

Fall 12-5-1997

Maine Campus December 05 1997

Maine Campus Staff

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• GSS

Allegations draw OCB protest

By Paul B. Livingstone
Maine Campus staff

An emergency session of the General Student Senate was called last evening to address findings from a new investigation of Off Campus Board's alleged constitutional violations.

The senate froze OCB's funds Tuesday after the Governmental Procedures Committee made the recommendation upon discovering OCB's constitution contained membership qualifications that were inadequate and possibly discriminatory.

According to Governmental Procedures Chairman Ryan Eslinger, e-mail printouts that contained language that was hostile to the rest of Student Government were left in the Governmental Procedures' mailbox. He found them Tuesday evening, after which

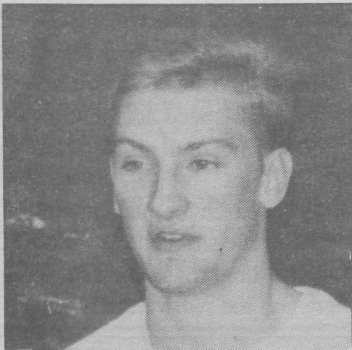
Governmental Procedures launched a new review of OCB's actions.

The majority of Governmental Procedures' report was quoted directly from hard copies of First-

The allegations drew protest from members of OCB.

"If you were dealing with heat like we were, you'd be flip and sarcastic, too," OCB President Jenny Lyons said. "Especially with respect to personal e-mail."

Lyons said OCB received little or no help from Student Government to recruit members or maintain appropriate programming, yet was expected to conform to the wishes of the rest of Student Govern-



OCB President Jenny Lyons (left) and ROC President Ryan Eslinger (right). (Caleb Raynor photos.)

Class e-mail written among OCB members. The e-mail contained language that was hostile to the rest of Student Government. Phrases such as, "I think it would be fun to screw 'em over... let me know what you think..." and "Let's f---k 'em up, or gain respect trying" were singled out by Eslinger.

"These are obvious attempts to outsmart the constituents of OCB," Eslinger said.

ment.

"A lot of the problem is that we're not procedural enough for all of you. We just don't have tabs for every minute spent by OCB members," board member Dave Patten said.

"It's our fault in some ways," said Lyons. "But we were handed OCB and we felt that we could

See GSS on page 4

• Charity

UMaine employees raise thousands

By Elizabeth Beaulieu
Maine Campus staff

Nearly 100 university employees are enlisting the help of their colleagues to raise money for various charities in Maine and all over the world, according to the co-chair of the Combined Charitable Appeal for University Employees.

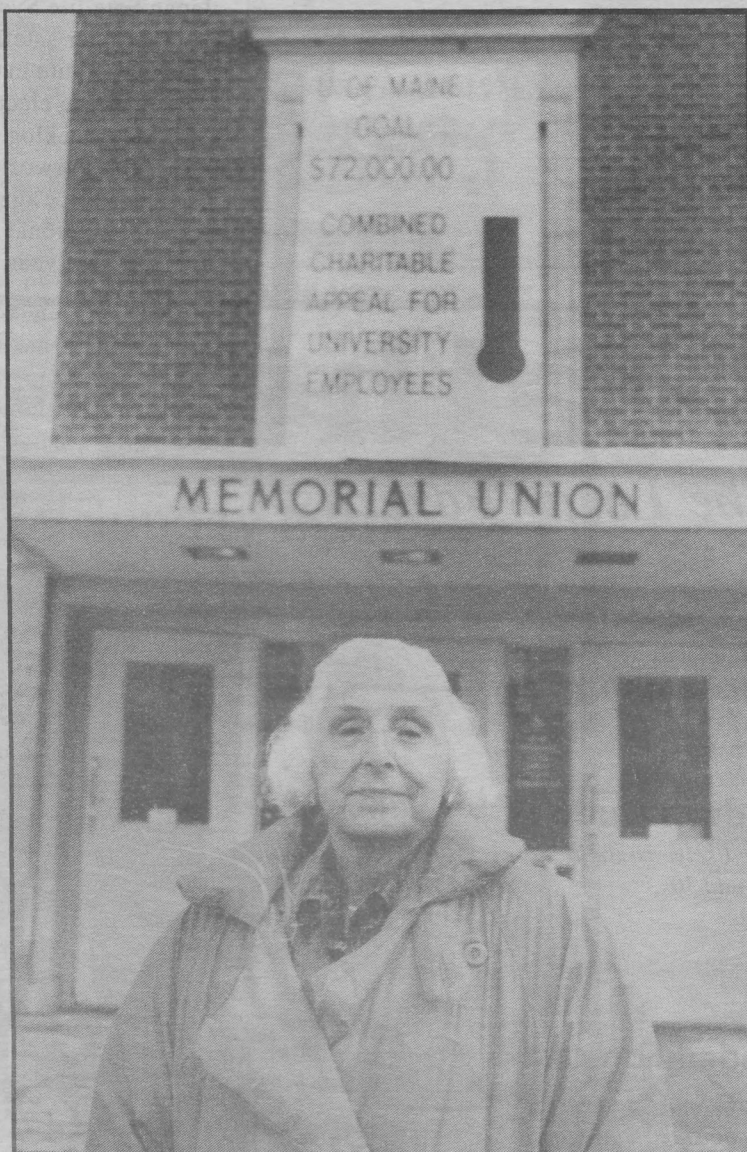
"There is a lot of beauty to this," said Barbara Hikel, the financial assistant to the vice president for research and public service. "You can give to any agency or charity in Maine or wherever and you can do it right through our campus."

Every year the chairs of the CCAUE select a team comprised of 10 to 12 employees from different areas to solicit contributions on behalf of various charities and agencies. The team leaders then seek the help of other university employees in their departments.

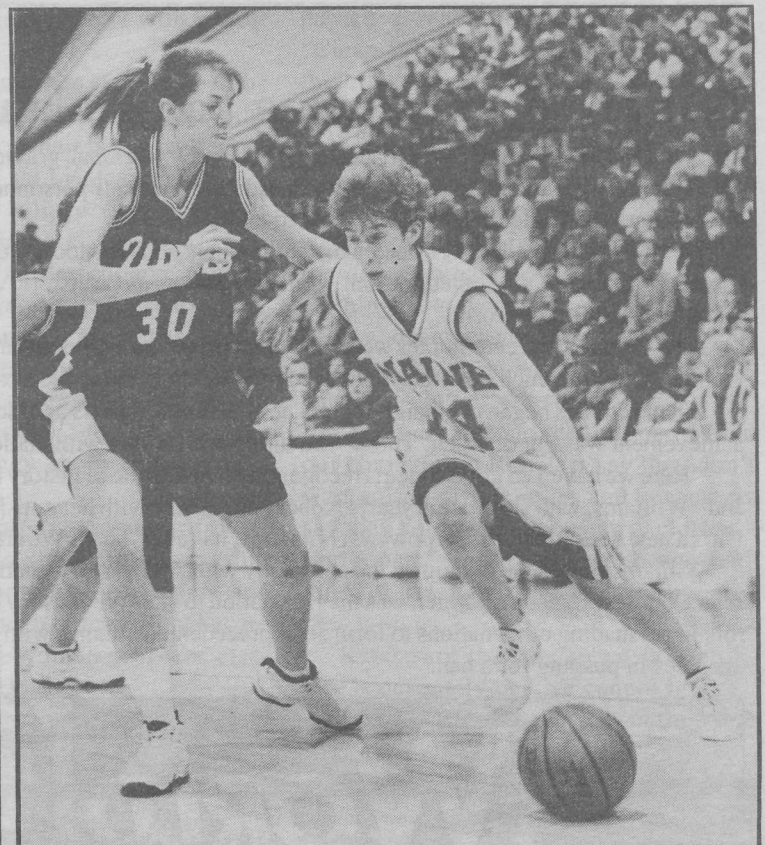
"The volunteers are usually repeat participants," said Hikel. "You don't have to tell them what to do, they just do it."

A luncheon held by President Hoff on Oct. 22 praised the volunteers and kicked off this year's campaign. Volunteers for the CCAUE distribute a guide

See CHARITY of page 4



Barbara Hikel, co-chair for the Charitable Appeal Committee, is helping to raise \$72,000 for good causes. (Eric Weisz photo.)



Maine guard Cindy Blodgett goes around UMass forward Kara Tudman during last night's record-breaking performance. (Caleb Raynor photo.)

• Women's basketball

Blodgett sets record

By Josh Nason
Maine Campus Staff

She was held to just 2-of-12 shooting for seven points.

"You could say it was just one of those nights, but it wouldn't be the truth. I kind of looked at it as a one-on-one situation instead of just playing within myself and the team. It just took me out of my whole entire game," Van Huisen said.

Sabriya Mitchell scored a career-high 17 points, dished out six assists, and made six steals for 3-2 UMass. Tex Craft had 15

See BLODGETT on page 13

With 12:27 left in the first half of the Black Bears game against UMass, Cindy Blodgett went from college basketball superstar to Maine sports legend.

Blodgett connected on a straightaway three-pointer from 22 feet out that gave her 2,406 career points, passing Rachel Bouchard for first on the all-time school and conference scoring list.

It was the senior's 19th point in 7:33, as she hit on seven straight shots to open the game, that included four straight three pointers.

"I was aware of it, because (the media) keep writing about it. My concern was to get it over with, and let my team focus on the task at hand, and that was beating UMass," Blodgett said.

Maine went on to win the game against UMass 82-68 to up their record to 3-1 in front of a crowd of 4,690 at Alford Arena. The Black Bears will go on the road for the next four games, and will not return home until early January.

Blodgett scored a game-high 40 points to go along with seven rebounds, three assists, two steals and one block. Klara Danes had a double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds, and Jamie Cassidy added 12 points for Maine.

On the defensive end, Blodgett was on the Minutewomen's leading scorer, Kelly Van Huisen, who coming into the game was averaging 16.5 ppg.

INSIDE

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Cindy Blodgett makes history again.
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WEATHER



Mostly cloudy
with a chance of
snow.

PAGE 2

WORLD BRIEFS

• Treaty

Nations begin signing ban on land mines

1 OTTAWA (AP) — Goaded into action by a global grassroots alliance, 125 nations began signing a treaty Wednesday to ban anti-personnel land mines — a treaty the United States has refused to endorse.

As mine victims in wheelchairs and jubilant activists looked on, Kofi Annan, the secretary-general of the United Nations, praised the treaty as “a historic victory for the weak and vulnerable of the world.”

Also attending the ceremonies were observers from major holdout nations — such as the United States — which now face increased pressure to support the treaty.

When activists began campaigning for such a ban seven years ago, some people felt this achievement was out of reach. Those who didn’t were filled with elation Wednesday.

“Here we have 125 governments recognizing that the tide of history has changed,” said Jody Williams, who shared this year’s Nobel Peace Prize with her anti-landmine coalition. “It’s a new definition of superpower. It is not one, it is everybody. We are the superpower.”

Williams shared the podium at the ceremony with Annan and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien. Canada — which was the first nation to sign Wednesday — played a pivotal role in persuading other nations to form an unprecedented alliance with non-governmental agencies in pushing for a ban.

• Accident

Sketch of site shows possible second car

2 PARIS (AP) — Within hours of the accident that killed Princess Diana, French investigators believed a second car might have been involved in the crash, the first official sketch of the scene shows.

The diagram, obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press, was made Aug. 31, the day the crash occurred along the Seine River.

The drawing offers a detailed look at the crash site and shows “a probable collision zone” between Diana’s Mercedes and another car in the Pont de l’Alma traffic tunnel where the princess, her companion Dodi Fayed and their driver Henri Paul were killed.

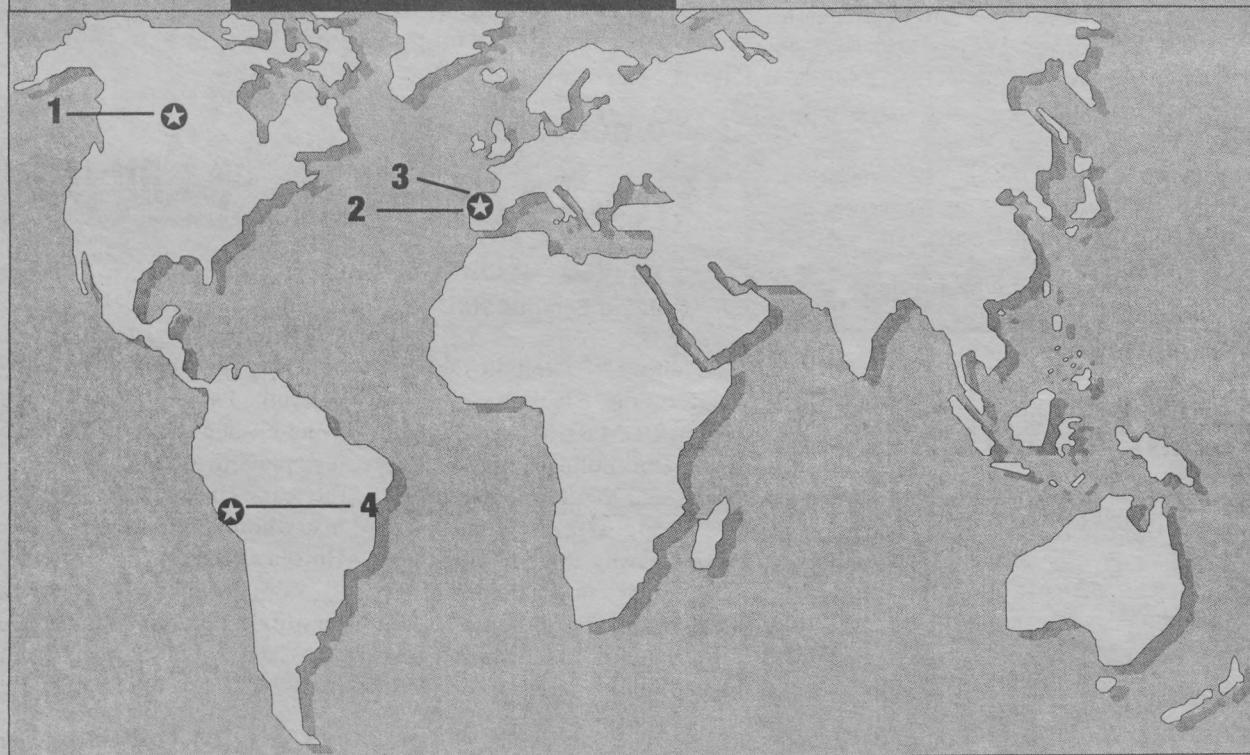
Despite the sketch, investigators initially focused on the photographers tailing the princess, and then on the driver, who was legally drunk and on prescription drugs at the time of the high-speed accident.

It was not until almost three weeks later that police acknowledged they were looking for a small Fiat.

The search for the Fiat began after tests on pieces of taillight and traces of car paint found at the scene showed they didn’t come from the Mercedes.

The diagram shows red glass was found at the scene of the “probable collision zone” between the two vehicles, which was marked by a 19-yard skid mark.

WORLD DIGEST



• Launch

French, Russian rockets put satellites in orbit

3 EVRY, France (AP) — An Ariane rocket has placed a Japanese telecommunications satellite and a German research satellite into orbit.

The Ariane 4 rocket blasted off Tuesday night from Arianespace consortium’s launch site in Kourou, French Guiana, on the northeastern tip of South America.

Meanwhile, a Russian Proton-K booster rocket carrying a satellite intended to provide direct TV broadcasting for Luxembourg was launched Wednesday from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakstan.

The Japanese satellite, built by California-based Hughes Space & Communications, was positioned over New Guinea and will route telecommunications for Japan Satellite Systems Inc.

The other satellite, an Equator-S built by the Max Planck Institute in Germany, will measure the effect of solar wind on electromagnetic fields on Earth.

With a backlog of 41 satellite launch orders, Ariane dominates the world commercial launch market. NASA and other space agencies plan to use it to send up chunks of an international space station, whose construction is to begin next year.

• Adventure

U.S. explorer caps career with voyage

4 CALLAO, Peru (AP) — Gene Savoy has spent much of his life searching for lost cities in Peru’s remote rain forests. He has found 43 of them, gaining renown as an explorer of the world’s wild places.

Now he’s ready to set off on his greatest adventure — a seven-year voyage around the world in a replica of an ancient sailing vessel. His goal: prove his controversial theory that pre-Columbian Peru had contact with civilizations as far away as Japan and the Middle East.

“This ship is a base for research and for reproducing and dramatizing ancient voyages. We want to demonstrate that the global society is nothing new. It existed thousands of years ago,” said Savoy, who plans to set sail from Callao on Dec. 10.

Savoy, who lives much of the year in Reno, Nev., where he heads the Andean Explorers Foundation, is an explorer in the grand tradition, working with expeditions of 50 volunteers, 80 pack mules and armed policemen as guards.

At 70, he cuts a flamboyant figure that he uses to full advantage. He looks more like Buffalo Bill than Harrison Ford, but his style is pure Indiana Jones.

Even in the city, he has the look — long hair curling over his collar, mustache thick and eyebrows bushy, ancient Coptic cross on a chain around his neck, suede cowboy boots he wears even to formal functions.

Weather

The Local Forecast

Today’s Weather

Mostly cloudy with a chance of snow. Low in 20s



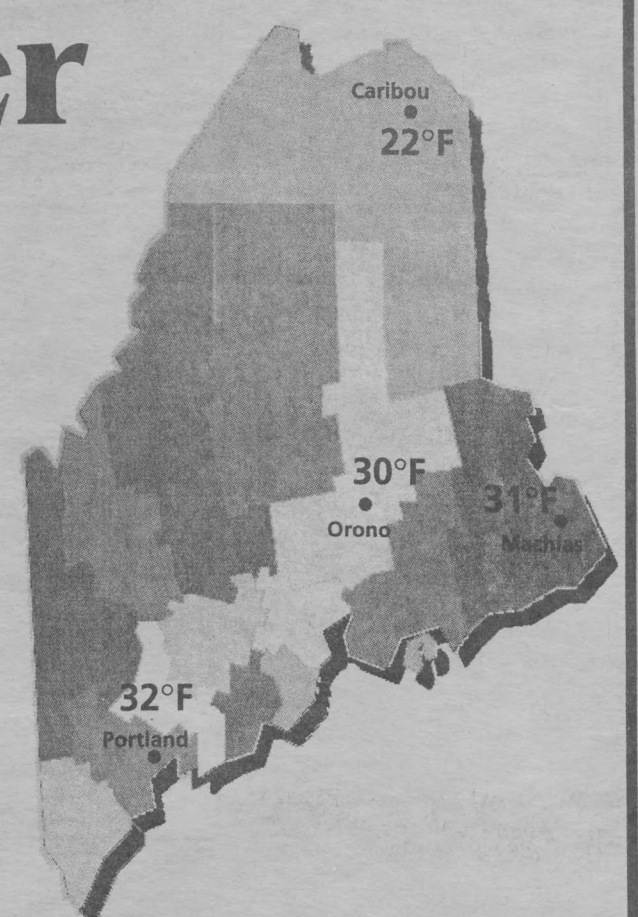
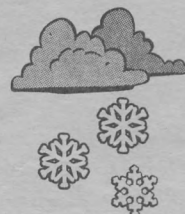
Saturday’s Outlook

Snow likely. High in lower to mid 30s.



Extended Forecast

Sunday...Snow showers likely in north. Chance of flurries in the south.
Monday...Fair. Teen to 20s.



• Women in curriculum

'Clean clothes' campaign fights sweatshops in El Salvador

By Andrea Page
Maine Campus staff

Sweatshops are a world-wide problem that are being addressed in central Maine with a campaign for "clean" clothes.

Members of Bangor's Clean Clothes Campaign and campus guest Marina Rios, who is the coordinator of the Women Garment Workers Organizing Project in El Salvador, spoke out Wednesday at the University of Maine against sweatshops.

At the Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies program, Rios addressed changes that need to be made and how Maine people can help.

"In El Salvador the key phrase is modernization and, in effect, what it brings is privatization," Rios said. "The only economic possibilities available now are sweatshops."

Rios said that 60 percent of the population of El Salvador are women and 54

percent of them cannot read. The pay for El Salvador's 58,000 women sweatshop workers is often as low as 56 cents an hour. These numbers are alarming to Rios because most of the workers are young women. Rios said the youth are the hope for the future, so they need to be educated about sweatshop conditions.

"There is no semblance of any organization going on in sweatshops. We're saying that we cannot remain distant from this reality," she said. "It's a work that we have to do together to solve the problem. We cannot come up with any kind of politics to confront the globalization unless we're united."

Part of the reform process has been finding labels on clothing which represent sweatshop labor. Also, an important step in the process is educating the women who work for sweatshops.

"Within the social movement, women play an important role," said Rios. "Women need to learn about human

rights issues."

Katherine Kates, of Bangor's Clean Clothes Campaign, has visited El Salvador to explore the problems with sweatshops.

"I was faced with the stark pain of the reality of people's lives who carry the global economy on their backs in order to simply survive," said Kates.

She visited a village which depends on agriculture for work.

"The collapse of rural economies drive people to seek work in urban sweatshops," said Kates. "Marina's project is a little gleam of hope in an environment where it takes enormous courage for women to simply come together and talk about the problems that they share in the workplace."

Ann Schonberger, director of WIC and the Women's Studies program, said it is always important for students and workers here to be in touch with what are facts of life for women workers elsewhere in the world.

"It is important that we have a global perspective on women's lives, so I'm

really grateful we were able to hear Marina," said Schonberger.

In June 1997, Bangor's city council passed a resolution declaring itself a "Clean Clothes City." Bangor is one of the first communities to take a stand against sweatshops.

Francois Amar, with Bangor's Clean Clothes Campaign, said Bangor has a role in the global economy. Since the start of the campaign, ten companies in the Bangor area have pledged to not sell clothing from sweatshops. There has also been a consumer network started to educate the public on where to buy clothes and what clothes are clean.

"Look around and see the good will in our community. Retailers say they don't want to sell dirty clothes and consumers say they don't want to buy dirty clothes," said Amar. "Since June we've been working with retailers to engage in this process with us."

Kates said that the sweatshop problem is definitely one we cannot ignore.

"We are linked as sisters in the same struggle," she said.

• Police

Speeding dominates blotter

By Kathryn Ritchie
Maine Campus staff

Peter Hoff received an unpleasant surprise a few days after his presidential inauguration—someone egged his house. Between Nov. 22 at 9 a.m. and Nov. 24 at 10:30 a.m., someone threw three or four eggs at the beige Victorian home.

In other police business:

- On Friday, Nov. 21 at 9:59 p.m., Officer Joel Small responded to a report of a fight between two men on the second floor of Gannett Hall. Michael Chaffin, 20, was summoned for assault.

- On Saturday, Nov. 22, it was reported that someone had written obscene comments on the walls in Kennebec Hall with a permanent marker. They also damaged a Winnie-the-Pooh mural in the basement.

- Several harassing phone calls which were made between Nov. 23 and Dec. 3 are still under investigation. The five separate incidents, which included obscene remarks and requests for phone sex, involved men calling campus women.

- On Monday, Nov. 24, Public Safety wrapped up an investigation involving

three tickets to the Adam Sandler concert which were stolen a few days before the show. To find out who had stolen the tickets, officers went to the Nov. 4 comedy show and looked to see who was in the seats for the stolen tickets. Jessica Anderson, 19, was summoned for theft.

- On Monday, Dec. 1 at 10:52 a.m., it was reported that someone with a paint ball gun shot at a Michael Jordan poster in Stewart Commons.

- On Monday at 2:30 p.m., it was reported that someone had vandalized the Campus Walking Companion head-

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614 Stillwater Avenue, Old Town
(between McDonald's and Doug's) 827-1976

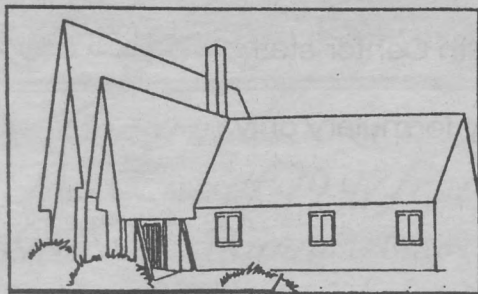
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11 a.m.

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The Maine Campus
UMaine's thrice weekly newspaper

Computer Based Instruction-Spring 1998

Spanish for Reading & Translation



CRN 37600(982) MLCO 190 Computer - Based

This course assumes no previous knowledge of Spanish, although experience of any sort with other languages will be helpful. It is designed to provide students with the basics of Spanish grammar needed to comprehend written texts of different genres: journalism, prose fiction, some verse essay. At the same time as the grammar is presented and practiced, there will be development of vocabulary and, to the extent possible, this will be tailored to specific student interests (i.e., business, legal terms, literature, science health, etc.) through the selection of Spanish materials in these areas. MLCO 190 may serve different students, but is not intended as a substitute for coursed with conversational content or focus. Because the delivery is asynchronous and via written work, there will be a very intensive writing expectation, which is necessary in order to practice the structures in a satisfactory manner. Depending on student interest, a continuation course may be offered at the next level.

CR - 3

Prof. Kathleen March

For further information contact Dawn at Continuing
Education Division: 581-3143

GSS

from page 1

serve the students with some good entertainment."

Concern over the handling of funds by OCB was defused by the Financial Affairs Office, which stated that no internal audit was necessary. Governmental Procedures also found no finance violations beyond the questioned \$20.

Sen. Pennington H. Way IV renewed the protestations of the private OCB folder called "OCBers." He said that when the folder was finally made public, all of the messages had been removed; he also questioned the necessity for a private folder.

"If we were talking about the Wallflowers' arrangements for a concert, then it's something we wouldn't want to release that to the students until the event was ready," said Lyons. She said she deleted only one message from the folder before Network Specialist/Consultant

Rebecca Salsbury opened it.

"I have unsent possibly incriminating messages from the folder," she said. "I didn't want to publicize possible resignations from the board."

While delivering the Governmental Procedures report, Eslinger cited financial, personnel and Student Government violations by OCB. Primary among them was the finding that OCB has violated No. 10, Sec. A of the OCB constitution, which outlines the limits of OCB's powers, and Article VII, Sec. 2 of the Student Government constitution.

"On one occasion, the OCB executive has knowingly interfered with an investigation of Student Government," Eslinger said. "On various occasions, the OCB executives have refused to accept or respect Student Government's judicial authority, thus violating Art. II, Sec. 2, part D of the

Student Government constitution.

"Although the allegations are unproven, they warrant suspension," Eslinger said.

Other allegations included a misappropriation of \$20 and ruining the reputation of OCB.

Recommended punishment for OCB by Governmental Procedures was then listed by Eslinger: suspend all executive members from OCB, expel the OCB president from any Student Government position and conduct a financial investigation. Eslinger later withdrew the audit recommendation.

The revelations and recommendations drew mixed reactions from senators.

"Governmental Procedures' recommendations are extreme and harsh," Student Government President Jenn Nelson said. "We have no real proof they did anything wrong."

"I broke Residents On Campus' constitution when I was ROC president, and here I am president of Student Government. Let these people get off the ground and run OCB."

Sen. Channing Geele, former president of OCB, said Lyons accepted the position knowingly and that it was not "handed down to her."

"I feel they have the ability to run the board with reforms," said Geele.

Others, such as Sen. Kevin Stevens, believed an internal audit on OCB's finances was necessary. Sen. Kendra Asselin recommended probation for OCB executives.

After a three-hour meeting, the senate approved the formation of a committee to examine the validity of Governmental Procedures' recommendations. Further review of OCB will likely continue into the spring semester.

Charity

from page 1

listing the charities and a pledge sheet to every university employee.

"They are not salespeople," Hikel said. "Most people know this is going to happen every year. The volunteers usually write a small memo or brief letter letting the employees know that it is that time of year again."

There are many options for employees choosing to contribute. Employees can give a one-time donation or payroll deduction donations, Hikel said.

"The university helps a lot by accepting payroll deduction pledges," she said. "It is excellent that someone who is on a tighter budget has that opportunity."

Contributors can also specify which charity will receive their donation. The charities and agencies included in the booklet are MaineShare, America's Charities, Earth Share, Combined Health Appeal of Maine, International Service Agencies and numerous chapters of the United Way.

Matt Howe, coordinator of MaineShare, said the University of Maine system accounts for 17 percent of the total contributions they receive.

"It means a lot to us to be represented in the guide," Howe said. "University employees have made a big difference."

Hikel said a high percentage of uni-

versity employees do contribute.

"This campaign is a success almost every year for two reasons," Hikel said. "The volunteers are dedicated workers and the people who work here at the university are really generous."

The CCAUE usually brings in \$70,000, but this year the goal is to raise \$72,000, Hikel said.

"We haven't made the goal yet," Hikel said. "But we are half way there and we are going to continue the campaign until Christmas."

The CCAUE sends a message to and sets an example for the rest of the community, said Candice Jordan, a volunteer

and administrative assistant in the Development Office.

"It is important that people realize we are supporting the community," Jordan said. "If we show we support the community then other people will be more receptive in their giving."

Hikel said employees are fortunate if they have not had to use the services of these agencies and charities.

"My father told me as a little girl that I was very lucky," Hikel said. "He expected me to help others out who aren't as lucky as me. Plus, it makes you feel good and part of being with people is helping out."

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Thursday,	December 11, 1997	9:00 - 12:30
Friday,	December 12, 1997	11:00 - 2:00

Where:

Student Healthcare Advocate Office
Room 120
Cutler Health Center

*Special benefits are available to students enrolled in the Student Health Insurance Plan.
All students must participate in the Comprehensive Health Fee to be eligible for special benefits.

• Graduation

MacTaggart to deliver commencement address

By Jodi Sokolowski
Maine Campus staff

The 191st graduation commencement will be held Dec. 13 at the Alford Arena. President Hoff will be presiding over his first graduation ceremony and will continue the congratulatory handshake, according to Janis Williams, associate director of student records.

A community reception for faculty, students, family and guests will precede the event with a free continental style breakfast.

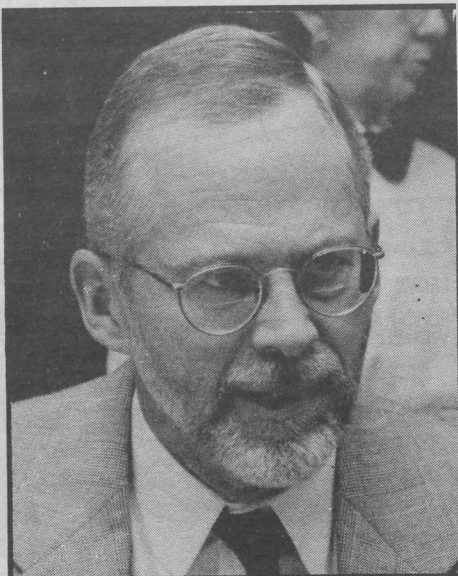
"It's a last chance to say goodbye to fellow students," Williams said.

The ceremony starts at 10:30 a.m. and will last about an hour and a half. Deans will be leading their colleges into the arena through the Zamboni entrance, which is something new this year, Williams said. The Maine Steiners will begin the ceremony by singing the National Anthem, while the commencement march and other music will be performed by the School of Performing Arts' Brass Ensemble directed by Joshua Whitehouse.

Currently, 270 out of 370 undergraduates and 108 out of 143 graduate students eligible for graduation will be attending the ceremony.

This year's commencement speaker is Chancellor Terrence MacTaggart, who will be speaking for the first time at an Orono commencement. MacTaggart said he plans to congratulate graduates for their hard work and sacrifice that has earned them a first rate degree from the University of Maine. He said he also plans to invoke sympathy for those less fortunate who are not able to attend college and will have a harder time finding a job in the economy.

"I'll be asking graduates to schedule a part of their lives in the future for some kind of volunteer work to give back to the commu-



University of Maine System Chancellor Terry MacTaggart explains the contributions of UMaine faculty toward obtaining research funds. (Caleb Raynor photo.)

nity and the state of Maine," MacTaggart said.

The commencement speaker is decided on in the President's Office via feedback from student government and senior council. Qualifications for a good speaker are someone who speaks well, is easily understood, keeps people interested and gives parents a chance to see the quality of education that UMaine offers, said Cathy Bradbury, assistant to the president.

"He is an excellent speaker who can be called upon unexpectedly and do a great job while speaking from the heart," she said.

The December ceremony usually features an in-house speaker within the university system rather than the May ceremony where tradition holds an out-of-house speaker.

"The December ceremony is a little more elaborate but more personal and festive,"

said Williams.

The winter makes it difficult to obtain speakers and therefore the ceremony features a speaker within the campus or system.

"Sometimes we have many good speakers on this campus that don't have a chance to speak to students outside of classes in a meaningful way," said Bradbury. "The December ceremony gives us the chance to speak from the heart."

For May ceremonies, usually politicians are asked to be guest speakers because they will speak for free.

"The price is right," Williams said.

Former commencement speakers include Senator Olympia Snowe, right after she was elected Senator, and retired Senator William Cohen, before he left for Washington as

Secretary of Defense. Last May, President Hutchinson spoke at the commencement since it was his last year at UMaine.

U.S. Rep. John Baldacci will address a ROTC commissioning exercise at 8 a.m. next Saturday.

Two speakers have been requested for the May ceremony but have not confirmed yet.

In previous graduations, a \$20 graduation fee was required that has now been eliminated due to the efforts of Alison Cox, director of student records. The fee, which has now been incorporated into the Student Records budget, was used for the cost of printing equipment, diploma paper and cover.

"It took me two years to convince people and the chief financial officer that it was the right thing to do," Cox said.

Police

from page 3

quarters in the basement of Cutler Health Center over break. The phone jack was broken and chairs were thrown around the room.

• Eight people were summoned in the last two weeks on campus for traffic violations. Jesse Boucias, 17, Eric Hughes, 19, Jeffrey Pierce, 20, Benjamin Christensen, 20, and Eric Hall, 21, were summoned for speeding. Keri Higgins, 18, was summoned for having a blue light on the dash board of her car. William C. Warren, 24, and Gerald E. Mitchell, 21, were summoned for failure to stop at a stop sign. Mitchell was also summoned for failure to produce evidence of insurance.

Public Safety Tip of the Week:

With the Wallflowers concert taking place on campus tonight, Public Safety would like drivers to be especially wary of pedestrians. People are asked to use the College Avenue cross walks and traffic posts when crossing the street.

Backpacks, bottles and other carry-on items will not be allowed in the Alford Arena. Public Safety Lt. Alan Stormann said a number of security people, including students, band security and Public Safety Officers will be at the concert "just to make sure everybody has a good time and the facilities are used properly."

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ROC is sponsoring a shopping trip

Sunday, December 7th to Freeport
home of L.L. Bean and hundreds of other outlets and stores. Buses will leave at 8:30 am and return around 6 pm. If you'd like to go and get some of your Holiday shopping done, simply show up to catch a bus. They will be outside of the Memorial Gym near the Black Bear.

For more info call the ROC at 1-1760

EDITORIAL

Spare Limestone DFAS center

When Maine was hit with the closure of Loring Air Force Base in 1994, then-Sen. William Cohen fought for its survival and spoke out in support of the "Aroostook work ethic."

Now, as secretary of defense, Cohen has abandoned Maine loyalties and supports the proposal that Limestone's 2-year-old Defense Finance Accounting Service center be sacrificed to military downsizing.

Cohen suggests that a portion of government accounting be contracted out to the private sector, reducing the overall number of DFAS employees from 23,000 to 16,000. To accomplish this, eight of the 17 listed centers must shut their doors permanently.

The relatively small Limestone DFAS center was the first business to boost the area's economy after Loring's demise. The center provides about 325 jobs and has been described as a "cornerstone" of the redevelopment effort and local economy.

Recognized for its superior productivity, the center is housed in the former base hospital, a large building refurbished shortly before Loring's closure.

Maine's congressional delegation immediately took action to shield the Limestone center. Sens. Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins propose that instead of closing it, the modern center be expanded to accommodate the increased workload should one of the larger centers be targeted in its place.

The majority of the centers facing possible closure are in urban areas, such as San Diego and St. Louis, stable economies that are less dependent on DFAS's presence.

Job Corps and Sitel Corp. have chosen to locate at the Loring Commerce Center, but the depressed local economy has far from recovered, and DFAS remains essential to the Loring redevelopment effort. The economic impact of closing Limestone's center would be astronomically greater than other locales.

Maine is being unfairly targeted by the Department of Defense because the state lacks a large and powerful congressional delegation. Without Cohen's support, we must rally for the Aroostook center. Limestone cannot withstand another crushing blow the closure of DFAS would deliver.

Campus accidents need attention

The intentions of the University of Maine faculty, staff and students who sent a petition to Public Safety suggesting several safety precautions to prevent further motor-vehicle accidents in parking lots are in the right place. With the onslaught of recent accidents near the parking lot bordered by Rangely, Belgrade and Flagstaff Roads, the safety of the university community is at risk.

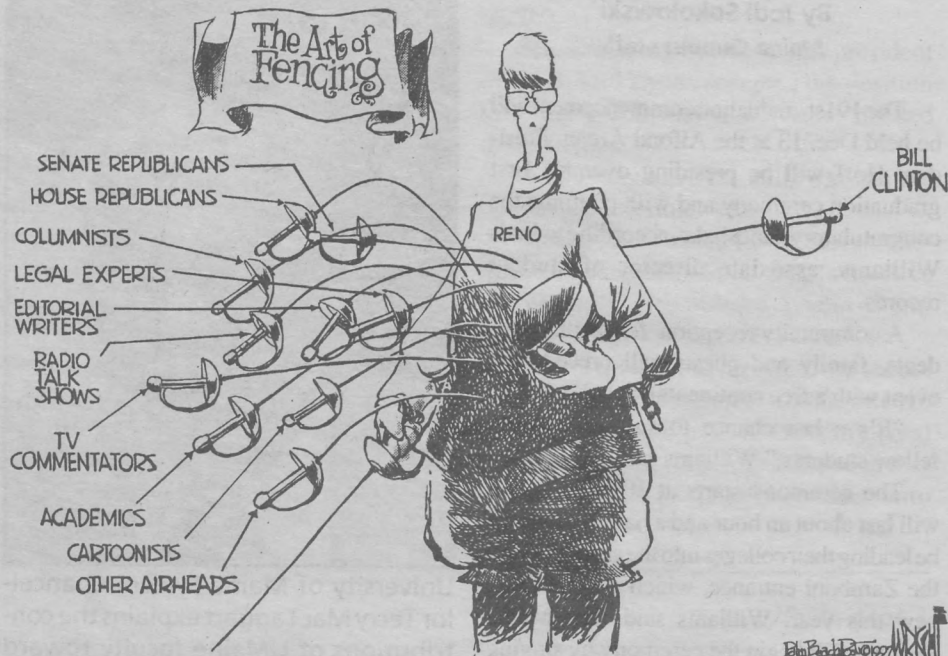
The petitioners list three suggestions on their petitions to prevent accidents: putting up stop or yield signs in the area or painting warnings on the pavement; putting speed bumps or rumble strips in each lane in the area or removing the throughway lane and turning it into additional parking spaces.

Unfortunately, the group's goal will

not be realized until it spreads the word to the entire campus. Although Public Safety enforces laws, it cannot do everything the group is asking. An all-inclusive effort by the campus community to prevent further problems should be sought.

To ensure that motor-vehicle laws are enforced, the community must be kept aware of them, whether by Public Safety striking down harder on reckless drivers or implementing the suggestions listed on the petition.

As the petition says, the carelessness of several people is causing many more to suffer in the long run. With each accident comes troubles that no one needs to go through, such as dealing with the costs of repairing automobiles, court time, loss of work time and medical bills for both the responsible party and the victim.



• Letters

• Former OCB president speaks out

To the Editor:

In Monday's *Maine Campus* there was a front-page article indicating that the General Student Senate had frozen funds for the Off Campus Board. In the article, indication was given that the board was under investigation for failing to support the former Student Entertainment & Activities Board's mission after SEA had been consolidated into Residents On Campus and OCB, as well as for not spending its money properly.

In the article, OCB President Jenny Lyons made a couple of statements I would like to respond to. I am a former president of OCB.

Quoting the article, "It would be a legitimate concern if this situation didn't exist," Lyons said. "We're picking up after a president who's an unstable individual. Up until two weeks ago, we still had bands calling to confirm contracts we didn't know anything about."

As an off-campus student, my resignation as OCB president occurred when I decided to move onto campus. Under the OCB constitution, as a resident on campus it was no longer possible for me to remain president. I did agree to remain with the board as a programming chairman and to fulfill SEA's mission. Lyons accepted the presidency and discussed with me her new ideas for the board. She even referred to me as "an energetic individual who would bring a lot to the board." It was clear she had no problems accepting the presidency. What concerns me is to see a statement like this: "I was the treasurer of this board at the beginning of the year, now I'm supposed to facilitate everything," Lyons said. "It was basically handed off to me."

I agree that a jump to president from secretary (not treasurer, as the article quoted) is quite a leap. However, Lyons' willingness to accept the position speaks for itself. She had been a part of OCB longer than myself, and it appeared to me from her level of confidence that she could run the board.

There may be a lot of eyes on OCB right now, but I think Lyons should facilitate the changes necessary for the success of the board and not point at who she thinks is to blame for its shortcomings. As for the supposed bands calling to confirm shows the board knew nothing about, I have a clear answer for that. My role as

a programmer for OCB ended when the board decided I need not be on the payroll any longer. As anyone that does programming knows, you begin negotiations weeks, even months, in advance for shows. That doesn't mean you go into any contractual agreement at that time. It doesn't surprise me bands called after my position was removed, but it is important to note that any conversations I had with bands were negotiations and not contractual agreements, as the president must sign the contract.

I would also like to note that when my position was removed by the OCB board as programming chair I wasn't given a sufficient reason for this decision. Because of this, I decided to sever my ties with the board.

I enjoy pushing for activities that involve large numbers of students. It's time we provide activities that can compete with other colleges like Boston University or the University of New Hampshire. I'm not surprised OCB is under investigation when it's holding expensive activities that only a handful of students are attending, and when one of their priorities is to be able to have a beer tent at Bumstock solely for its staff, even though the public is not allowed to drink.

As for me, I'm now the programming consultant for ROC, and I'm doing that which I had hoped to do. By taking charge of venues such as the Maine Center for the Arts and Alford Arena, ROC has brought more student-friendly, exciting acts to this campus. Let's keep this happening.

Channing Geele
ROC Programming Chair

Corrections

In Wednesday's edition, two attributions for the "Question of the Week" were incorrect. Ryan McDonald's and Ben Clark's photos should have been swapped. Also, in the story "Software glitches won't impact Orono campus," an inappropriate comment was added during the editing process.

In Monday's edition, the story "Projects benefit local charities," Phi Kappa Sigma's project was reported to be decorating a tree at Eastern Maine Medical Center. The fraternity is actually inviting underprivileged kids to its house to decorate a Christmas tree.

The Maine Campus

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE NEWSPAPER SINCE 1875

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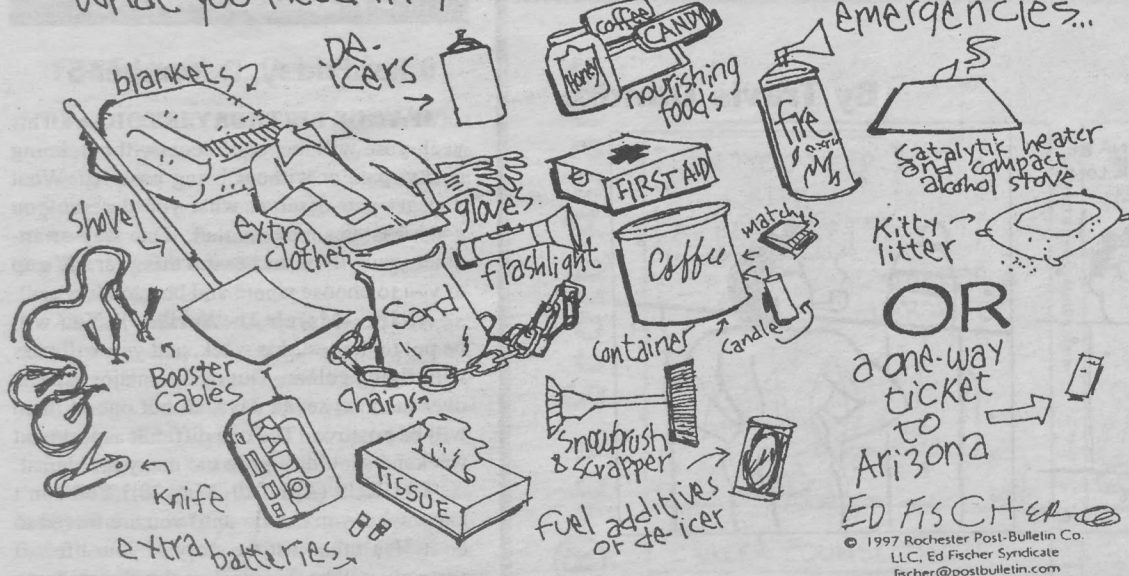
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OP/ED

It's that time again...

What you need in your car for winter driving & emergencies...



• Column

Suppressing minorities with religion

While perusing the discussion folders in my FirstClass account recently, I happened upon the gender folder. For some odd reason, a number of files pertained to the subject of God and religion. Whatever the reason for using this folder to discuss such debated issues is no matter, rather the content of these messages really got me thinking.

Discussions and disagreements about God are nothing new, I

celebrating Christmas and Easter, depending how one looks at things. I do not attach a spiritual or religious meaning to these holidays, they are merely a time to be with family, eat good food and spend money none of us should. I don't know when I determined that my belief or faith in God was null and void; it wasn't the product of a negative,

Bible and is reinforced in many ways, subtle or otherwise, by the followers of God. This judgment of "deviant" lifestyles by Christian groups seems to go against everything they believe—love, forgiveness, acceptance... Where's the logic, if any?

It is mind-boggling to think some people believe everyone should live their life according to the words of the Bible (I use mine as a door-stopper, by the way). I owe my parents some credit for teaching me God is an internal strength people can draw on for their own survival, not a fanatical or angry element within ourselves.

Admittedly, I don't know a whole lot about these groups, but what I do know disappoints me. These same people who interpret the Bible to say homosexuality is wrong would probably never admit that certain areas of it are breeding grounds for male supremacy. That's fine for Promise Keepers and their wives, but I'll pass, no thanks.

One of the best things I have learned since coming to college is the importance of giving women a voice and a choice. I have to wonder if these Christian groups are stifling the creativity and boundless strength of women. I would venture to say students involved in Christ-loving organizations are worse perpetrators of enforcing gender roles than are fraternities and sororities. We won't go there, though...

This trend on college campuses looks to be long-lasting. One has to wonder if there is any place nowadays safe from religious influence. For my sake, I hope so. I don't want to be told how to live my life, and I certainly wouldn't tell anyone else how to live theirs.

Hillary Montgomery is a sophomore political science major and is a guest columnist for The Maine Campus.

By Hillary Montgomery



know, but what amazes me is the widespread interest and participation of students in religious activities on campus. My experience with religion lasted about 13 years and involved going to church on Sundays with my family, which is memorable because we were always late, and participating in activities for children. From what I remember, few of these outings involved reading the Bible or praying. Rather, the extent of involving God in our fun was through singing or playing hide-and-seek in our church. Looking back, those were fun times that have given me lasting memories.

My interest in church and God dwindled during high school and is signified now only by cel-

life-changing experience. Perhaps through deep introspection and questioning I was able to arrive at this conclusion, not unlike how religious people decide their involvement with God.

This widespread, active interest in religion is not unique to the University of Maine. The better known Christian groups, Campus Crusade for Christ and Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, have 650 and 700 campus organizations nationwide, respectively. There are a number of other groups on college campuses that promote the beliefs of Islam, Judaism and Hinduism, among others, but Campus Crusade for Christ and Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship seem to be rather prominent at UMaine. From what I have gathered through talking with students involved in these groups, a sense of faith, belonging and security maintains a devout following.

I do not take issue with people who promote loving thy neighbor and all that (I'm a little behind on the terminology), but I have little tolerance for people who encourage stamping out "sinners" and "evil-doers," more specifically homosexuals. This insistence of wrongdoing is derived from the

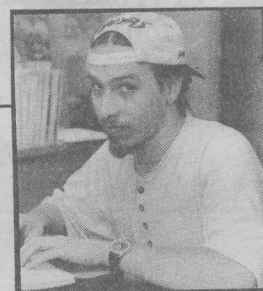
Drug war needlessly jails the innocent

There are plenty of good reasons not to use drugs. Overindulgence in pharmaceuticals can cause impaired judgment, addiction and severe health problems. Of course, the same things might be said of alcohol, unprotected sex and listening to Phish. For the most part, society has chosen not to regulate beer, biology or bad taste, and with good reason. Legislating personal choice rarely makes for effective policy, at least when administered in broad strokes. It is one thing to forbid Jack Daniels to wear helmets; it is another animal altogether to prohibit alcohol or ban motorcycles.

The aforementioned dangers of drug abuse are often cited as justifi-

lessly with the double- and dull-edged sword of money and guns. Infringement of civil liberties, surveillance of our fellow citizens and mass incarceration are not useful options to the problems of drug abuse. Unfortunately, they remain the weapons of choice on a battlefield somehow devoid of victors while littered with victims.

A snapshot of well-intentioned policy with horrific consequences? Take the case of mandatory minimum sentences. A series of federal and state laws passed through the late 1980s and early 1990s requires judges to pass minimum sentences for certain violations of drug laws, re-



By Scott Labby

cation for making various substances illegal. However, they amount to little more than good reasons to say no; as foundations for social policy, they make for rather weak arguments. So long as people are aware of and able to understand the risks involved, their choices are not the province of government. Though cliché by now, it is no less true that what people choose to do to themselves is usually not our business.

Ah, some would say, but what about when those actions encroach on the rights of others? Is it a good idea for bus drivers to use cocaine? Actually, it is not a good idea, and it is also not preferable that they snarf a pint of Cuervo Gold instead. When it comes to alcohol, we have chosen to pass laws dealing with context and conduct, not the actual activity. These are acceptable regulations and (perhaps more importantly) enforceable laws. History and modern society have taught us over and over that the prohibition of activities that are desired and common creates more problems than it solves, including spiraling costs, black markets, a swamped judiciary and disrespect for the law. More sobering yet, at least in regard to drug policy, is the fact that to save people from destroying their lives with drugs, we destroy their lives with criminal records and jail terms.

Most often, the self-appointed guardians of social virtue portray drug use as a symbol of social decay and immorality. I would offer that locking people up in cages as punishment for private activities fails the litmus test of civilization. As is too often the case, political necessities have prompted us to forego any attempt to untie the Gordian knot. Instead, we swipe at it hope-

gardless of circumstance. As a result, thousands of people have been sentenced to rot in jail for crimes against society that are difficult to define. In some cases, LSD users have been sentenced to jail terms ranging from 20 years to life as a result of mandatory-minimum laws that measure the drug possessed by weight.

The problem with LSD is hits are often taken along with mediums, such as sugar cubes. As a result, holding as little as three hits of acid in this manner is the same as carrying thousands of doses alone.

Minimum-sentencing laws attacking marijuana have created a scenario where heavy recreational users risk life imprisonment in several states. Most often, such individuals are guilty only of loitering, garbled syntax and bad fashion sense.

It is difficult to reason how being in jail would be better for them or society. Possession of crack (an urban drug used mainly by the poor) is met with much harsher penalties than powdered cocaine (a drug usually consumed by upwardly mobile urbanites and suburban teen-agers). Examples such as these not only demonstrate the ethical problems of criminalization, they also portray a system rife with inequality and lacking common sense.

Economically, socially and morally, the United States' drug policy is, at best, failing. At worst, it has become more destructive than the problem it was designed to address. Failure to realize this will continue to waste money and lives, collective tragedies made more tragic by the ease with which we might avoid them.

Scott Labby is a senior history major and is a columnist for The Maine Campus.

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The Maine Campus
UMaine's thrice-weekly newspaper

ENTERTAINMENT

Mr. GNU

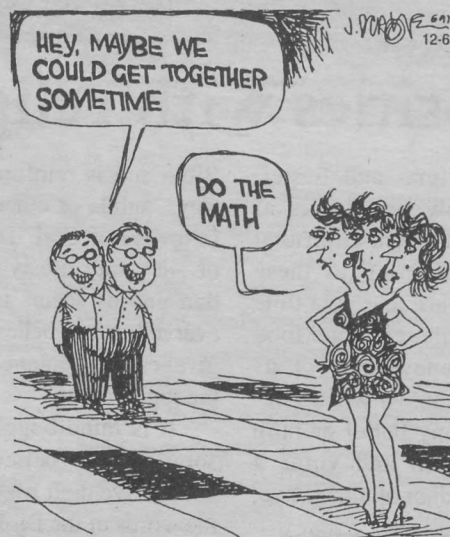
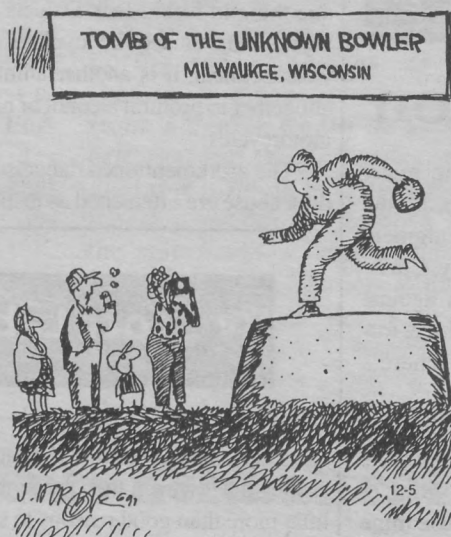


By Travis Dandro

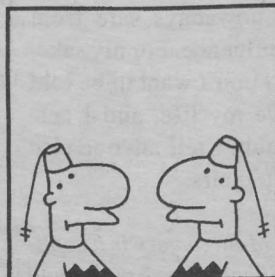
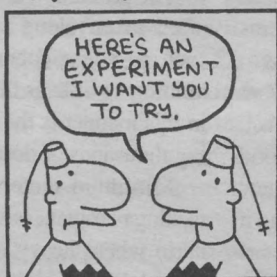
NON SEQUITUR



BY VIEV



LIFE IN HELL



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Your Daily Horoscope

By Sally Brompton

For Friday, December 5

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS TODAY: This year you will be confident without being cocky, patient without being passive. What you get you deserve, what you deserve you get—it is as simple as that. One way or another you will be successful this year. It's up to you to choose where and how.

ARIES (March 21- April 19): You will be put to the test this week, and you will pass with flying colors. Out of five major aspects over the next seven days, all but one of them will be positive. The one difficult aspect next weekend shouldn't pose too many problems.

TAURUS (April 20- May 20): You don't know what you can do until you are forced to do it. Isn't that just the story of your life? It certainly will be this week as the planets force you to react to events over which you appear to have no control.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Whatever crisis you faced in January appears to be done with, so don't waste time wondering if you could have dealt with it better. A new life awaits you, but you can't make a proper start until you're in the right frame of mind. Look forward, not backward this week.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): Family and finances must be dealt with positively this week, or the same old fears and feuds will be with you indefinitely. Helpful aspects will give you the courage to make a decision. By next weekend you should be on top of the situation.

LEO (July 23- Aug. 22): You like to be in the driver's seat, but you know that isn't possible at this moment. What is possible is that you give those who are making the decisions all the help they need. Opportunities come through those you live and work with. Do something for them, and they will do something for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23- Sept. 22): This may be a difficult week for you as planetary activity makes it apparent that you must scale down your ambitions or risk damaging your health. Believe it or not, this is a positive development in that your life has become far too complicated of late.

LIBRA (Sept. 23- Oct. 22): If you started something new recently, something of a creative or artistic nature, then it should be making excellent progress. If you are still trying to get every bit of the plan right before you begin, then you are wasting time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23- Nov. 21): You want so much to become the person you know you could be if only you had the opportunity to make the changes that are needed. There are opportunities to transform yourself in every direction this week, but the only person who can take advantage of them is you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21): There is no point in being set in your ways this week. So many things are going to change that the only sensible course of action is to make the best of whatever comes your way—and that could be anything. The changes will affect you as part of a group rather than as an individual.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22- Jan. 19): Between now and next weekend you should do everything in your power to get along with partners, loved ones, colleagues and employers. No one expects you to be a doormat, but it might be wise to keep a low profile.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20- Feb. 18): If last week was busy, then this week will be bursting with activity. There is so much going on in your life that you must be having trouble trying to keep on top of it all. You undoubtedly will manage, so don't stop now.

PISCES (Feb. 19- March 20): Don't worry if you feel left out over the next few days. You can easily live without the chaos that is going on around you. Watch and wait. What you observe will help in ways you had not expected, but not until some time after mid-February.

Your Daily Horoscope

By Sally Brompton

For Saturday, December 6

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS TODAY: What comes into your life over the next year will far outweigh what goes out, so don't waste time looking back when there are so many reasons to look forward. Remind yourself each morning that there are only 24 hours in every day — then make good use of them.

ARIES (March 21 - April 19): If you can, take it easy today. If you can't, pace yourself sensibly. You need to be on top of your game this week. You will do what you have to do regardless of how you feel, but you will do it better if you are fit and relaxed.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): You can and you must make your mark this week. You have been under pressure before, but this time important people are watching your every move. Don't think about what you are asked to do, just do it to the best of your ability.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): Planetary activity means you have an important role to play, a role that will inevitably affect the lives of many people. You may not want the responsibility, but you've got it, so use it wisely.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22): We only fear what we do not know. If there is something in your life that fills you with dread, find out as much about it as you possibly can. Once you know it inside and out it will hold no more terrors for you. You may even be embarrassed that you were scared of it at all.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22): You can't be a leader all the time. Even Leos occasionally have to do what they're told. Planetary activity means you should listen to those who know more about life than you do. It's not a matter of one person being better than another, it's a matter of common sense.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): It's almost spring so clear out all the junk you have hoarded in recent months. That doesn't, of course, mean real junk. It means the junk that's inside your head. You have too many ideas swirling around your brain. You can't possibly need them all.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22): Dive right in this week. Don't even think of the risks that you're taking. The momentum you build today will carry you through this week. Whatever you decide to do you will do it in a way it has never been done before.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21): Pay more attention to what family members want to do, even if it is the opposite of what you want to do. Luck will come via the people you are closest to, so it is common sense to work as a team. Deep down, you all want the same thing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): You are in tune with the spirit of the times: What you do for yourself you do for others; what you do for others you do for yourself. Don't worry too much about changing the world. The important thing is that you help those who are within arm's reach.

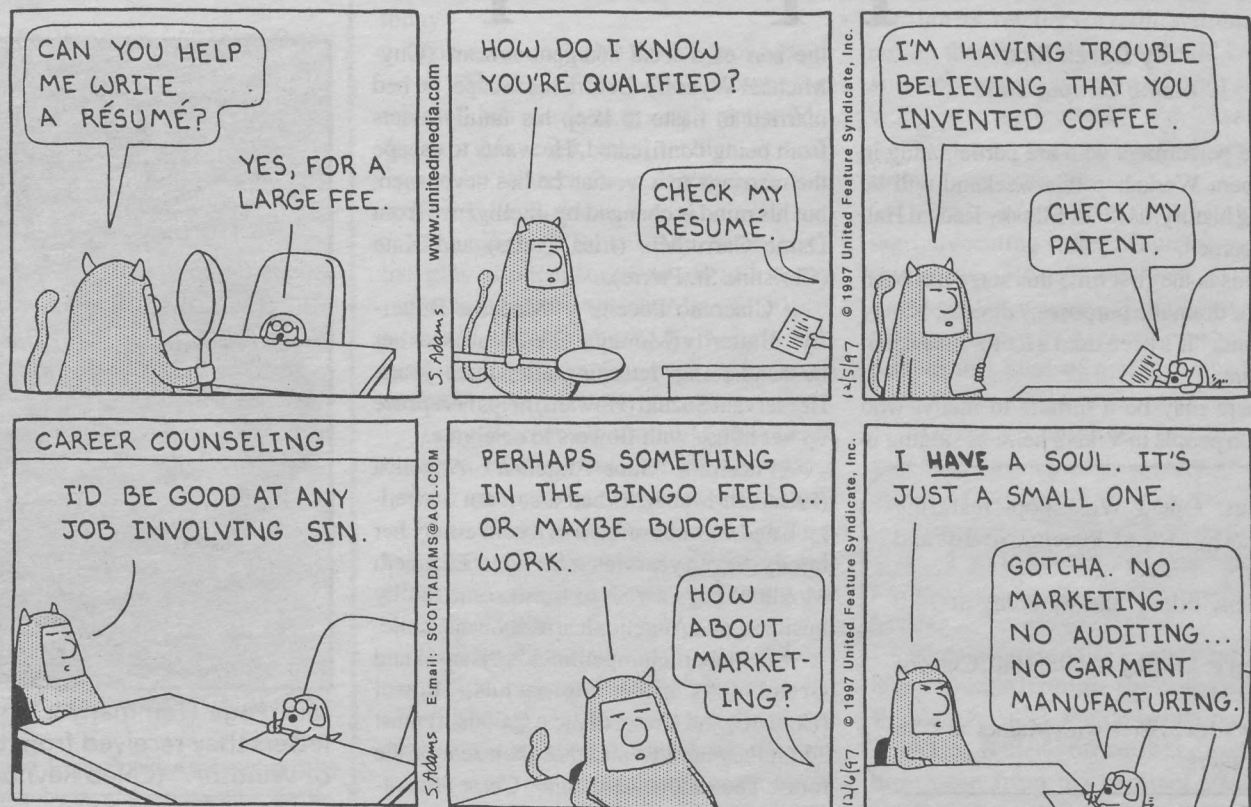
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Don't say or do too much today. This is a day for watching and waiting, for testing the wind to see which way it blows. Let others make the running and the inevitable mistakes — you don't need to put yourself in the firing line.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): You have something to say, something you think can't wait. If you say it today, your message is likely to fall on deaf ears. If you say it tomorrow, the world will sit up and listen. It may be agony holding on to it another 24 hours, but you can do it and it will be worth it.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Are you a haven of peace in an ocean of storms? Or are you being tossed from one wave to the next like a piece of broken driftwood? It all depends on your state of mind. A positive attitude won't change your circumstances for the better, but it will make them easier to deal with.

ENTERTAINMENT

DILBERT® by Scott Adams



New York Times Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Andean shrub
5 — Sanctum
9 Crayola color
14 Caspian Sea feeder
15 1966 Lennon-McCartney tune
16 "Hold your tongue!"
17 Refugee's request
20 "Murder, —" (1960 film)
21 Author Robert — Butler
22 Jazz trumpeter Baker
23 Skeptics
25 City on the Po
28 Fate
29 National Gallery

DOWN

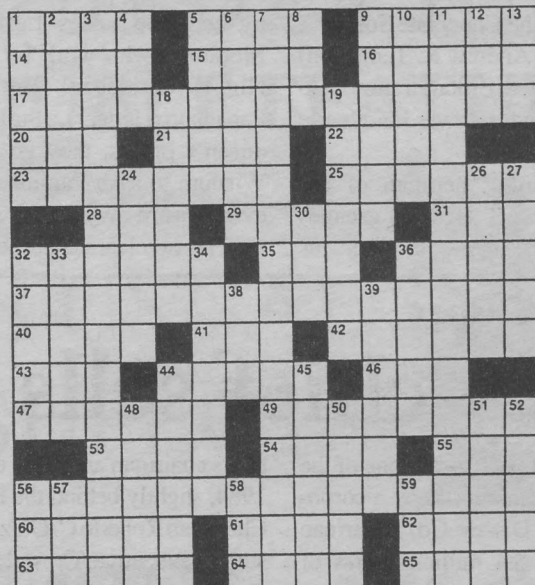
- 31 Slicker
32 Like fraudulent accidents
35 Milk source
36 Cartoonist Walker
37 Timber or water, for instance
40 Some train cargoes
41 "Undoubtedly"
42 Like the risk to bet on, maybe
43 "What a —!" (beach comment)
44 Reno game
46 "Chuang Tzu" principle
47 Prefix with sphere
49 Infamous pen

DOWN

- 53 Side in a 1980's war
54 Go bad
55 Chemical suffix
56 Modern air munition
60 Movie scorer Straus
61 Beclouds, with "up"
62 Controversial ripener
63 Verbose
64 Change machine fill
65 Rowlands of "Light of Day"

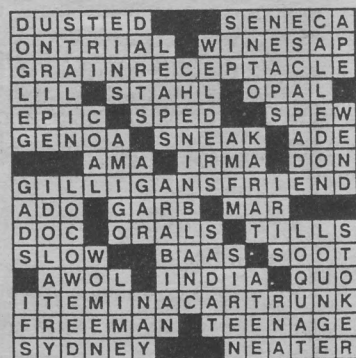
DOWN

- 1 One usually seen taking a bow
2 Town near Bangor
3 They're deemed worth taking
4 The People's Champ
5 Quick
6 Chicago suburb
7 Commuter hub
8 Completely
9 Gist
10 Industrialist Guggenheim
11 Babe Ruth, in 1914
12 French crown
13 "The One I Love" group
18 Barely walk



Puzzle by Chuck Deodene

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



- 19 Taylor or Hayes, e.g.
24 Counterfeit
26 Busters
27 Chamber group, perhaps
30 Knock out, so to speak
32 Brahmins
33 Place to see a hanged man, e.g.
34 Dawn-till-dusk
36 Marshal under Napoleon
38 Roarer
39 — about (publicly visible)
44 Without a cover at night
45 Gunk
48 Expanses
50 Garnish leaf
51 Pitcher, of a sort
52 Kind of crossing
56 Part of a trunk
57 — precaution
58 Subject of a grainy picture?
59 Nab

Corrections

To bring a correction to our attention, contact the Editor at 581-1271 between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon, or stop by the office on the fourth floor Chadbourne Hall.

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Style and the Arts

• Performance

Workshop puts opera in bite-sized pieces

By Derek Rice
Maine Campus staff

The performers who are participating in the Opera Workshop this weekend will be making history, as far as Minsky Recital Hall is concerned.

"This is the first time this stage has been used for dramatic purposes," director Nancy Ogle said. "It's been used a lot for music, but not drama."

Opera may be a turnoff to many, who envision people in Viking helmets singing in

What: Opera Workshop, featuring works by Mozart, Puccini, Strauss and others.

When: Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Minsky Recital Hall, Class of 1944 Hall.

How much: Free with MaineCard, \$3 for others.

either Italian or French. This is not the case with the workshop.

The program includes selections from the following:

- Otto Nicolai's "The Merry Wives of Windsor": In it, two wealthy women (Tina Cole and Tammany L. Shankle) have received letters of wooing from the same man. Being best friends, they realize the suitor is worthless and plan their revenge.

- Oscar Strauss' "The Chocolate Soldier": A Bulgarian soldier (Andrew R. Tennyson) is harbored by a mother (Erika Stratton) and her two daughters (Sandra Howard and Joelle Kamm Leavitt).

- Arthur Sullivan's "Yeoman of the Guard": Fairfax (Luke S. Hedger) escapes from a wrongful death sentence by posing as

the son of a local seargent-at-arms (Guy-Michael Wycoff). Before his escape, he had married in haste to keep his family assets from being confiscated. He wants to escape the marriage to a woman he has never seen, but his mind is changed by intelligence from Dame Carruthers (Lisa Trefts) and Kate (Christine St. Pierre).

- Giacomo Puccini's "Madame Butterfly": Butterfly (Monique Gibouleau) sees her husband's ship returning after three years. Her servant Suzuki (Howard) helps her spruce up her house with flowers to celebrate.

- Puccini's "Suor Angelica": Angelica (Elisabeth Marshall) had a son out of wedlock and was committed to a convent by her family. Seven years later, her aunt (Elizabeth Moulton) pays a visit to finish some family business, and Angelica learns about her child.

- Englebert Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel": As night approaches, Hansel (Howard) and Gretel (Tracie Callahan) must admit they are lost and face their fear of the forest. The Sandman (Shannon Chase) emerges from the shadows to help them sleep.

- Richard Strauss' "Der Rosenkavalier": Octavian (Amie Lavway) creates a scandal to save his beloved Sophie (Gibouleau) from an unseemly marriage. Octavian's former lover, the Marchallin (Rachel Mathieson) must dispel the rumor.

- Mozart's "The Magic Flute" encompasses the entire second set. Prince Tamino (Sterling Shepperd) is saved from a dragon by the Three Ladies (Lavway, Marshall and Moulton), who work for the Queen of the Night (Mathieson). He is befriended by Papageno (Hedger), a bird catcher. Under the queen's orders, they go to the Temple of Wisdom to save Pamina (Leavitt) from the evil Sarastro (Wycoff).

The two learn that the queen is actually



Mrs. Page (Tammany L. Shankle, left) and Mrs. Ford (Tina Cote) compare letters they received from the same man in a scene from "The Merry Wives of Windsor." (Caleb Raynor photo.)

the evil one and that she is trying to destroy the temple.

Alison Moore's piano accompaniment is the constant throughout each of the scenes.

The production fits better in Minsky Hall than it might in another venue. The acoustics in the room are excellent and lend themselves to the wide vocal ranges the performers exhibit.

The performers have obviously worked hard on the show. Their work has paid off with an enchanting set of operatic pieces that are a treat to the ear and the eye. They don't stand still and sing. Think of it as a play with singing.

Some of the scenes in the production represent some of the work done by students of the University of Maine Opera Workshop, MUO 132.

Because the hall has never been used for drama, there are some lighting drawbacks, as noted in the program, but lighting operator Brent Murray works well within the building's limitations.

The stage settings for each of the pieces are sparse, but they have to be: After each scene, performers not involved in the scene scurry onto the stage in the dark, transforming, say, a bedroom into a garden. The settings range from a flower on a bare stage to a bedroom, complete with a bed, dressing table, two chairs and a painting on an easel.

For anyone who either doesn't like opera or has never experienced it, this is the show to attend. The scenes are short for the opera-impaired and all the singing is in English. How can you go wrong?

• The rich get richer

Disney chief sells 5.4 million shares of stock

BURBANK, Calif. (AP) — In one of the largest stock option transactions by a corporate executive, Walt Disney Co. Chairman Michael Eisner sold 5.4 million shares of Disney stock.

Eisner bought 7.3 million shares at a fraction of their current market price, then sold most of them to Goldman, Sachs and Co., which will resell them to other investors. Based on Wednesday's closing price of \$95 3/16, the shares sold had a market value of \$514 million.

It was not clear exactly how much Eisner made from the transaction, but Graef S. "Bud" Crystal, an executive compensation expert who helped draft Eisner's contract, said it was unlikely that Eisner was paid the full market value for the giant block of stock.

The Los Angeles Times, citing unidentified sources, reported today that Eisner probably sold the stock for nearly \$93 a share. That would mean proceeds of about \$500 million for Eisner.

Eisner used his options, buying stock at 1989 prices or slightly above, for about \$130 million. Including stock splits since then, Disney stock averaged about \$25 per share in 1989.

The deal put Eisner in the range of \$1 billion in earnings since he was named Dis-

ney's chairman and chief executive officer in 1984, slightly behind the late Coca-Cola Co. Chairman Roberto C. Goizueta in earnings for a chief executive, Crystal said. He estimated Goizueta's earnings from Coca-Cola at \$1.3 billion.

"The exercise of the stock options granted to me in 1989, which are due to expire in about a year, will undoubtedly provoke much discussion," Eisner said in a statement.

"The profits reflect the remarkable growth of our company which our shareholders and I have been fortunate to enjoy over the past 13 1/2 years, which I hope and expect to continue," he said.

The stock options allowed Eisner to buy 5.5 million shares at \$17.14 per share, and 1.8 million shares at \$19.64 per share, said Disney spokesman John Dreyer.

He kept 1.6 million shares to add to his own holdings, boosting his position in Disney stock to 3.6 million shares from about 2 million shares.

He will also give away 300,000 to the Eisner Foundation, a charity to which Eisner donated 1 million Disney shares last month.

The stock options were part of a contract signed after Disney stock soared under Eisner's reign during the mid- and late 1980s.

That contract, and Eisner's current deal with Disney, hinges heavily on the company's performance. His base salary is \$750,000, a low figure for executives of such large companies.

Under Eisner's current contract, he has options on an additional 8 million shares, but

the option price on 3 million shares is above the market price at the time of signing. Disney's stock must increase in value in order for Eisner to make money on those shares. The remaining 5 million shares are worthless if the stock decreases in value.

From the home office at Beta Theta Pi

Top ten signs you should just call it quits for the semester

- 10) You just found out that the "M" on your mid-semester report does not stand for "magnificent."
- 9) Your adviser calls you at home and asks, "Can you run a Fry-o-lator?"
- 8) The faculty pitches in and rents you a U-haul.
- 7) When the chancellor speaks about raising academic standards, everyone looks at you.
- 6) When faced with the decision to buy a study guide or a bunch of lottery tickets, you know you stand a better chance with the tickets.
- 5) In a feeble attempt to get more for your books, you tell the book buy-back lady, in all honesty, they haven't been opened.
- 4) Basic training is starting to sound like a good idea.
- 3) President Hoff comes to your room and tells you you have until sundown to get out of town.
- 2) The only class you will pass is Ice 101.
- 1) You are on Bill Kennedy's Christmas card list.

By Eric Simonds

What's

Friday, Dec. 5

• "USF & W Fire Management in New England," part of the Forestry Noontime Seminar, noon, 204 Nutting Hall.

• University of Maine School of Performing Arts Yuletide Concert, 7:30 p.m., Hutchins Concert Hall, Maine Center for the Arts.

• University of Maine Opera Workshop, winter show, 7:30 p.m., Minsky Recital Hall. Call 581-1755 for more information.

• The UMaine Theatre department's production of "The Cherry Orchard" by Anton Chekhov, 7:30 p.m., Hauck Auditorium.

• The Wallflowers, with opening acts The Jayhawks and May Pole, 8 p.m., Alford Arena. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the Alford box office.

• Department of Art Faculty Exhibition, opening reception, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Carnegie Hall.

• Jim's Big Ego, 8 p.m., Left Bank Cafe, Blue Hill. Tickets are \$10.50 and \$5.50. Call 374-2201 for more information.

• Film "When the Cat's Away," 7:30 p.m., Grand Auditorium, Ellsworth. Call 667-9500 for information.

Saturday, Dec. 6

• "The Nutcracker," presented by Bangor Symphony Orchestra and Robinson Ballet Company, 2 p.m., Maine Center for the Arts. Another show

will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$16 to \$25 and reservations can be made by calling 942-5555 or 1-800-639-3221.

• UMaine Opera Workshop, 7:30 p.m., Minsky Recital Hall.

• Double feature: "The Usual Suspects," 6:30 p.m., and "Pulp Fiction" (Director's cut), 8:45 p.m., 100 Donald P. Corbett Business Building. Admission is \$1 with MaineCard and \$3 for all others.

• "When the Cat's Away," 7:30 p.m., Grand Auditorium.

• "The Cherry Orchard," 7:30 p.m., Hauck Auditorium.

• Jim's Big Ego, 8 p.m., Left Bank Cafe, Blue Hill.

Sunday, Dec. 7

• Christmas Caroling at Orono Common Nursing Home, sponsored by Circle K. To participate, meet at 10:30 a.m. in front of the information desk on the second floor of Memorial Union.

• "The Nutcracker," 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., Maine Center for the Arts.

• "The Cherry Orchard," 2 p.m., Hauck Auditorium.

• "When the Cat's Away," 7:30 p.m., Grand Auditorium.

• Colby Symphony Orchestra Young People's Concert, "Peter and the Wolf," 7 p.m., Lorimer Chapel, Colby College. Call 872-3236 for information.

• Ted and Ruth Booke present a joint reading of the poetry of Erich Kastner, 4 p.m., Left Bank Cafe. Admission is \$3.

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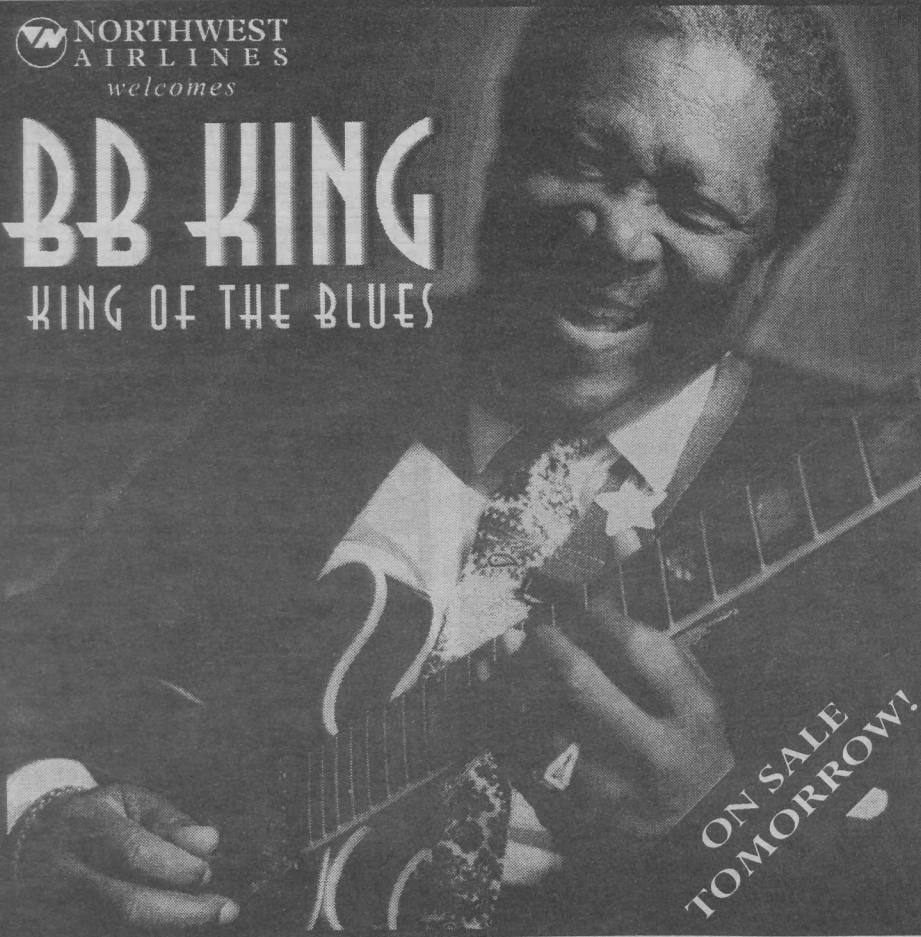
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Controversy

Lyrics trouble company again

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Time Warner Inc., heavily criticized for selling a record called "Cop Killer" several years ago, has come under attack for promoting a song that some say advocates domestic violence, the Los Angeles Times reported today.

The song, on the hit British group Prodigy's "The Fat of the Land" album, was released last week as a single under Madonna's Maverick label, which is half-owned by Warner Bros. Records, a division of Time Warner.

The single, "Smack My Bitch Up," has played uncensored on about a dozen radio stations nationwide. Also, 3,000 promotional posters make the song's title lyric into a slogan for display in record stores.

Time Warner Chairman Gerald Levin declined to comment, but the newspaper quoted sources as saying that top officials in Time Warner's music division did not know the company financed the song's marketing campaign until receiving a call from the Times.

Prodigy producer Liam Howlett defends the single, saying the title phrase is not about hitting women. He said the phrase means "doing anything intensely, like being on stage — going for extreme manic energy." The phrase was electronically lifted from a 1980s rap song.

Prodigy also made a music video for the song — featuring images of women being manhandled and a scene in which drugs are injected — which Warner Bros. refused to finance.

The song passed through Warner's in-

ternal review committee, which decided the album did not need to be sold with a parental advisory sticker.

Bob Merlis, a spokesman for Warner Bros. Records, said the company has not received complaints about the song from consumers, retailers or radio stations. "The notion that this song lyric would create an atmosphere for anyone to commit an act of violence is far-fetched," Merlis said.

Not so, according to the National Organization for Women.

"This is a dangerous and offensive message advocating violence against women," said Janice Rocco, president of NOW's Los Angeles chapter. "I think it is deplorable for Madonna's record company to be putting this kind of message out into the mainstream music market."

Madonna's publicist, Liz Rosenberg, said Madonna would never restrict the creativity of any act under Maverick's label.

"The Fat of the Land" debuted in April at No. 1 on Billboard's national pop chart and has sold 2 million copies in the United States.

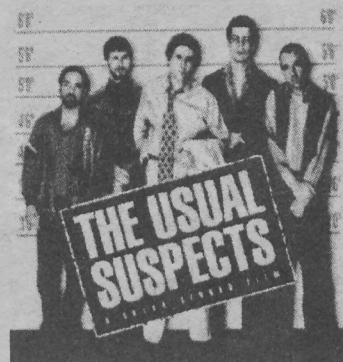
Violent or sexually explicit lyrics have dogged record companies, especially Time Warner. In 1993, the company pulled Ice-T's "Cop Killer" off store shelves and cut him loose from his contract after police organizations threatened a Time Warner boycott.

Two years later, Time Warner sold its stake in Interscope Records following its distribution of music by rappers Dr. Dre and Snoop Doggy Dogg that purportedly promote gang violence and degradation of women.

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• Endorsements

Product tie-ins give Bond license to sell

BOSTON (AP) — James Bond is everywhere. There's 007 outrunning bad guys on his BMW motorcycle, sipping a Smirnoff vodka martini (shaken, not stirred), making a call on his Ericsson cell phone.

What about his new movie? It won't be out for another two weeks. But products that have cameo roles in "Tomorrow Never Dies" are already being heavily advertised in an all-out license to sell.

The strategy, while not new, seems to reach new extremes with the Bond movie. Agreements with eight "promotional partners" got the film \$100 million worth of publicity before MGM had spent a dime on marketing.

And the manufacturers are happy because they get to turn the suave, debonair man of intrigue into a human billboard, making it hard to tell where the advertising ends and the movie hype begins.

MGM executive vice president Karen

Sortito bristled at the suggestion that the deal is somehow unusual.

"You need to put products in movies to make them realistic. Why shouldn't we get something out of it?" she said. "This is a guy who's been picking up gadgets and getting in cool cars for decades. Do they really want us to scratch out the logos?"

Indeed, placing products in Hollywood movies has evolved into a fine art since 1982, when an unpaid appearance by Reese's Pieces in "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial" was followed by an increase in sales of the candy.

Getting companies to pay for shots featuring their products now routinely helps studios defray marketing costs, which have skyrocketed to between \$15 million and \$50 million a movie.

"Everyone today in the entertainment business is trying to figure out how to leverage their marketing budgets because

it's becoming so expensive," said Al Lieberman, director of New York University's entertainment and media program.

"Tomorrow Never Dies" could use some leverage. It cost \$100 million to produce and is being released Dec. 19, right in the heart of the crowded Christmas movie season.

In addition to BMW, Ericsson and Omega, MGM approved Bond ad campaigns for Smirnoff vodka, Heineken beer, Avis rental cars, Visa credit cards and L'Oreal cosmetics.

"James Bond uses his Ericsson for all his close calls," reads the kicker on one full-page newspaper that shows a movie still of actor Pierce Brosnan on a cellular phone.

In a Smirnoff magazine ad, twists of lemon floating in a martini spell out "007." The ads highlight a long-standing penchant for vodka martinis that goes

back to Bond No. 1, Sean Connery.

On television, the familiar Bond guitar riff plays over a chase scene from the movie as an off-screen announcer warns viewers not to try the stunt at home. The product: the BMW Cruiser motorcycle Bond is riding.

BMW returned to the Bond franchise after successfully using the previous Bond film, "Goldeneye," to help launch its Z3 Roadster.

"About 10,000 pre-orders were directly attributable to the film," said Jack Pitney, a company spokesman. "It was by any measure a smash success."

Like other partners, BMW did not pay the studio a placement fee, but agreed to promote the movie in its ads. In all, MGM got \$48 million worth of movie promotions in the United States and \$52 million overseas before launching its own multi-million-dollar "direct" campaign, Sortito said.

In turn, the products hitch their wagons to the movie in an attempt to profit from what the industry calls a "halo effect."

What if "Tomorrow Never Dies" dies at the box office?

Said Boston University communications professor Tobe Berkovitz: "If the movie turns out to be late-night TV fodder, then you get a loser halo."

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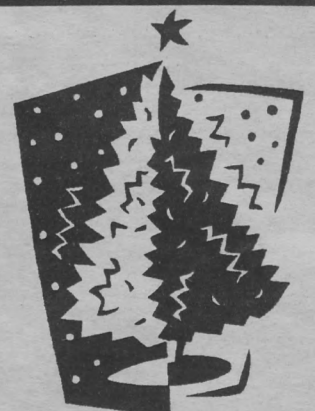
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SPORTS PAGE



Maine's Kristen McCormick drives past UMass' Alison MacFarland during last night's game. (Claeb Raynor photo.)

• Men's hockey

Bears begin road trip

By Bill Stewart
Maine Campus staff

The University of Maine men's hockey team will strive for some consistency this weekend when they travel to Providence College for a weekend series with the Friars.

The Black Bears have experienced a stretch of games in which they have struggled to find harmony, having lost four of their last seven games.

"We'll see what team shows up," Maine coach Shawn Walsh said. "It's a mental thing right now and all we can do is try to just play hard."

These will be the final meetings of the year between the two schools as Maine defeated Providence 6-3 November 1 in Orono. It also marks the first time this season the Bears will play a Hockey East contest on the road.

The Friars have enjoyed some early season success having dropped just one game in their last nine outings.

"We've been finding ways to win which is nice," Providence coach Paul Pooley said. "We're learning while we're winning."

The Black Bears have been working on flow drills this week in practice with emphasis on improving team speed. However, Walsh also acknowledged that team defense is still a concern.

"We have to play defense," Walsh said. "Providence is grinders and we're going to have to bring our legs to beat them. They play physical so we'll have to be able to skate."

Although the schools have met this year, the scenery will be different with the series shifting to southern New England.

"Sometimes teams are different at home," Maine captain Shawn Wansborough said. "We don't have too much trouble with them in our rink."

Historically, Providence plays a more trap-oriented type of game with efforts concentrated on frustrating opposing teams by containing their speed. However, while playing in Schneider Arena, the Friars could throw a different style at the Black Bears.

"They play a trap or a two-man forecheck," Maine goalie Bryan Masotta said. "If they are trapping we'll have to control our turnovers."

Providence will also look to establish a physical presence around the boards, in particular, in the corners.

"They love to cycle the puck down low," Defenseman David Cullen said. "They are tough at home and we'll have to tighten up defensively."

"They work well in the offensive zone and they will attack us in the corners," forward Jason Vitorino said. "We have to be patient and play strong defensively."

The Friars are led by a trio of talent up front coupled with an abundance of role players. Mike Omicioli is off to a hot start leading the team in scoring with 22 points. Fernando Pisani and Jon Cameron also provide some offense up front having combined for 30 points.

"Omicioli has played well," Pooley said. "However, we haven't had anyone say 'this is my team and I'll take it over.'"

The Friars have received some strong performances from goalie Boyd Ballard as well. He was named Hockey East goaltender of the month for posting a 5-1-1 record in November.

"Ballard was undefeated in his first six games and he has just found ways to stop the puck," Pooley said. "He's also found ways to win."

Leading the Black Bears this season is junior forward Steve Kariya. Kariya leads

See MEN'S HOCKEY on page 14

• Women's basketball

Maine rolls past UMass

Continued from page 1

I think we got our butts kicked. We backpedaled 39 minutes out of the game. We let Cindy go and do her thing. We played their game instead of trying to play our game," UMass head coach Joanie O'Brien said.

O'Brien said that her club did a poor job in trying to stop Blodgett from going left, and bring her back to going to her right hand, something she attributed to a young team learning discipline.

Amy Vachon, seven points and seven assists, perhaps has the best per-

sons in college.

"She can do things that people can't do. When I have the ball and she's on fire, I know I am going to get her the ball because she is going to make it. It's fun to be able to play with someone like Cindy," Vachon said.

Blodgett reflected on what passing Bouchard meant to her, saying had it not been for the Maine alum bringing a winning atmosphere to the school, she probably would not have come here.

"I don't get to talk a lot about her. When I was younger growing up, I saw her play and saw what she was doing here at the University, and they were a winning team," Blodgett said.

Maine opened up the game with a 27-5 run, with Blodgett contributing 19. She would score nine more points to end the half with 28 on 10-of-11 shooting, and five-of-five from three-point range.

The second half was a basket-for-basket game, with UMass picking up six three-pointers. They still, however, shot 32% from the floor, and went 35% for the game.

Maine hit on 57% from the floor in the game, and outrebounded UMass 42-30.

"I think we got our butts kicked," -UMass head coach Joanie O'Brien.

spective on her senior backcourt partner, having played against her in the Cony/Lawrence high school games and playing alongside her the past two sea-

• Women's hockey

Bowdoin doubles up Maine

By Dave Bailey
Maine Campus staff

In the yearly Battle of the Bears, it was the Polar Bears who showed considerably more growl than the Black Bears.

Bowdoin College rang up four second-period goals to claw past the University of Maine in a 6-3 women's hockey victory Wednesday night in Brunswick.

Maine center Alison Lorenz said that Bowdoin was able to take advantage of its opportunities.

"They got a couple of good bounces, and they worked really hard," Lorenz, who had an assist on the evening, said. "We slowed down and we got a little sluggish, and it hurt us."

"We had two of our three things that we need [to win] break down," Maine coach Rick Filighera said. "We got our opportunistic scoring, but our defensive zone coverage broke down a few times, and our goaltending was average instead of above-average, which we needed to be."

"I know that's a lot of pressure on our goalies, but that's something that we're going to need in order to be successful."

The loss drops Maine to 0-2-1 in the ECAC Alliance, 1-2-1 overall. Bowdoin is

now 1-3-1 overall.

Alicia Gilmore notched two goals for the Black Bears, while Alana Ahearn dished out two assists.

After a scoreless first period, Maine drew first blood 58 seconds into the second on Christina Hedges' power-play goal.

The Polar Bears emerged from their igloo after that, however, scoring three goals in a six-minute span.

Maine closed the gap at the 10:58 mark of the second on the power play when Gilmore tallied her first goal. Bowdoin pushed the lead back up to two goals less than a minute later, but Gilmore struck again to narrow the score to 4-3 Bowdoin after two periods.

"I felt we had chance when we made it 3-2," Filighera said. "They made it 4-2 two minutes later, and I thought that kind of hurt us."

In the third, Bowdoin tacked on two more goals to leave Maine buried in ice shavings.

Maine goaltender Amy Oliver (1-2-1) made 41 saves, marking her second consecutive 40-save game.

See HOCKEY on page 15

FROM THE DEN

The first woman to receive a basketball scholarship at the University of Maine was Paula Whitney in 1975. Whitney attended Central High School and resided in East Corinth.



Men's hockey

from page 13

the Bears in scoring with 26 points in 12 games. Pooley said that his Friars will be wary of Kariya's line when they take the ice.

"We're going to pay close attention to

him (Kariya) although I don't know if it is possible to stop him," Pooley said. "That line with (Scott) Parmentier and Wansborough is very good. You have to be careful when they are on the ice."

Paw Prints

Look for Masotta in net Friday night with a decision for Saturday still pending. Masotta and Alfie Michaud have split the duties in net recently. Masotta

beat the Friars earlier this year in Orono where he earned his first victory over a Hockey East opponent as a member of the Black Bears.

Masotta's strengths rest in the way he handles the puck, which is critical when playing a crash-the-net type team with a gritty mental make-up such as the Friars.

The Black Bears' power play has cooled off a little, but still presents itself as a dangerous component of their offense.

The Bears have scored 30 power play goals this year in 79 chances. Don't think Pooley hasn't noticed.

"We can't play a special teams game," Pooley said. "We have to stay out of the box and we want to play them five on five."

Kariya and Parmentier are both closing in on reaching the century mark in total points. Kariya needs two points while Parmentier needs seven to eclipse that milestone.

Providence has not defeated Maine on its home ice since Nov. 10, 1995.

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Maine guard Fred Meeks puts one down during Tuesday nights win over Hartford. (Raynor file photo.)

• Men's basketball

Bears to battle Falcons

By Jim Davis
Maine Campus staff

The University of Maine men's basketball team will look for some midwest hospitality tonight as they battle Bowling Green at the Pizza Hut Classic in Missouri.

Maine is coming off an important 93-82 early season conference win over the University of Hartford Tuesday.

In that contest, the Bears were led by the self-proclaimed "Starsky and Hutch" of guards, Fred Meeks and Marcus Wills.

While Meeks scored 22 points before fouling out in the second half, Wills put the Hawks defense under arrest with his 29 point outburst, settling the dispute, for at least one night, that "Starsky" is the better half.

The Black Bears were BETTER LED by Alan Ledbetter's monster 24 point, 18 rebound dominance of Hawk 6-foot-8 forward Ryan Howse.

While Howse managed a team high 27 points and 14 rebounds, many of his points were achieved at unimportant phases of the contest.

Maine will vacate the Pinetree State for its second road trip of the season after pit-stopping into Alford for a one-night stand. The Black Bears are just 1-2 on the road this year and hope to take advantage of the momentum created from the recent victory.

The Pizza Hut Classic is a tournament that features four teams: Bowling Green 1-2, Maine 3-2, SW Missouri 1-3, and Texas-San Antonio 2-2.

All of the schools are Division-1 competitors, with Bowling Green representing

the schools with the most basketball tradition.

Tonight the Black Bears will face the Falcons while SW Missouri and Texas-San Antonio will face off directly after.

The Falcons are led by junior center Kirk Cowan who averages 14.3 points and 9.7 rebounds per game.

Tomorrow night will feature a consolation game, which matches up the two losing teams, and the championship game between the winners.

Black Bear Notes: UMaine quarterback Mickey Fein joined the team this week and saw about three minutes of action in Tuesday's game.

Fein's presence on the team gives coach Giannini an extra body on a thin bench and will provide another option for giving the starters a breather.

Freshman forward **Colin Haynes** averaged 30.5 minutes, 10.3 rebounds and 5.8 points per game entering the Hartford match-up.

In 32 minutes of action, Haynes pulled down 8 boards and scored 7 points, including a clutch 5-for-5 performance from the free throw stripe.

Sophomore guard **Corey Thibodeau** has continued to light a spark from the Black Bear bench. The Old Town native stuck three critical bombs from beyond the arc and finished the game with 9 points in 24 minutes of play.

Stat Fact: The last time Maine played Bowling Green was back in the 1984-85 season where the Falcons tipped the Bears 55-53.

Hockey

from page 13

Maine will attempt to rebound this weekend when it visits two more division rivals: Amherst (Saturday) and Williams (Sunday). Both teams share identical 0-2-0 records in Alliance play through last week.

According to Lorenz, Maine will have to bear down in order to come out on top.

"We're definitely going to have to work hard," Lorenz said. "We're definitely at a disadvantage because of our small numbers [18 players], but that doesn't mean anything."

"I think we can win both games this weekend, but we're really going to have to really want to win them and we're going to have to work as a team."

Filighera will try to add some spark to

the sagging offense by shifting a defenseman to one of the wing posts, possibly Christina Hedges, who has two goals so far this season.

"She's very offensive-minded," Filighera said. "Hopefully that will help us score some more goals and take some pressure off that second line."

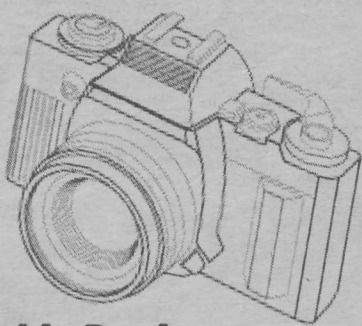
Filighera said he is hoping the Bears will have more bite in them the next time the whistle blows.

"We also got to do a little better job in our own end of the rink," he said. "We're going to work on being a little more aggressive in our end of the rink."

In other news, forward Michelle Young's chronic leg injury has flared up again and she will sit out this weekend's games.

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• Column

Foxboro's environment has no equal

By Jim Davis
Maine Campus staff

There's a lot of debate concerning which professional sport holds the finest atmosphere for witnessing a game.

Within this debate lie the components of which facility is most accommodating, the excitement that the particular sport creates, and the overall emotions that attending the live event extracts.

Two Sundays ago I made the pilgrimage down I-95 with my Dad, Uncle, and two cousins, to catch the New England Patriots and Miami Dolphins at Foxboro Stadium.

There was a strange anticipation in the spacious forest green Plymouth Voyager as the Massachusetts border neared our grasp.

We stopped at Buster's Road Diner, just a worm's crawl from our destination, and had the typical greasy macho breakfast: two slimy yoke-packed eggs, barbecued steak tips, twelve pieces of dry toast and a mountain of Buster's best golden home fries.

Before the grease could settle we were entering the Patriot traffic zone. The parking lots, some miles from the stadium, were scattered with football hard-cores guzzling beer while perched on rickety tail gates telling war tales of football's yesteryear.

Traffic cops planted in the middle of the highway were directing determined motorists replicating Patriot missiles locked in for destruction.

Each car or truck we passed, or were hastily passed by, wore the colors of the beloved red, white and blue. Fans waved banners and sported their favorite Patriot bumperstickers and even went as far as waving the team's flag.

Suddenly there it was. Robert Kraft's playpen. The immense towering lights that shown down on the infrastructure of Foxboro Stadium mesmerized my attention like a deer in headlights.

This gargantuan entity sucked in the Voyager like the Death Star's magnetic field in *Star Wars*.

After paying one of Mr. Kraft's pawns fifteen dollars to park our portable party ride we set out for a plot of land to claim.

The drive through this square-mile ghetto was caked with frozen warriors searching for nirvana with the aid of a dripping cheeseburger and a bitter cold Budweiser.

It was an hour and a half until game time and it was our turn to set up camp. Up went the back hatch, out came the mesquite barbeque chips and a twelve pack of Miller Lite. The weather was numbing and there was a legitimate need to get an edge on mother nature.

After a few cold ones, and enough shivers to supply the state of Florida with a nervous breakdown, we trekked uphill to the golden gates of the NFL experience.

This entailed lots of skillful shuffling through unkind hoards of fans who had waited all season to witness the Bledsoe-Marino rematch.

With each tense step I took up the soaked concrete stairs on the southside end zone I could feel zaps of electricity released from 60,000 psycho ancestral pilgrims supporting Adam Vinatieri's booming kick-off.

After some searching we found our section and row and zoned in on the excitement of what can only be described as the gath-

ering of a city of people within the confines of a kingdom.

It was as if the game was a secondary matter. To look around at the mass of red and blue sprinkled like salt and pepper bellowing out deafening cheers on almost every play was surreal.

The atmosphere of this event eliminated the cold and forced me to appreciate how important American sports are in society.

The middle-aged heavy-set man with the grizzly mustache who sat behind us hated Drew Bledsoe. He wanted to dismember the quarterback's arm after every play but he never left his seat for one snap.

NFL games are like that. They require a different commitment from the average fan. I've been to the Boston Garden to watch the Celtics and I've seen the Red Sox at Fenway Park. Each has its own mystique and history.

Being outdoors in the frigid late November air sharing the cheers and jeers of a football game with complete strangers gives the NFL an edge over all other sports. There is no close second.

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