

Spring 2-25-2008

Maine Campus February 25 2008

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the maine campus

Monday, February 25, 2008 Vol. 126, No. 31

Former UMaine student charged in homicides

Drop out confesses to arson, killing family members

By Eryk Salvaggio

A former University of Maine student has been charged with murder and arson after confessing to killing his mother, step-father and half-brother and attempting to burn down their house.

Matthew Cushing, 22, was a history major who was a student from fall 2005 until last semester, according to Joe Carr of University Relations.

The victims include Carol and Christopher Bolduc, both 42, and Joshua Bolduc, 15, who was a freshman at Old Orchard Beach High School.

Friday, police found a blood-stained knife in a backpack at Cushing's residence in Old Town. DNA tests conducted by the Maine State Police Crime Lab confirmed that Cushing's blood was found in Carol Bolduc's Toyota 4Runner.

Cushing was charged with stabbing the victims, and investigators found a melted gas can and a cigarette lighter at the scene of the crime on Friday. Evidence was found in two parts of the house where fires had been intentionally lit.

An employee at the Bolduc's flag store told police that the family had been arguing about Cushing's desire to drop out of college and backpack through Europe. The Bolducs felt Cushing should remain in school.

The affidavit stated that Carol Bolduc spotted Cushing's vehicle at a dog park in Old Orchard Beach before the fire. Carol Bolduc called Christopher Bolduc to tell him. When Christopher Bolduc called her later in the day, no one answered, and he told employees he was going home to check on his family.

Two hours later, a neighbor reported a fire at their residence, and responders found the three bodies in the house.

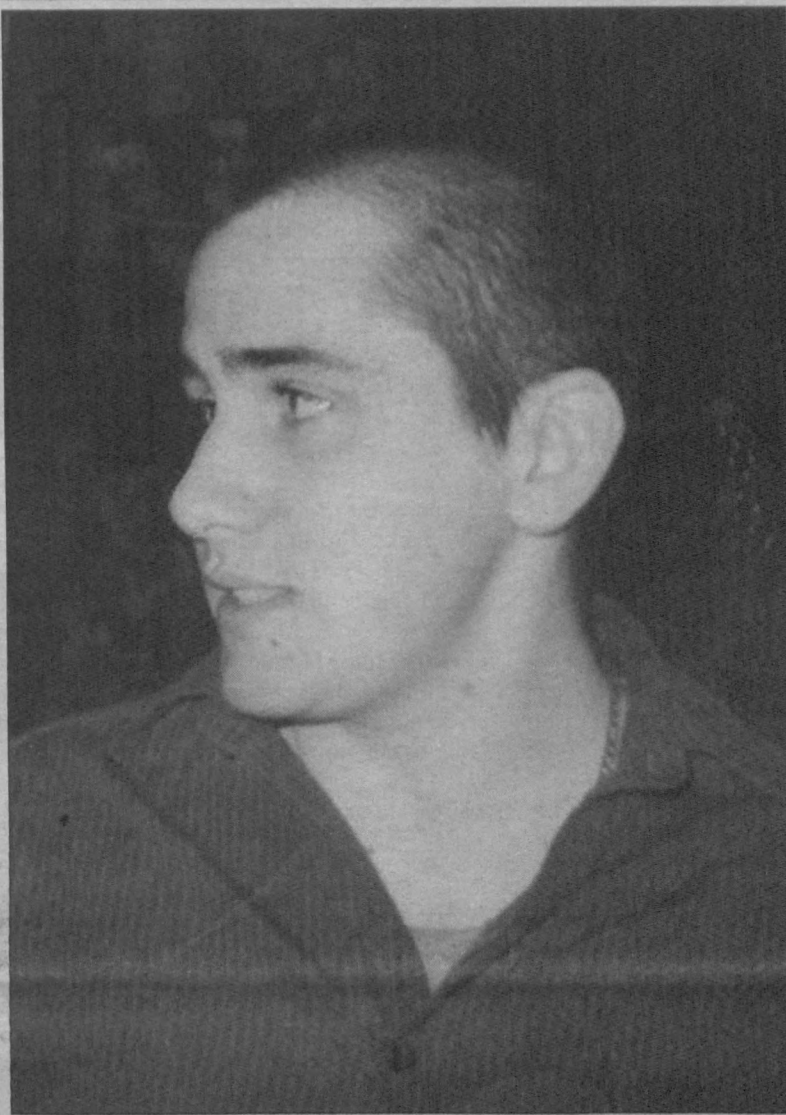
Cushing had told police he was "depressed and emotionally charged" on Friday and that he had planned to confront his biological father, Paul Cushing, about his past, but initially stated that he had not been to Old Orchard Beach. When he was re-interviewed at the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, he confessed to the crimes. Court Affidavits did not explain his motives.

Officer Theresa Fife of the York County Jail said he is being held at the facility pending his initial appearance in Superior Court on Feb. 25.

Cushing's facebook profile pointed to a possible temper, using the word "rageholic" to describe himself.

Dean Robert Dana said anyone upset by the events can get services in the counseling center.

Meghan Hayward contributed to this report.



Matthew Cushing — Photo courtesy of Facebook

Class registration process to change

Millions of dollars invested into changing from DSIS to PeopleSoft

By Rhiannon Sawtelle

Students at all seven University of Maine System (UMS) schools can expect a change in the class registration process next month. Currently, UMS is preparing to move class registration from WebDSIS to MaineStreet.

This has been more than a 10-year process and has cost the university system millions of dollars.

Although there are a few important decisions left to be made about the switch, students will be able to register for classes with the new system this spring.

MaineStreet is a program used to edit biographical information. It will offer more self-service opportunities, better security systems and easier language for users.

See **REGISTRATION** on page 7

Wood panels help to protect soldiers

Engineers make portable, temporary housing — aids with natural disasters

By Joseph Hegarty

The staff at the Advanced Engineered Wood Composites (AEWC) Center at the University of Maine have come up with the next big innovation in wood technology. This includes technology that will not only help the Army, but people living in dangerous climates, hurricane victims or earthquake-prone areas.

"Basically what we have been asked to do here is design a blast-proof building," said Research and Development Program Manager Larry Parent who is also the link between UMaine and the Army. According to graduate student Tony Dumais, the students and professors achieved this by "redesigning the way wood breaks."

By using a new method, which takes three-to-five hours, the wooden side panels, which make up the structure, are coated in a thin layer of resin mixed with other chemicals; this increases the wood's ability to absorb the impact of an IED (Improvised Explosive Device).

This changes the wood from its naturally brittle state, to a more ductile two-by-four. When coated with the resin, wood will bend like a steel rod.

"That is our and the military's main goal in this process, we want to be able to help those people living on the West Coast

See **WOOD** on page 7

RIAA sends letters to 32 UM students

More than 400 pre-litigation offers to 12 universities to combat illegal filesharing

By Jessica Fish

A group of Student Government officers met with university officials last week to discuss how the RIAA is tracking students and what the university can do to stop illegal file sharing. The RIAA sent an additional round of letters to students in

"We'll defend students who are in trouble, but we won't help them break the law."

Kelley Wiltbank
University of Maine
System Counsel

recent weeks, including 32 to the University of Maine System. UMaine is directly involved in the process of finding students who have been accused by the RIAA of illegal downloading and file-sharing. UMaine has a responsibility to alert students who have been tagged by the recording industry, but is not responsible for identifying those students.

Most of the time, students are notified in the form of "take-

See **RIAA** on page 7

Cutler is testing its patients

Health Center offers free blood pressure tests to UM community

By Kathleen Dame

Cutler Health Center staff were on hand Wednesday to measure blood pressure at the University of Maine Facilities Management building.

The free blood pressure clinic took place from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., and was held in the conference room of Facilities Management.

Facilities Management holds an overall-health screening annually to check blood pressure and cholesterol.

The clinic was scheduled for February in recognition of Heart Health Month, said HealthyU Program Manager Erin Whitehouse.

The HealthyU employee-wellness program sponsored the event Wednesday and another blood pressure clinic at Hilltop Commons from

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Levasseur said the goal of holding clinics in different places is to allow more people to attend, at their convenience.

UMaine employees were the main attendees of the clinic.

"I see a whole range of people," Levasseur said. "From trade shop staff to professional staff in the building."

The blood pressure clinic was to help employees make healthy choices and get involved in healthy groups, Levasseur said.

Three more free blood pressure clinics have been scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 27, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the Walker Room of the Memorial Union, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center (AEWC) and from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at York Commons.

Japanese students explore UM

Exchange provides cultural opportunity for two communities

By Emily Southwick

Fourteen Japanese students are at the University of Maine for the next two weeks through the Intensive English Institute's (IEI) Hirosaki exchange program and have had plenty of culture shocks already.

Laura Jones-Katz is the students' language instructor and has been coordinating daily hour-long conversation groups for the students to interact with UMaine students and brush up on their English.

"I think programs like the Hirosaki exchange are incredibly important, not only for the Japanese students who have the opportunity to live and learn in our culture, but also for those of us who have the chance to learn from them," Jones-Katz said.

The exchange students are staying with host families in Orono during their visit. Jones-Katz said this is the most important element of the program as students see Maine culture while staying with American families.

The common reaction among all the students upon arriving in America was the size of everything.

"My first impression of the U.S. was that it is very, very large," said Ayano Yoshida, 19, from Hirosaki.

Eiko Uchida, 20, from Niigata, explained other cultural differences. "The houses in Maine are different than in Japan, and there are many kinds of

cars. In Japan, we see only Japanese or German cars," she also noted differences in American students. "Japanese students are not independent like American students," Uchida said. "Sometimes they don't speak their minds."

Chris Mares, director of IEI, designed the initial exchange program, which began eight years ago. He feels the program is important for students "because it is an opportunity to immerse oneself in both language and culture. You get to 'feel' a country. It is not possible to duplicate this experience in any other way."

Hirosaki University, the school the program is coordinated with, is one of UMaine's sister schools. According to Mares, Hirosaki wanted to offer their students an intensive language experience option and also a way to experience the culture of the United States.

The three-week program consists of three hours daily of classroom time, during which the students study language and culture. During lunch, the Japanese students pair up with UMaine students for conversation. Mares said this one-on-one time, along with the host family experience has been a great success for the exchange students and helps them adjust to their new surroundings.

Students also travel around the area for field trips. This week, they will spend a day at Brewer Middle School and another day at the Maine Bound climbing wall.

See JAPANESE on page 6

Admins acknowledge flaws with PeopleSoft

SG execs meet to discuss their concerns

By Nick McCrea

Weaknesses of the new class registration system were a main topic at a meeting between Student Government (SG) executives and University of Maine administrators. Provost Edna Szymanski said there is a chance the system will crash if too many people try to access it at once, as is always the case on registration nights.

Changes in the registration procedure are being worked out to avoid overworking the system. "We don't know exact details yet," Szymanski said. "We're going to get these concerns ironed out as quickly as possible."

UMaine administrators knew of these problems since the first phases of planning for the switch.

"The problem is we're planning with other campuses and we hadn't been able to schedule a meeting to talk about how we're going to solve this thing until very recently," Szymanski said.

SG President Steven Moran expressed his hope to strengthen legal services to UMaine students.

"The way the system is, our attorney can only give advice," Moran said. "We're hoping to expand the service so that the attorney can actually go beyond that and represent the student."

The expected cost of this expansion is between \$15,000 and \$20,000, according to Moran. The money comes from the Student Activity fee. He said students do not utilize the legal services to their capacity and expanding the attorney's legal reach could benefit students.

Moran said the university reached its quota for Zipcar revenue this month, but he was concerned that Spring Break would put a damper on hitting the quota for March.

"We had a [financial] buffer for situations like this, but the accidents kind of killed that," Moran said.

Moran was referring to two car accidents that put each Zipcar out of commission for brief periods last semester.

Moran also brought up the idea of moving the parking-permit process online. Vice President for Administration and Finance Janet Waldron chuckled after Moran finished explaining the plan and brought up the \$17,000 in fees and additional, ongoing support costs that would come along with this switch.

Moving the process online would shorten lines outside the Student Services Center at the beginning of the school year and cut down on the paperwork and administrative requirements.

"I'm supportive of the goal you're talking about, I'm just wondering about the right way to go about it," Waldron said.

Vice President of SG James Lyons gave an update on General Student Senate. This is the first semester in anyone's memory that the senate has been full for three consecutive meetings.

"I'd guess the last time was probably 1868," Dean of Students Robert Dana joked.

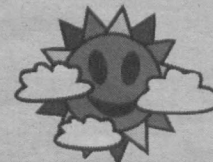
"Yeah, probably, when all four of the students here were on Senate," Moran said.

WEATHER

Orono's five-day forecast

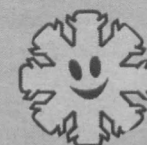
Monday | Partly cloudy

37 21
high low



Tuesday | Snow

35 30
high low



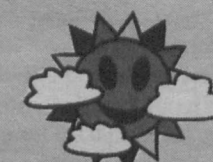
Wednesday | Snow

31 12
high low



Thursday | Partly cloudy

18 2
high low



Friday | Partly cloudy

19 17
high low



Community Calendar

MONDAY

Next
Generation
Bio-fuel
1:00 p.m.

Soderberg Auditorium,
Jenness Hall
By Cesar Grande of Texas
A&M on the economic
and environmental bene-
fits of cellulosic ethanol.
Offered by the Forrest
Bioproducts Research
Initiative.

FEB
25

TUESDAY

Discussion and
Book Signing
with Henry
Garfield
4:30 p.m.

Bookstore
Author, journalist and
adjunct professor Hank
Garfield will discuss and
sign his novels.

FEB
26

WEDNESDAY

Community
Forum
12:00 p.m.
Coe Room,
Memorial Union
On the 2008 Presidential
election. Free snacks and
beverages. Hosted by Pi
Sigma Alpha.

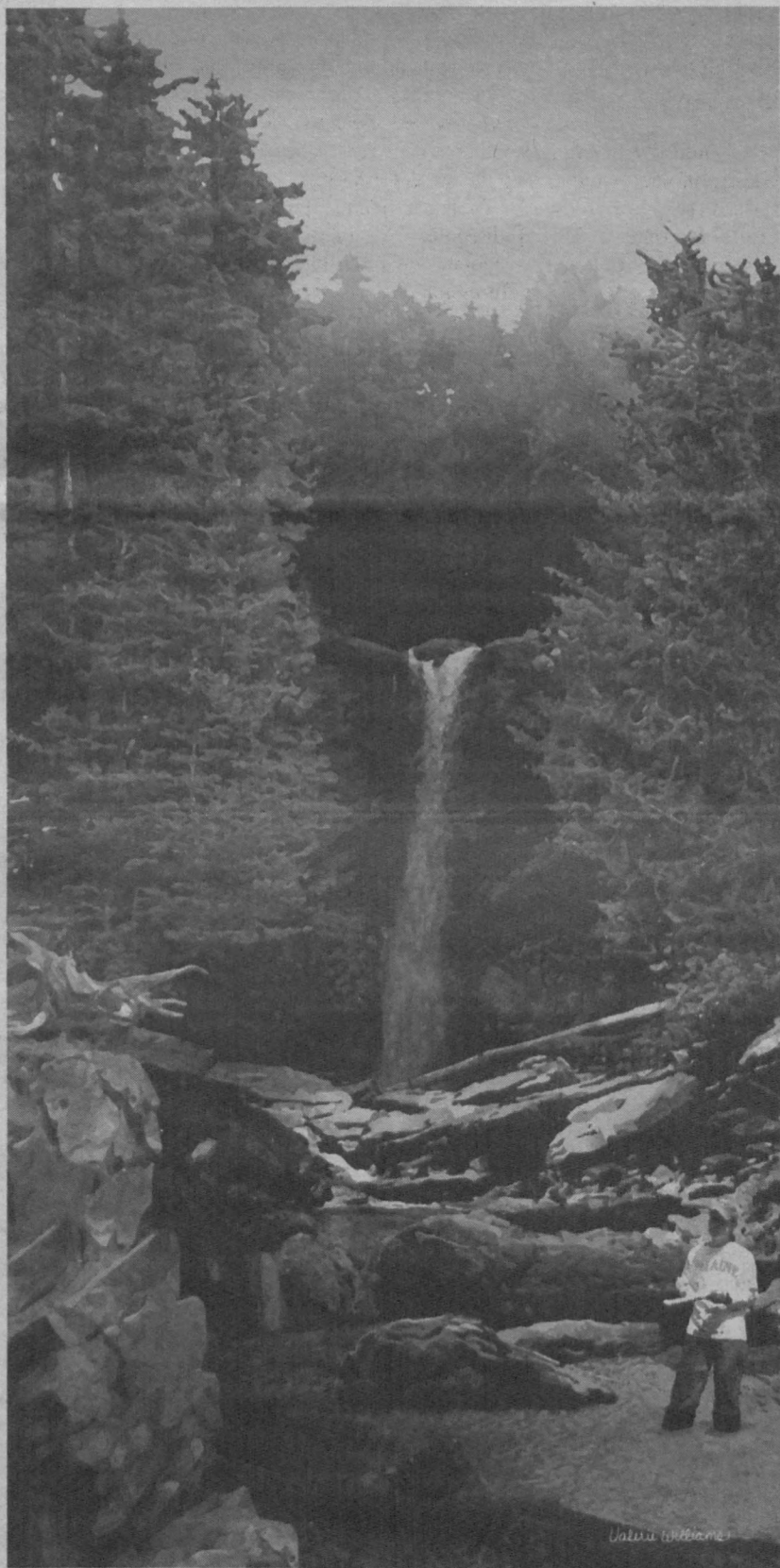
FEB
27

To submit your event to The Maine Campus Community Calendar, please send time, day, date, location and fee information to news@mainecampus.com or drop it off in our offices, located in the basement of Memorial Union. Deadlines for submissions are 9 a.m. Sunday for Monday publication and 9 a.m. Wednesday for Thursday publication.

Why Attend Summer University?

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- Take Advantage of Lower Tuition \$ Before Fall Increases
- Enjoy Smaller Class Sizes
- Be Inside During Black Fly Season
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- Take An Online Course at Home While on Summer Break
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- Take a Course Outside Your Major
- Find Plentiful Parking!!
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UMaine
2008 Summer University



A Member of the University of Maine System

Word of mouth

After recent events, how safe do you feel on campus?

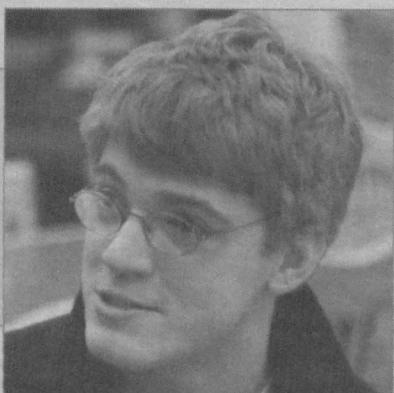


I always feel safe here.

Robyn Tinkham
Social work

Perfectly safe. There's the probability issue...

James Lyons
Biochemistry and
Political Science



I get nervous, but I have a sense of security with this campus.

Danielle Murray
Sociology

I feel pretty safe. We have the siren and stuff.

Travis Hall
Elementary education

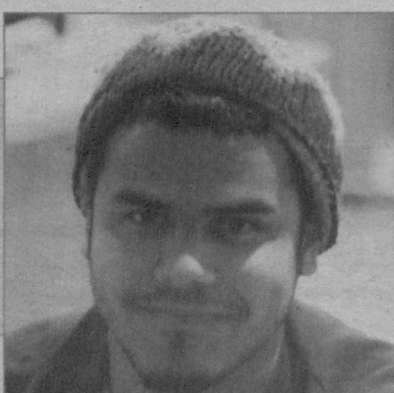


I feel fairly safe. You can pretty much walk around by yourself at night as long as you're careful.

Ruth Stoddard
Marine Biology

I'm not afraid anything is going to happen.

Marco Fernandes
Undeclared



Student feedback on the Web matches in-class evaluations

UMaine researchers say RateMyProfessors.com makes the grade

By Chelsea Cameron

Is RateMyProfessors.com as relevant as an in-class evaluation? Two professors at the University of Maine wanted to find out. They decided to do a study comparing the formal evaluations students are given at the end of each semester to less-formal Web site evaluations, like those on RateMyProfessors.com.

Ted Coladarci, interim director for the Office of Institutional Studies and professor of educational psychology, and Irv Kornfield, professor of biology and molecular forensics, conducted the study.

This is the first known study comparing these two types of student evaluations. Initially, they expected that they would not find any relation between the two, since RateMyProfessors.com is such an informal evaluation.

"I actually was hoping to find a low correlation, if any," Coladarci said. "My own bias was that [RateMyProfessors.com] was bogus."

At the time they conducted the study, Coladarci was a professor of educational psychology, so neither he or Kornfield had access to student evaluations. Phil Pratt, associate director of the Office of Institutional Studies, collected evaluations from 426 professors at UMaine, excluding teaching assistants and graduate-level instructors. The names were removed, and they matched up the evaluations with the ratings from the Web site then analyzed the ratings. In order to find a correlation, Coladarci and Kornfield matched up questions from the paper evaluations and those that asked for the similar information from the Web site. For example, item 13, which was the overall rating of the instructor on the paper evaluation, was matched with the RateMyProfessors.com rating of "overall quality." One element from the Web site that is not measured by the in-class evaluations is the "hotness" rating.

What the researchers found was a strong correlation between item 13 on the in-class evaluations and the RateMyProfessors.com rating of overall quality. "It was statistically significant," Kornfield said. They did find some professors were rated high on their in-class evaluations but did not receive high ratings on

RateMyProfessors.com and vice versa. As Coladarci and Kornfield say in their article, "the inevitability of many false negatives serves as an important cautionary note for RMP users."

According to Coladarci, about 2,800 people have viewed the study from the online journal, which published it in May 2007. They chose an online journal because the turnaround is fast, but Kornfield said his one regret with publication was that "If we had a more dramatic title, I think it would have been more publicized."

They have received responses from all over the United States. Coladarci said that a colleague in North Carolina e-mailed him saying that he was using the study as a framework for discussions of in-class evaluations. "That's actually the best thing that could happen," Kornfield said.

Coladarci and Kornfield have also looked at the evaluation form itself and re-formulated it. The old form had 29 questions. The new form consists of 19. They also left more room for specific comments and got rid of redundant questions. Only a few departments are using the new forms, since they need approval before they can replace the other system.

Academic journals and forums have debated the accuracy and validity of Web sites like RateMyProfessors.com, according to Kornfield. When it comes to the ratings on these Web sites, "I think student comments are more brutal. It seems to me they feel less inhibited on the Internet," Coladarci said. Kornfield added that anyone can post on these places, including professors themselves. "There's that sort of fuzzy factor that goes along with it," Kornfield said.

Rachel Garbe, a second-year nursing major, has used RateMyProfessors.com many times. Once she did not take a class because the professor had a bad rating. There are high and low ratings on both, but she said she thought the in-class evaluations were more accurate. "Probably the kids are extreme on both. I think that RateMyProfessors.com is less accurate because on the evaluations there is a lot more detail."

The study is published at: pareonline.net/getvn.asp?v=12&n=6.

A right to bear arms on campus?

Tragedy motivates a clash of gun control and public safety concerns

By Meghan Hayward

When events like the school shootings last year at Virginia Tech (VT) and more recently, at Northern Illinois University (NIU) occur, it does not just affect the students at those colleges. It affects students across the nation, even those here at the University of Maine.

"When an event of this magnitude happens, I focus on how the university and I can be of assistance to UMaine students," Dean of Students Robert Dana said. "I sent out a campus-wide e-mail informing students and faculty of the services available to them."

Since the shootings at VT, UMaine has worked to update its emergency plans and brought the UMaine.txt and emergency siren to campus.

"We're always practicing our emergency plan," Dana said. "If ever such a horrific event happened here, we want to be fully prepared and be able to alert students as soon as possible."

The siren was tested in early fall, and Dana said everything went smoothly and as planned. The university has tested UMaine.txt several times since its start up.

"Our only disappointment with the UMaine.txt is we were hoping more people would sign-up for the service," said Joe Carr of University Relations.

Despite the precautions UMaine has taken, there is still some doubt amongst students.

Shortly after the NIU shootings, several students began posting to the UMaine forum. Trevor Taylor, a fourth-year biology major, made a post that received several replies. Taylor believes those who are able to legally carry a concealed gun outside of campus should be able to carry one on campus if they choose, including class.

"I also feel that anyone, whether on or off campus, that gets a concealed weapon for self-defense should enroll in combat training of some sort," Taylor said. "However, I do feel as though guns should be kept away from dorms, fraternities and sororities."

Taylor said his post was advocating consistency between the laws for concealed weapons that apply to campus and those that apply to off campus.

"Right now I feel this needed consistency is lacking, and it may prevent responsible, trained people from protecting themselves if they choose," Taylor said.

His post still angered some students. Matthew Leavitt, a fourth-year new-media major, was one of the students who disagreed with his post.

"I rarely post to the forum, but after reading Taylor's response, felt I had to respond," Leavitt said. "I would feel less safe on this campus knowing that my fellow peers were carrying weapons, trained or not."

Trevor Taylor
Fourth-year
Biology major

Even though Taylor suggested the idea of carrying a gun in self-defense, he did say, overall, he feels safe at UMaine. "This event certainly made me think about things such as the right to bear arms in various places," he said.

Dana's biggest concern with this topic is the safety issue. "This could ultimately lead to a student with a weapon hurting themselves and others," he said.

Students and faculty who are upset are encouraged to contact the UMaine Counseling Center, the Employee Assistance Program or one of the UMaine campus ministers.

"I've been told that students have recently used the counseling center, which is what it's here for," Dana said. "In instances like this it is good to know that you have services available to offer your campus."

"This event certainly made me think about things such as the right to bear arms in various places."

Tree life spans are shortened by disease

UM researchers are investigating cures

By Erin Rice

A lecture at the Page Farm and Home Museum discussed the circumstances surrounding the domino effect that certain factors have on the increased death rate of Maine's trees.

Disease, pests and unique weather are harming Maine's trees. Dr. William Livingston, an associate professor in forest resources, has been researching the cause behind dieback in tree species such as, Spruce, White Pine, Brown Ash and Beech.

In the case of White Pines, growing in old fields results in shallow rooting, predisposing them to severe droughts, disease and fungi.

"Fungi coming in, and insects coming into the stem of the tree and actually end up killing the tree but we call them secondary," Livingston said. "The drought is what really incited the disease."

This pattern seems to continue for the other species as well. The Balsam Fir shares the Woolly Adelgid insect with the Hemlock and others.

According to the Maine Forest Service page on the www.maine.gov Web site, "While Balsam Woolly Adelgid is frequently limited by cold winter temperatures, the mild winters of the 1990s and early 2000s allowed this pest to attain damaging levels. Entire stands of mature Balsam as well as under story Fir have been killed in many areas of the state."

Beech Bark Disease is wreaking havoc on the Beech trees of Maine. "Since 1993 in Aroostook County, half the strands of Beech are dying off," Livingston said.

"They're just not as abundant as they used to be," said Patricia Henner, director of the Page Farm and Home Museum.

The tree decline may be due to the climate change. Henner has actually proven that some of the decline in the trees is because of the warming trend.

Harmful insects, such as the Woolly Adelgid, are killed by cold temperatures.

"Pests, insects establish a population, and then changes in the climate; warmer winters favoring the insects, weakening the trees and then a drought occurring and the combination of the two is just too much for the trees," Livingston said.

A significant part of Maine's economy includes the lumber, pulp and paper industries, which rely heavily on a healthy tree population.

The Page Farm and Home Museum located on campus holds lectures and events, such as the Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series. The purpose of the series and other events is "part of our educational mission. A lot of the time we use it to disseminate current research to the public; we use it as a form to discuss agricultural issues," Henner said.

Can UMaine bring the humanities to Orono?

Lecturer encourages university to reach out

By Derek Dobachesky

Jay Mechling, a professor of humanities at the University of California, Davis, addressed the topic of how universities can utilize the humanities to serve functions at land-grant institutions Wednesday in the Bangor Room of Memorial Union. Mechling spoke for more than 30 attendees.

Mechling outlined what he called the concrete tools the humanities have to offer for meaningful citizenship: cultural and social capital and what he calls "affective capital." He offered suggestions on how universities could carry out their obligations as land-grant institutions by spreading knowledge of the humanities in their communities.

Mechling touched upon the purpose of land-grant institutions, which were initially established by the federal government loaning land to state governments in the Morrill Act of 1962. The University of Maine is one of these universities. Under the act, and since then, the purpose of these institutions is to benefit the people of the state as well as its student body.

According to Mechling, part of serving a population is to challenge the worldviews of those who attend the institutions.

"The encounter with the humanities often challenges and disturbs the person's taken-for-granted world, shattering their ethnocentrism and introducing them to the ways other people see the world," Mechling said.

In addition to serving campuses, Mechling has sought to utilize the humanities to aid the outside communities as a professor.

"We needed to envision a partnership in which knowledge

See MECHLING on page 6

Police Beat



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

Oh, deer!

A witness reported an accident Feb. 21 at 6:42 p.m. on Rangely Road involving a Chevy Lumina and a deer. Driver Christian Hanson, 21, Orono, suffered \$400 in damages to the front of his car. The deer suffered death.

Stealing the plate

When a student returned to his parked car in the Steam Plant lot Friday at 4:45 p.m., he noticed his front Massachusetts license plate was stolen. The car had been unattended for the past week.

A lot can happen in a week

After leaving her Subaru Forester in the Aroostook parking lot on Feb. 14, a female student

discovered a dent on her right front fender. The student contacted police on Feb. 21. The police believe the dent to be the result of a low-impact accident and are investigating the hit and run, which resulted in damages totaling \$200.

Walking speakers

Upon returning to Androscoggin from her 4:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. class on Feb. 19, a student discovered \$55 and two computer speakers missing from her room. Her roommate's eight-inch computer speakers are valued at \$50.

Compiled by Melinda Hart

www.maineecampus.com

2008 University of Maine

MATHEMATICS CONTEST

All undergraduates are eligible (among last years winners were biology, business, engineering, mathematics, computer science, psychology, physics, and other majors).

Different problems are set for three categories of students: freshmen, sophomores & juniors, and seniors.

Prizes in each category are:

1st prize - \$250

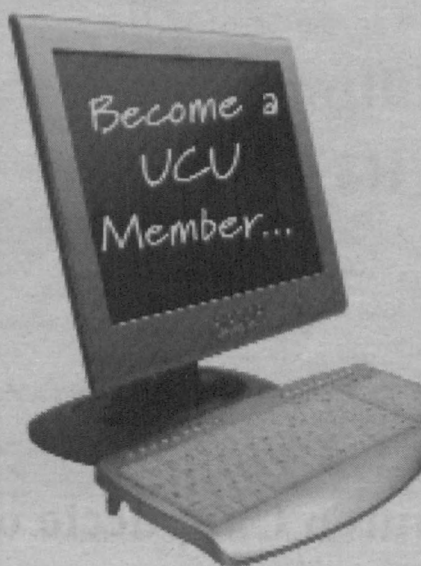
2nd prize - \$100

3rd prize - \$50

Deadline: Monday, March 24th

Get the problems from the Department of Mathematics & Statistics website

www.math.umaine.edu



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Braving the Antarctic, UM profs find climate changes

University professors go trend spotting on ice continent

By Eric Cotton

One of the virtues of peeling back layers of time is that each moment can be revealed to show the big picture.

The idea that humans cause global warming through green house gas emission has been further posited by an experiment done by a team of scientists drilling ice in western Antarctica. The continent is one of the world's driest places — the coldest desert.

The drilling location was chosen for its abundant snowfall and high-resolution climate data available there, according to Karl Kreutz, associate professor of paleoclimatology at the University of Maine. This means a smaller climate change on short time scales can be seen. This is similar to the annual rings inside cross sections of a tree trunk.

Kreutz added that the measure of green house gases in relation to dust in the atmosphere would be seen in detail that has never existed before. Crude oil drilling technology was used in the late '60s. Those sample cores are rudimentary in contrast with the results exhibited by today's technology.

The point of this experiment was to witness an ice core which holds shorter time intervals. The short time intervals are critical because they hold the key to what the trend is in climate change during the relatively small period in time-encompassing human civilization. The latest sample from the University of Wisconsin goes back 100,000 years. The

team needs year-by-year data, instead of century to century.

Researchers look for differences between each layer ascending through the ice sheet. They found a difference in the distribution of debris, large and small, how many dust grains, among other data. This can indicate how strong the wind is blowing, where the wind is blowing and where the dust is coming from.

Kreutz stated that scientists are in agreement that global warming is a reality which we all have to face and that humans are perpetuating it further. We know this because the dust and chemicals that are recognized as green house gases are rising commensurate with the global temperature record in the most recent location in the chart configured from the data.

Karl said that the use of these ice sheets is the best way to research the content in the atmosphere. This is because every thing that stays in the atmosphere for a long enough time will eventually end up in Antarctica.

The latest major volcanic eruptions and the radiation emitted from the damage done at the Chernobyl Nuclear reactor in 1986 can be retrieved from the Antarctic ice sheets. This data can be compiled to be compared with the climate model calculations done previous to the core sampling. If enough data confirms what climatologists have already studied, the scientific community would have an asset in climate and weather prediction for the future.

Mechling

from page 4

gave examples of achieving this flow of knowledge citing an assignment he gives students to document citizens' everyday lives by writing nonfiction essays and poems.

He suggested having graduate students help community organizations such as theaters and libraries to draft grant proposals. Both programs were implemented at the University of California, Davis, and could serve as models for other land-grant institutions, according to Mechling.

"I thought his specific suggestions were both creative and do-able and he has enough experience in California to be able back up the legitimacy of what he suggests," Segal said.

Michael Palmer, a political science professor at UMaine, caused some stirring in the audience during his line of questioning, which included the assertion that most Maine residents without college educations have better moral sense than the faculty at UMaine. Criticizing the lecture, he said it included "nothing particularly objectionable, but was superficial: did not even touch upon the serious crisis in the humanities in today's universities."

Laura Lindenfeld, an assistant professor in communications, organized the lecture, which was sponsored by the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center and Library, the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series, the Center for Teaching Excellence, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Department of Communication and Journalism.

flows both ways," Mechling said.

Japanese

from page 2

As part of the transition from Japan to Maine, and to help overcome the culture shock, the students read and watch "Anne of Green Gables."

"Anne also has to deal with the culture shock of joining a new family and community," Jones-Katz explained. "Our goal is to try and turn that into open discussion, some laughter and eventually a better understanding of this new environment."

Though the 14 students hail from different parts of Japan, they are all in Maine for one common purpose — to improve their English skills and expand their view of the world.

"I came to Maine because I want to brush up on my English skills," said Ai Shimoyama, a 19 year old from Hirosaki majoring in humanities. "I want to learn about Maine's culture and history. I'm interested in everything about Maine. My college in Japan is smaller than UMaine, but I think the atmosphere is very similar. It's comfortable for me."

The students found several differences between Japanese and Maine college culture strange and humorous.

"I have difficulty adjusting to the fact that I can't take a bath in the morning," Yasumasa Uehama, 22, of Hirosaki said. In Japan, he is used to being able to take long, relaxed baths in the morning; a stark contrast to the rushed showers college students squeeze in right before classes.

A final consensus all of the students reached is that American food is not nearly as good as Japanese cuisine.

"I miss Japanese food," Uehama said candidly. "It is better than American food. My first impression of the U.S. is that the food is big and not that good."

Help Cure Childhood Cancer!

St. Jude Informational Meeting



Tuesday, February 26

Muti-Purpose Room
Memorial Union

9:30am Breakfast meeting
FREE coffee & donuts

-or-

1:00pm Lunch meeting
FREE pizza & soda

We're looking
for
officers
& members

THE HARRABA HUGGINS BOWELL 45
CENTER FOR SERVICE & VOLUNTEERISM

Can't make it?
Have Questions?

E-mail Lauren Cappuccio on First Class

THE DIVISION OF
Student Affairs



Adrianne Hess ♦ The Maine Campus

International Dancer Nadia Bikoi performs in a group line to "Circle of Life."

RIAA

from page 1

down" letters, which tell students that they have been caught file-sharing. In 2006, more than 800 of these letters were sent, according to University of Maine System Counsel Kelley Wiltbank. If students are caught downloading illegally again, the next step is a litigation notice.

"We don't enjoy being warrant officers for the RIAA," said System Chief Information Officer for UMaine Ralph Caruso, "but by not advising students, we are being even less helpful."

Last semester, the General Student Senate sent a recommendation to the university that students' IP addresses be reset every month in order to prevent the RIAA from tracking what students are doing. Vice President of Student Entertainment Derek Mitchell said the idea has been used successfully at the University of Nebraska.

Wiltbank said such a solution presented an ethical dilemma. "Changing our method to assist in illegal downloading violates professional ethics — we'll defend students who are in trouble, but we won't help them break the law."

Alternative methods of legal downloading were discussed at the meeting, including "Rukus." At rukus.com, college students can sign up to listen to any music they want for free. The Web site is ad-supported and the music cannot be downloaded unless the student buys a monthly subscription.

"That means you can listen to it for free online from

your computer, but cannot take it off your computer. So it's not a perfect solution — definitely not a way to stock your iPod — but it does offer all the music you want, free of charge," said Mitchell.

Another solution was proposed by Student Body President Steve Moran. All students are required to sign an Acceptable Use Policy for Internet access at the beginning of the fall semester. Moran suggested that a second screen could be added that would pop up before the policy, outlining the consequences for students who are caught downloading illegally.

"Students aren't stupid — if you give them the facts, they'll listen," said Gimbala Sankare, President of the Class of 2010.

In the meantime, media attention has been given to students who have had to pay money to the RIAA in settlement fees. The last group of 10 students charged with illegal file-sharing took their case to court, hoping to get the charges dismissed. The magistrate judge decided in favor of the RIAA, and now it will be several more months of legal processing before the students can appeal the judge's recommendation to a higher court.

"We do care about kids who get caught," said Wiltbank. "We've ID'd attorneys for them to go to, pointed them in the right direction." However, the decision to share files ultimately rests in the hands of students, and there is little UMaine officials can do to prevent that besides issue "takedowns."

"Being in a growing technological world we have needs that are not being met with DSIS ... It was developed in the mid '80s and was a great product for the time, but things change very quickly in the technology world," said Orono Director of

Registration

from page 1

Student Records, Tammy Light.

MaineStreet will also tie all seven campuses together in one system. This will allow students who take classes at more than one campus to share their information more easily.

Eventually, almost all student and staff departments will be available on MaineStreet. Grading will be available in December and the financial aid department will be accessible through the system next January.

Students will be notified of changes through FirstClass e-mails and postings later this week.

"There may be some drastic changes to the registration schedule from the way we've done business in the past. These decisions will be made over the next week due to current load testing on this new system. We need to be cautious this first registration," Light said.

Registration will still be staggered by class, allowing seniors to have first pick, but this will be done online and with college departments. Calling to register will no longer be available.

"We are really training the college offices to help their departments. The staff has been involved with testing and each college will have Student Records staff on hand to help," Light said.

In a meeting last week between Student Government and the president's office, Provost Edna Szymanski said that all seven University of Maine System universities had met earlier in the week to discuss possible problems with the new system. Concern of the system crashing if too many people try to register at once was the biggest unease.

Current frustrations with registration on DSIS may be in the past if the system works as planned.

"We've been testing in a sterile environment but you never know what will happen when the real world starts using this. I think next year at this time, the start of the third registration, we will love the product. Change is always hard. I think students will get more and more abilities as we have more time to open up new characteristics for students," Light said.

Major decisions and changes remain in the air about the new registration until later this week. Students, faculty and staff can expect to hear results by the end of the week.

Wood

from page 1

dealing with earthquakes and for families whose homes are in "Tornado Alley;" there are just so many uses," Associate Professor for the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Roberto Anido-Lopez said. This could help local industry by having companies already producing wood begin producing this higher quality product.

Members of the team have perfected the process to the point that the wood is now twice as strong and can absorb six to seven times the amount of energy as a regular wooden panel, significantly improving the structure's ability to withstand a blast.

Daniel Thomas is a graduate student involved in the design of the project, "by optimizing the functionality of the connections and cutting down on parts, you are also cutting down on weight." He said this is important because these buildings are put up using manpower.

"The Army wants to have these buildings not be permanent, by making them not only safer but much easier to assemble and disassemble, the troops can set them up and break them down as often as they need to," said Lopez-Anido.

In July, a team of a dozen students, professors and other faculty members traveled to Louisiana's Fort Pote for additional test blasting.

The Army was so impressed with the results that they asked the group to come back with an updated model to test in August. The building had some kinks, which needed work in that time.

"Basically we found that we had over-designed the connections, so what we did when we came back was simplified them. Now we are using the same size bolt for each connection point, which is actually a smaller gauge than we had been previously using," Dan Thomas said. This helps in the optimization of the strength and weight of the building. The buildings had exceeded the Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) standards for anti-terrorist protection. "This is the first time the Army has ever had such light-weight, high-strength material," AEWC Director Habib Dagher said. "This could potentially change the very way our Army deploys its troops."

The AEWC is working on a machine that can produce this product in a cost-effective manner. They are building a machine to coat the wood, when this happens, it will allow the technology to be applied to other fields. Hurricane proofing, tornado protection and earthquake-proof buildings, will all be possible using these methods.

The group won first place last year at the American Composites Manufacturing Association conference as "best of the best" for their work with ballistic tent panels for the Army.

Maine is one of the nation's leaders in wood production, and UMaine is at the forefront of wood technology.

"The future of our economy is innovation," Dagher said. "We employ only the most team-oriented and committed students, who have shown excellent work in the class room; to our projects." When the Army came to the AEWC for help redesigning the structures that housed the troops, weapons, and other supplies they accepted the challenge.

According to Parent, "they might even have to change up some nursery rhymes after the work we've accomplished; now the big bad wolf won't be able to huff and puff and blow the second pig's house down because we can reinforce those sticks."

**"This could potentially change
the very way our Army deploys
its troops."**

Habib Dagher
Advanced Engineered
Wood Composites Director

Attention: All Student Government Board, Community Association, Committee & Club Members

Budget packets for the 08-09 fiscal year are available now in the Student Government Financial Affairs Office (FAO), Room 152, on the ground floor of the Memorial Union during regular office hours. These packets can be obtained on a daily basis through Thursday, March 20, 2008. Some organizations have been assigned mailboxes in the Wade Center for Student Leadership. For these organizations, the packets have been placed there already.

The only organizations that need an appointment scheduled with the VPFA are Student Entertainment, Legal Services, Boards and Community Association representatives. A list of appointment times will be available in the FAO for these organizations.

REQUIREMENTS: Your club must be considered active, attained final approval status and the president and treasurer must be undergraduate students. To check your club status, please come to the FAO as soon as possible.

**DEADLINE: Completed forms must be submitted
to the Financial Affairs Office by
Friday, March 21st, 2008 at 3pm.**

For more information, contact Susan Poll at 1-1778.



THE MAINE CAMPUS

The University of Maine student newspaper since 1875

PeopleSoft system poses problems

This semester, students at the University of Maine will have a new beast to tackle when registering for classes: PeopleSoft.

This change to new software represents 10 years of work and millions of dollars of university system money. However, with this supposed upgrade comes a slew of new problems.

The university has decided to change the class registration time from midnight to 9 a.m. This was to resolve the problem of having no technical support while students attempted to register. This change encourages students to skip their morning classes for fear they may not get into the classes they want.

UMaine should move sign-ups to a more convenient time of 7 a.m. or even 9 p.m., when there are no classes. If having personnel available is a high priority, perhaps they can find staff to work an early or late shift four times a semester.

UMaine has also removed the option of signing up for classes via phone. This was a viable alternative for students who were fed-up with the DSIS server, which was developed in the '80s.

This is not to say Web DSIS was without fault; it was an outdated system that frustrated students and caused most to lose sleep. However, UMaine should use some sort of testing phase in order to educate students on the new system. It is more than likely that most UMaine students will not know how to use PeopleSoft until it is time to register.

The above editorial is written by the editorial board, whose members are Eryk Salvaggio, Derek Dobachesky, Alicia Mullins, Brett Sowerby, Heather Steeves, Nick McCrea, Rebekah Rhodes, Adrienne Hess, Dana Bulba and Meghan Hayward.

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Perspectives

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2008



Michael Craft

Michelle Obama's statements unbecoming a future first-lady

Hello, my name is Michael Craft. I'm a history major at the University of Maine, and I'm a conservative. No, I'm not a xenophobe, fascist, racist or sexist. I'm a conservative, and I approve this message. I believe that nationality, race, sex, sexual orientation or any other mitigating factor should not trump the message that is transmitted. Simply, it's not the vessel, it is the message that counts.

So when Michelle Obama stated that this was the first time that she was really proud of America, I cringed. It's not because she's black or that her last name is Muslim and, no, I did not take her words out of context. It's because of the message that she was sending using those words.

Does she really feel this way? What if her husband loses — will her newfound faith in America go by the wayside? Is the presidency too high a price to satisfy

this pride? I'm not sure I want to be associated with a first lady that believes nothing good has happened in more than 230-year history of this country.

It saddens me to think that there are people in our country today who trivialize the sacrifice of lives of brave men and women so that this message can be heard without fear of criminalization. Mrs. Obama has every right to say what she wants, when she wants. I don't believe that she should be made to apologize if she really feels this way; that is her choice. I do believe that the message she sends is not a productive one in regards to the position she might hold.

While I hope that she and a whole lot more people can see the history of this country in a better context, it is not for me to mandate, but it is for me to vote. As we

See **PATRIOTISM** on page 9

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This letter is to explain why I am not supporting Sen. Barack Obama and am fully supporting Sen. Hillary Clinton for president of the United States.

Sen. Obama often repeats that he is the candidate for change — but what has he done to work for change? He appears to mimic the candidacy of Sen. Clinton in spirit but not with substance. Clearly, he has not thought the issues through. Perhaps given more time and experience, he will emerge as a fine statesperson, but at this most crucial moment in history, our country cannot afford to gamble again with

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

The Maine Campus

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someone who is simply not prepared to take on the enormous responsibilities of commander in chief.

On the other hand, Sen. Clinton has spent her whole life working for change. Change that has improved the quality of life for all Americans by focusing on fairness. She truly cares about our country. Given the current state of our economy, she may well represent the last chance for this country to avoid social catastrophe. For this election there is a clear choice between those who have never had it so good and those of us who know we can do better. Sen. Clinton knows we can do better, and her track record reflects that.

Joe Bialek of Cleveland, Ohio

Disrespectful, incoherent response piece takes itself too seriously

Emma Wojtal

When I first began school at the University of Maine, I remember being excited about the newspaper. I had grand plans of writing regularly and seeing my name in print. I did manage to write a few articles in my first year of school; I remember eagerly grabbing the paper not just to see my own article, but also to read some of the others too. I probably wasn't as cynical then, but I do remember the paper being a reasonably good read. My opinion has gradually deteriorated since that time. I still read the paper every once in awhile, just out of hope that there may be something entertaining. There usually isn't, but when I find something, it's in the opinion section.

Well, imagine my surprise when I saw that there was a rebuttal to recent opinion pieces submitted by one of the more entertaining writers for The Maine Campus, Hillary Leeman. I initially thought "Great! Hopefully her recent articles have roused people to an amusing debate." Then I remembered the last disaster of a rebuttal article that appeared when said female author wrote a piece about the alarming lack of Prince Charmings — which by the way, was not all that inaccurate, seeing as many of her stories rang true with my friends and me. With a slightly defeatist attitude, I began to read "What men need is a little r-e-s-p-e-c-t from an absurd columnist," but nothing could have prepared me

for the complete lack of what was so ironically requested in the title.

This is an opinion section — not a defamation section. In my opinion, it was a poor choice to run or write an article that directly targeted a specific writer, especially when the article failed to make any other coherent point and directly attacked someone, using her full name twice. The headline was the only part that made a rebuttal-like claim, but I know from experience that authors rarely write their own headlines. The point of an opinion column is to be a little outrageous, to make a few exaggerations and to support your point in a way that makes people want to read it. If you write a rebuttal you must use tact and if you are going to make fun of someone — provided it isn't completely disrespectful — employ a bit of subtlety. That's what good

This is an opinion section — not a defamation section. In my opinion, it was a poor choice to run or write an article that directly targeted a specific writer.

writers do.

That being said, I support freedom of speech 100 percent, but when exercising these rights, please choose the appropriate forum. A letter to the editor would suffice, or perhaps a personal — need I stress respectful? — e-mail to the author who has so "grossly" offended you. But really, this is an opinion section. Don't let yourself get too offended, and the next time you want to write a rebuttal, do it well or don't do it at all.

Emma Wojtal thinks the previous issue of The Maine Campus should be listed under "thumbs down."

Patriotism

from page 8

go through this election cycle, let's not only listen to, but question, the messages that the candidates send; not blindly follow because of rhetoric.

When someone says that it is time for change, let's ask what kind of change. When someone says that they want to tax the rich, let's not stop at the dollar figure; let's honestly look at who would be affected. When someone says that they are for immigration reform, let's question what that means. Let's be found in the arena of ideas, not in the backyard throwing around words like "racist," "sexist," "xenophobe" and "fascist" when we disagree with one

another. Disagreement is what our country was founded on.

My name is Michael Craft, I'm a history major at UMaine and I'm a conservative. I am not a xenophobe or a racist or a sexist or a fascist, just someone who is looking for a clear, well-thought-out message to hang my vote on in this unclear time.

Michael Craft is a history and education double major.



Adrienne Hess

Bad-girl behavior gets boring without a sense of style

Much like most other Americans, I love good celebrity gossip. I am not buying George Clooney's trash on eBay or anything. I don't even talk about it all that much, but I may have modified my home page to run a feed from People magazine. But I've got to say, I've been disappointed with the kind of fodder that passes for a juicy Hollywood morsel these days.

It's all baby bump this, awards show that — could it get more boring? There was a golden age of Britney a while back that involved Paris Hilton and didn't involve underpants, but lately, articles detailing her mental illnesses and custody battles are just kind of depressing.

So, in my search for good scandal-mongering, I had to, literally, jazz it up. It's hardly a coincidence that whenever a scarlet lady of our current times tries to remake her image, she starts with a classic makeover, attempting to recreate the charisma of former silver screen beauties. I do wonder, however, why they always stop at Marilyn when the ladies prior to her were much more witty and wild.

Take, for example, Clara Bow, the dewy damsel who was hailed as the original "it" girl, for example. This eighth-grade dropout had a crazy mom who once tried to stab her with a butcher knife to prevent her from becoming a fallen woman of Hollywood. After making a career of flapper roles, and working equally hard off screen, the joke became "Clara laid everything except the linoleum." Then when her era had passed, she had the good sense to marry and never speak of it again, passing the torch onto a new set of bad girls.

Another of my favorites is Talullah Bankhead, a glorious bisexual vamp who started life as the daughter and granddaughter of respected Southern politicians. She won a beauty contest at age 15 and, by her 20s, she had become a prominent London stage actress. She apparently knew how to party, and was quoted as saying, "My father warned me about men and booze, but he never said a word about women and cocaine." She came back to

the states in the 1930s, snagged a role in Hitchcock's "Lifeboat," almost became Scarlett O'Hara and it is rumored that her last word was "bourbon."

Speaking of good witty quips, I will share a story about one more great femme fatale, Mae West, who pretty much invented the double entendre. The daring witticisms she penned for her roles once landed her with a 10-day prison sentence for obscenity. Among my favorite Mae quotes are "A hard man is good to find." and "Those who are easily shocked should be shocked more often." This prolific lady wrote a number of other great lines, leading William Randolph Hearst to implore "Is it not time Congress did something about Mae West?"

I do have a few theories on why the jazz-age bad girl was so much more awesome than today's. In the early days of Hollywood, becoming an actress was largely regarded as a life decision that would send a young girl on a sure path to hell and damnation. Thus, the women who flocked to the calling were a more rebellious sort. It could also be that there was less media over-saturation, so gossip column fodder could be edited down to stories that were truly interesting, instead of leaving room for full page layouts about someone's fast food binge.

In many ways, American women have made great strides toward personal freedom, but it would be great folly to forget the great rebels who helped bring us to this point. It's not even that I endorse chemically-altered vampitude as a path of feminism. I just think that if a good girl wants to go bad, she should do it with as much style as possible. "Balls to the walls, baby," as my good friend, Christine Guerette says. She is a Vagina Monologuer and femme fatale in her own right, and I include her as a reminder to honor the crazy and strong women that we know and love in real life.

Adrienne Hess was never warned about actresses and celebrity gossip.

THE MAINE CAMPUS

Thumbs Up / Thumbs Down



- Mae West
- Titanic
- The ocean
- Robotic bodies
- Ryan Gossling

- Icebergs
- Headaches

- Week before spring break
- Dido songs not in "Love, Actually"
- Billy Zane in Titanic

Love us? Hate us?
Write us.

For more information, e-mail
derek.dobachesky@umit.maine.edu

go.

Style & Culture

MUSIC

Java Jive
The Project
8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 26
North Pod, Union

Lidral Duo
Chamber Jazz Afternoon
Concert Series
4:15 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 28
The Bear's Den

ARTS

"In Plain Sight"
Art by John Whalley
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Lord Hall

Currier and Ives Exhibit
Original lithographs on loan
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Page Farm and Home
Museum

Art by Engineers
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Engineering Science
Research Building

A Legacy of Collecting: the
Vincent A. Hartgen Years
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
University of Maine Museum
of Art
Norumbega Hall (Bangor)
Free admission

LECTURES

New Writing Series
Stephen Cope and Catherine
Taylor
4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 28
Soderberg Auditorium,
Jenness

Artist Talk
Liz Nofziger
7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 27
Hill Auditorium
Engineering Science
Research Building

SPRING BREAK

Classes End
5 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 28

Classes Resume
Monday, March 17

BLOOD

*Who really
gives a sample?*

By Brett Sowerby

It requires — on average — about one hour every eight weeks and yet only five percent of healthy U.S. adults do it annually. Two-hundred University of Maine students and faculty lined up last week to donate blood at the Red Cross' blood drive.

With the ease of the donation process — reading and filling out some paperwork, revealing your sexual history to a phlebotomist and relaxing as you become a pint lighter — one may be surprised to find how little of the population goes out to donate. There seems to be some innate difference between those who donate and those who do not.

There seemed to be a sense of overcoming one's fears among those who decided to donate — that and knowing there was free food. The prevailing excuses from those who chose not to donate typically focused on fearing needles and the sight of blood.

Kristen Camic, a first-year nutrition major, came out on Wednesday, Feb. 20 to give blood for the first time — after her roommate convinced her to come. "I always wanted to [donate] but it just scared me." She also cited the fact that she wanted to know her blood type as a good enough reason to give blood. She later conceded that the experience — specifically the pinprick — was not as bad as she had originally feared.

There appeared to be only a handful of reasons why people decided to make the cold trip down to Stodder Commons. One reason heard several times over was the good for the community. "I feel like it's something easy to do to contribute," said sophomore Cathy Enkosky, a business major. This sentiment was echoed by third-year biology major Bailey Knowlton, another first-time donor. "I think it's something everyone should do ... It's a way to give back to the community without actually doing anything."

Knowlton explained that the heavy advertising of the blood drive convinced her to donate. "Luckily, I didn't have anything to do," Knowlton said.

However, there is a large percentage of the population who do not give blood. Garrick Wilson, a junior mechanical engineering major, couldn't "find it in him" to get the heavy-gauged needle pushed through his arm. "I don't think I could make it through," Wilson stated. "I don't do well with needles or my own blood. I almost fainted getting my tattoo," he added.

However, Wilson found that he could help out in another way: instead of blood, he donated his time to volunteer for the event. April Bolstridge, a first-year clinical lab science major, followed suit by giving her time. She explained her attempt to

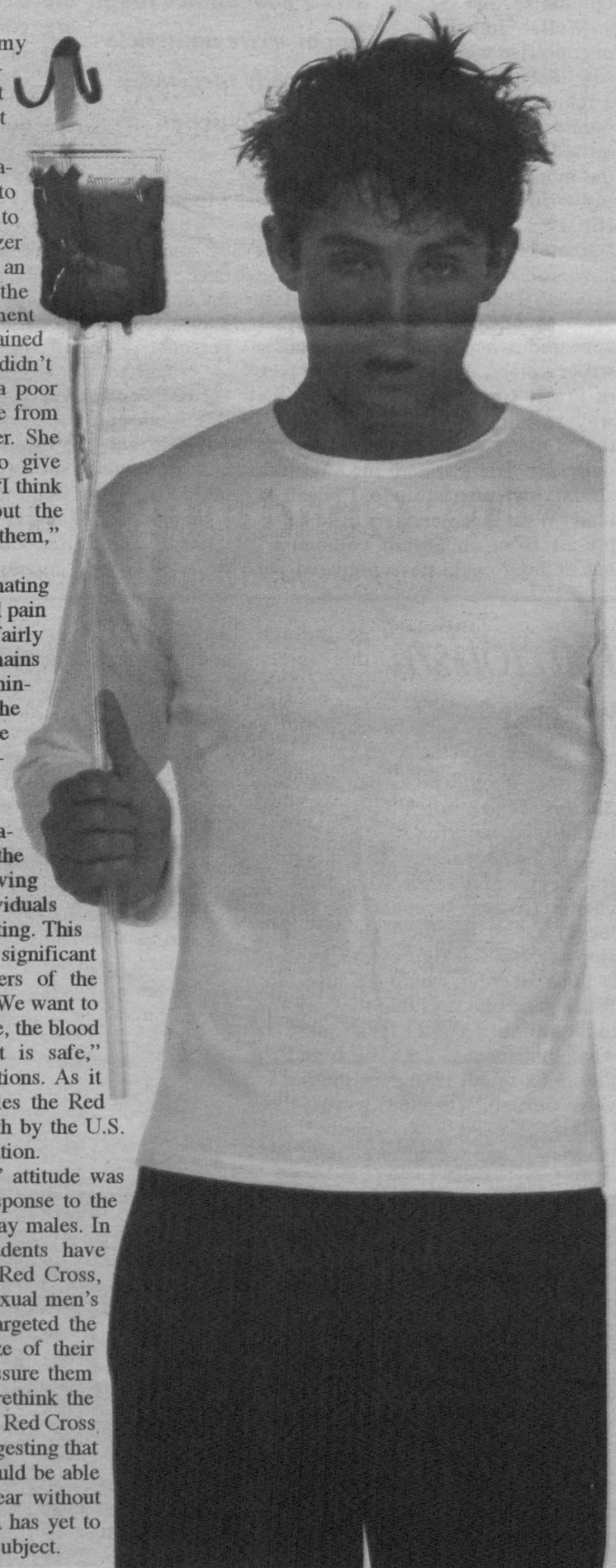
donate last year, "But my iron was too low." It didn't seem to help that Bolstridge got "a bit queasy around needles."

This was a common reasoning for individuals to avoid donating, according to Lisa Frazell, the organizer from the Red Cross and an '07 graduate of the Communications Department at UMaine. Frazell explained she thought more people didn't donate because of either a poor personal experience or one from a friend or family member. She added that the waiting to give blood stops many people. "I think they see the benefits, but the anticipation is what kills them," Frazell said.

The side effects of donating blood range from the initial pain of being stuck with a fairly large needle — which remains in one's arm for several minutes — and bruising of the affected area to, in rare cases, losing consciousness.

But even with the relatively small percentage of the eligible population giving blood, there are many individuals who are barred from donating. This includes people that spent significant time over-seas to members of the homosexual community. "We want to make sure the donor is safe, the blood is safe and the recipient is safe," Frazell said of the regulations. As it turns out, most of the rules the Red Cross employs are set forth by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The "no gays allowed" attitude was adopted in the '80s in response to the outbreak of HIV among gay males. In recent years, college students have attempted to boycott the Red Cross, calling the ban on homosexual men's blood "outdated." They targeted the Red Cross due to the size of their operation, in order to pressure them into pushing the FDA to rethink the guidelines. Since 2005, the Red Cross has updated its stance, suggesting that gay and bisexual men should be able to donate, if they go a year without sex with a man. The FDA has yet to alter their position on the subject.



If you would like your event posted in The Maine Campus Style calendar, send time, day, date, place and fee information to Brett Sowerby on FirstClass

VANTAGE POINT

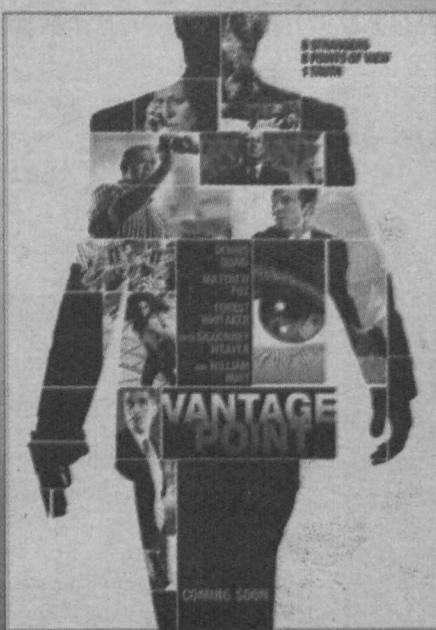


Photo Courtesy of IMDB

By Kyle Kernan

In "Vantage Point," we see five points of view from different characters on the assassination of the President at an anti-terrorist summit in Spain. From the trailers and taglines, one must think that this would be an intricate story in which the audience must piece together different clues to solve the assassination.

After a promising 23 minutes, the repetition of the same circumstance in different perspectives grows tiresome, contrived and frustrating. Undeveloped characters and plotlines offer no intrigue or suspense.

Sigourney Weaver's cable crew begins as the first point of view. It develops some degree of entertainment and intensity as Weaver's character shouts orders to her reporters. Insanity

and confusion ensue when the President is shot and secret service agents run around. Soon the podium explodes, killing dozens. The horror and shock of the reporters is a surreal and promising beginning, but it's all down hill from there.

The perspective of jittery Secret Service Agent Thomas Barnes, played by Dennis Quaid, marks the film's lazy plotline. Secret Service men fumble about awkwardly and mutter campy dialogue. A Spanish police officer runs onto the stage after the President is shot: why? Who knows. He's apprehended and contests that he is a police officer and has information. Barnes ignores this as he tells the other agents, "He knows something, don't let go of him!" The guy is telling you he has information — why not listen, you idiot? After an explosion disorients everyone, the police officer runs away as agents try to track him down. The information, reasoning and perspective of this character take no shape in the story but encourages mindless action.

Another promising character who goes nowhere is a tourist played by Forrest Whittaker. The man handles a video camera and instead of trying to look over his footage — which may have captured the shooter and offer answers to the culprits — he chases down the agents after the Spanish police officer and wastes a great deal of the film's, and the viewer's, time.

The screenplay plots no conflict or reasoning behind many of the character's actions, which crudely tricks the audience. Most of the characters are undeveloped and many of the established conflicts of the characters, even the befuddled assassins, are never made clear. We never know who these assassins are, or what

See VANTAGE POINT on page 13

Victory, Valentines, and Vaginas turn 10

Controversial performance back at UM

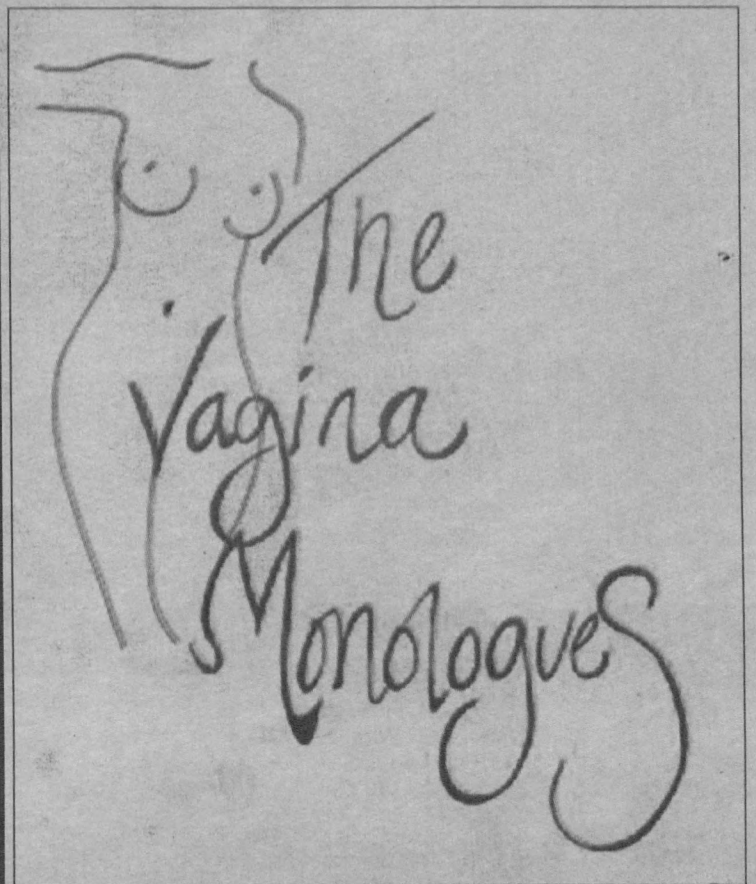


Photo Courtesy of benchtheatre.org.uk

By Lisa Haberzettl

You can't understand what the Vagina Monologues are unless you've been to them. The programs handed out at the event describes them as "Eve Ensler's award-winning play," but it's not a play in the traditional sense. Many people assume that it's just a series of monologues about womanhood — and vaginas — but then there's that lovely little saying about assuming things.

Ensler's script is based on interviews with over 200 women. Since its debut in 1996, the Vagina Monologues have transformed. They stand at the center of a larger movement, created by Ensler, called "V-Day." The program describes V-Day as "a global movement to end violence against women and girls," and explains, "The 'V' in V-day stands for Victory, Valentine and Vagina."

The Vagina Monologues touched on sensitive, ethnically-driven topics such as burqa-induced abuse, domestic violence among Native Americans, vaginal mutilation and rape victims of the war in Bosnia. Other downers included violence against transgendered people, cancer and hurricane-ravaged New Orleans. Among all of this sadness and brutality, though, there was a light.

Many of the monologues were happy. Several were, in fact, hilarious. Take for instance the "Outrageous Vagina Fact" the sale of vibrators is banned in Georgia, Kansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Colorado, Alabama,

See VAGINAS on page 13

The Grady bunch present winners

Award-winning student literature honored at ceremony

By Kyle Kernan

The New Writing Series welcomed readings from graduate and undergraduate Grady award winners on Thursday, Feb. 21 to an auditorium filled to capacity. The readings marked the first time students featured at the New Writing Series, and clearly underlined the writing talents of students at the university.

The poetry gave more introspective and personal reflections while the prose readings were interwoven with entertaining and elaborate descriptions of character and setting. Engaging stories of the night included a first person narrative of a southern boy contemplating the eating of a bowl of peaches and a pregnant woman seeking solitude from a discouraging family.

"Under the Oak," written by Jenny Smick, won the award for best short story for an undergraduate. The story chronicled a pregnant mother, frustrated with her lazy husband and uncontrollable son. It marked one of the most descriptive pieces of literature of the night. English professor David Kress introduced the story with a quote from author Edward Desautels, a judge of the contest. "A disquieting romp," "Under the Oak," weaves dark humor, an agonizing evocation of the corporeal,

and a mature perspective on the curses and blessings of pregnancy, motherhood and marriage.

In one of the story's scenes, the tired mother sits in a church pew while her son is crawling under them, unsettling everyone. As the father is reluctant to help, she mutters to him, "you ass!" She walks out of the church and runs along the sidewalk as cars stop and people look to her shocked and perplexed as to why this pregnant woman is running down the street.

"My story was based on an experience of my mother's when she was pregnant with me. As I get older, I'm more and more interested in my mother's experiences as a young woman. When she was my age, she was already married with children!" Smick said as she recalls her inspiration. Smick said that the story was based on a similar experience her mother had. She also says that listening to your family members is a great way to come up with writing ideas.

The graduate winner for best short story was awarded

to Emily Kohler, for the story "Mysterious Ways." Kohler graduated from Ohio University with a degree in English and a minor in classical civilizations. At UMaine, she is currently a second-year teaching assistant in the English department. She moved out of a sweet feminine voice, into a mild southern accent in her performance of her story's first person narrative of a southern boy.

The easy going, spiraling mind of the boy becomes contemplative about eating a bowl of peaches, and it turns into a morality struggle. The character's personality is fleshed out. Kohler's words come off the page during her performance and transform into a monologue that could inspire a play. "My hands had become slippery, and my chin was getting syrupy, but that peach just kept on being delicious, and so I kept on eating it. When I had finished it, without even knowing I was going to, I reached up and I took another peach."

Kohler was inspired to write about the contemplative boy based upon a secret she saw in a

See WRITERS on page 13

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Old-fashioned comedy — straight from the 1700s

The Marriage of Figaro wrapped up its final performances; received standing ovation for impressive shows



Lisa Roth ♦ The Maine Campus

Cast members lilt and bellow in Saturday's performance of Marriage of Figaro. (Top row from left to right) Matthew Bessette, Molly Webster, Alan Seigny, Jason Wilkes (Bottom row from left to right) Seth Grondin, Rebecca Bailey and Jesse Hanington.

By Lisa Haberzettl

The School of Performing Art's presentation of "The Marriage of Figaro" came to a close this weekend. After months of rehearsals and preparation for six performances, the cast and crew took their final bow.

This "Marriage of Figaro" was not your grandmother's opera. "Our production employs some postmodern aesthetics, especially with regard to the casting," said Tom Mikotowicz in his director's notes.

The role of Antonio the gardener was double cast, with Jeremy Milton and Josh Davis trading between the roles on different nights. The roles of Countess Almaviva, Susanna and Cherubino, page to the Count, were split cast; the performers would trade off on-stage in different acts. In addition, the role of Barbarina, the gardener's daughter, was simulcast; Alyssa Mahzi and Sarah Farnham appeared on stage at the same time, playing the same character.

While this is all intriguing and clever, it did cause a slight bit of confusion.

Susanna, for instance, was the only character without a puffy, powdered wig for the first two acts. Then, as if by magic, performers and costumes changed during intermission. Susanna was now taller and wearing a gray wig, leaving the audience squinting at their programs in the dark, trying to figure out what had happened. Further confusion arose as Antonio cries out "my daughter!" — singular — clearly gesturing at two girls. Of course, none of this is to say that any of the performers lacked in talent.

Despite all this, the SPA did strive to put on an audience-friendly opera. The script was translated into English, and clarifying blurbs were projected on the wall to each side of the stage, almost like subtitles.

For instance, when Marcellina and Susanna are having a spat in the first act, the audience is cued to laughter with "Decrepit old battle-axe!" When the Count Almaviva walks in to his wife's room after she stalls in letting him enter, the summary is "Something is fishy." At the beginning of the third act, the Count laments over the confusion surrounding him: "Nothing makes sense." In the end, when everyone had forgiven each other and all was right with the world, the displayed sentiment read "Awe. I love you."

The English translation held true to the comic nature of the opera. With lines such as "He's just a child," "Don't belittle his talents!" and "As for that Figaro, I'll cook his goose," it is a wonder that the audience was not rolling in laughter. Perhaps opera, in American culture, still carries a stiff stigma and audience members need to be assured that yes, it is as funny as they perceive it to be.

It is truly a pity that there was not more dancing. When the SPA advertised that "Figaro" was a major production, with many different departments — including dance — working together, it was unfortunate that it only had two dancers. That said, the choreography was lovely. The two dancers, Francesca LeVigne and Megan Nunnally, were graceful, and their presence only added to each scene.

The set, like the casting, showed evidence of the "postmodern aesthetics" mentioned by Mikotowicz. A color-lit backdrop highlighted each scene. The set pieces were impressive and fit well with the elaborate costuming of the period without distracting from any other elements of the opera.

"The Marriage of Figaro" received a well-deserved standing ovation and resounding applause. Every person who took part in this unique and spectacular production should be congratulated.

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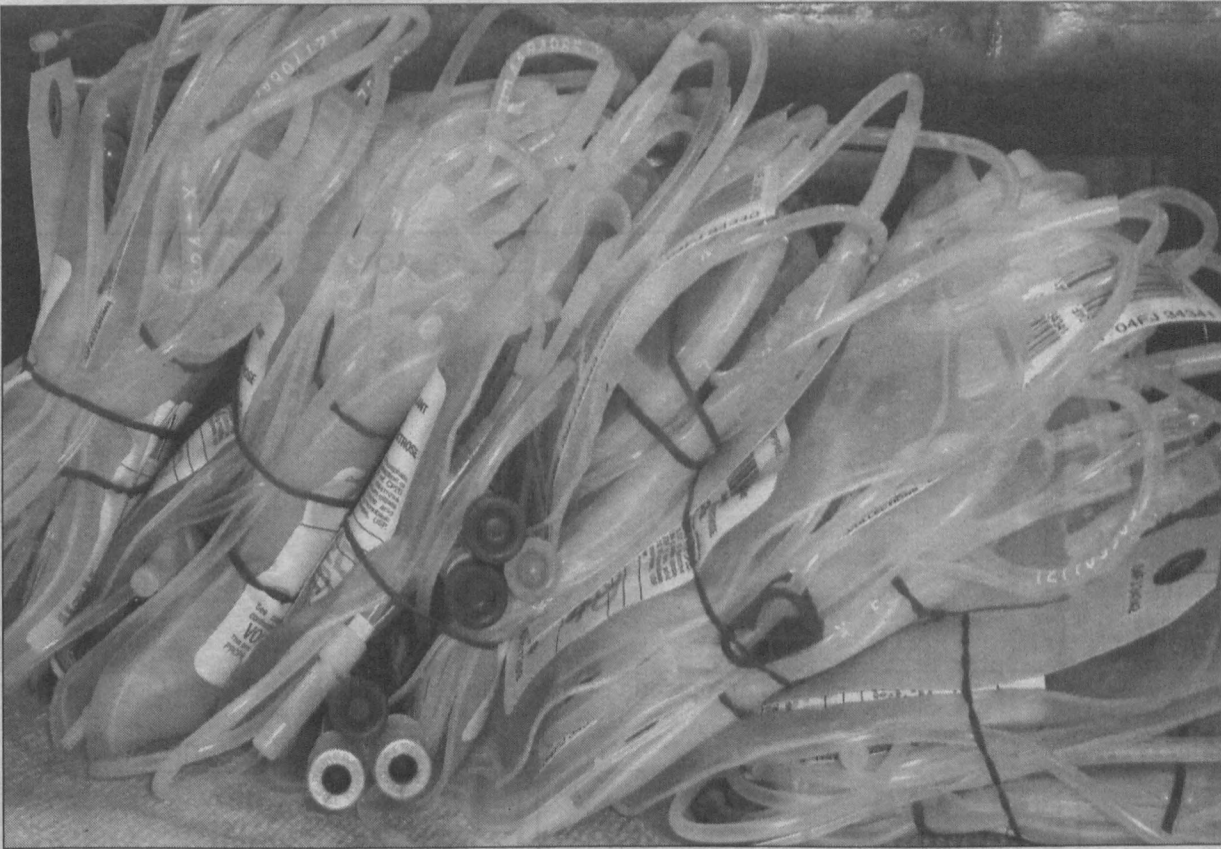
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Writers

from page 11

PostSecret book, called "I ate all the blueberries." The book chronicles many personal stories of guilt, regret and dreams. Someone had constructed a brown construction paper bowl and put into it paper blueberries, as each constructed blueberry was intricately made and drawn. The importance of this secret of eating the blueberries perplexed Kohler, and she was motivated to create a character that faced a similar dilemma to see what consequences it would bring.

Kohler's story was described by judge Desautels: "A sustained and convincing first-person narrative carries the day in 'Mysterious Ways.' The story's eccentric perspective calls to mind the 'touched' narrators populating Jim Thompson's noir pulps."

Kohler hopes to keep teaching for a few years and then go on to a Ph.D. program she also hopes to publish some of her writing one day.

The undergraduate winners of poetry and prose read first, with graduate winners read next. They were introduced by professors Jennifer Moxley and David Kress.

Poetry readings included graduate winner for first place, Rebecca Griffin, who read the poem "Outside Bullfrog, Nevada," a somberly nostalgic poem of a ghost town that gives reasons why it's destined to die away.

Zachary Richards, a graduate student in electrical engineering and honorable mention in the Grady Awards, read a series of emotional poems that cap-

tured the audience's attention.

Nicholas Mohlmann read one of the most provocative poems of the night titled "The Inherent Difficulties of Achieving Satisfactory Martyrdom," said by Mohlmann to be a commentary on the futility of ideological violence and suspicious pastries.

Clinton Spaulding, who placed second among English Graduate students for the story "Vault Man," told the audience, "I love the ladies" and honored his family and two kids. His story, about a man who buries the dead for a living, was drawn from his own life.

"When I got out of the Navy, I came back to Maine and worked as a vault man for American Concrete Industries in Veazie. I buried over a hundred people all over Maine. Every piece of that story is true," Spaulding said.

The story was elaborately written, a conception of a simple man's routine in a morbid line of work was also quoted by judge and author Desautels. "Vault Man" shows the connoisseur of the rough and tumble at play: deft manipulation of narrative and language on the characters' own crude terms.

"The Curator," by fourth-year creative writing major Mary Lattari, was a somber reading full of vivid descriptions of character and setting written for her English 307 fiction class. An object that came to her mind during an exercise in 307 inspired the story, about a museum curator who takes pride in the relics he curates. "I had this image in my head of a big, shiny brass bird cage in small, sunny, airy cottage but really no idea for a story."

Vaginas

from page 11

Virginia and Texas.

There were two highlighted questions for the evening. The first was "if your vagina was to get dressed up, what would it wear?" Answers included "a pink boa," "lace," "cotton" and "Carhartt overalls." A personal addition would be, say, "that adorable powder-blue trench coat I saw at Nine West two years ago."

The second question was "if your vagina could say two words, what would they be?" Answers here included "Slow down!" "Oh, God!" "Thank God!" "More... more!" and "Where's Brian?"

Unfortunately, there is no personal addition for this question. Perhaps some relatability can be found in "the Vagina Workshop," performed by Aye

Mares. The story here follows a woman — Mares made her British and upper-class — who lost touch with her vagina and felt the need to attend a workshop. There is little more amusing in this world than hearing a haughty British accent proclaim, "It's gone! I've lost it! I shouldn't have worn it swimming!" when referring to an experience of trying to find her clitoris while lying on a little blue mat.

The monologues presented unique synonyms for vagina, which included "monkey box," "tamale," "dirty dugout," "coochie snorcher" and the ever-infamous C word.

Before you get your panties in a bunch, just listen: one of the most victorious monologues, performed by Miranda McPhee, was "Reclaiming C—." McPhee kept rhythm on a bongo while going through letter-by-letter, building up a positive connotation for the word. At the end, she jumped up and invited everyone in the audience to chant with her: "C—! C—! C—!" Ironically, there were

three men in the third row that seemed more willing to chant with McPhee than any female in the audience — and perhaps worth noting, we still can't say it in a newspaper.

The show-stealer was, by far, "The woman who loved to make vaginas happy." The intended performer, Lisa McKnight, was sadly not able to attend. Christine Guerette, a "vagina veteran," filled in. She stood from her second-row seat, shrugged off her long black coat, marched onto the stage in fishnets, black miniskirt, corset and spiked collar. The highest part of her monologues was imitating 20 different types of moans, including the "Irish Catholic moan," the "uninhibited militant bisexual moan," the "college moan," and the coup de grace "surprise triple orgasm moan."

The Student Women's Association presented the Vagina Monologues. Proceeds from ticket and chocolate vagina sales went to Rape Response Services, Spruce Run and the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center.

Vantage Point

from page 11

they want. The film is more interested in delivering action than developing any thread of mystery for the audience to be perplexed about; honestly you can't help but laugh at how silly it is.

The great Akira Kurosawa molded together a perfect mystery of intrigue with varying perspectives of the same event in the film "Rashomon." Characters tell stories of a murder, all different versions of the truth. From these accounts the audience has to piece together what actually happened. In "Vantage Point," it's all spoon fed to you like you're a little kid.

The film tries to give a political message when the President's advisors urge him to destroy some city in Morocco which houses terrorists. The

Bush Administration code of diplomacy gets shot down as the President's character says, "Bombing them is exactly what they want. We must be strong, we must not act strong." As some believe that 9/11 was an inside job to manipulate Americans into fearing terrorism, this brief plot line of the President's point of view is another underdeveloped message that is never clarified. One of the secret agents is in on the assassination, and questions of who was really behind this attack are left unanswered.

After the film exhaustingly replays the same 23-minute event over and over, it turns into an even more tiresome action film. The car chase is exciting, but who cares? The varied perspectives go to waste as we're left with the same old, lame political thriller we've seen before. Any intelligent filmgoer — how few of you there are — should stay away from this garbage.

Grade: D

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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 to April 20

Unpleasant news regarding your sentimental life might spoil your mood. You are advised to remain cautious no matter what. Avoid making promises to your loved one if you are not sure you can keep them.

Taurus

April 21 to May 20

In the morning, you might learn that you will shortly have to leave on a business trip. Your loved one will feel rather unhappy with the situation, for you were supposed to spend the day together.

Gemini

May 21 to June 21

You might encounter financial difficulties that will make you feel uneasy at a party. You are advised to remain balanced and avoid over-reacting. You should also avoid hot arguments with your friends.

Cancer

June 22 to July 22

Your loved one might get angry with you because you intend to cancel a short trip. Today your chances to succeed in business are rather thin.

Leo

July 23 to August 22

You could feel rather unhappy with the unexpected changes occurring at work. You are advised to remain calm. There's nothing you can do about it.

Virgo

Aug. 23 to Sept. 22

You will have to make a difficult decision. You are running the risk of a serious quarrel with your loved one, on one hand and ending the relationship with a close friend, on the other.

Libra

Sept. 23 to Oct. 23

Creativity and determination will help you succeed in professional and business activities. Your sentimental relationship will be going very well. Avoid making reproaches to your loved one for every trifle.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 to Nov. 22

In the afternoon, you might face a misunderstanding with your loved one because of financial difficulties and your differences over a trip you were supposed to make together.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 to Dec. 21

You will have to leave on a trip for a family interest, which might not unfold as you expect. You should not remonstrate with your loved one.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 to Jan. 20

This morning you will tend to be irascible because of your problems at work. In the afternoon, you will have a good time at home in the company of your friends. You might make plans for a short trip.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 to Feb. 19

You are advised to avoid making hasty decisions. You should seek the advice of an older person with a richer experience in the field.

Pisces

Feb. 20 to March 19

This morning you might be angry because your loved one has spent too much. To avoid a quarrel with your loved one, you need to be less stubborn.

the maine campus

DISTRACTIONS

Boxer Romps

By Alicia Mullins

There ... there was no way of knowing it was YOUR biskit. It was just layin' there, all by itself, lookin' so delicious ...



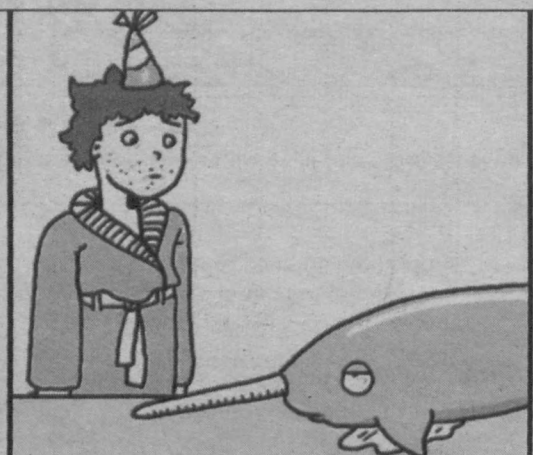
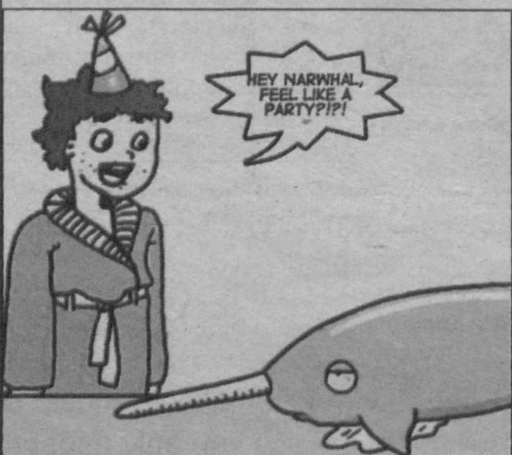
... in your food dish.



Missed an episode of Boxer Romps? Visit BoxerRomps.blogspot.com

3-Dollar Narwal

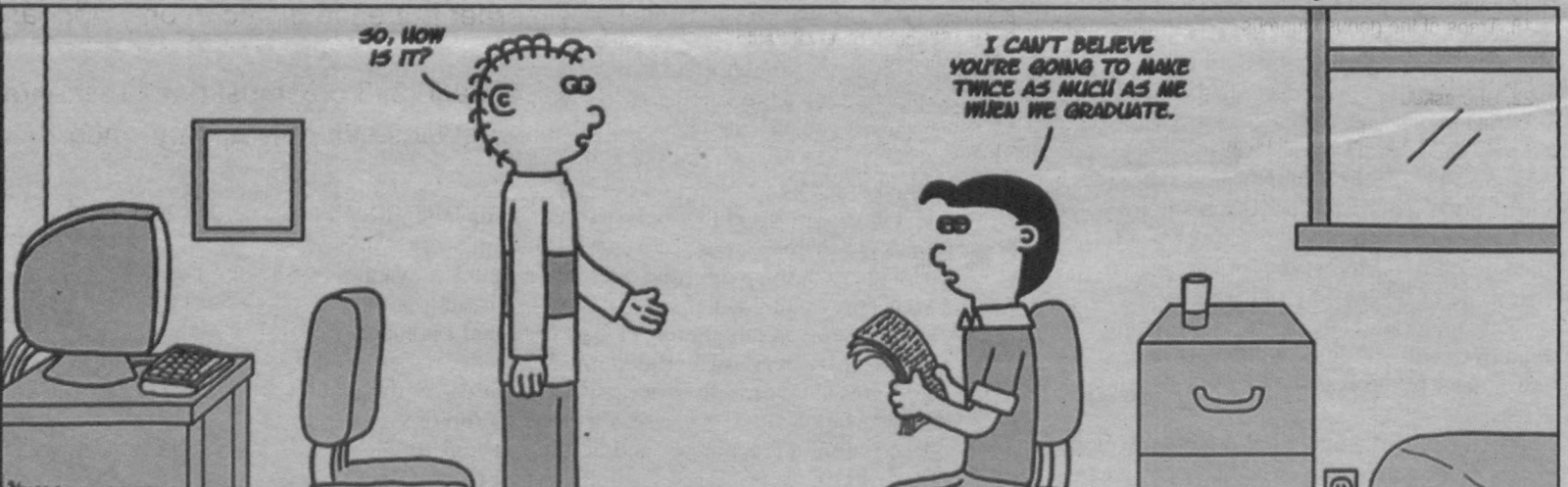
By Alana Brown



Missed a smattering of 3-Dollar Narwhal? Visit <http://www.3dollarnarwhal.blogspot.com>

Last - Ditch Effort

By John Kroes



An Original Comic

By Maybe You

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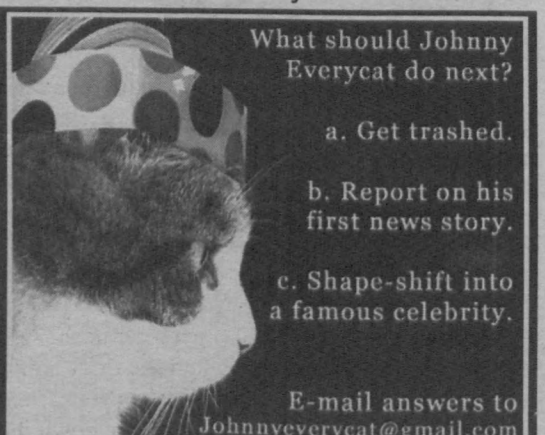
Contact David Dauphinee on First Class for more information or to present a sample of your work.

News Cat — A choose your own adventure comic

By Alicia Mullins



Johnny Everycat is now a reporter for his local newspaper, and it's time to celebrate.



What should Johnny Everycat do next?

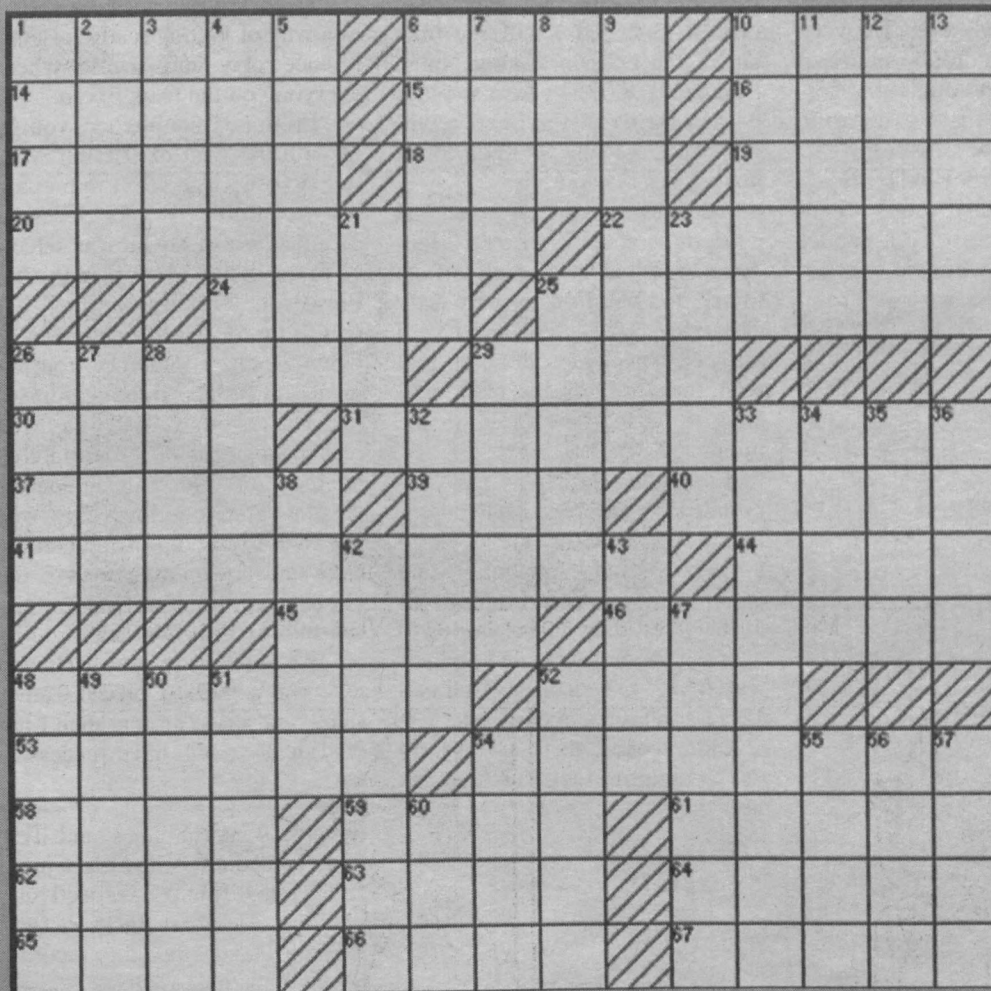
- a. Get trashed.
- b. Report on his first news story.
- c. Shape-shift into a famous celebrity.

E-mail answers to Johnnyeverycat@gmail.com

Missed an episode of News Cat? Visit johnnyeverycat.blogspot.com

The Maine

CROSSWORD



ANSWER KEY ON PAGE 17

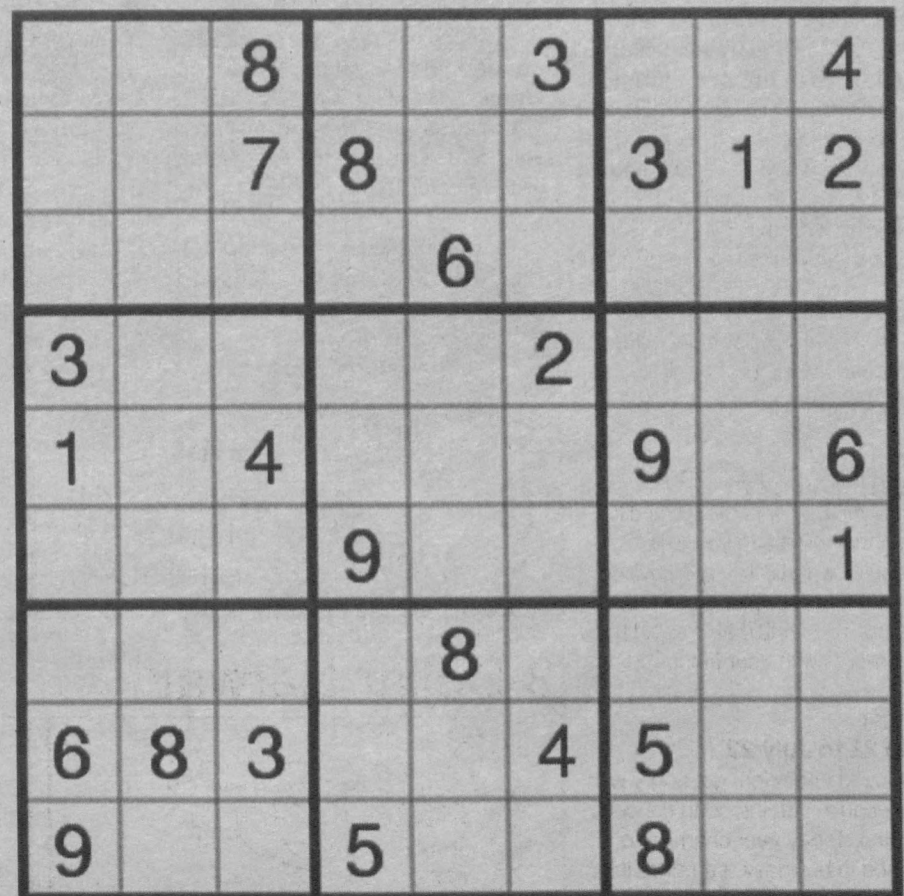
ACROSS

1. Oozes
6. Slide
10. Fake
14. A nucleus of personnel
15. Former Italian currency
16. Walking stick
17. Evade
18. Trees of the genus Quercus
19. An assemblage of parts
20. Conduct
22. She asked for John the Baptist's head
24. Cease
25. Often found with peanut butters
26. There are 50 of them
29. Vetch
30. A1
31. Condensed
37. Shut
39. Earned Run Average
40. A barely detectable amount
41. Feelings
44. Unable to speak
45. Air intake
46. Assembles written material
48. Occurs
52. Asphalts
53. To the opposite side
54. A singing range
58. Agitate
59. Goddess of discord (Greek mythology)
61. Breed of duck
62. Honk
63. Untruths
64. Inhabitants of northern Britain
65. Makes a mistake
66. Days gone by
67. To the point

DOWN

1. Cigarfish
2. Cornice
3. Ancient Biblical kingdom
4. A woman priest
5. Staid
6. A single-masted sailing ship
7. Teller of untruths
8. Irritate
9. An 18th century naval battle
10. A racing row boat
11. City in Viet Nam
12. Type of Japanese animation
13. Distributes
21. You sniff with it
23. State of watchfulness
25. Land of the Rising Sun
26. Bags
27. Enameled metalware
28. In a little while (archaic)
29. Fortune telling card
32. Blood vessels
33. Truce
34. Tight
35. Prefix indicating outer
36. Bambi was one
38. Overhang of a roof
42. In a strained or anxious manner
43. Scorch
47. Most arid
48. Hurriedness
49. Performer in a play
50. Earlier in time
51. Harbors
52. A piece of armor to protect thighs
54. A coffin stand
55. Smell
56. Meshes
57. Gaelic
60. ____ de Janeiro

SUDOKU PUZZLE



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Daily SuDoku: Sat 23-Feb-2008

medium

HOW TO PLAY

- Each row (horizontal line) must have numbers 1-9 in any order but each digit can only appear once.
- Each column (vertical line) must have numbers 1-9 in any order but each digit can only appear once.
- Each 3x3 box must have numbers 1-9 in any order but each digit can only appear once.

There is only one correct answer!



THERE'S NOT ENOUGH ART IN OUR SCHOOLS.

NO WONDER PEOPLE THINK

LOUIS ARMSTRONG

WAS THE FIRST MAN TO

WALK ON THE MOON.

Advice Girl

There was a guy in one of my classes that my friend and I thought was hot. We hung out with him at a couple of parties and last month, he asked my friend out. I was a little bummed at first, but I got over it because I wanted my friend to be happy and didn't want to screw up our relationship. The other day, I saw the guy holding hands with another girl, even though he's still dating my friend. I want to tell her, but I think she will just assume that I am jealous and trying to break them up. Should I just let it go?

It's your call, but I think you should tell your friend what you saw. If she is really a true friend she will trust you and confront her guy about it. If she gets upset and thinks you're lying for your own benefit, she will soon find out the truth about her guy when she finds him in bed with some chick. I hope your friend takes your friendship seriously and doesn't end up hurting more down the road.

I need to lose weight! I have needed to for a while now, and I made it my New Years' Resolution to drop a few sizes. I don't know where to begin though, since there are so many diet options out there: low carb, vegetarian, diet pills — they all sound like they work on the commercials, but I know it can't be that easy. I've talked to my friends and family, but none of them have any experience with trying to lose weight. I thought you might be able to tell me about some diets that work and some that don't.

Honestly, most of the diets out there are fads or just plain unhealthy. Some might work, but they are really expensive and require a lot of sacrifices. If you need to lose a great deal of weight, say fifty pounds or more, I would speak with your doctor about the right way to go about doing it. But if you just want to lose a few pounds, I would suggest 30-60 minutes of cardio per day, like biking, running, walking, or using an elliptical, along with strength training a couple times a week to tone your muscles. The Student Rec Center and other area gyms have trainers available that can

help you come up with a personalized plan. Even if you can't afford to go see the trainer every week, try to meet with them once or twice so they can help you come up with a success plan. Combine your fitness routine with healthy eating. Try to get all of the nutrients you need by taking a multi vitamin, get plenty of fruits and vegetables, and trade in your enriched white bread for whole wheat. To cut back on sweets, try limiting yourself to one dessert a day. Choose snacks that will keep you full, but not pack on pounds, like baby carrots, grapes, or almonds. If you are having trouble keeping motivated, there are several things you can do: recent studies have shown that keeping a food and exercise diary can help you stay on track. Let family and friends know what you are doing so they can encourage you. Buy yourself a cool gym outfit that you'll look forward to wearing during your workouts. Good luck!

Little brother driving you crazy? Parents on your back? Snooping girlfriend?

advice_girl@post.com

Baseball

from page 20

record with 16 career triples.

McAvoy, a Brewer native, fought through injuries and multiple position shifts last season and will look to get back to his first-year form when he was named 2006 AE Rookie of the Year and a Louisville Slugger All American.

Another returning regular is

third-year starter and second baseman Danny Menendez (.276, 2 HR, 30 RBI).

While Smith, McAvoy, Lugbauer and others will see time at the DH slot, third base is the only other position where there is no definitive starter. Third-year Brian Hackett (.296, 18 RBI), who started at shortstop last season, and first-year Kevin Mager are expected to both see playing time.

"Brian played well at shortstop for us last year, but is a true third

basemen," said Trimper of the Bangor native. "He's real steady for us, is decent with the bat and brings some experience. Kevin, as a freshman, is extremely talented, [but] he has got to learn a little about college baseball. Between those two, I wouldn't be surprised to see them in and out."

Among the five returning pitchers for UMaine, senior right-hander Joel Thorney, who missed nearly all of last season with injury, and junior right-hander A.J. Balsinde, who started last

season as the Black Bears closer before becoming a starter, are expected to anchor the rotation.

Fourth-year Will Carroll will start the season as the closer for UMaine and second-year Ryan Forrest (3-2, 5.88) will see time out of the bullpen. Senior Nolan Boike (1-1, 8.07) – who also plays hockey for the Black Bears – will work out of the bullpen once hockey season ends.

"Besides those five pitchers, everyone else is new," said Trimper. "Joel is coming off an injury, and he's looking very well. The others [A.J., Will and Ryan] are also throwing the ball real well, but the impact guys will have to be the new faces on the mound."

Last season, UMaine played a brutal non-conference schedule – facing Miami and College World Series finalist Arizona State among others. After limping out of the gates, they never seemed to get on track and struggled on their way to a 22-31 record overall and 12-11 conference record.

This season their spring trip once again includes games

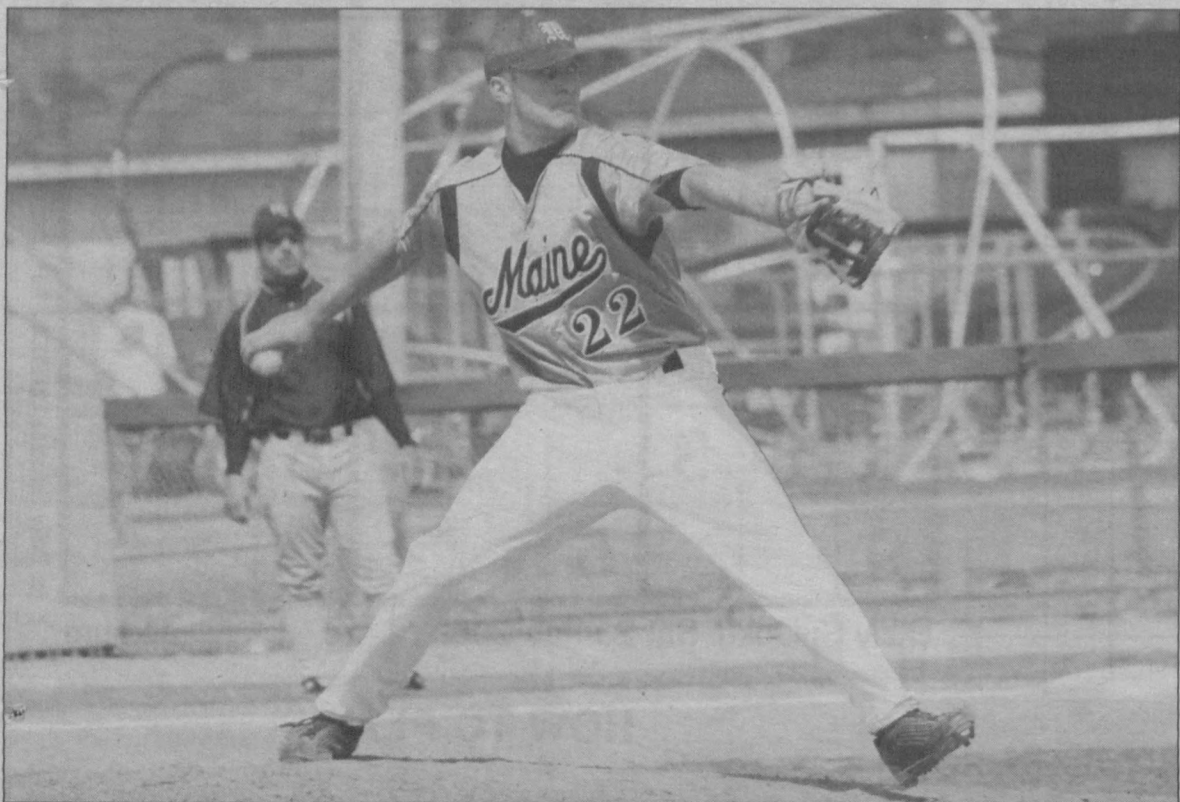
against some of the top teams in the nation – Miami, UNLV, Ohio State and Notre Dame will play the Black Bears in the next month.

Coach Trimper sees the spring as a way of getting ready for conference play and seeing where everyone on the team fits in.

"From non-conference, you go in with the goal of playing well, win or lose, in an effort to prepare for conference play," said Trimper, whose squad was selected to finish tied for third in the AE Preseason Coaches' Poll. "That sets us up for our ultimate goal of winning the conference tournament and getting to the regional."

Even though UMaine was picked to finish in the middle of the road in the seven-team conference, they are confident they will get back to the top of the conference and are looking to win the conference tournament for the fourth time in seven years.

"We just got to play well and take one game at a time," Cather said, "and if we do that then I am confident we will have success."



Kevin McAvoy, UMaine pitcher, takes to the mound last spring.

Jenna Lavallee ♦ The Maine Campus

Track

from page 20

meter hurdles and third-year Matt Holman placed 5th in the 500-meter.

Aside from Ramos' high jump victory, field events fared more difficult for the Black Bears to score in on either side. Second-year

jumpers Tanya Simard and Tess Perry fouled out of the triple jump and long jump respectively. Vaulters Heather Jackson and Allyson Thomas failed to record a height in the pole vault.

The Black Bears' next trip to Boston will be for the New England regional championships on Feb. 29.

Think you can show the University of Maine the rest of the picture?



The Maine Campus is taking applications for the position of Editor in Chief.

Interested parties should send an e-mail to eic@mainecampus.com
deadline: March 19, 2008



Rebekah Rhodes ♦ The Maine Campus

UMaine swimmers compete in the 200-meter relay last week during the America East Finals.



Amy Brooks ♦ The Maine Campus

Stony Brook leaps above UMaine in a scuffle to get the ball.

This month in UMaine SPORTS

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE ATHLETICS

This Weeks Events:

Women's Basketball
Maine vs Vermont
February 27th
7:30 p.m. - Alfond Arena

Men's Basketball
SENIOR NIGHT!
Maine vs UMBC
February 28th
7 p.m. - Alfond Arena

Spring Break Events:

Women's Ice Hockey
Maine vs Vermont
Saturday & Sunday
March 1st & 2nd
2 p.m. - Alfond Arena

Men's Ice Hockey
Maine vs UMass-Lowell
Friday & Saturday
March 7th & 8th
7 p.m. - Alfond Arena

Women's Basketball
SENIOR NIGHT!
Maine vs UNH
Wednesday March 5th
7:30 p.m. - Alfond Arena

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Player Profile

Hometown:
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Saskatchewan

Major/minor: Business
Administration (Finance)

Favorite class: Human
Sexuality

Toughest class:
Corporate Finance

Favorite pro athlete:
Chad Johnson

**Sporting event you
most look forward to:**
The playoffs

**Fondest childhood
memory:** Vacations with
my family

**Your happiest moment
in sports:** Whenever I
score on Ben Bishop in



Chris Hahn
Third-year
Men's Hockey
Forward

Least favorite food:
Meatloaf

Spring break plans:
Hopefully still playing
hockey

**Interesting fact about
yourself:** I have dual citi-
zenship — Canadian and
German

Favorite quote:
"Confidence is like
money, hard to get but
easy to lose" — Michael
Irvin

Pet peeves: People who
all claim to be "the most
laid back person ever" on
their Facebook profile;
finding parking at
UMaine.

practice.

Favorite movie:
Youngblood

**Music that gets you
pumped before a game:**
Lil' Wayne

**Favorite activity in free
time:** Listening to my
[friend] tell me about all
the girls he currently has on
the go.

Basketball

from page 20

on both free throws for a 53-48 lead. Stony Brook won the game by a score of 56-51.

The Seawolves were led by Lucas with 14 points, while Chris Martin and Mitchell Beauford added 13 points apiece.

Mark Socoby led UMaine with 14 points and four rebounds while Kaimondre Ows chipped in with 12 points. The Black Bears had a 37-32 rebounding advantage but they committed 18 turnovers to Stony Brook's 13. UMaine was 10-19 from the free throw line to Stony

Brook's 20-23.

The young Black Bears have struggled over the past few games because of injuries to key players Junior Bernal and Brian Andre. Bernal missed his fourth straight game due to a foot injury while Andre saw action in his second game since recovering from a broken nose. Andre gave Maine 12 points and 10 rebounds in a return loss to Boston University and provided eight points and five rebounds in the loss to Stony Brook.

The Black Bears look to turn things around when they square off against the University of Maryland Baltimore-County. Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Alford Arena on Thursday.

Crew

from page 19

the gym is not empty, although most of the people working out are over the age of 65. Fresh towels stand in readiness for wiping down machines. Muhlberg takes some of the older members through a workout on the erg machine, which simulates rowing and includes resistance. Today they are working on getting the stroke technique just right, as the song "Snow Covered Hills" echoes through the rafters, the grind of elliptical machines is constant, and the smell of the lemon cleaner for the machines is common.

Although already exhausted, the team troops back to the aerobics room to do circuits. They start with push-ups, crunches, lunges, and squats. Someone jokes that they don't have any music, and another member yells, "I'll sing!" The workout starts, and the only sound heard in the mirrored room is the cracking of shoulders and heavy breathing. A snowplow goes by and someone jokes that they

beat the plow truck getting up this morning. During the break in between sets, the topic of conversation turns to New Year's Resolutions and how everyone wishes they flossed more. For one of the exercises that requires 40 repetitions, they count 10 reps in English, 10 in Spanish, 10 in French and then back to English. The workout ends with abs, and the team collapses in exhaustion. The sky is just starting to lighten, and the snow is still falling as the members make their way to their cars, or to Hilltop Commons for breakfast. Many of them have classes and work until after five, but they will be back in a few days to do it all over again. When they get more in shape, the workouts will increase to five days a week, and when they begin competing in the fall, six days a week.

Do the early hours, the difficulty, and challenges stop Rice from dragging herself out of bed three days a week? "No, because A) you know you have people waiting for you ... B) you're not awake enough to be aware of what you're doing ... Before you know it, you're halfway done."

Binghamton edges out UMaine

Basketball struggles to maintain lead during game's last minutes

By Dana Bulba

The University of Maine women's basketball team dropped a 64-57 loss to Binghamton on Saturday afternoon in Vestal, N.Y. This leaves the Black Bears with a 7-19 overall record and 4-9 in America East.

The first half saw little action early on for both sides until UMaine's offense came through for a 16-10 lead. Four points by

Amanda Tewksbury and a layup by Brittney Boser contributed to the six-point front.

The Black Bears had a 20-18 advantage on the boards at half-time.

The team went into the second half full-force with a 12-4 run for a 32-22 advantage at the 15:20 mark. Colleen Kilmurray scored back-to-back trifectas to help gain the lead.

UMaine was able to maintain the lead until the last five minutes

of the game. Binghamton took advantage of multiple turnovers and fouls by the Black Bears and took the lead after a 17-point run — the Bearcats managed to stay atop on the boards.

Binghamton outscored UMaine, 24-11, over the final 6:37 of the game and won, 64-57.

On Wednesday night UMaine will play host to The University of Vermont at 7:30 p.m. at Alford Arena.

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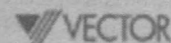
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Three and Out

By Sean Hladick, Jonathon Madore and Steven Moran

From the minds of WMEB's newest sports talk show, "Three and Out." We will be bringing you three hot topics from the world of sports. It's your weekly pill for instant sports relief.

First Down: "If that's not Shaquille O'Neal in left, that baby's outta here."

The Oakland A's aren't sweating the Dan Haren trade they made this off-season for one very good reason: Rich Harden. Three years ago, when he and Haren were both upcoming pitchers, Harden was the attention getter for his fierce fastball, devious change-up and excellent control. After numerous injuries that opened the doorway for Haren to steal the spotlight, Harden is back and looking a lot like that the kid who had a 2.53 era in 2005.

In a scene described by the San Francisco Chronicle, in the first live hitting session of the spring, Harden unleashed a 98 mph fastball to his teammate Dan Johnson, leaving him dumbfounded. Tossing his bat to the side in defeat, Johnson asked Harden, "You want me to name that one? That's 'the Eliminator.' It's a super-fastball."

Besides giving Harden a second chance to shine, the Haren trade brought a slew of top-notch prospects to the Coliseum: outfielder Carlos Gonzalez, southpaw Brett Anderson, outfielder Aaron Cunningham, first baseman Chris Carter, left-handed pitcher Greg Smith and relief pitcher Dana Eveland. That group is a gold mine of future star pitchers and fielders — leaving some scouts calling this trade the best trade of the off-season, in the A's favor.

It's uncertain if Harden will be their opening day starter in Tokyo, Japan, against the Red Sox. Many expect de-facto ace Joe Blanton to get the nod, but if he keeps this up, first-year Manager Bob Geren will be hard pressed not to pick Harden.

Oakland's starting shortstop, Bobby Crosby, seemed confident after the batting practice though. "Well, we won't face anyone better than that from here on," he said to the Chronicle. If he gets a vote, I think it's safe to say he'd pick Harden, too.

- Sean

Second Down: Dial R for Resignation

Usually when an NCAA basketball team is 22-4, they aren't looking to make a coaching shake-up. Unless of course that coach is being investigated for serious rule violations. Indiana Hoosiers Coach Kelvin Sampson resigned on Friday amidst charges that he had committed five violations with regard to the NCAA policy of calling recruits. In doing this, Sampson, who was sanctioned for similar infractions while at Oklahoma, put a potential Big Ten Championship in jeopardy.

This is especially the case in light of six Indiana University players not showing up for practice on Saturday afternoon. The list of no-shows included big man D.J. White who is averaging 17.2 points, 10.4 rebounds, and 1.7 blocked shots this season. White is in contention for conference player of the year honors. Apparently, he and the players were unhappy with selection of assistant coach Dan Dakich as the interim coach. While for Hoosier fans sake, one can only hope that Dakich can reunify the program and move forward, one cannot feel entirely sorry for Indiana University. When a coach is brought in with a proven track record for cheating, you get what you pay for. For the Hoosiers, one of the nation's most prestigious programs, what they got was a resignation, a possibly ruined title season and a dark day for college basketball.

- Steve

Third Down: Redundant-Gate

I'm not defending what Bill Belichick and the Patriots did. While Belichick maintains that he didn't think he was doing anything illegal by videotaping opposing teams' defensive signals, he was; and the Patriots were thus penalized a first-round draft pick and a handful of cash.

Now, Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter is sticking his nose where it doesn't belong. I guess technically he can do whatever he pleases. All indications are that he will, until he finds the answers he is looking for.

But something doesn't seem to add up. What exactly is this investigation going to prove? We already know that the Pats have been videotaping signals as early as the opening game of the 2000 season. I just don't see how the NFL would be able to punish the Patriots anymore than they have.

Take Major League Baseball for example — if an athlete is caught with illegal substances in his body, he will be suspended accordingly and from there on out, the penalties will increase every time he is caught. There is no investigation into how many times he took illegal substances before his suspension. And subsequently, there is no additional punishment.

The Patriots were caught and they suffered the consequences. If they got away with it all of these years, I say, good for them and shame on the NFL. If they are discovered videotaping again, then they should be penalized over and over, just like any other offender.

- John

Out:

You can catch us each Tuesday from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on 91.9 FM, WMEB or read us each week right here in the Maine Campus. From Sean, John and Steve, we are three and we are out.

No boat, no oars, no coach

Newly formed crew team makes due with little resources

By Chelsea Cameron

The alarm goes off at 4 a.m. Erin Rice turns it off, and stumbles to the floor from her lofted bed. Trying not to wake her roommate, she pulls on her sweats and slings her gym bag over her shoulder. Outside it is pitch dark, and a soft dusting of snow covers the pavement. She yawns, but still keeps walking. The light of the University of Maine Fitness Center shines out in the darkness as she makes her way up the hill.

Rice, a second-year journalism major, is a member of the UMaine Crew Team, and this is a three-days-a-week routine.

"I joined crew because I was bored out of my mind with nothing physical to do," said Rice. The fact that there were no tryouts or requirements also appealed to her, but the early mornings are, "Rough, but you feel so much better after ... Rowing is one of the most strenuous sports."

Although only a club team, members are dedicated, despite not having boats, oars, or a coach.

Even though the team has been together since October of 2007, they have never been in the water. They don't have a boat, and have been raising money since then to buy the necessary equipment. One of the members had been in contact with a woman who attended the university and now lives in Massachusetts; she works at a high school there. The crew team at the school she works at is donating two eight-foot boats, and one set of

oars. "So hopefully we'll have those in the spring," said team coxswain Muhlberg. She was shocked that the school would be so generous, but thrilled that they only need to buy one set of oars. Their fundraisers range from raffling off valentine's baskets, cleaning the Alford, and timing a swim meet. They are working on a business plan, and will be meeting with the university to find sponsors. The

"I joined crew because I was bored out of my mind with nothing physical to do."

Erin Rice
Second-year

only sponsor they have now is the company that Muhlberg's father works for.

They have no coach, but are looking. "We figure we'll get one eventually once we get more equipment and we're really out there," she said. They are hoping to start competing in the fall of 2008, and will have to travel to Boston or Philadelphia for competitions. They have about 20 members, and are always recruiting. Many people are turned off by the early hours. "Some of them stay and some of them don't. ... Probably 5 a.m. three days a week might have something to do with it," she said. Members

all have different reasons for joining. Some have done it in high school, some want to get in shape, and some were just interested in doing a sport that they have never done before. The team started out having only female members, but now they have five male members.

"It's just an early morning sport," said Muhlberg. She is in charge of practices, including keeping the approximately 20 members motivated and focused. At only about 4-foot-11, she is the smallest member of the team which makes her perfect to steer the boat and keep everyone rowing together. "You're basically responsible for the boat not crashing," she said. A second-year Food Science and Nutrition major, she came to the university, even though they didn't have a rowing team. She rowed in high school and founded the team when she realized she missed the sport. "That was my one regret coming here." She grew up around rowing. Her mother had rowed at Syracuse University, and there was an oar hanging in their basement in Cherry Hill New Jersey. "It's like hockey up here."

The pre-dawn workout begins with two warm-up laps around the track and then a stretching sequence with lots of chatting about the snow that is still falling, standing in line for hockey tickets, and upcoming tests. An hour of cardio follows, and despite shirts being wet with sweat, yawns are common. Despite the early hour

See CREW on page 18

Ainge works magic on Celtics

Draft pick Glen "Big Baby" Davis paves highway to playoffs

By John Madore

It began with such high hopes. After takeoff, you embark on a ride that lasts for miles, yet seemingly is going nowhere. Finally you start to climb, and climb and then you reach your peak. Just then, time stands still right before you drop 221 feet, arms raised, jubilant, convinced it was all worth it.

If that sounds the least bit familiar, it's probably because you've been on the Superman: Ride of Steel at Six Flags New England. Celtics fans may also associate that vignette as an accurate portrayal of Danny Ainge's career as Boston's Director of Basketball Operations.

But one thing has stayed constant during Ainge's most recent stint in Beantown: his ability to work draft day magic. In five years, Ainge has drafted the likes of Tony Allen, Delonte West, Al Jefferson, Ryan Gomes, Gerald Green and Gabe Pruitt. He also has traded for Ray Allen, Glen "Big Baby" Davis and Leon Powe. Four of those draft picks were ultimately used to acquire Kevin Garnett and the rest, including Davis and Powe, have contributed mightily to the team's run toward a championship this year.

Davis, a player who is

almost impossible to not like, had his crowning moment of the season on Sunday against the Spurs. With KG and Perkins out with injuries and Powe out early in the game because of foul trouble, Davis was forced to carry the load against all-pro Tim Duncan.

Duncan finished the game with 22 points, 14 rebounds and six assists in 33 minutes,

One of the Celtics' biggest questions entering the season was how well the rookies and bench players would play when needed.

but Davis held his own. It was one of those games where stats don't tell the entire story. I figure they should create a stat called "defensive stops" just because of Davis' performance.

"What we told Glen was, 'He's taller than you. You're not going to grow today,'" said Celtics Head Coach Doc Rivers. "But because you have a low center of gravity, get into his legs and try to push him off the block. You can't get frustrated ... He did that a couple

of times."

He also frustrated the three-time NBA Finals MVP. "Big Baby" contributed nine points, eight rebounds and three steals to the winning effort. However, on countless possessions, Davis was quicker than Duncan. He was able to deny Duncan easy shots, forced him to take bad ones, and disrupted the big man from getting into a rhythm.

Maybe the closest thing we have to "defensive stops" stat is the plus/minus, which calculates how well the team did while each player was on the floor. The Celtics outscored the Spurs by four points with Big Baby on the court and Duncan was the only Spurs starter with a positive plus/minus — a mere plus one.

The former LSU standout has only played in 38 games this season, but he has matured faster than anyone could have imagined, and Sunday was proof. One of the Celtics' biggest questions entering this season was how well the rookies and bench players would play when needed. That question has been answered.

As for Ainge, let's hope the roller coaster doesn't make its ultimate descent anytime soon. Maybe we can get the conductor to stop the train when we get to the top, and we could just hang out there for a while.

THE MAINE CAMPUS sports

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2008



Close game for Black Bears

Last minutes of game prove downfall for men's basketball

By Danny Bartlett

The men's basketball team went into Saturday's game against Stony Brook looking to gain momentum going into the post-season. Instead, the Black Bears extended their losing streak to four games when they lost this weekend's game 56-51. The team dropped to 7-20 on the season and 3-11 in conference play. Stony Brook improved to 6-21 overall and 3-12 in conference play with their win.

The two teams started the game slowly and were evenly matched for the first nine minutes of play. With 10:31 remaining in the first half, the Black Bears went on a 13-0 run to go up 22-11. The run was capped off by a powerful dunk by Brian Andre with less than five minutes to go in the half. UMaine held a 14-point lead and went into half time up 27-17.

In the second half, Stony Brook took control of the game. The Seawolves used nine UMaine turnovers and a 21-10 run to take a brief 38-37 lead with 7:10 remaining in the game.

The Black Bears built their lead back up to eight with less than five minutes to go after freethrows by Mark Socoby and Kaimondre Owes. The lead did not hold for long as Stony Brook battled back to take a 49-48 advantage with 2:19 remaining in regulation.

Chris Martin made two freethrows with 1:30 left to play to put Stony Brook up 51-



Amy Brooks ♦ The Maine Campus

Sean McNally tries for two in a game against Stony Brook.

48. Andre pulled UMaine within one point with 14 seconds remaining; that was as close as the Black Bears would get.

UMaine made a key mistake

when they attempted to call a timeout with none left to use. A technical was issued for the error and Ricky Lucas connected

See **BASKETBALL** on page 18

Records fall at championships

Howatt, Tolton, Burlock, Pilosof claim victory in 4x400m relay

By Derek McKinley

A handful of blockbuster individual performances from the University of Maine Black Bear men's and women's track and field teams deserved a second, third and fourth look as they traveled to Boston this weekend for the America East Championships.

The women's team, led by the sprint duo of second-year Allyson Howatt and third-year Vicki Tolton, took sixth place out of eight teams — notching several record-shattering wins in the process.

Fresh off her record performance at the Valentine's Invitational in Boston two weeks ago, Howatt bettered her mark by nearly half a second, racing to a first-place victory in the 200-meter dash in 24.60. Howatt also earned bronze in the 55-meter dash with a time of 7.22.

Not to be outdone, Tolton and Lindsay Burlock broke UMaine's 400-meter dash record — previously held by Burlock herself. After they both beat the mark in the preliminaries, Tolton found herself atop the podium with a record performance of 57.18 in the finals; Burlock

Track and Field

took third in 57.42.

The women's 4x400 relay team, seeded number one, claimed victory with a combined time of 3:50.82. To top it off, the team of Howatt, Tolton, Burlock and first-year Lital Pilosof set yet another UMaine record, surpassing a mark that had stood for 10 years.

Other scorers for the women's team included Vanessa Letourneau

who took sixth in the 800 meter, Stephanie Jette who took sixth 1,000 meter and Laura Brustolon who took eighth in the 3K.

For the men, second-year Khabir "Skip" Edwards broke the 20-year-old 400-meter record in a time of 48.43, which earned third place.

Second-year jumper Jeffrey Ramos was nowhere near the record of seven feet for the high jump, but his leap of 6-06 feet was good for tops in America East and the sole victory for UMaine men.

As a whole, the men's team performed admirably but managed only 28 team points, good for eighth place out of nine teams.

Other scorers for the Black Bear men included fourth-year Max Ludwig who took fifth in the 55-

See **TRACK** on page 16

Youth is essential

Baseball welcomes sixteen newcomers

By Adam Clark

When the University of Maine baseball team walked off the field last May at the America East Tournament, one look at the scoreboard could have described their season — they had given up 13 runs in the game and were eliminated from the tournament. This culminated a weekend where 30 runs were allowed over three games. In short, they struggled with pitching.

Gone from last year's pitching staff are Brad Hertzler, who was drafted by the Oakland Athletics, and Greg Norton, who graduated. The two pitchers comprised the front-end of the Black Bear rotation and combined for 11 wins in 2007. While both are significant losses on a team that is returning only five pitchers from a year ago, the Black Bears look to ride the wave of youth as they open the 2008 season over the weekend at Delaware State.

"Baseball is a funny sport in the sense that you can't really use youth as an excuse," Head Coach Steve Trimper said. This year's roster has 16 newcomers — both first-years and transfers.

"In baseball, sometimes your younger kids are your best players and you just got to live through the growing pains," Trimper said.

On the mound, transfer Joe Miller and first-years Kevin Scanlan, Matt Jebb, Kyle Benoit and Jon Balentina headline the incoming class. All five figure to see significant time on the mound — both in the starting rotation and out of the bullpen.

"Joe Miller has been throwing the ball really well and will be in our starting rotation right away," Trimper said of the second-year who pitched at High Point University in North Carolina last season. "Matt Jebb and Kevin Scanlan will also see time starting games right away."

While Miller, Jebb and Scanlan will start immediately, it may be a couple of weeks before the top-two arms in the incoming class get any action.

Benoit, who was selected by the Philadelphia Phillies in last year's draft, and Balentina, a native of Curacao, are suffering from sore arms.

"All the reports are clean [and] we are just taking it slow with them," Trimper said. "They both have god-given arms, but they just need to mature."

While the top pitchers seek to make immediate contributions on the mound for UMaine, catcher Joe Mercurio is expected to make a contribution as well. Mercurio, a transfer from Illinois, was a Louisville Slugger Second-Team All American coming out of high school and played in the AFLAC All American High School Baseball Classic — regarded as a platform for the top 40 players in the nation. His arrival means Myckie Lugbauer with a 2007 record of .301, five home runs, 27 runs batted in, .995 fielding pct. and the 2007 AE Rookie of the Year, will play a majority of the innings at first base.

"Joe was a top-rated defensive catcher out of high school," Trimper said of the second-year from Brewster, NY. "He is a very good catcher as he is very vocal [and] knows how to call a game well. He is an impact guy."

Another transfer who will see immediate playing time is second-year Tony Patane. After playing a year at junior college University of Connecticut at Avery Point, he is expected to be the starting shortstop for UMaine.

Steve Trimper
Head Coach
UMaine Baseball

"One of our biggest weaknesses in the past years has been our mid-

dle infield defense," Trimper said of the team which had 77 errors in 2007. "We have improved in that area this year with the addition of Tony as our shortstop."

While the newcomers will have to make an impact for the Black Bears as they make up nearly half the roster, UMaine does return much of a lineup that hit .301 as a team in 2007.

"Our hitting is definitely a strength," said third-year center fielder Billy Cather (.321, four HR, 26 RBI, 17 stolen bases), who will anchor an outfield that has two converted infielders flanking him in left and right field. "We have been hitting the ball great all winter in the dome and in the cage and hopefully [that] translates over to the field."

New to the outfield this season are all-conference performers Curt Smith and Kevin McAvoy, playing in left and right field, respectively.

Smith, who played third base last season, will lead the attack on offense (.351, eight HR, 48 RBI, nine SB). One of the best players in Black Bear history, the fourth-year captain holds the school

See **BASEBALL** on page 16