

Fall 11-1-2010

Maine Campus November 01 2010

Maine Campus Staff

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mainecampus>

Repository Citation

Staff, Maine Campus, "Maine Campus November 01 2010" (2010). *Maine Campus Archives*. 5032.
<https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mainecampus/5032>

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Campus Archives by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

The Maine Campus

Monday, November 1, 2010 • Vol. 129, No. 14

mainecampus.com

Knoblock, Ortiz elected as new SG executives

3 of 4 candidates, including president-elect, contesting citing FirstClass difficulties, unprofessionalism in election committee

By Christopher Crosby
and Michael Shepherd
MEC Staff

Student Sen. Chris Knoblock and current Vice President of Student Organizations Anthony Ortiz have been named as the victors in the Thursday election for student body president and vice president, respectively.

However, Knoblock, his opponent student Sen. Nelson Carson and vice presidential runner-up Ryan Gavin are contesting the legitimacy of the election. Over the weekend, Gavin drafted a formal contest form and submit it to the Fair Elections and Practices Committee of the General Student Senate.

"The results may or may not show the actual outcome," Knoblock said in a conference call on Friday with Gavin and The Maine Campus. "According to these results, I won the election. But, at the same time, I don't see the results of that election being completely and totally represen-

tative of the student body."

Gavin said he fielded more than 160 complaints of voting boxes not being available to students on their FirstClass desktops. He also said an e-mail was promised to be sent by current Student Body President Brian Harris to all students about the election's issues and how to vote.

The message ended up being placed in that FirstClass election box instead — making it invisible to the students who did not have the box in the first place.

The complaint, provided by Gavin to The Maine Campus, lists three subsections with specific complaints against the University of Maine Information Technologies Department for its handling of the election on FirstClass, against Harris and against the FEPC and its chair, Skye Landry. Knoblock and Carson both confirmed that they would co-sign the document with Gavin while Ortiz voiced opposition to their efforts.

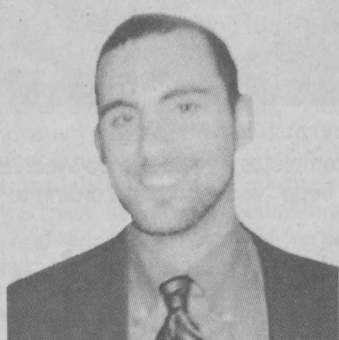
Ortiz, reached Friday, said the

problems with the election did not put any one candidate at a disadvantage.

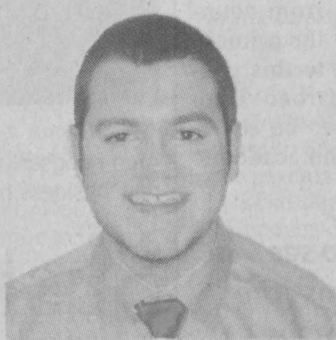
"The technical issues affected

go to [vote in person at] the Wade Center."

"There were three different options if you really wanted to



Knoblock



Ortiz

everybody — everybody had people that were trying to vote," he said. "I obviously think every-

one should have the right to vote if they want to. I also think there

were opportunities for any student who really wanted to vote to

vote," he continued, referencing online elections, paper ballots and absentee ballots.

Gavin and Knoblock responded harshly to Ortiz's characterization of the vote.

"That right there embodies

what's wrong with student government right now," Gavin said. "The notion that it was unfair to everybody so it's fair to everybody — I think that's complete crap."

"There's no way to quantify how unfair it was to each person and that's the real problem here," Knoblock said. "It kind of does disappoint me."

The election tallies were reasonably close, as Knoblock defeated fellow student Sen. Nelson Carson 891-762, while Ortiz beat Gavin 931-886. 2,011 votes were cast by students on FirstClass as opposed to 14 in person.

The election was marred early on by a 37-minute delay in establishing the online voting system.

According to FirstClass administrator Colleen Willett Martin, students who tried to vote when the voting period began at 9 a.m. were unable to do so. A database problem prevented students from voting online until 9:37 a.m. The deadline for the election's end was extended to 6

p.m. to compensate for time in which students could not vote.

"All of those problems should render the election completely illegitimate," Gavin said. "The things that we saw yesterday were completely ridiculous."

Gavin said complaints about the election on subjects such as Information Technologies are heard by the Fair Elections Practices Commission, but complaints about the FEPC's handling of the election itself are heard by the General Student Senate. Since he expects to author his document as a complaint against both, the senate will hear it either at Tuesday's regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting within the week.

"I think the senate needs to know what's going on here and senate needs to decide," Gavin said.

Knoblock said though he was "upset" at Ortiz's remarks, it would not affect their working relationship should the current election results stand.



Amy Brooks • Photo Editor

Republican Paul LePage (center) fields a question posed by a Maine high school student in Wednesday's forum at Bangor High School as Democrat Libby Mitchell and independent Eliot Cutler look on.

GOP, LePage dominating all polls

Conservative-leaning trend mirrors nationwide shift to the right

By Jamison Cocklin
Staff Reporter

With general elections being held nationwide tomorrow and polls throughout the country forecasting major shifts in the balance of power, races have proved to be both costly and competitive, even in the waning hours of the 2010 campaign season.

The GOP is poised to make big gains if advance polls are correct. The Republicans, who are expected to rein in spending and reduce the federal budget deficit, are erasing the traditional advantage held by the Democrats.

Riding a wave of voter dissatisfaction two years after they lost 21 seats in the U.S. House of Rep-

resentatives, Republicans stand a good chance at gaining the 39 seats needed to win a majority and the 10 seats required to take control of the Senate.

Last week, a Gallup poll was released showing a record-setting enthusiasm gap between conservatives and liberals. Despite prolific rallies by Democrats across the country and an emboldened "get out the vote" effort by the Obama administration, Republicans appear to have the advantage over a majority of incumbents.

The poll, which surveyed 918 registered voters, showed enthusiasm and favorability at only 37 percent for Democrats, while the Republicans carried 63 percent. Even so, the

Democrats are fighting to hold their ground to the very last minute.

"If everybody who voted in 2008 votes in 2010, we are confident we will win this election," President Barack Obama said at an Oct. 25 support rally in Providence, R.I.

What's more, the 2010 elections have been costly. According to the latest data from the Federal Election Commission, \$2 billion has been raised by House and Senate candidates. Democrats are said to have outraised Republicans according to some reports. This frantic fundraising has largely been overshadowed by a tide of spending by outside interest groups in an election year that

See Elections on A4

State innovation head tours UMaine facilities

Renault shown Advanced Manufacturing Center

By Matthew Soucy
Staff Reporter

Catherine Renault, director of the Maine Office of Innovation, toured selected facilities at the University of Maine and visited an economics class Thursday.

Renault's visit was part of a series run by the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center. The Distinguished Maine Policy Fellows Program is designed to provide students with access to high-level public officials and to provide the officials with information about UMaine.

Renault joined the Maine Office of Innovation in January of 2007. The Office of Innovation is part of the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development (MDECD). According to Maine.gov/decd, the MDECD is "dedi-

cated to positioning Maine for growth in a global economy, while maintaining the quality of life that Maine is known for."

Renault earned her doctorate in public policy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her 16 years in the field of economic development include work in the well-known Research Triangle Park at the University of North Carolina. Renault was a senior research associate in the Office of Economic Development at Chapel Hill.

Renault visited the Advanced Manufacturing Center for a tour first. The AMC program began in 2000 and received a \$6 million bond in 2002. The building was completed in 2004.

"People bring in their intellectual property and we help them improve it,"

See Renault on A4



Amy Brooks • Photo Editor

Kelly Clifford rides atop horse Lacy in Saturday's horse showcase as part of the Family Fun Fall Farm Day at J.F. Witter Farm.

Are you registered to vote?

Maine residents can register to vote at the polls on Election Day if they have not already registered. In order to register, take a valid photo ID (not a MaineCard) and a piece of delivered mail with a non-P.O. Box Maine address on it to the poll.

University of Maine campus

residents who lived on campus last year but have moved to different dorm rooms must re-register with your new on-campus addresses. You will also need a voter ID number, which is either a social security number or a Maine state driver's license number. You must be 18 years old to vote.

When registering, voters can affiliate themselves with either the Republican or Democratic parties or can label themselves as independent voters. The on-campus poll is in the Multipurpose Room on the bottom floor of the Memorial Union near the Wade Center. It will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

INSIDE

Police Beat A2
Diversions A5
Opinion A6
Style & Culture B1
Sports B6



Opinion - A6
Romance in climates,
communities and
death



Sports - B6
Men's hockey wins
third straight in
Vermont

International students to call Gannett Hall home in 2011-12

Orono High School expanding overseas program

By Heather Pilling
Copy Editor

University of Maine students will see many international students from Orono High School living on campus during the 2011-2012 academic year.

According to a UMaine press release, "[the university] will reserve up to 56 residence hall living spaces" in Gannett Hall, the chemical free dormitory on campus. A staff member from the Orono School Department will live in Gannett Hall to assist the students while living on campus; UMaine ResLife staff will not be primarily responsible for these students. "Access to UMaine facilities and programs will enhance the opportunities for these international students in significant ways while enriching the experiences of UMaine students," Dean of Students Robert Dana wrote in the statement.

The program was inspired through Orono High School's relationship with a "sister school" in Changsha, China, according to Principal Jim Chasse.

"There are benefits to being in a college town for a high school; these international students would have those same benefits," Chasse said, explaining that those students studying abroad in Orono should be able to take both Advanced Placement classes at the high school as well as courses on campus as part of an early college program.

A bus will pick up the international students at UMaine in the morning and take them to Orono High School for classes, then home to Gannett Hall again in the afternoon. Chasse said that adding a shuttle schedule is in the works to bring students back and forth between schools midday as well.

The students are from various countries and regions including China, South Korea, Brazil, Norway, Sweden and Latin America. Chasse expects anywhere from 20 to 50 students to participate in the program.

"It could be a model program for the university," Chasse said. "[The] university is looking at it as an opportunity program, not just a rental of space."

According to the statement, Chasse has been leading an "aggressive" campaign to increase international student enrollment at Orono High. He traveled to China last spring and is planning to visit schools in Sweden later this year. He hopes all of this work will expand the already successful exchange program.

"The high school has always benefited from our successful ... student exchange program," Chasse wrote. "This additional initiative is a natural

fit for a community like Orono."

Chasse said the program is "not a profit venture" but more of a diversification effort. He estimated that the extra cost of being an international student living on the UMaine campus should be around \$2,000 to \$3,000.

"[We are] looking for diversity in [the] population," Chasse said.

With international students come other details that must be addressed. Scheduling will be a main concern because of possible conflicts between high school classes and college courses for those who wish to enroll at UMaine.

Another concern is the language — students will be coming from countries where English is not the primary language. To help adjust to this possible language barrier, Orono High teachers will be trained to be sensitive to cultural, lingual and academic adjustments.

"It will be nice to see students from across the world experience the benefits that Orono students have had for a long time."

Jim Chasse
Principal, Orono High School

Chasse encourages parents in the community to "adopt" two or three of the international students. He hopes to help the students warm up to the Orono community. He would like to see families taking students out to dinner, movies, the mall and local events to help them open up and feel welcome.

"We look forward to welcoming [these international students] to the university community, where we prize diversity and international perspectives. I expect this group of students to integrate seamlessly and to be broadly involved, both at Orono High School and as contributing members of the University of Maine community," Dana wrote. "This sort of partnering strengthens our academic and social program and we are thrilled to be moving in this direction."

Chasse also explained in the press release that there is a "threefold purpose behind the initiative [of the program] — better local and global education for Orono High School Students, a U.S. educational experience for qualified international students and maintaining a 380 to 400 student enrollment level at the [high] school."

"It will be nice to see students from across the world experience the benefits that Orono students have had for a long time," Chasse wrote.



Travis Hall • Asst. Photo Editor

Ahm Kongsuriya completes a maki combo Wednesday afternoon at Sushi Now. Since the restaurant opened last Saturday, business has been "very good," according to Kongsuriya.

Sushi Now in downtown Orono

Thailand native opens self-financed foray into speedy Japanese fare

By MacKenzie Rawcliffe
For The Maine Campus

In a shorter amount of time than it takes most 20-somethings to find a job, a Hampden resident has created his own.

Sushi Now, owned by 24-year-old Ahm Kongsuriya, opened up next to Lissus' Pizza in downtown Orono on Oct. 16.

Kongsuriya, along with his business partner Oscar Ody, started working on their concept to create the "Subway of Japanese food" three months ago.

"I think it's going to be good. We're not Ichiban's — we have reasonable prices and you can get it quick," Kongsuriya said.

According to Kongsuriya, the work needed to convert the storefront space to a restaurant was a challenge the young entrepreneur welcomed.

"This used to be a barber shop. I did everything from scratch in two weeks," he said. "I always had this in mind, so I walked into the space and knew what I wanted. It's fun — I like a challenge."

When he was 16 years old, Kongsuriya moved with his family to Hampden from Thailand. The family quickly established themselves and now his relatives run several of the Thai restaurants in the Bangor area including Orono's Thai Orchid, which is owned by Kongsuriya's cousin, Eddie Sarisodsai.

Kongsuriya learned the art of sushi rolling from the chef at his aunt's

Thai Siam in Bangor. Six years ago, Thai Orchid's attempt to add sushi to its menu proved an unpopular move, but Kongsuriya believes the Orono market is now ready for eel, squid and California rolls.

"They didn't want to try new things, but now young kids, teenagers, they like to eat it," Kongsuriya said.

Kongsuriya has taken on one employee so far. The two skillfully weave around each other in the small space, using a small stove top, a toaster and cooler of fresh fish to create all the menu items.

"Oh, don't call him an employee, he just makes it worse," Kongsuriya joked.

While years spent learning the secrets of the family business helped, Sushi Now is a self-financed operation for Kongsuriya that has so far proved to be a good investment. In the first month he has already met his revenue projections for two to three months from now.

However, Kongsuriya said he intentionally set his goals low.

"I saved up. The bank wouldn't give me a loan, even though what I had in the bank would have covered it twice," he said.

Kongsuriya's and Ody's plans for Sushi Now do not end in Orono. Originally, the pair had considered running a Subway at the Bangor Mall, but for the cost of starting one of those franchises they believe they can open 10 Sushi Nows. Even when factoring in the weekly trips Kongsuriya will

make to the Sun Market in Portland for fresh sushi-grade fish, Sushi Now is a small enough investment that Kongsuriya believes they can safely replicate it around Maine and New England.

So far, Sushi Now has been busiest Friday and Saturday, which is when you might see co-owner Ody's sister taking your order, but all other times you will be asked to write down your selections yourself.

"When I'm here alone, I'm not taking your order," Kongsuriya said with a smile.

Based on customer suggestions, Kongsuriya said he will most likely start offering late-night service from 12 a.m. to 2 a.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. The plan is to offer only the four most popular menu items: California rolls, salmon rolls, spicy tuna rolls and miso soup.

Kongsuriya said he was initially hesitant — "I'm here 12 hours a day already, I don't need to be here any longer" — but feels up to the challenge.

The newest Orono restaurant is an experiment as the partners figure out how to make the healthiest, cheapest and fastest sushi around. Speed is key and the space is small, so Kongsuriya said customers should call first and expect a wait of no longer than a 20-minutes.

"We were thinking of a Japanese name, but then we thought, 'no, people want sushi right now' — so we chose that name," Kongsuriya said.

Police Beat

The best from UMaine's finest

One headlight, over the limit

Nicholas Doucette, 20, of Bangor, was stopped by the University of Maine Police Department on Long Road at 12:09 a.m. Oct. 29 for driving with a headlight out. The officer suspected Doucette of driving under the influence of alcohol, and a field sobriety test confirmed those suspicions. Doucette was arrested for driving under the influence and taken to Penobscot County Jail. His blood alcohol content was 0.26 percent.

Car got trucked

A hit-and-run accident in the parking area by Androscoggin Hall that damaged a white 1981 Pontiac T1000 was reported Oct. 27 at 5:58 p.m. A witness to the accident reported the other vehicle was a "big red truck" with either lights or a metal rack on the top of the cab. "It looked like the truck was trying to pull into the parking spot, hit the car beside it and drove off," said UMPD Detective Bill Flagg. Damage to the passenger side of the Pontiac is estimated at \$1,200.

Forest fitness found out

Eight UMaine students were involved in a party in the woods behind the Student Recreation and Fitness Center discovered by UMPD at 11:34 p.m. Oct. 26. William Asbell, 18, was issued a summons for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. Duncan Lemarbre, 18, was issued a summons for possession of drug paraphernalia. All eight students were referred to Judicial Affairs.

Reefer referral

A fourth-floor resident of Oxford Hall returned home Oct. 27 to find his roommate and three guests smoking marijuana. The resident called UMPD at 8:57 p.m. When officers arrived, the three guests and the marijuana were gone. The roommate was referred to Judicial Affairs.

Oxford scholars unquiet

UMPD knocked on the door of a first-floor room in Oxford Hall at 11:18 p.m. Oct. 28 because the level of noise coming from the room violated the quiet hours policy. The officer discovered four students who had been drinking inside the room. All four students were referred to Judicial Affairs.

Polluting the Kennebec

UMPD responded to a report of underage drinking on the third floor of Kennebec Hall at 9:58 p.m. Oct. 27. The resident of the room was cooperative and gave the officer the remaining alcohol. The resident was referred to Judicial Affairs.

Wranglin' on Rangeley

Police received report of a black Jeep Wrangler moving down the wrong side of Rangeley Road without its headlights at 10:26 p.m. Oct. 26. When officers responded, the Jeep was gone but was suspected to have left campus. Orono and Old Town police departments were alerted.

Compiled from staff reports

Correction...

An article titled "Augusta hopefuls focus on education" appearing on page A1 of the Oct. 28 edition incorrectly said that Democratic gubernatorial candidate Libby Mitchell suggested revisiting Maine's liquor tax in order to boost state revenues. She actually recommended revisiting the state's liquor contract.

Was the SG election mishandled?

All of the following complaints are taken from the official contest and challenge document authored by vice presidential runner-up Ryan Gavin.

- "In multiple documented cases, students did not even receive the voting conference icon on their desktop. Several students took the initiative to contact the [FEPC], as instructed, to receive the voting conference on their desktop, only to find that they didn't have access once the icon was activated."
- When students received the box, "with no known cause or explanation, candidate names were either repeated incorrectly or missing entirely from the electronic ballot in at least nine instances."
- "At least four students used the write-in box [online] to vote, and by the [FEPC's] own admission, they were never counted or received."
- "At approximately 10:30 a.m. ... [Student Body President] Brian Harris informed candidates either in person or by telephone that he would send an e-mail to [all students] indicating that there were problems with the voting conference, ... This message was placed in the voting conference instead ... students without the ... icon on their desktop ... most certainly never received this message."
- "For much of the day the [FEPC] Chairperson [Skye Landry] was out of contact ... Between approximately 9:20 a.m. and 9:50 a.m. ... [Landry] wasn't present at the polling location in the Wade Center, leaving the ballot materials unattended."

University of Maine Briefs

Book signing

David Madden will conduct a book signing in the University of Maine bookstore Nov. 1 from 4 to 5 p.m. He will sign copies of his book "Abducted by Circumstance." Madden will perform a reading from the book prior to the signing.

Get your grad on

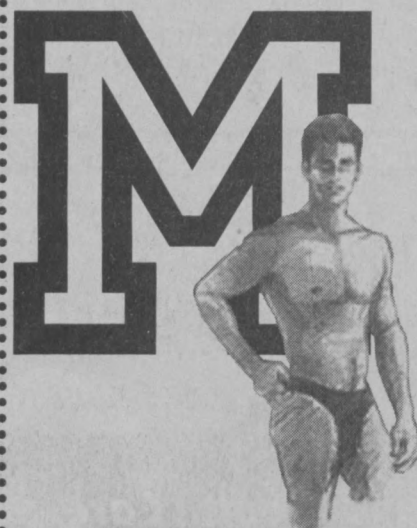
The Career Center will host an information session Nov. 3 about applying to grad school. The session will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. in the Career Center's office on the third floor of the Memorial Union. It will cover the application process, the essay and various admission tests. There will also be an opportunity for general questions about grad school. The session is free and open to any student.

War. What is it good for?

The Socialist and Marxist Studies Series will continue on Nov. 4 from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. "The Next Major War: Peace and War in the Caucasus Mountains" will be held in the Bangor Room of the Memorial Union. It will be presented by Professor James Warhola of the political science department. The lecture is free.

Hegel hullabaloo

Colby College's Professor Lydia Moland will present as part of a philosophy colloquium Nov. 4 from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Levinson Room of The Maples. "Reassessing Hegel on Art and Agency: Kara Walker's Insurrection and the Sensible Situation" is free and open to the public. Any questions should be directed to Jessica Miller at 581-3865.



Halloween weekend busy time for UM Police

MEC reporter tags along with officers to fraternity houses and residence halls on one of the rowdiest nights of the year

By Jennifer Vincent
Features Editor

It is not the elaborate costumes, ghoulish haunted houses or horror movies that have University of Maine officials scared on Halloween.

It is the promise of the highest risk weekend for alcohol and drug incidents on campus, two dangers that were evident during my ridealong with UMaine Police Department officers on Saturday night.

Halloween weekend had Residence Life staff, Alcohol and Drug Education Programs and UMPD collaborating to control underage drinking and drug use on the notorious holiday.

"Nationally, Halloween is the second-ranked drinking holiday of the year," Lauri Sidelko, director of Drug and Alcohol Education Programs said. "When you look at our college campus, it translates to our first because students aren't here for New Year's."

"Halloween weekend tends to be one of the busiest that we have," agreed Sgt. Scott Curtis of UMPD.

ADEP provided UMPD with funding to maintain three additional officers for the Halloween weekend. The office provides funding for several high-risk holidays and makes assistance available to Orono and Old Town police departments as well, according to Curtis.

Curtis supervised the efforts of UMPD on Saturday night as officers patrolled residence halls, fraternities and campus roadways.

"We have extra patrols within residence halls, an officer working primarily OUI stopping people on the roads," Curtis said. "There is an officer working the fraternities and monitoring them for any extra activity tonight."

Curtis noted that fraternity houses and residence halls are areas of concern for alcohol- and drug-related offenses. He is optimistic that UMPD's new Greek Liaison officer Mark Fucile has made progress in bridging the gap between fraternities and law enforcement officials. Fucile is responsible for educating the fraternities on the risks and responsibilities of weekend gatherings.

"If we have an incident that takes place at the fraternities, officer Fucile and I show up and they know Mark — they have someone they can deal with directly," Curtis said.

UMPD officers communicate with chapter presidents and other fraternity representatives before high-risk times like Halloween weekend to make them aware of extra coverage and offer help if parties get out of control.

"Making contact early in the night I think is critical. Letting them know they are being watched discourages any large gatherings," Curtis said. After assisting in a traffic stop near the Sigma Nu fraternity house that resulted in one underage female being summonsed, Curtis checked in with the chapter's president.

With music blasting from the windows and costume-clad parties coming and going from the house, Curtis warned him about the noise and the possibility of underage drinkers. Curtis emphasized that UMPD could assist in breaking up the party if it became too large.

"They are having a gathering but he indicates everyone is of age and hopefully we don't have any issues," Curtis said. "It concerns me."

Curtis's instincts were confirmed when he received a call from the president of Sigma Nu less than an hour later requesting his help with a disturbance in the Beta Theta Pi parking lot. Rowdy

partygoers became agitated when the brothers of Sigma Nu began to shut down their party and ask guests to leave.

"Once they're turned away, sometimes things get a little ugly and words are exchanged," Curtis said.

The officer sped down Long Road toward the Beta lot. Lights and sirens announced his arrival and costumed guests left Sigma Nu in droves, beginning their trek home as freezing rain began to fall.

One underage and intoxicated student who found himself charged with possession by consumption looked ashamed and almost comical, standing against the police cruiser in his Hawaiian shorts and fish print shirt.

"This is an example of a president calling us for assistance, which is good," Curtis said.

He allowed the underage male to find his own way home and commented that UMPD officers must be the ones to decide whether an intoxicated student needs medical attention.

"No one wants the ambulance, everyone is fine. They have 'only had a couple,'" Curtis said. "We have to make the decision as to whether they need to be evaluated [by the University Volunteer Ambulance Corps] or not."

Often the incidents and encounters that arise from intoxication, rather than the underage drinking alone, are the greatest concern for law enforcement.

"Alcohol incidents increase, marijuana increases and hopefully that's all. I can handle that," Curtis said. "When we see fights and all the other things that happen when people are under the influence, that is the problem."

Over the course of Saturday night, the most common incidents seemed to be those of underage drinking or suspected marijuana use. Possession by consump-

tion appeared to be the most prevalent charge.

Sidelko suggested that costumes give some students "a license to do things they wouldn't normally do."

Most people don't need much reason to go out and party more," she said. "[Halloween] gives a theme and a purpose to ramp up, in particular, drinking."

This is apparent on other holidays and occasions as well, including "St. Patrick's Day, the night before Maine Day, formals, 21st birthdays — any time people have a reason to celebrate," according to Sidelko.

For this reason, Sidelko and Curtis cited the importance of alternative events hosted by ResLife and Campus Activities and Student Engagement.

"ResLife has really stepped up with programs and that's key to give the students something to do besides drinking," Curtis said.

Sidelko agreed, saying that "20 percent of our students choose not to drink and we want to give them something to do."

For the other 80 percent who may choose to drink on Halloween, Sidelko organizes a number of preventative programs focused on informing students of the risks of underage and binge drinking. ADEP has, through a variety of events and meetings, reached more than 1,400 students this semester.

"We try to be as proactive as possible so we don't have to be reactive," Sidelko said.

She said that one of the most serious issues with underage drinking is a lack of knowledge about what students are drinking. On weekends — especially on high-risk weekends like Halloween — students mixing hard alcohol with their beverages can fall victim to igno-

rance about the number of drinks they have consumed.

When students mix their own drinks without measuring their alcohol, what they have in their hand "might be the equivalent of one drink or five," Sidelko said.

Sidelko and Curtis mentioned party concoctions like 'jungle juice' and flavored hard alcohol as problematic because they mask the real impact of what students are drinking.

"They're drinking straight alcohol with no idea what amount will kill you," Curtis said.

These dangers were evident on Halloween weekend, with several students in Hilltop residence halls needing a medical evaluation from UVAC, including two girls struggling to walk outside of Somerset Hall who required an ambulance.

In situations like these, where a student's safety is in danger, their health takes precedence over any offenses that may have occurred.

"Our police never go out to bust people," Sidelko said.

"Our priority is always safety of the students. Obviously we take alcohol violations seriously, drug violations and the like," Sgt. Mark Coffey said. "That's why we try to maintain visibility as much as possible."

ADEP and UMPD take a realistic approach to high-risk weekends like this one, understanding that underage drinking will happen.

"No matter what, students will make their choices, their own personal choices," Coffey said. "The message we always give them is that even though we don't condone certain choices, to just be safe out there. That's our biggest concern."



Jennifer Vincent • Features Editor
A University of Maine Police Department traffic stop outside of the Sigma Nu fraternity house resulted in one underage female being summonsed for possession of alcohol by a minor.



**Penobscot
Community
Health Care**

Helen Hunt Health Center

Your Family's Quality Medical Home and WALK-IN MEDICAL CARE!

Services

- Family Medicine
- Walk-In Care
- Dental Care
- Pediatrics
- Pharmacy
- Psychiatry
- Physical Therapy
- Optometry
- Lab
- X-Ray
- Care Management

242 Brunswick St., Old Town • 827-6128 • www.pchcbangor.org

WALK-IN MEDICAL CARE

7 Days a Week and Evenings!
Monday - Friday, 8 am - 8 pm
Saturday - Sunday, 9 am - 4 pm

**No Appointment Necessary
Just Walk In**



Just 4 miles from the UMaine campus




**Care for
EVERYONE**

MaineCare, Medicare,
Insurances, Self-Pay,
Reduced Fees




Nationally Accredited for Quality.
Nationally Certified as a Patient Centered Medical Home

The Future of Quality Health Care...NOW. For Every One. Every Age. Every Day.

Elections from A1

finds Democrats struggling to stay in office and fend off criticisms.

The atmosphere in Maine is no different, as all three big-ticket races remain competitive in the eleventh hour. The latest gubernatorial polls show Republican candidate Paul LePage with a big lead and independent Eliot Cutler surging ahead of Libby Mitchell, the Democratic candidate.

In a poll of 400 registered voters conducted by Pan Atlantic SMS Group, a Portland-based polling firm, released last Friday, LePage was ahead with 37 percent, followed by Cutler with 31 percent and Mitchell at 22 percent. Independents Shawn Moody and Kevin Scott combined for 4 percent, with the remaining 7 percent undecided.

Two polls released last Thursday showed LePage with 40 percent support.

The first of Thursday's polls, a Rasmussen poll, had Mitchell and Cutler tied at 26 percent, while the second, a Public Policy Polling survey, showed Cutler at 28 percent and Mitchell at 24 percent.

Also in the race for the

Blaine House, the political fodder of the 2010 midterm election continued throughout last week as Cutler decried the actions of his major party opponents. At a press conference last Monday, Cutler disparaged a recent series of attack ads from both the Republicans and Democrats depicting him

timing and said he wondered why the candidate chose to wait until a week before the election to fight back over ongoing accusations from his time in the private sector.

Maine's gubernatorial candidates have also engaged in a costly race, according to the latest campaign finance reports.

first district, Pingree finds herself in a statistical dead heat with Republican challenger Dean Scontras.

In addition to considering candidates for governor and a portion of Maine's congressional delegation, votes will be tallied for the Maine state legislature, a referendum question and two bond questions.

Question 1 is a citizens' initiative that would permit developers to build a casino and resort in Oxford County. Pan Atlantic's poll released on Friday showed the measure receiving 51 percent support against 46 percent opposition.

Question 2 will ask if residents should allow the state to borrow \$5 million from private investors to create a dental school and upgrade community dental clinics.

Question 3 will ask if residents wish to allow the state to borrow \$9.75 million, which will be matched by federal funds, for the purpose of land conservation, working waterfront preservation and investment in state parks.

The bond questions have been met with mixed support, with proponents of the measures citing a need to develop the state's resources on all levels and critics denouncing the act of borrowing due to the state's economic distress.



Mitchell



LePage



Cutler



Scott



Moody

as an oil spiller, job outsourcer and tax raiser during his time as a lawyer.

The independent candidate from Cape Elizabeth was outraged as he once worked with U.S. Sen. Edmund Muskie on a series of environmental protection laws in addition to calling for major reforms to Maine's tax structure throughout the campaign.

"These types of ads have the ability to drown out any real discussion of the issues and any real debate over ideas," Cutler said.

Cutler then pledged to continue running a clean campaign, but his opponents claimed they could back all the accusations. Mitchell's spokesman, David Loughran, questioned Cutler's

Cutler leads the pack with \$1.5 million spent, followed by LePage who has spent \$950,000. Mitchell's campaign has been publicly financed by the Maine Clean Election Act, to date totaling \$1.7 million. All figures do not include money spent by non-campaign organizations to air advertisements targeting a specific candidate.

In Maine's other major races, Democratic incumbent representatives Chellie Pingree and Mike Michaud appear to have lost the momentum they had enjoyed earlier in the race in the first and second U.S. Congressional districts.

In the second district, recent polls show Michaud's Republican challenger Jason Levesque with a slight lead. And in the

material needed is China. The U.S. government did not want to buy a Chinese-made toe for its boots. Falcon came to the AMC program, and together the two have designed a manufacturing mechanism to create the composite toes in the state of Maine so the boots are entirely American-made, enabling the

area with an ice drill demonstration. Renault took time to talk to students working in the lab. Belding said 50 percent of what the AMC program does is "on-campus support."

Following her visit to the AMC building, Renault made a quick visit to the Laboratory for Surface Science and Technol-

Lad took time to highlight a government contract the laboratory has with the U.S. Air Force. The Air Force contracted the LASST to develop an engine sensor to detect problems in jet engines for fighter planes that can withstand a temperature of 1000 degrees Fahrenheit.

According to Lad, such a sensor could help detect the severity of the engine problem and the length of time until the part will break. A sensor like this could save the Air Force a great deal of money in repair factors, Lad added.

Renault was also shown the building's "big shiny machine." The machine is used for thin film technology and applies atoms down one atom at a time onto a surface. The atoms form a protective covering on microchips, semiconductors and other sensitive electronics. Lad said the laboratory is also becoming involved in solutions for the energy crisis due to lucrative research opportunities.

Renault spoke at a lecture in the economics department following her tour and concluded her visit at Fogler Library where the Distinguished Maine Policy Fellows Program held a reception for her.

company to accept the government contract.

"It's a great story all the way around," Renault said. "I'm really glad [AMC] was involved." Renault said a program that is able to come in and help a Maine company shows the usefulness of such programs and is always a success story.

The tour included a visit in the main lobby of the building. In the lobby there are multiple ice drill bits that AMC helped develop. Belding showed the lab area and highlighted the

"When this opportunity came up I said, 'Who haven't I visited?'"

**Catherine Renault
Director
Maine Office of Innovation**

ogy in Barrows Hall.

"When this opportunity came up I said, 'Who haven't I visited?'" Renault said, adding that she had not visited the laboratory in years.

Bob Lad, the director of the LASST, provided a tour of the facility. Lad said the laboratory produces "all next generation stuff." The facility works primarily in the field of nanotechnology, and the laboratory works primarily with "sensors and other micro devices," according to Lad.

Word of Mouth

What class are you most excited about for next semester?



Human Sexuality, but I don't know if I'll get in.

*Abby Diehl
Undeclared
First-year*

I haven't even looked yet.

*Dave Brown
Psychology
Fourth-year*



None.

*Daria Bednarczyk
Marine Science
First-year*

Botany, if I can [get in].

*James O'Neil
Engineering
First-year*



Pretty much none. Chemistry, if I pass it.

*Emily Curran
Animal Science
First-year*

Intermediate Modern Dance.

*Matt Newsom
Biological Engineering
Graduate program*



Probably my photography class. I'm pumped about it.

*Kasey Gray
Ecology & Environmental
Science
Second-year*

Statistics.

*Mitch Sperrey
Mechanical Engineering
First-year*

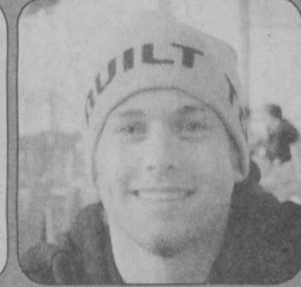


Plagues, Past and Present!

*Josie Kenney
Nursing
Second-year*

I'm actually looking forward to calculus, because Van Steenberghe is the man!

*Ryan Conant
Environmental Engineering
First-year*

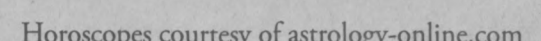
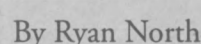


I've got Verve.
~Andrew Baldacci,
UMaine Student

Open Mon-Sat 8-4, Sun 8-2
2 Mill St. ~ Downtown Orono
www.verveburritos.com

VERVE
burritos • coffee • smoothies

By Dorothy Gambrell



Horoscopes

Opinion

EDITORIAL

FEPC leadership must change for fair elections

The players came to the game ready to rumble on Oct. 28. Well-rested and properly practiced, student body presidential candidates Chris Knoblock and Nelson Carson, along with vice presidential hopefuls Ryan Gavin and Anthony Ortiz, knew the contest for the University of Maine student elections would be fierce.

After polls closed, Knoblock and Ortiz were named victorious.

The job of the Fair Elections and Practices Committee is as straightforward as the lines on a referee's uniform — to prepare the arena and supervise the match in its entirety to ensure a fair result. But for the second year in a row, that FEPC failed to fulfill their expectations.

Vice presidential runner-up Gavin alleged in an article in The Maine Campus ("Knoblock, Ortiz elected as new SG executives, A1") that he fielded more than 160 complaints from individuals unable to access the FirstClass voting boxes, which were supposed to be made available on every student's desktop that day.

Littered throughout voting proceedings for the 2010 student body campaigns were several other fallacies which inevitably tripped up not only the candidates, but student voters as well. A delay at the start of the voting process, lasting approximately 40 minutes due to technical issues, initiated election day poorly, but the substandard quality of the affair began long before 9:00 Thursday.

Due to this and the fact that an e-mail detailing the election process, which was supposed to be delivered to every student's inbox by current Student Body President Brian Harris, was directed to the voting folder only, the inefficiencies of the process have become blatantly apparent.

Not only were some students unable to vote online, but many were not even informed that day of where to cast their votes in person. For the candidates who dedicated a sufficient amount of time and took the process seriously, the FEPC's continued floundering is unacceptable.

But how do we go about correcting such a faulted system? Basic mechanics would have us go to the heart of the machine. In the case of the FEPC, the core of the problem lies with chairwoman Skye Landry and if she remains, it's not outlandish to assume that election inaccuracies would continue to flood the court like debris from unruly spectators.

Last year's election, with Landry at the helm, went almost as badly. According to a Nov. 2009 article in The Maine Campus, Landry and another FEPC member said six particular votes in the presidential election "were likely not from eligible student voters, but neither said they were positive." Harris went on to beat runner-up Zachary Jackman by a mere five votes.

Dropping the ball once is excusable, but if it is done on every occasion, you're going to get cut. Landry is unreliable and her contribution to the student government team is practically nonexistent, which warrants her nothing more than an outright release.

In theory, the FEPC is a good idea, but under Landry's reign it fails to get the plays down. Starting anew with fresh leadership is the only feasible route to follow if the hardworking campaigners and voters of UMaine are to be rewarded.

the Maine Campus

The University of Maine student newspaper since 1875.

The Maine Campus is an independent student publication. It is completely produced by undergraduate students of the University of Maine. Student subscriptions are provided for free through the communications fee.

The Maine Campus is printed at the Times Record in Brunswick, Maine. Our offices are located at 131 Memorial Union. Contact us by e-mail at info@mainecampus.com or by phone at 581.1273.

All content herein © 1875 - 2010 The Maine Campus, unless otherwise noted.
All rights reserved.

Editorial and Production

Editor in Chief Michael Shepherd
eic@mainecampus.com

Production Manager Katelyn Walling

Head Copy Editor Kaley Roberts

News Editor Rob Stigile

news@mainecampus.com - 581.1270

Style Editor Kegan Zema

style@mainecampus.com - 581.3061

Opinion Editor Madelyn Kearns

opinion@mainecampus.com - 581.3061

Sports Editor Jesse Scardina

sports@mainecampus.com - 581.1268

Photo Editor Amy Brooks

photo@mainecampus.com - 581.3059

Features Editor Jennifer Vincent

Asst. News Editor Beth Kevit

Asst. Photo Editor Travis Hall

Copy Editors Claire Carter, Maddy Glover, Tyler Green,

Linette Mailhot, Heather Pilling, Carly Wittman

Design Assistants Betsy Caron, Katy Hein

Web Developer John Poulin

web@mainecampus.com

Business and Advertising

Business Manager Peter Ouellette

business@mainecampus.com - 581.1223

Advertising Manager Christian Ouellette

ads@mainecampus.com - 581.1215

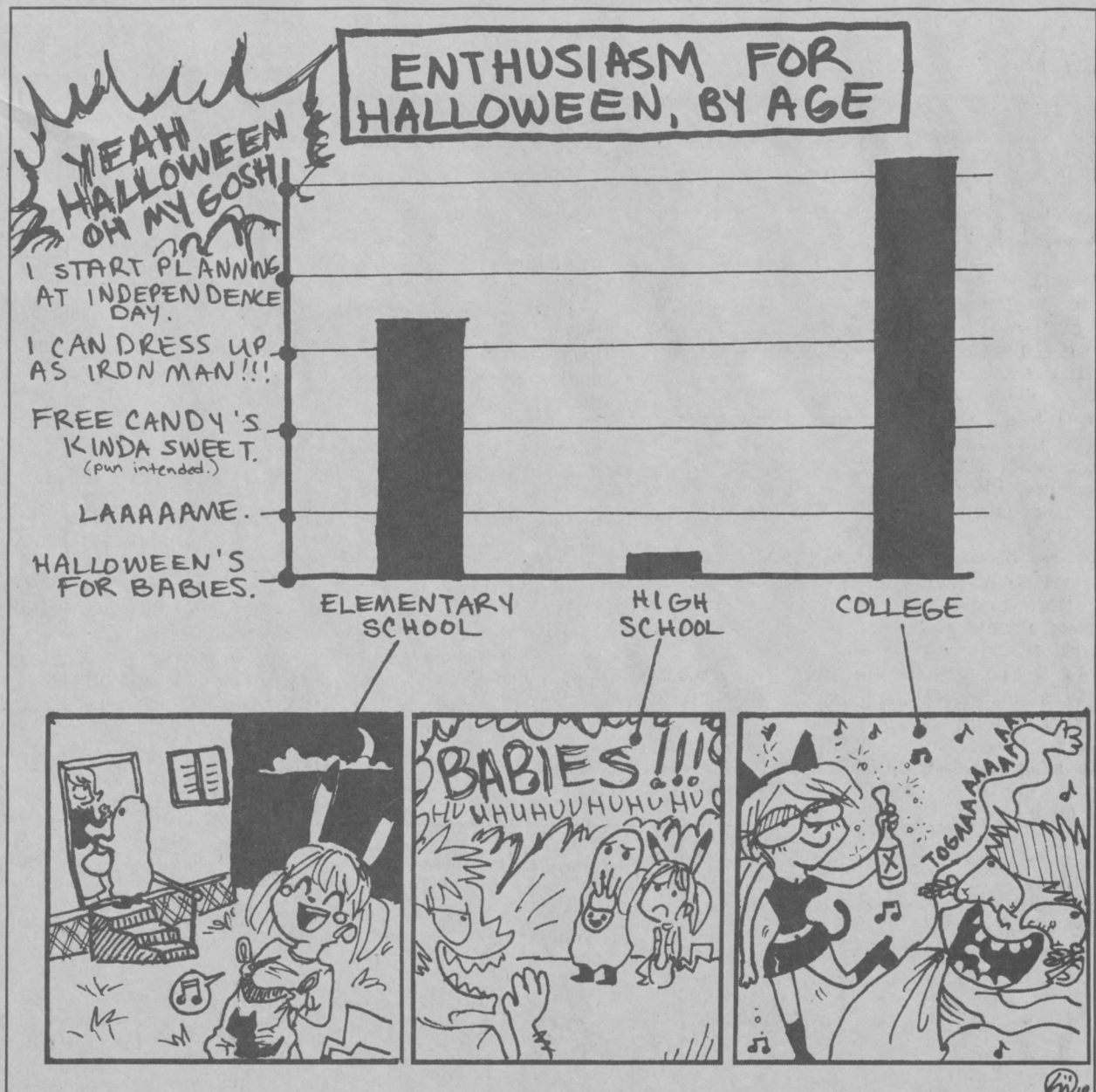
Asst. Business Manager Erin Baylis

ebaylis@mainecampus.com - 581.1223

Asst. Advertising Manager Jordan Rowe

jrowe@mainecampus.com - 581.1223

For rate sheets and other advertising information, visit
advertise.mainecampus.com.



Vote 2010: Reader letters and comments

Voters should scrutinize each candidate before they cast away change

While I understand the popular opinion of the day is to blame the administration and the Democratic Party for the shortcomings of our economy, and for promises that have not been kept, I would urge you all of you eligible to vote to consider a few things.

First is that for all of you who voted for members of the current government, I would like to remind you that you are the ones who put our representatives, senators and least of all, the president in office, and now it is your job to support them. The current administration has had less than a full term to try and complete its agenda, and so I would argue that voter anger against the party for not making good on 100 percent of election promises is premature.

Second I think it is important to take a serious look at the extreme right-wing views of the Tea Party movement and its candidates, including Paul LePage. Their views are extreme and their candidacies are propelled only by anger towards the Democratic Party.

While I can understand the anger of millions of Americans, I would hope that anger would not be the cause for voting into power a faction of a party that has anti-EPA views, and in the case of Delaware senate-hopeful Christine O'Donnell, wishes to bridge the necessary gap between church and state.

Voting is only a few days away, and I simply ask that you seriously consider each candidates platforms before making your decision. All Americans have a choice to make on Nov. 2, and I would hope all who are able to vote do so. But if you vote now out of frustration and distrust for one party, there will definitely

be consequences down the road, and by voting the Republican Party into power, you are destroying this administration's chance of making good on anything they promised during the campaign.

Let the president do what he promised he would two years ago, promises that you voted for by electing him. If you don't vote with this mindset, the Tea Party will become a big faction in the House and Senate and allowing this will surely be something you regret long before you have a chance to vote them out.

Anthony Jackson
Student

Abort financial irresponsibility, vote "no" on ballot questions

How about we vote "no" on all three questions on the Nov. 2 ballot and get back to basic fiscal responsibility, conservative values and less future debt that our children will be paying for otherwise? Let's get people off the couch and back to work by first cutting taxes to businesses that create and provide the jobs to us in the first place.

Say no to all the underlying, underhanded schemes that are just more stimulus packages we already know don't work. Repeal the healthcare bill that spends taxpayers dollars to pay for someone else's poor moral choices to abort babies if they didn't want to have them in the first place. They should have thought about that before getting into the act that resulted in the pregnancy in the first place.

Legalized abortion is why social security doesn't work. 43 million babies could have been the workforce in America that may have made a difference. Stop lying to yourselves that communism, or socialism is the answer to all your problems. Big

government just doesn't work!

Patricia Lawrence

Question 2 chips in for quality dental care

This article seems tremendously shortsighted when examining Question 2. Although you claim that "only a small, selective group is benefiting from a large sum of money contributed by every Maine taxpayer," more than 200,000 Maine residents are considered underserved in dental medicine.

Those who are underserved are much less likely to visit the dentist every six months for their recommended preventative care due to travel time, availability or cost. These funds will found a college of dental medicine in Maine. Dental medicine training includes clinical rotations, which would be done in this state to provide low cost care to underserved Maine people. This basic preventative care helps to screen for oral health problems (e.g. oral cancer and cavities in the teeth) before they become severe.

Maine's shortage of dental care providers is a problem that cannot be ignored. 41 percent of dentists in this state are over the age of 55 and as they retire, the shortage will increase for the worse. It is easy to ignore this problem in one's late teens or early 20s when you feel dental medicine is just "brushing your teeth before bed," but this problem is something for which we all pay. Prevention is the solution to Maine's dental health shortage, and that is best accomplished by voting Yes on 2.

Rebecca Dyer

In response to "No on 2, Yes on 3: Mainers must be critical of bonds," Oct. 21.

On Nov. 2 check mainecampus.com for our special election page where you'll see election resources and reactions from the winners and losers.

Follow @themainecampus on Twitter for live dispatches from the campaign parties and up-to-the-second poll returns.

Have an opinion?
Email it to
opinion@mainecampus.com.

The attitudes and views expressed in the opinion section are those of their authors only and do not necessarily represent the views of The Maine Campus or its staff.

Columnist: Autumn falls victim to harsher climates



I need not list everything that makes this season great because chances are, they aren't universal. But I'll tell you what is: the closeness it brings.

SARAH MANN

Autumn arrives, hauling a set of heavy suitcases. It whispers secrets to summer, scaring it away and sets up shop, begging use of heavy blankets and itchy sweaters. This is this columnist's favorite time of year, when it snows orange and rains red.

If the sidewalks are slick, they are pasted with tissue paper foliage; if the sidewalks are dry, they crackle under your feet like a chorus of firecrackers following you home.

But there's no crackle to be had in sixty-degree weather, no cozy sweater to be donned if you're peeling off trench coats with unceremonious wrist flicks and a rolling of eyes.

Sure, we can blame global warming and in turn blame ourselves, but what's really missing? In a world where nostalgia reigns supreme, how much longer will it be until the best parts of this season are only memories swapped around in reality?

A yard sale of memories flecking your lawn; beach days with large hats and snowy evenings with cinnamon scented potpourri packed into boxes and sold to the loneliest bidder. Walking through campus in the fall is a pleasure we all take advantage of. They don't stick that image on the University of Maine homepage for nothing. It is enticing, cozy and implies something intangible that you want and want now.

But when you're sweating from the hike in your hipster garb, the romance is gone. Is it our fault the environment is now a mustachioed villain bent on tying our nostalgia to the railroad tracks?

Post-Halloween delivers holiday season madness a swift

kick in the pants, encouraging a decent running start by Thanksgiving — Not specifically Thanksgiving so much as the Thanksgiving Day Parade, where Santa makes his first commercial appearance and all the advertisements in between floats become holiday-themed.

Beforehand, we had crescent roll commercials, but now we have full-on snow globes, and it's part of the beauty. It kick starts a myriad of celebrations with the scent of brunt wood and we are powerless to resist.

But before we get there we are forced to pay the toll. Not unlike the ferryman, fall steers the boat of seasons around the bend. There are nubbly fisherman's threads to be donned, apples to be snatched from trees, pumpkins to be viciously gutted and so on to pay our toll to the season sufficiently.

I need not list everything that makes this season great because chances are, they aren't universal. But I'll tell you what is: the closeness it brings. Maybe you don't drink apple cider, maybe you don't trick or treat, maybe you hate the flavor of nutmeg; whatever it is, we can still all agree on that fireside manner. Coldness brings closeness. You can sit in coffee shops without feeling like you've wasted the day. You can take a walk arm-in-arm without appearing sappy.

These will be postcards we tape to a wall if this grossly-named 'Indian Summer' keeps up. What's to be done? We can't reverse any environmental damage we've done, or at least entirely. And even if we could, the effects wouldn't be immediate and dammit, I want my tweed now!

Have we upset the seasonal gods? As author Neil Gaiman suggests, gods are created by what we sacrifice to them and if our season is missing anything, it's a good dose of upper magic. But the farms are running low on goats to be sacrificed and finding a virgin might prove even more difficult, so let's stick to the basics: sacrifice by example. Beg fall into existence by practicing your traditions regardless.

Don't let the number on a thermometer get you down, hell, get down regardless. There's something to be said for faith in the face of adversity and if there's anything I have faith in, it's a good cup of coffee on a chilly fall afternoon.

Sarah Mann is a fourth-year English student. Her columns will appear every Monday.

A zealot without a cause: Campbell misses dignity of life found in death

ERYK SALVAGGIO

Though Matthew Campbell's Oct. 27, 2010 article, "Belief in self the ultimate divinity," doesn't survive a surface scan for willfully annoying religion-bashing, I still feel compelled to respond.

I am an atheist. In my life, I have encountered a number of ridiculous, hate-filled rants about my decision to live a life with dignity but without faith. I have heard dumb jokes and listened as I was condescendingly told that I had no capacity for morality, decency or love because I did not accept the lecturer's choice of religion.

Unlike Campbell, I concluded that ignorance and incivility from atheists is not the solution to ignorance and incivility from theists.

While I suspect Campbell would make no apologies for his incivility, I doubt he would be as happy about his ignorance. And his ignorance is on full display.

"Religions" did not become monotheistic over time. Most pantheistic religions died natural deaths; some exceptions survive in Asia (notably, Hinduism and Shinto, though they don't have a real parallel to the Western "God" concept). Monotheistic religions were always monotheistic; no one looked at a budget and cancelled the extra God expenditures.

His other articles about Horus and Christ have already been thoroughly dismantled, but prove further that Campbell's conclusions are spurious. People should always be suspicious of zealots, especially zealots who don't understand what they are fighting. Campbell is that kind of zealot.

Had Campbell ever talked to any Christians with a shred of empathy, he might see that this "faith in self" concept comes through in a majority of them. However, I suspect that Campbell's investigation into religious faith has ended with second-hand reports about a handful of Southern Baptists or other closed-minded and fundamentalist branches that have dominated American political discourse since 2002. Religion, of course, doesn't help anyone when it resorts to bullying, name-calling or any other number of its ills. But neither does atheism. It is unforgivable in both cases.

For many, the experience of God is simply a reminder to elevate one's self to a higher and more noble purpose. This has room for human rights, civil rights and the option to love whoever you want.

While Campbell may be self-directed toward finding his willpower, his faith (and mine) still comes from imaginary friends who died hundreds of years ago. His philosophy, as expounded here, is Nietzsche's. These sources of inspiration

— Nietzsche, the Bible — are both external references for internal conditions. They are the words of wiser people than us. Does Campbell's source of faith — a vast body of excellent atheistic philosophy — "undermine his faith in himself?" I should say not. Nor would referencing a bible, or a community, when life gets hard or questions can't go unanswered. Such as the question of death.

I stopped believing in God when I did an experiment in an airplane. Terrified of flight, my natural inclination at a moment of great turbulence was toward prayer. I decided not to pray. If I survived, it would prove that I would have survived anyway, and probably would have attributed it to God. You can guess what happened.

Indeed, Campbell and I would agree that the fear of death is ultimately the source of religious power. Though I do note that Campbell betrays himself as an agnostic when he answers that he "doesn't know" what happens when we die. In fact, he ought to, if his faith in biological textbooks is so certain. His brain activity will cease and his body will begin to decompose.

It's a fate that all of us will inevitably meet. In Japan, buildings are left to decay without any attempt to repair them. Nature overtakes our greatest monuments. These places are left visible to remind us of this truth: That death is final, and that our death reveals in us the dignity and truth of how we lived.

And so ultimately, the choice to have faith, or to deny faith, will have no meaning. What matters, instead, is how we choose to live. Campbell and I agree on this much. But after landing on

the ground and disembarking from my plane, I decided to live a life where I tried hardest to understand and respect the different paths everyone takes to make sense of their eventual demise.

I say this as a person who faces the end of his life with absolute certainty. If Campbell can't be so certain, I wonder where he finds the inner authority to reject any possible explanation for what comes "next." Indeed, is merely entertaining the possibility of an afterlife any different from the certainty that God exists? Both assume the possibility for a world beyond our comprehension.

If you take nothing else from my writing, Mr. Campbell, please note this: Looking closely at the two jokes you cite at the start of your article, neither is actually funny.

Eryk Salvaggio is a 2010 graduate of the University of Maine currently living in Fukuoka, Japan. He was the editor in chief of The Maine Campus from 2007 to 2008 and during the Spring 2009 semester.

These places are left visible to remind us of this truth: That death is final, and our death reveals in us the dignity and truth of how we lived.

Strengthening of UMaine, Orono coupling perfect match for college lifestyles



TRAVIS HALL

ASST. PHOTO EDITOR

I've lived in Orono for more than 15 years. I grew up in a college community with the University of Maine in my backyard, and swore to myself I'd never stay here. Four years later, I know staying is one of the best choices I've ever made.

The assumption all my high school counterparts shared with me was how our parents would still hang over the local student's shoulder and be as involved in our everyday life as they were in high school. The whole point of college is to get away, to get your own independent education. Luckily for me, what I view as UMaine's biggest flaw was my saving grace.

I worked things with my folks out very well, and actually moved the 50 feet away from home into a residence hall. After pushing my mini-fridge all the way over on a skateboard, I plugged in my stereo, made a Facebook and officially became a college student.

I had the same limited amount of contact with my folks as any of the other new college student my age who had gone off to live hours away from their hometowns. UMaine has won awards for the amount of things available for students to do on campus. I went to hall programs, ate at the commons and shopped at the bookstore. Life was completely self-contained on campus.

I've since unplugged from UMaine. I moved off campus my junior year, got a job in Bangor, and now student teach at Orono's elementary school. Becoming involved in this town as a student teacher has made me realize how few students bridge the gap between their education and their community.

All this rekindled my thoughts on the connection between UMaine and the town of Orono. Orono is not your typical college town; it's missing the big box stores and obvious symbols of university pride as you drive through, but those are some of the reasons of why I love Orono.

On this same level, UMaine probably doesn't develop here because it doesn't need to. There's more than enough land on campus to create anything needed, and the student services are quite self-sustaining, but college life can be so much more. There are endless possibilities for partnerships between the university and the town.

The university handed out its first olive branch about a year ago when the school districts between Orono and Old Town were thinking about combining into one RSU. UMaine offered to help out by providing the land on which a new school could be built. Unfortunately for these two towns, the deal never went through.

The town of Orono succeeded in reaching out when it made an agree-

ment with the university to share the costs of a shuttle service, now known as the Black Bear Express, which loops between Mill Street and the Memorial Union every half hour. This is a perfect first step to try and link the town and the campus community, but we need to go further.

At a recent meeting of the Future Planning Committee, a group set up by the town of Orono to look forward at what can be done to help the community, I sat with a group of residents to brainstorm how to help the UMaine and Orono connect on more levels.

Some thought we missed the chance entirely by not sharing a school with Old Town. Others saw the potential for a retailer to set up shop in town and sell "Go Blue!" apparel and Black Bear merchandise as the solution. One member of the group caught my ear when he identified other universities that create

Becoming involved in this town as a student teacher has made me realize how few students bridge the gap between their education and their community.

partnerships with the towns they are in to send education majors into the local schools.

As an education student, I had to fight to be a student teacher in the town where I go to school. It shouldn't be so hard to help the community in which you live. We should expand the model that seems to work for the preschools on campus. Students in the College of Education and Human Development should be working with Orono students at all grade levels, both on and off campus. Benefiting the education of students as well as the young minds in the community would easily help tie the two worlds together.

We also need to find ways to inspire students to access the variety of resources off-campus. This year, first-year students worked on service projects around campus and adjoining communities. Why not include more projects focused on the town of Orono? Maine Day would be a perfect opportunity to bring the college to the community. I'm sure there are local merchants who would love to have some help putting up a fresh coat of paint or installing a bike rack.

By working in the Orono community, students will have the opportunity to explore the town and recognize its benefits. A lot of students will live in Orono for four years without drinking a cup of coffee from The Store & Ampersand, getting their bike tuned-up at Rose Bike, or wolfing down a panini at Harvest Moon.

The university has many resources that can benefit the entire community of Orono, and the town offers many experiences that can make college life unique. Once students plug into the town as much as they do the campus, the two entities can intertwine.

Thumbs up / Thumbs down

Scaling walls

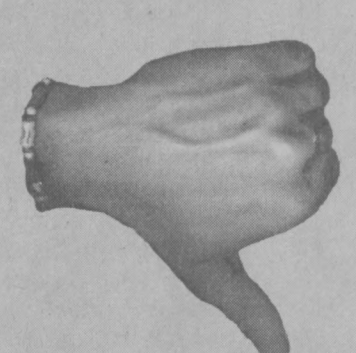
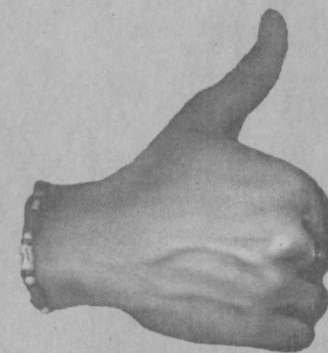
Scaley creatures

Hard liquor

Hard candy

Werewolves

Vampires



Love us? Hate us?
Write us.

Letters to the editor should be 300 words, concise and clearly written. If applicable, include your academic year. Send all submissions to opinion@mainecampus.com. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity and style. Anonymous letters will not be published.

Opinion pieces should be roughly 650 words and clearly written. Include your name, year and major. Submissions should be in .doc format. Send all opinion pieces to opinion@mainecampus.com.



RE-ELECT ELIZABETH M. SCHEIDER TO THE MAINE SENATE



*Senator Schneider
Serves UM year round
and gets a thumbs up
from students, faculty,
and staff.*

*She has the support of
people from all political
parties.*



*Senator Elizabeth M. Schneider
has been endorsed by:*

- The Maine Education Association
- Professional Fire Fighters of Maine
- Sportsman's Alliance of Maine Endorsement and A Rating
- Maine People's Alliance
- Equality Maine
- Maine State Employees Association
- Maine AFL-CIO
- Maine Association of Realtors
- Maine Credit Union League
- Maine State Nurses Association

*• Also received Highest Ranking from
Maine Forest Legacy PAC*

"Senator Schneider is a trusted partner for me as we advocate together for the University of Maine. I know I can count on her to fight for UMaine students, faculty, and staff every time, on every issue."

~ Rep. Emily Ann Cain



Paid for and authorized by the Committee to Re-elect Elizabeth M. Schneider for Maine Senate 55 Bennoch Road, Orono, Maine 04473, Carolyn Montgomery, Treasurer

