually lost to Northern Iowa. UMaine's successful 8-5 campaign and second-place finish in the CAA North exceeded expectations and kicked off a successful fall sports season.

2. Budget cuts suspends volleyball, men's soccer

Athletic Director Blake James had to cut spending in the department by \$871,000 for the upcoming fiscal year. To achieve this, James had to go with "the option of last resort." On April 15, the volleyball and men's soccer programs were suspended. This leaves the university with 17 athletic teams. The elimination of the two fall sports programs continues the trend of northeast schools cutting back. Quinnipiac University and the University of Vermont have also made similar cutbacks.

3. Masters dominates

Riley Masters was a well-known distance runner during his high school years at nearby Bangor High School. During his freshman season, the rookie has turned it up a notch and excelled in the fall cross-country season and in the track season this spring. He led the cross-country team this fall and was undefeated on the track until this weekend's Penn Relays. With three more years left, UMaine fans should sit back and enjoy Masters continuing to tear up the course.

4. Men's hockey continues rebuilding process

Two seasons ago, the UMaine men's hockey team was coming off a season where they advanced to their second straight Frozen Four. A perennial powerhouse in Hockey East and on the national scale, they lost many of the top players off of the Frozen Four squad. That led to struggles last season when the team failed to advance to the Hockey East Playoffs. This season, struggles continued, but UMaine returns most of its underclassmen-laden lineup, including Gustav Nyquist and Tanner House. The addition of top recruit Joey Diamond should allow UMaine to improve even more next season.

5. James considered for FGCU job

After being forced to suspend two sports two weeks ago, Blake James was in Fort Myers, Fla., this past week interviewing for the athletic director position at Florida Gulf Coast University. James has been at UMaine since 2003 when he took over as senior associate AD. He took over as the full-time AD in 2006 after serving as the interim for a year. During James' tenure, the team's success has been up and down. He has operated the budget very well and the athletes have excelled in the classroom.