

Spring 3-17-2011

Maine Campus March 17 2011

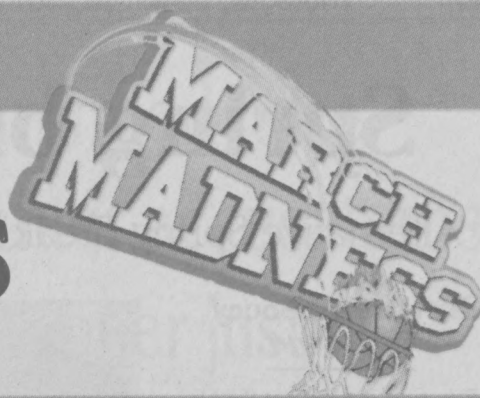
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The Maine Campus

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Ferguson selected to be UMaine's next president

Illinois administrator named as Kennedy's replacement by chancellor, board of trustees at Augusta meeting

By Beth Kevit
Asst. News Editor

The University of Maine System board of trustees confirmed Paul Ferguson as the University of Maine's 19th president.

Chancellor Richard Patten-
aude announced his endorsement of Ferguson in an e-mail sent to members of the UMaine campus community at 2 p.m. Monday.

"It was not an easy choice," Patten-
aude wrote in a release preceding the board of trustees' official vote, "but I believe Dr.



Ferguson

Ferguson will provide the experience, positive energy, and leadership that the University of Maine needs at this point in time."

In a phone interview Monday afternoon, Ferguson expressed excitement at his appointment.

"Certainly every state has unique challenges. That's one of the challenges of higher education today," he said. "I'm looking forward to working with the chancellor, board of trustees, the governor and the legislature."

Ferguson expects to visit the UMaine campus before moving

to the President's House this summer. His contract stipulates he will receive \$270,000 each year of a two-year contract — \$250,000 in base salary and \$20,000 in benefits. He will assume his post after current president Robert Kennedy leaves in late June.

Currently provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Ferguson has accumulated many years' worth of experience in higher education administration. According to his résumé, Ferguson's responsibilities in SIUE's department of academic affairs have included budget management, personnel relations and overseeing academic programs for approximately 14,000 students.

Ferguson has been at SIUE since 2006. During that time, the university ranked in the top third of higher education institutions nationwide in terms of funding received from the National Science Foundation, was one of 68 institutions recognized by the U.S. News and World Report as a place "to watch for academic innovation," and was commended by the Association of American Colleges and Universities for its capstone program.

Ferguson developed and implemented a Student Success Center at SIUE to house the offices of student government, counseling and health services, the career center, and the academic advancement center, which includes resources similar to UMaine's writing center and math lab.

Prior to his time at SIUE, See Ferguson on A2

GOP pension plans irk UM labor officials

Unfunded liability at heart of tension

By Jamison Cocklin
Staff Reporter

As dismay continues to spread from state to state over pension problems and the budget constraints pinned to them, two sides are emerging with unions and state workers on one and cash-strapped lawmakers on the other.

A showdown for the future of the American workplace is potentially unfolding in the meantime, according to officials at the University of Maine.

Maine has entered the fray in recent weeks, as Gov. Paul LePage's proposed reforms to the state's pension plan have spurred a debate in Augusta and made conditions there restive. State workers have been turning out in droves to protest the administration's plan, which many of those affected claim will leave them impoverished in the long run.

In Maine, debate hinges solely

on the state's retirement fund, which reportedly faces a \$4.3 billion budget shortfall. To fill the gap, LePage has proposed reforms to the state pension plan that would require state employees to pay 2 percent more to the system on top of the 7.65 percent they already contribute from their paychecks.

The governor's plan also calls for raising the minimum retirement age from 62 to 65 for state workers with fewer than five years of service and freezing, and then capping, the cost of living adjustment for retirees.

At a March 8 press conference, Maine State Treasurer Bruce Poliquin said, "Today, the sad reality is that the pension system we have is unsustainable. The \$4.3 billion debt is a long-term, structural problem. Not addressing it will cause our budgets to lurch from

See Pension on A4



Betsy Caron • Design Assistant

University of Maine fans who traveled to Merrimack College for the Hockey East playoff game Friday night in North Andover, Mass. were subject to taunting from Merrimack fans as their Warriors took the series in two games, 5-4 Friday night and 6-2 Saturday night.

SG budget healthy after cut

By Michael Shepherd
Editor in Chief

Despite a large budget cut, the University of Maine Student Government is in better financial shape now than at this point last year.

With just less than a month-and-a-half to go in the school year, Student Government has \$59,714.22 left in its budget for fiscal year 2010-11 as of Tuesday morning, compared to approximately \$47,000 at this time last year.

At the Feb. 8 meeting of the General Student Senate, Vice President of Financial Affairs Giang Vo announced the university was reducing the budget by \$17,000, a move she called "unprecedented."

As of Tuesday, clubs had received \$122,019 in allocations, a number that is also down from last year, according to Vo. Alternative Spring Break has received \$11,125, the most funding from Student Government. An additional \$1,200 was allocated to Club Baseball at Tuesday night's meeting.

"We actually have been a little more conservative in allocations," Vo said. "With two months left in school, I'm sure we are doing fine."

There have been meetings this year where large amounts of money have been handed out to clubs, raising concerns among some senators. According to The Maine Campus, on Jan. 24, more than \$23,600 was given out, while on Oct. 29, 2010, more than \$28,700 was awarded.

"Every week it's like, 'So much money is being allocated,' but there's plenty left," Hannah Hudson, vice president for student organizations and a member of the Executive Budgetary Committee, said Tuesday morning.

\$794,032.35 has been spent of the entire budget of Student Government this year as of Tuesday, including payroll, club allocations, office expenses, health insurance for employees and expenses for other services, like Student Entertainment and Student Legal Services.

The Interfraternity Council has received \$23,352, while Residents On Campus has been given \$13,600.

\$268,500 has been spent on Student Entertainment — \$222,500 of which has gone to the direct costs of concerts and other events.

Student Government office employees have also received \$170,436 in salary, while the body has paid a total of \$16,000 in corporate, group health and worker's compensation insurance.

Student Legal Services attorney Corena Howard makes \$53,000 in base salary with health care benefits, making up the majority of the \$87,516 budget of her office.

Vo also said the money remaining will sustain not only regular necessities and club allocations but also a planned \$20,000 to \$30,000 allocation for a concert put on by Student Entertainment.

"That was all planned for, and planned very well," Hudson said.

Website e-mails disputed

Communication breakdown leads to accusations in, out of senate

By Christopher Crosby
Staff Reporter

After considering impeaching University of Maine Student Body President Nelson Carson due to the still-unfinished student government website at its March 15 meeting, senators pulled back an already written resolution, culminating in a war of words between Carson and website developer Ryan Gavin over e-mails allegedly sent over spring break.

Student Government originally contracted the website to be completed by March 1 with the goal of presenting a finalized product Feb. 22 at the last senate meeting before spring break.

At that meeting, Gavin informed the senate he had not received enough content from Carson to create a full website. Senators expressed frustration when Carson admitted he had not done enough to ensure its completion, though they eventually agreed to extend the project to March 15.

On March 14, Gavin said in a phone interview that the site had senators' biographies, basic information on GSS and tabs to navigate the page but was not completely functional, calling it "just a mess."

At the March 15 meeting, Gavin presented a "shell" of what he envisioned the website would become.

The site's home page features a sum-

mary of the senate's function on campus with links to the latest news and information on how students can get involved on campus. The links are nonfunctional.

On the top of the homepage, tabs link to information on executives, senators, committees, news and events and how to contact senate representatives. These links lead to blank pages.

Gavin again claimed he was not provided with enough information from Carson. In the "13 to 14" e-mails the two exchanged, Gavin said he received "20-30 percent of the content he needed to build a professional page."

"I took \$1,000 from the senate and from the student body. I want to deliver a product that works. If I was to throw everything on there it would just not look good — period," Gavin said.

Gavin explained the software he used required him to load all of the content at the same time and that he needed all available information on the layout and content before it could be completed. Instead, Gavin said he got a "spattering" mixture of senator biographies and general page layouts ideas.

"This was not a process that I looked at as, 'We need to finish by March 15 drop-dead deadline,' because it was clear to me that when I had nothing on March 1, I had no illusion that this was going to be finished by March 15. This is actually more or less where I thought

where we might be," he said.

Carson, however, claimed he had no indication the information he was providing was inadequate. By March 2, Carson had sent 15 double-sided pages worth of content on senators' biographical information, committee descriptions and information on community activities.

In an e-mail dated the same day, Gavin wrote, "The content and the page layouts that you're sending look adequate," though he added not all the files he received were compatible with his computer.

On March 5, Gavin sent a second status report. In it, he wrote, "I have no reason to suspect that the schedule discussed on Wednesday would be altered."

When asked to clarify his statements, Gavin said the e-mails indicate the amount of content he had received was on track with the schedule he had discussed with Carson and his expectation for information to continue coming in.

According to Carson, from March 5 - 15 there was no correspondence between him and Gavin. Carson alleges he attempted to contact Gavin on March 12 via e-mail, phone and Facebook but that Gavin did not respond.

Accordingly, Carson concluded that

See GSS on A3

INSIDE

Police Beat A3
Diversions A5
Opinion A6
Style & Culture B1
Sports B6



Opinion - A6
Democrats, get in position, a dull Sheen, closing the case on closed minds and a distorted image



Sports - B6
Warriors crush Black Bears national title hopes

Spring break-ing the mold

Alternative Spring Break sends 83 students to 6 states for week of service

By Matthew Soucy
Staff Reporter

For most students at the University of Maine, spring break provides the opportunity to spend time in a warmer climate with drinks in their newly-freed hands and the sun in their eyes.

While some spent their breaks in what Jimmy Buffett would describe as "Margaritaville," a group of UMaine students committed their time to community service in six states as part of the Alternative Spring Break program.

"ASB sent out 83 members this spring break," said UMaine senior student Sean Campbell, a co-coordinator of ASB. "There were six groups of 12 students and one group of 11 students that went to different locations throughout the first week of spring break. Each trip completed at least 40 hours of community service throughout the week, and some did more."

Campbell said a friend encouraged him to participate in ASB his sophomore year and he has been a part of the program ever since.

"It was a rewarding and eye-opening experience," Campbell said. "It is hard to describe to someone who hasn't been on the trip before."

Campbell traveled to El Paso, Texas, during his spring break to volunteer at the Child



Courtesy of Sean Campbell

From left to right, Lindsay LaJoie, Brittany Charette, Zachary Lailer, and Dani Houle all work on art projects for the children at the Child Crisis Center of El Paso.

we knew we were making a difference."

Campbell did not miss out on the warm weather people associate with spring break.

"The area was nice — a lot warmer than Maine — and it really had that Texan feel with the monochromatic tan colors," he said.

The volunteer work does not go unnoticed by those who are

group visited New Orleans to volunteer for Project Lazarus, a facility that offers housing and support for individuals who suffer from AIDS or HIV. A second group of students also traveled to New Orleans and worked to rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, as part of the Saint Bernard's Project.

Other groups traveled to Gulfport, Miss., to help with disaster relief, as well as Lower Matecumbe Key, Fla., where students completed work with the Florida Sea Base to revitalize damaged ecosystems. In Chesterfield, Va., a group of students assisted individuals with autism and developmental disabilities as part of Camp Baker.

Volunteers in another group headed to Nashville, Tenn., to help at the Martha O'Bryan Center, which works with underprivileged families and youth within the community.

The groups do not travel to randomly selected locations.

"The site leaders for each trip have access to a site bank that is sponsored by Break Away, an organization that connects volunteer groups with organizations," Campbell said. "They search for something they want to do and plan out the rest."

Housing and food are the

biggest issues in planning the volunteer trips. Campbell said while some organizations provide such amenities, sometimes the groups have to look elsewhere.

"Housing and eating is arranged prior to the trip," Campbell said. "Some host sites provide housing. When they don't, we look to get housing donated from churches or other areas. Some groups do sleep in tents. Sometimes food is provided by the host site, but if it is not included then it is built into the budget."

Campbell said students interested in participating in next year's ASB can contact Director of Student and Administrative Support Services Andrea Gifford via FirstClass. Sign-up for the program takes place at the beginning of the school year and applications for ASB are generally due by the third week of September.

"Do it. You only live once," Campbell said, adding that "ASB is intense and not for everyone, but it's a great experience and number 80 on the 101 things to do before you graduate from UMaine list."

"Unfortunately, I am graduating," he said, "but if I wasn't then I would be doing it again."

"It has impacted me by making me feel much more grateful for what I have and what I had growing up."

Sean Campbell
Senior new media student

Crisis Center. Campbell's group helped the center with maintenance work around the facility while interacting with the children who attend the center.

He said the experience can be difficult at first when you are interacting with new faces, and at times participants may even question whether or not they are making a difference for the groups they are helping.

"When we walked in the second day, a little girl came running up to one of the people in my group and jumped into her arms," he said. "From then on,

being helped. Campbell said the gratitude the staff show for their work helps make it worthwhile.

"The people were all so hospitable and welcoming during the week," he said.

The programs the students assist are not the only appreciative parties by the end of the experience; Campbell said this year's project was humbling for him.

"It has impacted me by making me feel much more grateful for what I have and what I had growing up," Campbell said.

The members of another

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System seeks input for new ad campaign

Marketers search for essence of UM

By Rob Stigile
News Editor

In an effort to increase student enrollment and identify ways to entice graduates to remain and work in the state, the University of Maine System has launched a plan to recast its image with the help of a marketing and branding agency.

The first step of this process took place March 15, as members of Mindpower, Inc. met with students, faculty and staff in a series of focus groups designed to gather information about all aspects of the college experience in Orono from classroom studies to free-time activities.

A statement released by Rosa Redonnet, executive director of student affairs for the University of Maine System, explained that the focus groups were a way for the marketing team to become acquainted with the UMaine student body firsthand.

"These informal focus groups provide a critical opportunity to capture perspective, opinion and beliefs in ways written documents and reports do not, and form the important underpinnings for the creative aspect of our branding [and] marketing work together," the statement said.

This rebranding initiative is the result of several studies by the system office and organizations like the Maine State Chamber of Commerce and the Maine Development Foundation.

Responses from the student portion of the forum revealed several challenges the marketing team must overcome in order to persuade recent graduates to remain in the state, with one participant describing the greater Bangor area as both an "ally and foe."

While the small size of Maine's urban centers makes it easy to start a business in those locations, several students expressed concern that the lack of consumer demand in farther-flung locales would make it impossible to succeed.

When asked about meaningful events that have recently taken place on campus, the panel raised concerns about the university's future and focused mainly on recent budget issues.

Occasions like a protest opposing the Kansas-based Westboro Baptist Church, the annual career fair and a visit by Nobel prize winner Elinor Ostrom were briefly mentioned in a pos-

itive light before the discussion rolled around to a lengthy discussion of student outrage over the program cuts announced last spring. The panelists recalled how hundreds of students turned out to protest the loss of foreign language and other programs, an event they felt helped to save those departments from elimination.

When it comes to community service efforts by campus groups, several participants felt the individualistic nature of Maine residents conflicted with the large organizational structure found at most university campuses.

The Greek community was seen by many as doing little more than donating cans and bottles to various charitable causes and one unnamed undergraduate student senator voiced her belief that the majority of students are not involved on campus.

"I think if you took an honest tally of all the students on campus, not more than 50 percent would be involved in a group on campus," she said, adding that this trend seems to be changing with increased requests to fund new organizations with service as a goal.

This idea of highly individualistic Mainers was a recurring theme throughout the discussion. When asked about the template for the typical UMaine student, the participants agreed it most commonly was someone looking to invent an identity rather than fit a mold.

Individualism was also seen spilling over into curriculum, with several respondents speaking about how they have been allowed to design their course of study rather than having to fit a mold. By being allowed to become a part of creating the curriculum, the participants said they felt more personally invested in their education than if they had been forced to follow a set plan.

According to the statement released by Redonnet, the overarching plan is "intended to design and implement a high level, reputational branding and image strategy" that emphasizes the role of higher education in the development of Maine's economy.

The statement also asserts this work would benefit the state by "increasing college attendance at public university campuses and increasing the number of students who stay in Maine for life and careers."

Ferguson from A1

Ferguson worked as the vice president for research and graduate studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He helped add 33 graduate degree programs to the existing 75 and helped develop the UNLV Research Foundation, a non-profit organization with an annual budget of \$20 million that supports research of alternative energy and public health sciences. Ferguson worked at UNLV from 1999 to 2006.

He held positions at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, formerly Northeast Louisiana University, before his time at UNLV. Beginning as an assistant professor of toxicology in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in 1981, Ferguson worked his way up to the position of vice provost of the university by 1996 and remained in that position for three years.

"Over my next several months, there's really talking and listening to a lot of people to get the best and most focused understanding of the situation so we can move quickly," Ferguson said during a phone interview Wednesday afternoon, outlining how he will acclimate to UMaine.

He described his upcoming transition to UMaine as a process in which he will move "very carefully."

"I'll be working very closely with the chancellor and President Kennedy, as well as the folks on campus, to coordinate times" to meet with members of the campus community, he

said.

Ferguson said he will address UMaine's fiscal concerns when he takes office in July.

"No question, focusing on developing a clear and sustainable budget," will be a priority, he said. "That's always going to be a focus, particularly as we go into the next fiscal year."

Despite his readiness to become a Black Bear, Ferguson admitted he will miss aspects of life at SIUE and in Illinois.

"What you miss most about places you've invested a lot of time, effort and sweat in is the people," he said. "This is a great group of people here at Southern Illinois."

Ferguson visited UMaine earlier in the semester to meet students, faculty and administrators. From that time spent on campus, he described it as student-centered and engaged.

"We came away with the spirit of the place," he said. "Grace [his wife] and I really fell in love with the people, the history and tradition of UMaine, but the highlight, honestly ... was the wonderful academic portfolio and the depth and spirit of the people we met. The community of UMaine was what really attracted us and we're looking forward to being a part of it."

Ferguson's wife and daughter, Jenny, who is in her first year of college, will accompany him when he moves to Maine this summer.

"Jenny is a freshman," he said. "She's majoring in history and political science with a minor in French, and she'll be coming with us."

"I think she's coming to the right campus, don't you think?"

UMaine alum assesses tragedy in Japan

Former editor of The Maine Campus provides firsthand account of disaster's cultural, economic aftershocks

By Jennifer Vincent
Features Editor

Though the massive 8.9 magnitude earthquake that hit Japan on March 11 originated more than 80 miles off the eastern coast, one University of Maine alumnus can see the effects of the resulting disasters on the other side of the country.

Friday's earthquake triggered multiple secondary earthquakes, aftershocks and tsunamis of up to 30 feet. Several nuclear power plants were seriously harmed and the possibility of a meltdown or radiation leakage remains a concern.

Though the country of Japan is familiar with large magnitude earthquakes and its people are prepared for their eventuality, it has not seen one this large in 140 years. The death toll is expected to exceed 10,000 as more than 8,000 remain missing and 400,000 Japanese citizens are currently homeless.

Eryk Salvaggio, formerly the editor in chief of The Maine Campus, graduated from UMaine in May 2010 with a B.A. in new media and journalism. He was accepted by the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Programme, a yearlong government exchange program that places most participants in salaried public education positions.

Salvaggio has been an assistant language teacher for high school students in Fukuoka, a city of approximately 1.3 million people that is "as far away as you can get from the quake and nuclear problems," since August.

His first indication that something was amiss in Japan came at the end of the country's school year which he described as "a relaxing time, sort of like the week before summer vacation in America."

"One of the administrator's phones rang during a formal ceremony, which basically never happens," Salvaggio wrote. "When he took the call, I knew something was up."

Salvaggio lives on the island of Kyushu and describes the community as a "shocked bystander." The people around him are showing solidarity for those directly affected by the earthquake.

"On the main island, there is a massive energy conservation effort, but Kyushu isn't set up to share energy with the rest of the country," he wrote. "So we're sort of doing energy conservation as a symbolic gesture, which isn't a bad idea."

Salvaggio is anxious about the lasting effects of the earthquakes, tsunami and nuclear plant threats.

"I'm waiting to see what happens here if there are widespread nuclear problems," he wrote. "If we start having reports of irradiated fish, fruits and other kinds of things it will have an enormous impact on people's lives."

The cost to rebuild Japan's infrastructure will be significant and Salvaggio has heard that it might reach \$180 billion.

"Japan already owes more than it earns," Salvaggio wrote. "The economic toll of this disaster will be huge, and I expect we might see drastic cuts to government services, of which Japan has many."

Salvaggio wrote that he is struck by the stoicism of the people in Japan, even as reports of death and danger continue. He said Japanese people are reluctant to

"When disaster strikes, everyone sees their job as the one thing they can do to get everyone else back on their feet."

Eryk Salvaggio
University of Maine alumnus

show emotion because it is considered "self-indulgent."

"It's not that they don't care. They're just continuing to work, which is really the only thing they can do. Even in the areas affected by blackouts and train delays, they're going back to work, or trying to," Salvaggio wrote. "People take enormous personal pride in their jobs. When disaster strikes, everyone sees their job as the one thing they can do to get everyone else back on their feet."

The Japanese reaction to disaster is markedly different from how things are handled in the United States.

"I don't think you'll see a lot of looting, rioting or panic in Japan. People tend to be orderly and hate when that order is disrupted," he wrote.

"For better or for worse, people seem to trust the people in charge, be it police, government officials or doctors. So people are staying orderly, for now."

Though Japanese people appear to be dealing with the tragedies calmly, the lack of information from the government has caused anxiety for everyone in Japan.

"I can't tell the difference between what frustrates me as a foreigner and what frustrates native Japanese people, but some stuff has been terribly handled, especially when the power company running the plants is concerned," Salvaggio wrote.

Japanese people have been worried about the future of their country for some time, according to Salvaggio.

"Its economy was overshadowed by China this year. There's a dwindling birth rate and a national debt that is double its GDP," he wrote. "This is going to make the future of Japan seem a lot bleaker."

Salvaggio has faith that Japan will overcome this new obstacle.

"The Japanese people have worked together to pull off miracles before—their rise as a nation from utter ruin to economic superpower only took 40 years," Salvaggio wrote.

Salvaggio said he loves Japan and plans to stay there for at least one more year adding the earthquakes won't affect

his decision to renew his contract, which ends next February.

"It's hard, because I barely speak the language. But the kids are hilarious and kind, and my co-workers are generous beyond belief," he wrote. "Everyone looks out for each other."

When questioned about the cultural differences between the United States and Japan, Salvaggio said the country has altered his ideas of what is rude or polite.

"In America you'd have to hang your head out of a window and scream obscenities at me to be considered a jerk," Salvaggio wrote. "Now it's like the worst thing people do is use a cell phone on the train."

He was humbled by the Japanese peoples' gratitude for disaster assistance from the United States.

"I was stunned when a co-worker thanked me for America's response. I had no idea how much respect people here had for America," Salvaggio wrote.

When asked what people in the United States need to know about the situation in Japan, he emphasized the immeasurable magnitude of the tragedy there.

"We're talking about a father whose wife and baby daughter went out for milk and will never come back. We're talking about grandparents who couldn't climb stairs and drowned in their living rooms," he wrote. "And we're talking about that happening thousands of times."

Photos courtesy of U.S. Navy via Flickr, by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Matthew M. Bradley



Police Beat

The best from UMaine's finest



Mystery machine

Members of a University of Maine grounds crew who were removing snow at 1:13 a.m. Feb. 26 witnessed a hit-and-run accident in the Library Hall parking lot. A blue 2001 Volkswagen sustained an estimated \$3,000 of damage when an unidentified vehicle struck it before driving away. The University of Maine Police Department has been unable to find the vehicle.

Back-up smack

Two vehicles were damaged in an accident at 11:34 p.m. March 3 in the Phi Kappa Eta fraternity house's parking lot. A 2002 Jeep Liberty backed into a parked 1998 Honda Civic, resulting in an estimated \$500 of damage to the Jeep and an estimated \$1,000 of damage to the Honda. No charges were filed.

GPS picked up

A GPS device was stolen at some point between 6 p.m. Feb. 21 and 2:45 p.m. Feb. 23 from an unlocked Ford F150 left in the Steam Plant parking lot. The GPS was worth an estimated \$400.

Parking trespass

A commuter parking pass was stolen at some point between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. Feb. 25 from an unlocked Jeep Wrangler left in the Jenness Hall parking lot.

Exposed pipe

Resident assistants conducting a room inspection at 5:26 p.m. Feb. 25 before dorms closed for spring break found a marijuana

pipe with residue in a room on the first floor of Hart Hall. The room's resident, Ahmad Jawad, was issued a summons for possession of drug paraphernalia and was referred to Judicial Affairs.

Blundering Buick

A pedestrian in the Deering Hall parking lot reported what appeared to be a hit-and-run accident at 6:14 p.m. Feb. 23 during which the driver of a 1995 Buick LeSabre backed into a parked Subaru Forester. The driver of the Buick reportedly checked on the Subaru before leaving the area. UMPD officers contacted the vehicle's owners. Due to a lack of damage, no charges were filed.

Cross at own risk

UMPD received a report of a white Jeep driving erratically on Long Road at 9:59 a.m. Feb. 23. The Jeep's driver reportedly failed to yield to pedestrians in the street. Witnesses supplied a license plate number; however, that number was not registered to a white Jeep and officers were unable to locate the vehicle.

Let sleeping pugs lie

UMPD received a report of an animal in distress in the Hilltop parking lot at 10:31 a.m. Feb. 23. When officers arrived, they found a pug in the front seat of a parked vehicle. The dog had a blanket and was protected from the cold, so officers left it to its business.

Compiled from
staff reports

GSS from A1

were no issues with the development of the website. However, by the morning of March 15 neither Carson nor the senate executives had seen a presentation of the website as stipulated by the contract.

However, records provided to The Maine Campus by Gavin show he e-mailed Carson on March 10, 12 and 14. According to the e-mails, Gavin asked Carson for more content on March 10 and provided a series of links showing the site's progression.

On March 14, the day before the presentation of the site was due under contract, Gavin wrote, "If I don't hear from you by the time I arrive in Orono today, I'll assume that you will consider the several progress reports as the presentation to the executive committee," noting such a presentation "is mandated by contract."

In a phone interview, Carson said he never received the e-mails, calling them "forgeries."

"I do believe he's lying. I've never seen a malfunction with FirstClass. He put it in a PDF format and sent it. Why would he copy the e-mails from one place and send them to another?" Carson said.

son said. "He put it in a PDF format so he could type in what he didn't really send me. It's a bad thing that he's turning this into a Ryan Gavin show, like he wanted to."

Gavin responded to these allegations by saying he sent the e-mails to Carson through a secure third-party e-mail service and not FirstClass, and as a result there is no e-mail history.

Asked to speculate on why Carson claimed the articles to be forgeries, Gavin said he was "offended and shocked."

"The only possible inference I can draw is that he's at the end of the rope and trying to stave off impeachment," Gavin said. "I've dealt with a middle school chorus that's more professional than Nelson Carson."

In a meeting with senators March 16, Gavin said he is considering his future involvement with the development of the website.

Though several senators indicated during the March 15 senate meeting that Carson would be impeached, the already written resolution was never presented. Saying he sensed senators were considering impeaching Carson, faculty representative to the senate EJ Roach advised members of the body to move past the website

issue.

"As an organization, you need to figure out what's good for the students," Roach said.

In an interview following the meeting, Roach said he encouraged senators to approach their executives with concerns before problems arose.

According to third-year communication student Chris Knoblock, 35 drafts of the impeachment — one for each senator — were drawn up before the meeting began.

"I helped write it because I was asked by senators to help with the language," Knoblock said. "They put in the details. They finished it up. They printed out the copies. They were ready to rock and roll."

Knoblock added he feels the senate is "ineffective" in failing to hold Carson accountable for the website.

"It's completely inefficient if the top of Student Government is in question and no one in the organization is willing to fix it," he said.

Though the impeachment resolution did not surface, Sen. Sam Helmke was critical of Carson's communication with the body.

"There needs to be improvements for us to do better and this needs to start with you," Helmke

said to Carson, adding he expected a more substantial presentation of the website.

"I've thought of doing more drastic ways of going about us working out our issues," Helmke said. "As a body, the process of impeachment or trial or investigation is just going to keep leading us to the same issues that we're having. We need to move forward as a body and, instead of being divisive, we need to find solutions to the problems we have."

Associate Dean of Student Affairs Lauri Sidelko said March 15 the senate is going through "growing pains" but the body's issues are a "healthy" part of the process. She believes the body is on the right path.

"I feel like they figured out how to work through it last night," Sidelko said. "I felt really good about the way it went."

In other SG news, \$1,200 was allocated to Club Baseball for league fees for their American Club Baseball Association spring season.

The senate also approved a redefining of the job description of the Vice President of the Off-Campus Board and granted preliminary recognition to the Animal Behavior Conservation Club.

Beth Kevit contributed to this report.



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Pension from A1

crisis to crisis.”

The proposed reforms, LePage administration officials say, will save more than \$400 million over the coming two-year budget cycle and reduce the current \$4.3 billion unfunded pension liability by more than \$2 billion.

But experts on organized labor at UMaine, along with state workers, Democrats and union leaders from across the state, say officials like Poliquin and LePage are creating a crisis where there is none.

They have dismissed much of the LePage administration’s claims as scare tactics and said any public support that has built up since the pension liability entered the spotlight is due to incorrect rhetoric.

“It’s a travesty in so many ways. The state is blaming a problem that resulted from one of the worst economic disasters since the Great Depression on state workers,” said James McClymer, president of the faculty union on campus. “When the markets tanked in 2008 during the recession, the pension fund did as well.”

The blame being placed on state workers referred to by McClymer is indeed one side of what is rapidly becoming a polarizing force across the country. Many in the state government’s corner assert it is high time state workers, who they feel have long been overpaid with tax dollars, share in the burden of fiscal austerity that

men explained what they see as a dangerous trend establishing itself across the nation.

“This is really a sleight of hand on the part of some state governments,” said Murphy. “From the perspective of state workers, they’ve had the rug pulled out from under them.”

Both Murphy and McClymer said state workers in Maine and elsewhere have long shared in the burden of balancing state budgets. They pointed to freezes in pay, furlough days and the constant threat of being laid off as examples of public workers shouldering their share of the load involved with bouncing back from the 2008 recession.

Even more alarming to the pair is what could unfold if numerous states’ legislators are successful in their attempts at stripping collective bargaining rights or, as is the case in Maine, reducing the benefits of state workers’ retirement plans.

“An injury to one is an injury to all,” Murphy said. “This isn’t just going to affect state workers or those in unions, but all of our standards of living.”

Murphy pointed to precedents set by unions. He said many of the benefits both private-sector and public workers have come to take for granted such as vacation time, the 40-hour work week, health care benefits and retirement plans materialized only after unions negotiated and organized to earn such rights.

Both McClymer and Murphy agreed a trend of state governments denying workers their rights could set a dangerous

Back in Maine, state workers and their union, the Maine State Employees Association, have staged Augusta demonstrations, crying foul over LePage’s proposed fixes to the pension system.

All the activity has generated vitriol that at times has seemed contagious. It has drawn both unions of all kinds and their non-union supporters, as well as LePage’s supporters in groups like the tea party, who claim fixes to the pension fund are necessary after years of what they see as fiscal mismanagement.

Meanwhile, the legislature has heard public testimony, at times emotional, on the reforms. Labor groups, schoolteachers and a number of others all fear the effects of forcing state workers to pay more into their pensions.

Educators have argued that in addition to hurting their own livelihood, such changes in things like the retirement age and cost of living increases will also harm the classroom by forcing some teachers to stay well into old age or force good teachers to leave their positions early.

Others criticize the LePage administration for insisting upon balancing the budget on the back of the middle class through cuts to funding for social services, health care and state workers’ salaries.

This last contention, McClymer said, is a worsening problem throughout the United States. He noted the wealth in the country is flowing to a select portion of the population and concentrating there. The effects of the recession, both Murphy and McClymer assert, are forcing the country back into a form of subtle “class warfare.”

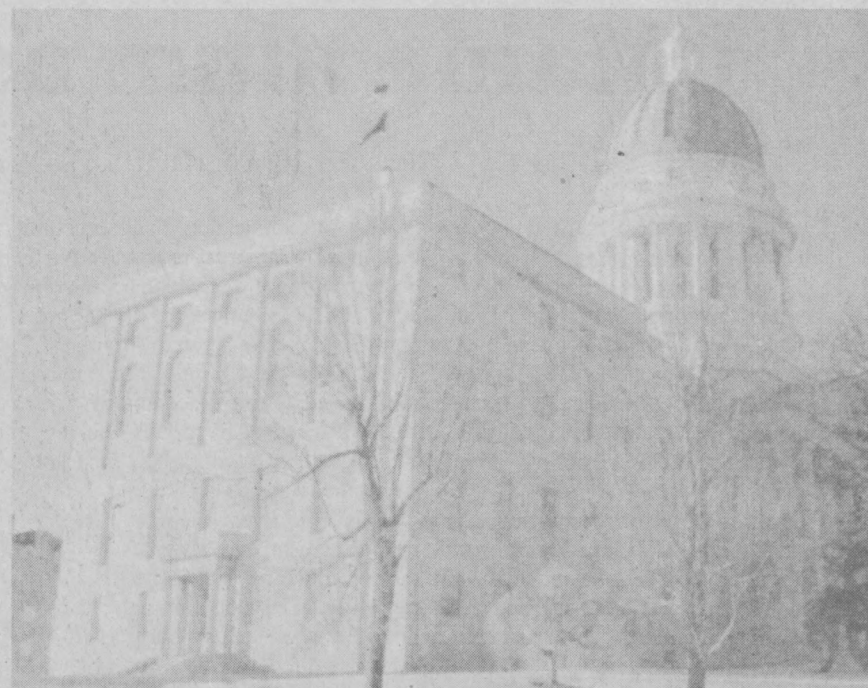
“I think the impression right now is state workers are somehow fat cats [wealthy] — and this is [simply] not the case,” McClymer said. “These pensions are not \$100,000 or \$200,000 [per year].”

Murphy said most of Maine’s state workers earn “maybe one-twentieth of that.”

The two men estimated Maine’s pension fund as paying state workers around \$17,000 to \$20,000 per year, an amount both say could leave retirees imperiled and unable to pay the daily costs associated with living expenses.

Despite the concerns and grievances voiced by McClymer and Murphy, they agreed legislators in Maine seemed more willing than those in Wisconsin to listen to both sides of the debate. They expressed optimism for the resolve of state lawmakers to make the right choice for the people of Maine and to keep an open dialogue.

On the other hand, the LePage administration has responded to the opponents of the proposed reforms to the pension plan by saying Maine is left with little choice on the matter.



The Maine State Capitol in Augusta. Michael Shepherd • Editor in Chief

At a hearing earlier this month before state legislators, LePage said the pension system would consume \$1 out of every \$4 in Maine’s general fund if left unchecked. If this figure is correct, it could have dire consequences for the state’s future budgets.

In response to all the available data being floated in Augusta and throughout the country on pension problems, Murphy said it was important for those both involved and concerned to get their facts straight.

“I want to emphasize that one cannot go by all the numbers — you need reliable statistics,” he said. “This crisis is being attributed to something that happened in the past. It is not at all the fault of state workers and that is just not getting out there — I can’t point it out enough.”

According to the Maine Public Employee Retirement System, the market value of the pension fund’s assets was \$10.3 billion as of the last budget year. Based on those numbers, the state retirement system could possibly continue to pay benefits for more than 15 years at the 2010 cost level without making any additions to the fund.

In yet another report released in February 2010 by the Pew Research Center, it was found that almost every state is experiencing problems with underfunded pension plans. Maine, in comparison, is considered to be a “strong performer” in addressing its liability for retiree pensions.

The state’s obligations were only 63 percent funded in 1997, but by 2008, just prior to the economic meltdown, they were 80 percent funded.

The new budget year begins July 1 and

hearings on all facets of the budget are expected to continue through this month. A two-thirds majority vote is required for the budget to take effect immediately. If the budget is passed with a simple majority, it will take 90 days after the legislature adjourns to take effect. Lawmakers say they are working to craft the best budget possible for the people of Maine.

McClymer and Murphy also explained Tuesday that the faculty, clerical workers, professional staff and public safety officials who are unionized at UMaine are not affected by the proposals in Augusta.

They expressed a general satisfaction with their retirement plans, but noted they were not willing to speak on behalf of other union members associated with UMaine.

In all, they said the national debate over pension problems is not about balancing budgets, but instead about a promise state governments made to their workers.

Both men said the organized labor movement in the country could actually gain momentum as it did at the height of the Great Depression. They say workers of all kinds could continue to be challenged and thus be forced to organize and speak out for their rights.

When asked if unions and organized labor were losing their fight, both replied modestly.

“It’s the way it always has been — a struggle,” Murphy said. “What happens to working people is up to them and strength has always been the hallmark of unions and collective bargaining.”

“The easy day was yesterday, there’s always another day,” McClymer added. “So at the moment I’m optimistic.”

“What happens to working people is up to them and strength has always been the hallmark of unions and collective bargaining.”

William Murphy
Director of UMaine’s Bureau of Labor Education

is sweeping the country as a result of the financial meltdown of 2008.

That year, the state pension fund lost \$2.25 billion. Maine is one of seven states that does not allow state workers to accept Social Security benefits, making employees reliant on state pension plans.

According to a 2010 article in The New York Times, “only one in five state employees stays around long enough to get a full pension. The majority leave, taking neither a pension nor any Social Security credits with them. This practice, not investment gains, has sustained the state’s pension system.”

McClymer, along with William Murphy, director of UMaine’s Bureau of Labor Education, said state workers are being unfairly targeted as legislators continue to balance feeble budgets.

During an interview Tuesday, the two

precedent for all employees in any sector — one that, they say, could allow further inroads to austerity measures aimed at employees.

“All these things are not statutorily required — they were acquired,” Murphy said. “They can be taken away by employers just as quickly.”

In any event, Maine’s pension liability and the national debate unfolding around similar quandaries have taken center stage in recent weeks.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker achieved success in stripping most government workers in that state of their collective bargaining rights. By signing the legislation, Walker ended a rancorous legislative battle but did little to pacify protests that have broken out against the measure and spread to Maine, Tennessee, Ohio and other areas of the country.

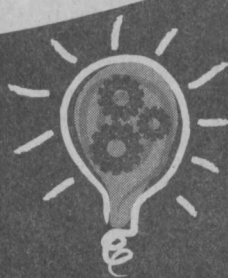


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Think

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USM A step ahead.
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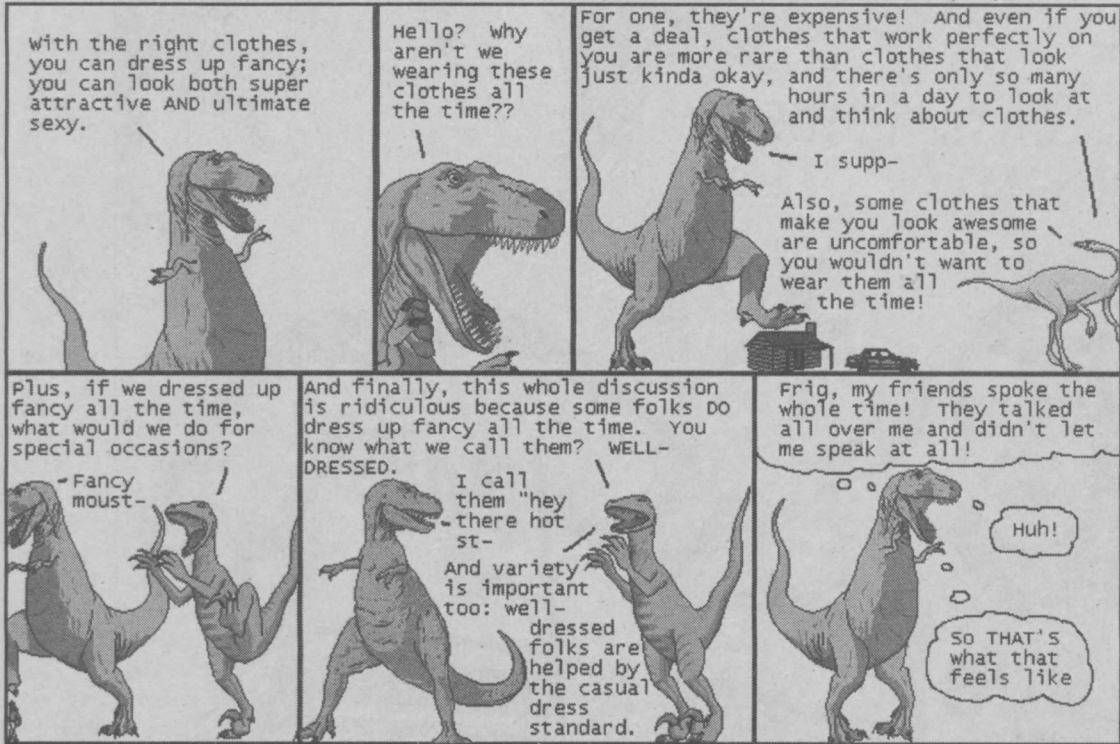
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Diversions

Dinosaur Comics

By Ryan North



Sudoku Puzzle



Sudoku puzzles provided by sudoku.name. Used with permission.

• Each row must have numbers 1 - 9 in any order but each digit can only appear once.

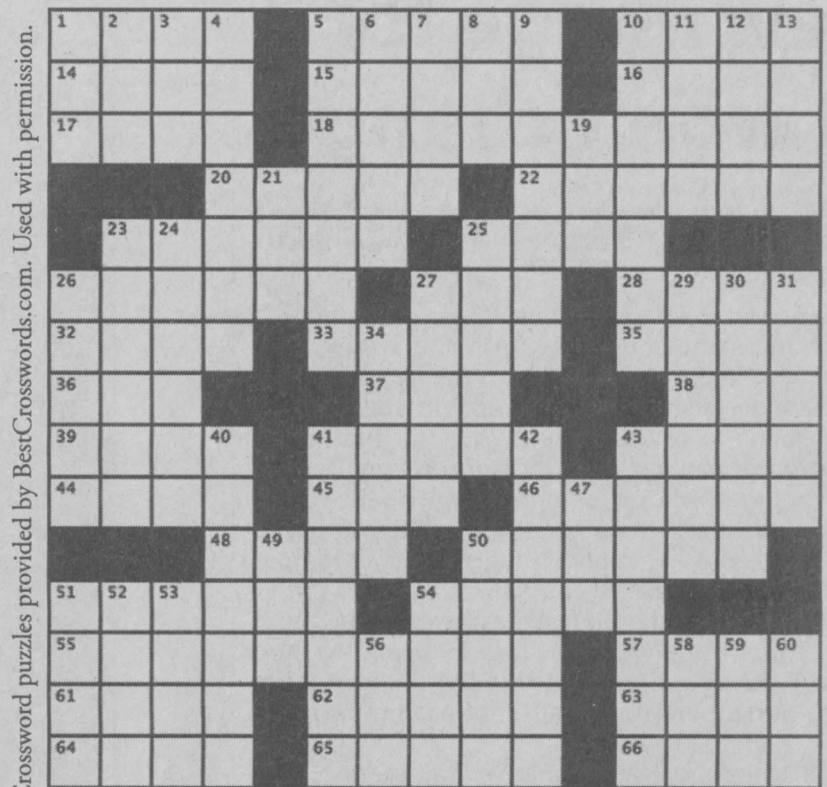
• Each column must have numbers 1 - 9 in any order but each digit can only appear once.

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

There is only one correct answer.

Difficulty level: Easy

Crossword Puzzle



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

Answer key in sports

Across

- 1- Earthen pot
5- Juice of the rubber tree
10- "We're all in the same ____"
14- Rime
15- Satirical dialogue
16- Exile isle
17- Passing notice
18- A narrow entrance
20- Considers
22- Actually existing
23- ____ del Fuego
25- Portico
26- Three lines of verse
27- ____-mo
28- In this way
32- Illustrious warrior
33- Country bumpkin
35- Clue

Down

- 36- Suffix with Capri
37- Drinking vessel
38- Green shade
39- Baht spender;
41- Raw hides
43- Box
44- Hades
45- Cask wood
46- Commendation
48- Legal claim
50- Depression between hills
51- Be emphatic
54- Wash lightly
55- Coalescence
57- Breather
61- Sewing case
62- Oil source
63- Bottle part
64- It's owed
65- Word with panel or energy
66- A dish with many ingredients

Down

- 1- Cry of discovery
2- High hit
3- My ____, Vietnam
4- 1920's decorative school
5- Freedom
6- Fragrance
7- Small children
8- Med. specialty
9- Pentose sugar alcohol
10- Below
11- Corrida cries
12- Basics
13- Grasp
19- Brian of Roxy Music
21- Afore
23- Prepare to eat, in a way
24- Not true
25- Slumbered
26- Egyptian god

- of learning
27- Slink
29- Flowerchild
30- Insecure
31- Blank look
34- Body of salt water
40- Unlawful
41- Emily Dickinson, e.g.
42- Wrench
43- Italian seaport
47- "Treasure Island" monogram
49- Leb. neighbor
50- Orchestra string
51- Chilled
52- Brief letter, paper money
53- Rebuff
54- 100 dinars
56- Howe'r
58- Conger
59- Biol., e.g.
60- Ref's decision

80's Radio Hitmakers

ASIA
BANGLES
BERLIN
BILLY JOEL
BILLY OCEAN
BLONDIE
BON JOVI
CHICAGO
DAVID BOWIE
DEBARGE
DURAN DURAN
ERASURE
EURYTHMICS
FALCO
FOREIGNER
GENESIS
HEART
INXS
JOURNEY
KAJAGOOGOO
MADNESS
MADONNA

Find and circle all of the 1980's music artists that are hidden in the grid.

The remaining letters spell the name of a hit song by the Bangles.

NENA
NEW ORDER
PRINCE
QUEEN
QUIET RIOT
ROXETTE
SCANDAL
SOFT CELL
TALK TALK
TEARS FOR FEARS
THE CARS
THE FXX
THE MOTELS
THE POLICE
TIFFANY
TOM PETTY
TONI BASIL
TOTO
VAN HALEN
WANG CHUNG
WHAM!

Word Search

W E T S A T S R A C E H T R K L I S
B R I R R H O K O N T E L E A I V E
L A F A E E C N E X C O L D J Y O L
O S F E N P L N I N E E T R A E J G
N U A F G O A D I B O T N O G N N N
D R N R I L F R A J A A T W O R O A
I E Y O E I P D Y V E S T E O U B B
E K S F R C T L U C I A I N G O E E
C T I S O E L O O R L D S L O J U M
H H S R F I W Y I K A C B M O R A Y
I E E A B N L A T R A N A O Y H T A
C F N E B L E A N N T D D T W T Q D
A I E T I E L L D G N E H U E I U E
G X G B N K R A A E C M I P R H E B
O X S X N I L L S H I H M U E A E A
L L E C T F O S I C N O U A Q I N R
E A N N O D A M S N T A R N G S Y G
P T I S L E T O M E H T V A G A N E

Word search courtesy of puzzles.ca

The Weekly Bulls & Bears

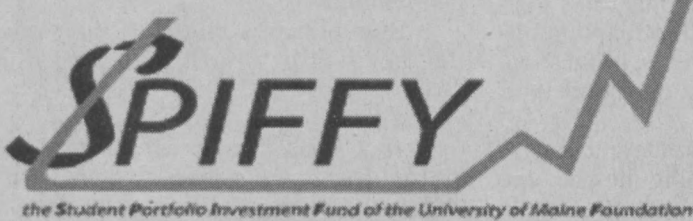
The Weekly 'Bulls' & 'Bears' describe how investors react to certain markets in a week's time. Bulls are when the Market is showing Confidence. One indicator of a Bull market is an increase in a company's stock price. Bear markets are the opposite. Bear Markets show a lack of confidence when a company's stock price is in a decline.

▲ CHD (Church & Dwight)	2.88 (3.91%)
▲ Amgen (AMGN)	2.16% (\$1.12)
▼ YARIY (Yara International)	-5.85 (-11.39%)
▼ APU (AmeriGas)	-4.66 (-9.43%)

Market Recap

Japanese tsunami causes Dow to drop, people staying home due to radiation concerns. GE built all 6 reactors at the Japanese power plants, so their stock fell 3.3% today, fell 2.2% on Monday on the PR issue. Siemens is down ~5% since earthquake. Energy stocks fared the worst. Nikkei (Japan's benchmark) down ~20%. Toyota is down 7.4% today,

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the Student Portfolio Investment Fund of the University of Maine Foundation

Comp Spotlight

Top 3 Ranking in SPIFFY Investment Game:

Make It Rain (33.87%)

ralfe7 (28.17%)

lmarks (19.89%)

Make It Rain taking the lead by selling off all holdings in these times of uncertainty, seems to be the smartest move out of the top 10 performers.

ralfe7 in what seems to be an attempt to sabotage his own incredible lead, ralfe7 has invested in securities that have eroded his total earnings by over 30%. Investing in 50,000 shares of Majesco entertainment (Ticker: COOL) losing him a whopping \$11,500. Seems that he went from hitting a "homerun" to "striking out at the plate."

lmarks holding third by re-allocating his money into the utilities and health care sectors.

Investment Tip

In any major world event, such as the current Japan Tsunami, investors find themselves in the realm of uncertainty. This causes extreme volatility in the global equity markets. Often times, to avoid bearing too much unknown risk, investors turn to minimally risky investments. As the current example, just as the news of a tsunami began to hit markets the U.S. Treasury bonds became in high demand. Unfortunately as bond demand increases the yield decreases. This is because as demand increases the amount an investor is willing to pay also increases, therefore causing less yield for the investment.

Aries - March 21 to April 20 - Be precise in your communications to avoid any misunderstandings and arguments. Travel will promote new romantic encounters and additional cultural knowledge. Your suggestions for fundraising events will be well received.

Taurus - April 21 to May 21 - Make changes around your house and plan to do some entertaining. Do not get involved with individuals who are already committed to others. Put all your energy into financial investments.

Gemini - May 22 to June 21 - You will find that social activities will lead you into passionate meetings. Your talents might be discovered. You should be making plans to spend time with loved ones.

Cancer - June 22 to July 22 - Organize your day well if you wish to accomplish all your goals. If you haven't planned a vacation, try to get away for the weekend. Try not to argue about trivial matters.

Leo - July 23 to Aug. 22 - Relationships will be emotional today. Keep your feelings to yourself if you want to avoid embarrassment. Travel will be on your mind; however, be careful and proceed with caution as minor accidents may cause delays.

Virgo - Aug. 23 to Sept. 23 - Move into a leadership position if you are determined to do so. Get together with friends and do something entertaining but not too expensive. Intellectual stimulation is what you are looking for.

Libra - Sept. 24 to Oct. 23 - You might be overly emotional when dealing with your partner. Do your own thing. Be sure to take advantage of the opportunities that exist.

Scorpio - Oct. 24 to Nov. 22 - You may be fortunate while traveling. Be considerate and avoid being overly opinionated or arguments will ensue. Be careful to avoid wrongdoings.

Sagittarius - Nov. 23 to Dec. 21 - You can ask for favors and get sound advice from close friends or relatives. You can handle situations that require contact with institutions or large corporations.

Capricorn - Dec 22. to Jan. 20 - Double-check before you go out. You need a change and you need to earn more cash. You will be prone to carelessness that could result in accidents.

Aquarius - Jan. 21 to Feb. 19 - Don't make large purchases or investments. Friends and relatives may not understand your needs. You're in the mood to party.

Pisces - Feb. 20 to March 20 - You will enjoy the interaction with youngsters and take great pride in the projects you've completed. Don't get involved in expensive entertainment involving gambling.

Horoscopes courtesy of astrology-online.com

Opinion

Thursday, March 17, 2011

mainecampus.com

EDITORIAL

New image for UM won't change underlying faults

Reputations are seldom impervious — they tend to falter and grow constantly with and without expectation, keeping in flux with the times. Where an image obviously isn't everything, its repair after devastation tends to reveal the integrity an individual or organization possesses, and thus proves beneficial.

The University of Maine, with its image on the rocks, dodged said rectitude recently, siding instead alongside deception in yet another reconstruction folly. Mediocrity brands the Black Bears yet again.

UMaine has launched a plan to buffer its image with marketing firm Mindpower, Inc. as a means to lure more undergraduate and graduate students into staying in Maine to pursue employment and academic opportunities.

On March 15, the marketers met with university faculty, students and staff to uncover the positive UMaine experience through various focus groups and discussions.

Such a practice is not uncommon when selling the average products, such as toothpaste or sneakers, but when the commodity up for sale is a future, swanky advertising has the tendency to come off as little more than swindle.

Shouldn't a decent college or university be able to sell itself? Ivy league powerhouses like Harvard and Princeton don't need advertisements to convince students to attend — rather, they focus on heightening their programs, allowing the positive word to propagate on its own through their students.

UMaine could stand to learn from its upper-crust counterparts and should consider allocating more spending on enhancing its academic programs instead of funneling funds in duping tactics. If the experience is worth it, students will surely continue attending.

Prestige is not garnered overnight, but painting a smile over a frown doesn't really alleviate the underlying issue and whatever affluence there is to be gained will only be temporary.

Resurrection is a tedious process, but it doesn't have to be impossible or feigned. UMaine should send the marketers back to Domino's and begin repairing its ailing ware — the education.

True change may take a great deal of time, but for this university, a hard-earned victory will always satisfy more than a phony commercial and a new shade of blue.

the Maine Campus

The University of Maine student newspaper since 1875.

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Editorial and Production

Editor in Chief Michael Shepherd
eic@mainecampus.com

Production Manager Katelin Walling

Chief Copy Editors Claire Carter, Carly Wittman

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 Haley Johnston

Copy Editors Tyler Green, Kristina King,

Linette Mailhot, Heather Pilling

Design Assistants Betsy Caron, Katy Hein

Web Developer John Poulin

web@mainecampus.com

Business and Advertising

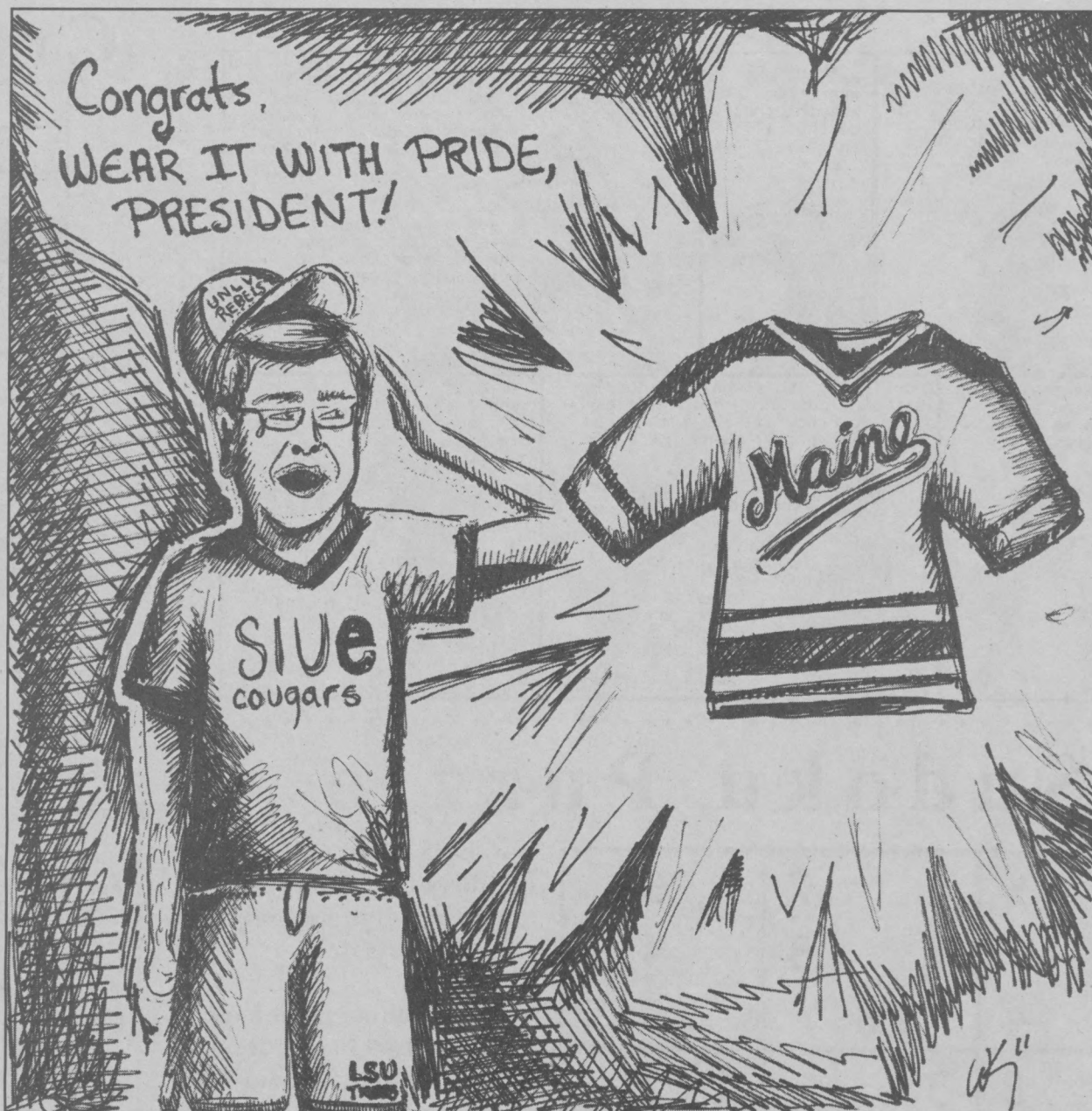
Business Manager Peter Ouellette
business@mainecampus.com - 581.1223

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

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Wisconsin fiasco has Dems well-positioned for 2012

The United States has not had a nationwide discussion about the place of modern labor unions in years. 2012 is going to be different.

The anti-worker legislation that was passed by the Wisconsin legislature last week created a flurry of activity from labor advocates. Massive rallies and protests have been held to support workers' rights in every state across the country. This anti-union legislation has sparked discussions we haven't had in decades.

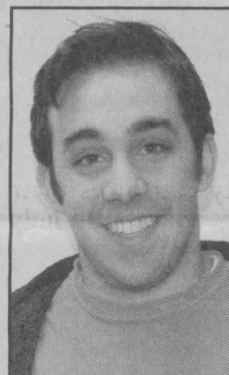
This sudden wave of activism has Republicans across the nation wondering if they have awoken a sleeping giant. With labor unions across the nation vowing revenge, it may be possible for Democrats to turn anger into votes in 2012.

With every day that goes by, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker receives more and more bad news about the way people in his state view him. In a recent Rasmussen job approval poll, which generally gives favorable numbers to right-wing candidates, only 43 percent approved of the way Walker is performing his job. 57 percent of likely voters in Wisconsin oppose weakening collective bargaining rights.

This is just a hunch, but since Walker and Republicans in the legislature used a procedural measure last week to pass the bill without Democrats even present in the chamber, his approval numbers probably didn't go up much.

The national media have since laid the story to rest, but Wisconsin Democrats are far from letting the issue go. Democrats are standing on the street corners of eight Republican senate districts, getting signatures to recall those eight senators who are eligible. They are nearly halfway to their goal of 45,000 signatures as of Monday.

Making matters worse for Republicans, a Daily Kos poll reports that six of eight Republican senators are in danger of losing their seats. Democrats only need three to take the state Senate



PETE CHRISTOPHER
POLITICAL COLUMNIST

back.

Labor unions are fighting for their lives. The deck has been stacked against organized workers for years. "Right to Work for Less" laws and striking bans have dismantled the strong voice they once held. They aren't going down without a fight.

It has been said Republicans are their own worst enemy. They are doing a great job of living up to that mantra this year. The people elected them in

Right wingers have three options to solve this problem. They can put their heads down and fight through; attempt to compromise; or drop the issue and move forward. The longer the issue is on the minds of voters the worse the scenario gets for righties.

2010 to create jobs and they went back to the same old union busting techniques they have employed for years. Today, Republicans face the most lively labor movement we have seen in a long time.

Over recent years, labor issues have not been given much publicity, and none have commanded the kind of attention the one in Wisconsin has generated. This spells trouble for Republicans. If they don't solve the issue soon, they will wear the issue around their neck in 2012.

In order to turn this issue into a winner, Democrats (including the one who resides in the White House) need to do everything in their power to make sure

the public knows who is on the side of the middle class and who isn't. If that means walking picket lines and being visible at these rallies, then that is what they have to do.

The Republicans have handed the Democrats a gift on a silver platter. Right wingers have three options to solve this problem. They can put their heads down and fight through; attempt to compromise; or drop the issue and move forward. The longer this issue is on the minds of voters the worse the scenario gets for righties. If Republicans are still fighting this fight a year from now, it will spell trouble for them.

Sometimes light is the greatest disinfectant. Lots of progressives were upset with the anti-union agenda that has been pushed by state governments across the nation. While the repercussions of such legislation will undoubtedly hurt the middle class, public awareness about these issues have grown, and they do not like the brand

Republicans are selling. Republicans have flown under the radar with this anti-worker sentiment for too long and they are starting to be exposed.

Americans recognize the need to tighten state budgets. So do unions. The argument that we cannot balance our budgets without breaking up organized labor is a farce and the American people know it.

If Republicans continue to push this lie, they will pay for it at the polls in 2012.

Pete Christopher is a fourth-year secondary education student. His political columns will appear every Thursday.

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: Media attention disallows Sheen to get clean



The more attention Sheen gets, the less likely he is to actually get help. This only encourages him to talk more about tiger blood and whatever other nonsense he comes up with during the airing, which is clearly not working.

RYANNE NASON

Are you a winner? Moreover, has Charlie Sheen inspired you to be one?

With the constant bombardment of information about Sheen and his utterly chaotic life, it's hard to ignore the trash the media are having a field day reporting. While it may be amusing to poke fun at this ridiculous self-proclaimed warlock, the amount of amusement America is getting from this circus.

Instead of giving Sheen the attention he so desperately craves, it would be much more worthwhile to address his addictions and mental instability and find a way to get him help for his problems.

Sheen has five children from three failed marriages. His life is inarguably out of control and he has lost custody of his children. It would seem Sheen should be much more concerned about being a good parent and doing everything he can be a positive role model, but instead, it appears he is doing everything to prove to what we already know — Sheen is a victim of substance abuse and narcissism.

He promotes his infamous bad boy behavior primarily through Twitter. Currently, with almost 3 million followers on the social networking site, Sheen posts constant updates of his irrational way of thought, continually insisting he is "winning," regardless of the fact that he is no longer employed and separated from his estranged wife, Brooke Mueller.

For the past few weeks, we have grown accustomed to getting our daily dose of Sheen, whether it be on the Today Show or whatever news outlet we turn to. Some may have been disappointed when greater news stories overtook the Sheen segment of

our daily newscasts, but quite frankly, I couldn't be more pleased.

By profiling the downward spiral that is Sheen's life, we are glamorizing his substance abuse and crazy outbursts. By no means is this nearly as entertaining as the media are making it out to be. People should be feeling a genuine sense of sorrow for the disarray Sheen currently finds himself in, not laughing at it.

Call it a midlife crisis or a mental breakdown, there is still no exception to the outrageous antics Sheen takes great pleasure in showering us with every day. This is not the first time a celebrity has gone through a crisis of this nature either.

The tabloids have always been first to report the disruptive behaviors of Britney Spears, as well as the breakdown of Michael Jackson. Under constant scrutiny of the media, every action of a celebrity is an event that must be heavily analyzed by America.

In the case of Sheen, his actions indicate a man who is in dire need of help. Clearly, the love and support of his family and the motivation of his children are not enough to conquer his problems.

Understandably, he now turns toward the nation as a whole for encouragement, not realizing his inflated fan base is more entertained with his off-the-wall statements than anything else.

As is the case with anyone dealing with substance abuse, it's a shame to see Sheen throw away his life and succumb to an addiction that rips his best talents away from him.

So next time Sheen announces another episode of his webcast "Sheen's Korner," resist the urge to tune in. The more attention he gets, the less likely he is to actually get help. This only encourages him to continue more about tiger blood and whatever other nonsense he comes up with during the airing, which is clearly not working.

Charlie Sheen, stop trying to redefine "winning" and be a real role model for your children and America alike by getting some help.

Ryanne Nason is a fourth-year communications student. Her columns will appear every Thursday.

Narrow-minded false classroom banter accusations shun truth, peer justice



REBECCA HOLMES

The Thursday before break, The Maine Campus published an article written by columnist Ryanne Nason in which she cited a group of students in her class who surprised her with their justification of the lack of respect shown by a "character in a film clip."

As one of these "closed-minded individuals," I think the readers of her article deserve to know the full story behind these allegations. The "film clip" was a portion of an episode of Dr. Phil, and the "character" was Toni, the mother of a transgendered child; a real person, dealing with an actual situation, not some character in a movie.

The actions the columnist found so despicable were the mother's responses to the therapists who claimed they could "fix" her daughter, a biological male. The class discussion following the clip resulted in a debate about the levels of respect shown by each party.

Some members of the class said the mother should have been more respectful when talking to the therapists, but my opinion is that there is no way she could have been. The therapists came to the show knowing what they would be talking about, while the mother of this little girl was under the impression that she would be talking about her experiences raising her child.

The therapists had time to prepare arguments; the mother did not. Toni was thrown into a situation where her child was being attacked for who she is, and it is my opinion that she handled the situation as respectfully as she could.

Her reaction may not have been the most respectful, but if the show had featured two panels of professionals with opposing viewpoints, I have no doubt the level of respect would have increased exponentially. I fail to see how a mother's instinct to protect and defend her child can render her the "more evil."

Although some of my classmates and I stand accused of justifying Toni's actions because we share her political views, I am utterly unaware of what her political views are. Toni's political views were, in fact, never even mentioned in the clip or the corresponding article. If any inclination of her political views were

given, it was in the context of her response to her daughter's transition from male to female, and her difficulty with that.

We defenders of this mother never used our common political views as any excuse for her behavior, let alone the sole justification. Our argument was that she was a mother, whose instinct would be to protect her child, and that she was set up against a panel of therapists who were basically trying to tell her her child was "fixable."

As members of the LGBTQA community, we expressed support for Toni's acceptance of her daughter, but we did not claim that because she was the mother of a transgendered child, everything she said was right while anything said against her was wrong.

One who writes of the need to respect others and their opinions didn't take the time to respectfully listen to and remember her opponents arguments before reducing them to "closed-minded individuals."

We were in a classroom where she expected people to be "more tolerant;" we found it intolerable that a mother forced into the position of defending her child could be expected to conform to the same standards of respect and decorum as professionals who had been given ample time to prepare their case.

I completely agree with Nason's call for more respect. Too often we see screaming matches and nasty words exchanged when a simple conversation would have sufficed.

The only two parts of that article I take offense to are the withholding of the entire story and the generalizations made by the author about those opposing her opinion.

In the original article, Nason completely misrepresented the facts of the situation by implying this woman was merely a character, neglecting to inform her readers this was a person, a mom, in a genuine position of distress.

As for the generalizations that were made about me and those who agreed with me: it's ironic that one who writes of the need to respect others and their opinions didn't take the time to respectfully listen to and remember her opponents arguments before reducing them to "closed-minded individuals."

Rebecca Holmes is a first-year psychology student.

Sex column glorifies casual hook-ups, ultimately leaves readers feeling dirty

JILLIAN YOUNG

I'm writing in response to Sarah Hinman's article "Give and you shall receive" printed in The Maine Campus Feb. 21. First and foremost, I would like Sarah to know that I respect what she does. I admire all writers, especially those who have the ability to write about topics that are, shall I say, less than politically correct.

That being said, I am not only offended by this article as a woman, but also as a human being. The fact that she suggests there are a set of rules for hooking up with someone and a protocol to follow if the hook up isn't Oscar award-winning is appalling.

I believe in sex columns that educate, create awareness and encourage equality. I don't believe in sex columns that glorify the stereotypical college hookups that are inevitably regretted by either the giving or receiving end of said hookup.

I want to address two points Hinman made in her article. The first is that we are "entitled to: breakfast either bought or made, money for a cab or gas to get home and some clothes so you don't have to do the walk of shame in last night's outfit" if our partner doesn't give us an orgasm.

Really? What about being understanding and compassionate if your partner fails to meet your expectations? I was unaware that instead of forgiving my partner and understanding that sometimes things happen, I am supposed to demand free breakfast and gas money before I go home.

The second point I'd like to acknowledge is the idea that someone who fails to follow through on

a booty call owes their partner two things: "Some fantasy material to help get you through and a rain check."

Hinman says our partners owe us a rain check because "to leave someone hanging like that and not even reschedule is rude." Isn't a booty call rude in general? A booty call implies that you don't actually care for the other person or want a relationship with them. Any self-respecting person would feel bad receiving a booty call, let alone a booty call rejection.

The University of Maine encourages all of its students to uphold a sense of propriety and honor, and I cannot understand why our school newspaper would publish an article like this one. The fact that the article was printed goes against everything our university stands for.

If we cannot rely on our newspaper to uphold our standards, whom can we rely on? I'm disappointed in The Maine Campus to say the least.

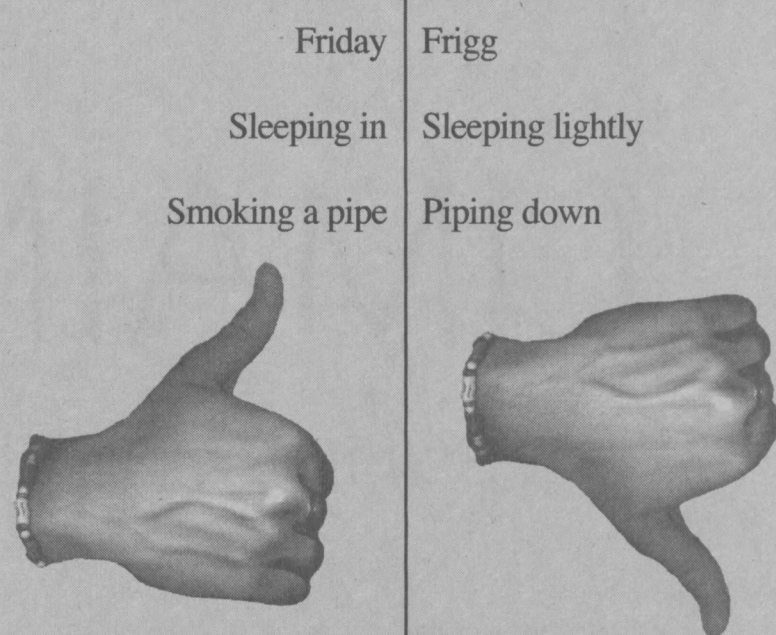
Like I said before, I respect Sarah's right to express her opinions and while I can see why "Give and you shall receive" would seem like an appropriate article for The Maine Campus, it is more fitting for the infamous gossip website JuicyCampus. It is offensive to males and females alike and our school newspaper should be above tasteless ideas such as this one.

Jillian Young is a second-year business administration student.

I believe in sex columns that educate, create awareness and encourage equality. I don't believe in sex columns that glorify the stereotypical college hookups that are regretted by all parties involved.



Thumbs up / Thumbs down



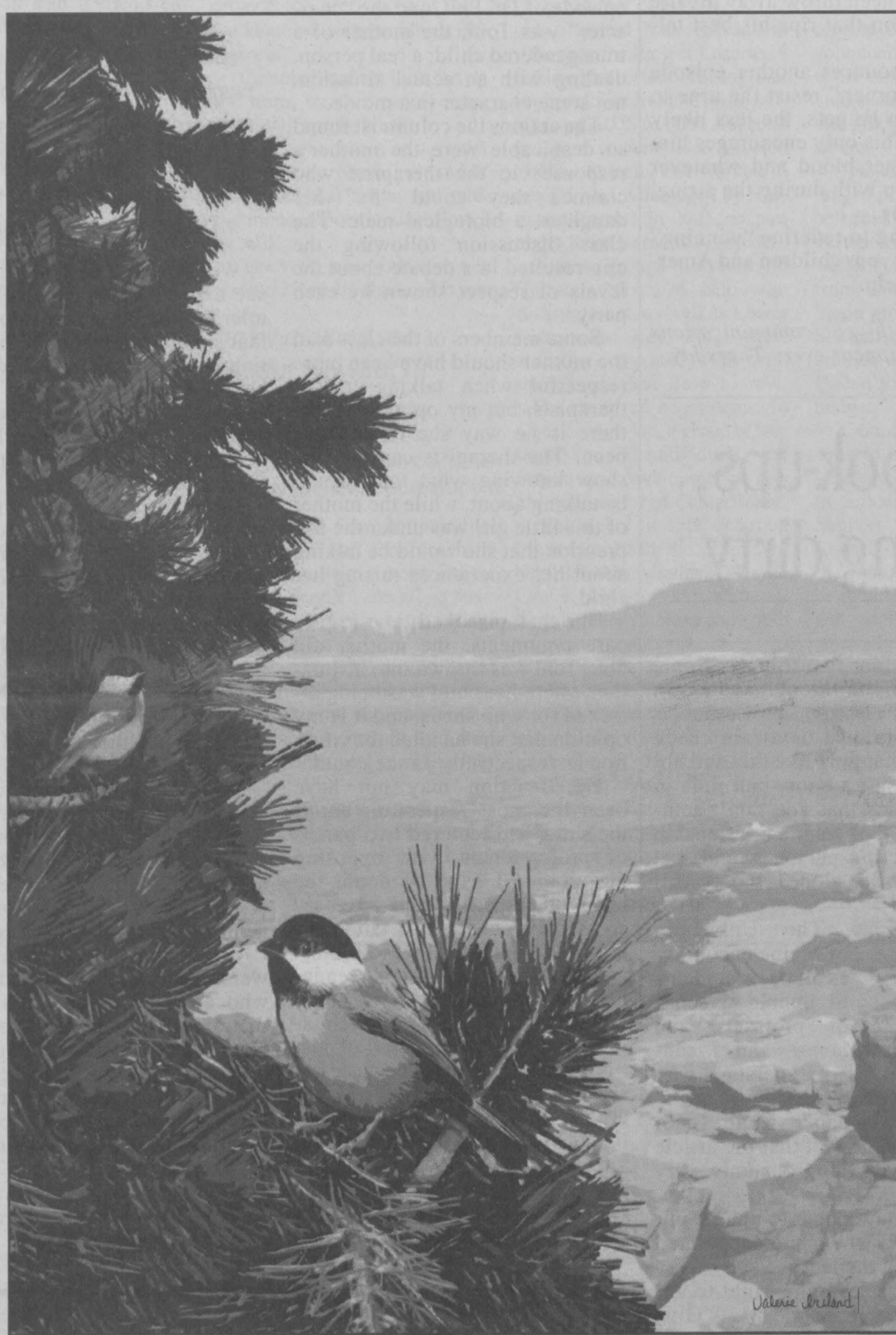
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Thursday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day

Seaweed on the Farm, In the Garden
Buchanan Alumni House
9:30 to 11 a.m.

Small Farms, Big Picture: State and National Food Policy in Global Context
Bangor Room, Memorial Union
12:30 to 1:45 p.m.

St. Paddy's Specials Featuring Hillary Hough on the bagpipes
Bear Brew Pub
12 p.m.
21+

St. Patrick's Day College Night
Curva Ultra Lounge
18+, \$3

Park Street Pickers
Woodman's Bar & Grill
10 p.m.
21+

Frank and the Red Hots
The Roost
10 p.m.
21+

Friday, March 18

Live from the MET: Donizetti's "Lucia Di Lammermoor"
Collins Center for the Arts
1 p.m.
\$24

University Singers
Minsky Recital Hall
7:30 p.m.
\$7, free w/ MaineCard

Dubstep Hi-liter party
Bear Brew Pub
9 p.m.
\$5, \$3 for 21+ wearing white
Proceeds support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

Spouse w/ Educated Advocates, Colby Stiltz
Curva Ultra Lounge
9 p.m.
18+, \$15; 21+, \$12

The Return of Chaos Sauce
The Roost
10 p.m.
21+

Saturday, March 19

Bootiddy and Cyborg Trio
Bear Brew Pub
8 p.m.
\$5
18+

A more comprehensive list of postings is available at mainecampus.com/calendar. To submit your event, invite calendar@mainecampus.com via iCal or Google Calendar.

Behind the Madness

By Kegan Zema
Style Editor

The brackets have been filled out, bets (may or may not) have been placed and for those who are in on the action, March Madness is in full swing. What does that mean for students at University of Maine? Well, it's different for everyone, but we're trying to take a glimpse behind the madness.

Each year, the National Collegiate Athletic Association — known better as the NCAA — Men's Division I Basketball Championship draws a national crowd of everyone from avid sports fans to uninformed amateurs. Unlike most tournaments, rooting for favorite teams tends to take a back seat to predicting the outcome of the 60-plus games played throughout the month. Filling out brackets and placing bets is the name of the game — but you probably already knew this.

What you may not know is that, according to a report by outplacement company Challenger, Gray & Christmas Inc., an estimated 8.4 million work hours will be lost on the tournament over its three-week run. The estimated economic impact is estimated at \$192 million.

But that's for presumably motivated employees.

Just imagine the studying, assignments and essays that get blown off when the games are on. The thrill of the games is enough for some students to put schoolwork on the backburner.

"I love the tourney," said CJ Scott, a second-year business marketing student. "Entering March Madness pools and filling out brackets is the best thing about March. That first weekend, there's nothing but basketball on and there's not a better feeling than picking the right upset."

Most of the time, the excitement stems from gambling. Students organize pools with their friends — either online or the old-fashioned way with paper brackets. The entrance fees are usually small, just \$5 or \$10, but payouts can be big.

Officially, the NCAA condemns gambling.

"The NCAA opposes all forms of legal and illegal sports wagering," states their official position. "Sports wagering has the potential to undermine the integrity of sports contests and jeopardizes the welfare of student-athletes and the intercollegiate athletics community."

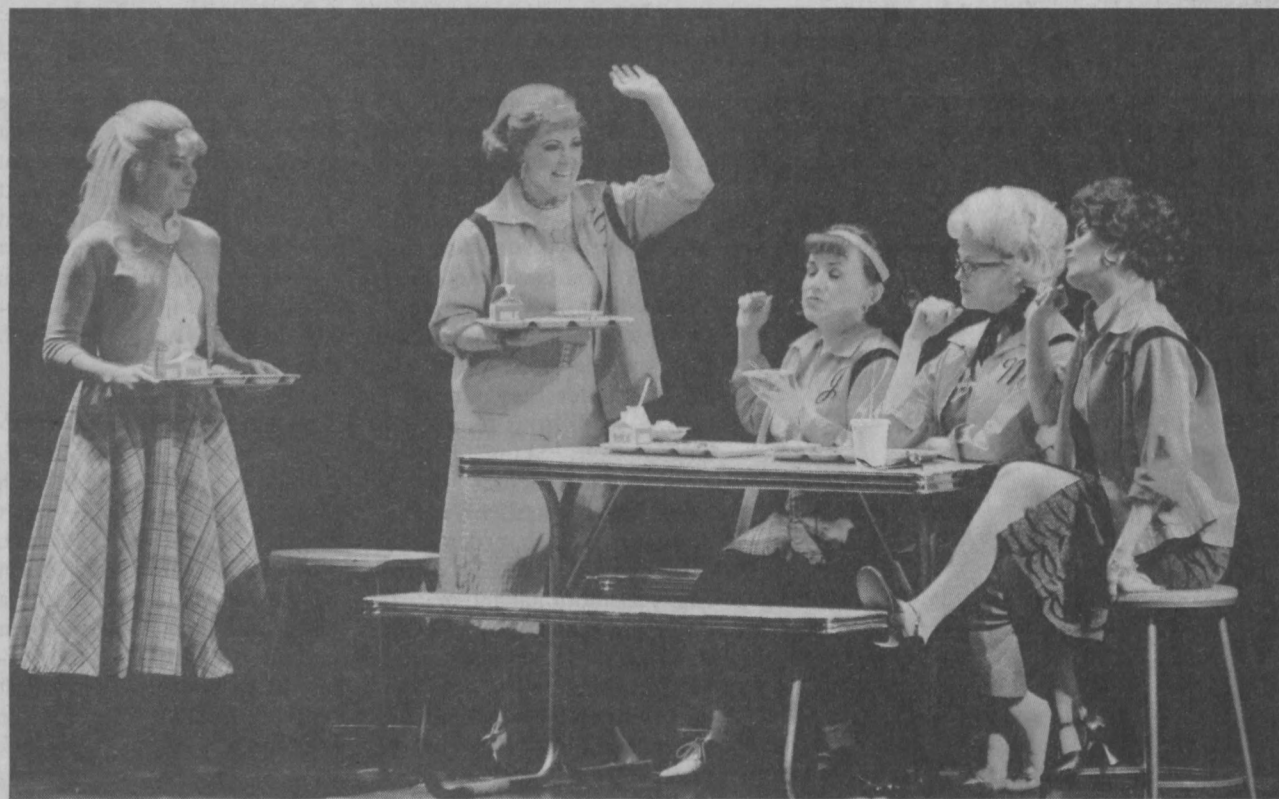
However, the most common response is simple: Everyone does it.

According to an article published in 2007 in Science Daily, the NCAA estimates one in 10 Americans will

See Madness on B3



'Grease' rocks 'n' rolls CCA crowds with laughs abound



In Act 1 of "Grease," Sandy Dumbrowski is introduced to Marty, Jan, and Rizzo the Pink Ladies by Frenchy. The performance was held Tuesday night.

By Kayla Riley
For The Maine Campus

You don't want to know all the horny details, do you? Well, since you asked, "Grease" is the show and amazingly describes how well the New Dollar Entertainment Company performed at the Collins Center for the Arts Tuesday night.

From the moment Eddie Mekka, best known by baby boomers as Carmine Rugasa from "Laverne and Shirley," stepped onto the stage, it was clear the night would be filled with laughs.

Mekka used comedic references to his acting history, dance moves and audience participation — think mass hand-jiving — to command the attention of a crowd that was still settling into their seats even after the lights had

dimmed.

The story is familiar — boy meets girl, then boy and girl fall in love amidst the surf, sun and sexually charged emotions of a summer romance. Of course, the boy is too cool in his leather jacket

From the moment Eddie Mekka, best known by baby boomers as Carmine Rugasa from "Laverne and Shirley," stepped onto the stage, it was clear the night would be filled with laughs.

and slicked-back pompadour to associate with the innocent blond girl at school, so the boy changes his approach and the girl dons tight leather pants.

What the talented performers, choreographer and director did here was take a show that almost every red-blooded

American has seen or heard of and revitalize it in a fresh and fun way.

Sandy Dumbrowski, played by Alyssa Herrera, and Danny Zuko, played by Matt Nolan, were every bit the adorable couple expected. Zuko's pal Kenickie was brought to life convincingly, but lacked the intensity that makes Kenickie such a strong character and perfect counterpart for Rizzo.

A few blips and brief moments when the actors' voices were cut out by errors in the sound system early in the show could have threatened the quality of the experience, but the professionalism of the company never faltered and once the curtain closed on Act 1, they were forgotten.

While movies have scene-stealers,

See Grease on B3

Don't count out YouTube as a haven for TV

Column

Growing up, TV was everything. Back then, I couldn't imagine not being able to watch my favorite Nickelodeon shows. Catching episodes of "Doug," "Clarissa Explains It All" and "Ahh! Real Monsters" was a top priority.



the channel
By Jamie Dandrea

Now, about a decade later, as a poor college student living in a small apartment, I'm faced with the choice of cable TV or Internet. If you asked me 10 years ago, the answer would have been obvious. Back when the extent of Internet entertainment was those free AOL demo disks you'd get in the mail, I would have much rather watched TV all day than spend eternity waiting for the dial-up Internet connection.

However, when the decision ultimately came between paying for Internet and paying for cable, I was quick to choose the Internet.

Don't get me wrong, I am still obsessed with

See Channel on B2

Girl Talk to play show at UMaine

Dust off your dancing shoes — mash-up DJ extraordinaire Girl Talk is headed to the University of Maine on April 7 for a performance in the Field House.

Student Entertainment booked the artist, otherwise known as Greg Gillis, for their spring show. The announcement came on Wednesday afternoon via Facebook.

Girl Talk recently played to a sold-out crowd at The State Theatre in Portland on Feb. 28.

According to the event's Facebook page, tickets go on sale by the end of the week at umainetix.com.

More information on the show will be available soon.

Radio killed the radio star: The downfall of alternative

When bands lose their edge it's off to the Top 40 charts

Column

In the past decade, mainstream radio has experienced many quantum leaps forward. The scope of a station's reach has been greatly augmented due to nearly universal online streaming, and satellite radio has contributed greatly to the variety of stations that have become prominent.

However, despite an increase in variety and quality of stations available, there are still many downfalls to scanning the airwaves for a decent station.

One triumph of modern radio is the acknowledgement that acts such as Nickelback, Green Day and Linkin Park are no longer considered edgy and progressive. These bands used to receive airplay on stations that were oriented mostly toward alternative and heavier rock.

Now, DJs have realized that

the majority of people who listen to anything Green Day have produced from "American Idiot" and later is something that belongs more on a Top 40 radio station. After all, Green Day no longer sings about things like combating boredom with masturbation. Instead, there is a Green Day Broadway musical, which is pretty much the polar opposite of edgy. It's something my 50-year-old mother may express an interest in seeing. No fan of "Dookie" ever envisioned a Green Day musical in the future.

"Linkin Park were a genre-bending act that could not be stopped — until they were no longer interesting."

cal in the future.

Additionally, Linkin Park have lost their novelty. Once upon a time, rap metal was a fledgling genre, and Linkin Park were true originators. The idea of using sampling and electronic drums to accompany live, heavily distorted guitars was completely revolutionary. Not only could Chester Bennington sing, but he could scream like a wild man, and teenagers adored him for it. Their parents would also buy

them Linkin Park CDs since there was no parental advisory label present — unlike that dastardly Limp Bizkit.

Linkin Park were a genre-bending act that could not be stopped — until they were no longer interesting. If you turn on any Top 40 radio station in Maine, you may hear Linkin Park's latest single "Waiting for the End." Modern teenagers appreciate the familiarity of Linkin Park's sound, and the unique character of Chester Bennington's anguished vocals. Linkin Park is a swell compliment to the likes of Ke\$ha and Katy Perry. If you turn on alternative radio in Maine, you're more likely to

hear a throwback from the grunge era than the new Linkin Park song, if the DJ really knows the score.

Top 40 radio stations playing the bands that used to be within the domain of alternative stations causes a conundrum for modern alternative and hard rock stations. What is so edgy within the contemporary music world that it is beyond the realm of Top 40 radio? Does

See Hardcore on B3

The Decemberists to release live album from Maine show

By Kegan Zema
Style Editor

When indie rockers The Decemberists played to a small crowd inside Bull Moose Music's Scarborough warehouse Jan. 30, they had the No. 1 album in the country. A band that successful playing in an independent record store in Maine is a big deal — but it's an even bigger deal when they release an EP of the performance to be sold across the country.

"Live At Bull Moose" will be sold exclusively at independently owned record stores April 16 in honor of Record Store Day, an international celebration conjured up by none other than Bull Moose's head of marketing, Chris Brown.

According to Portland blog HillyTown, the seven-song EP has mostly live takes from their most recent album, "The King Is Dead," along with a cover of "If I Could Only Win Your Love" by country legends The

Louvin Brothers, one of whom passed away just days before their performance.

"The sound was really good," said Dylan Martin, a University of Southern Maine student who was at the performance. "I was surprised that they were that good without being too loud."

In order to get a chance to see the band, Bull Moose offered tickets to the first fans to purchase "The King Is Dead." The store was packed with audience members surrounding all angles of the stage.

Martin said the band was unexpectedly crisp. Other performances of local artists he has seen at Bull Moose played stripped-down sets, but The Decemberists had a sophisticated sound system.

"It's hard to recreate that sound," he said. "I think it's a testament to how they recorded ['The King Is Dead']."

According to an article in the Portland Daily Sun, Brown

saw a gap between Boston and Montreal in the band's touring schedule and contacted their management to propose the idea. In the article, Brown described his original idea as a "long shot," but said the parts all fit together — The Decemberists were looking to record something for Record Store Day.

Plenty of locals helped out, including live music engineers Satronen Sound, who recorded the performance, and photographer Matthew Robbins, who contributed to the EP package.

The track list below has been provided by HillyTown.com:

The Decemberists — Live At Bull Moose EP

1. Down By the Water
2. Rox In the Box
3. This Is Why We Fight
4. June Hymn
5. Rise to Me
6. All Arise!
7. If I Could Only Win Your Love (The Louvin Brothers)

maine campus Weekend Guide

march 17-19

Thursday, 3/17

Friday, 3/18

Saturday, 3/19

On St. Patrick's Day, Bear Brew Pub, Curva Ultra Lounge, Woodman's Bar and Grill and The Roost will all be featuring drink specials. Bear Brew will host Hillary Hough on the bagpipes, while Woodman's welcomes back the Park Street Pickers at 10 p.m. Frank and the Redhots begin their set at the Roost at 10 p.m. as well.

The Bear Brew Pub holds their Dubstep Hi-liter party beginning at 9 p.m. — wear white! Proceeds support of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Spose, with special guests Educated Advocates and Colby Stilz, will play a show at Curva Ultra Lounge at 9 p.m., while Chaos Sauce rocks the Roost at 10 p.m.

Head over to the Bear Brew Pub, where Bootiddy and Cyborg Trio play an electronic 18+ show at 8 p.m.



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Channel from B1

TV — but an actual television set isn't needed to watch your favorite shows.

YouTube, although an alpha dog in the world of Internet entertainment, is utilized more as a way to view short video clips. Most videos are no longer than 10 minutes.

However, YouTube isn't just for quickies here and there. YouTube — just like Hulu or Netflix Instant Watch — can ultimately be transformed into a TV set. There

are a ton of full-length shows you can watch on YouTube, many of which you can't even watch on cable TV.

Here are a couple of wicked cool shows you can't watch on the regular tube, but you can watch on YouTube:

"Skins" (U.K.)

This may be a little biased considering it's my favorite show of all time, but let me forewarn you that once you watch one episode, you will probably be hooked. If you are at all familiar with the crappy new U.S. version of "Skins" on MTV that has been in the news for child pornography, please don't be alarmed. The original version of the show is a hundred times better.

There are multiple YouTube channels that offer full episodes of this show you can't catch in the U.S. You can watch every single 45-minute episode of every season on YouTube and can see the newest episodes the day after they air in the U.K. — with zero commercial interruption. "Skins" is a teen drama that focuses around each "generation" of college students. British accents and all, the party-loving, sex-craving, yet emotional and realistic cast creates a controversial and exciting show that is definitely worth trying out.

Just search for "Skins Season One Episode One" to get started.

"That Mitchell and Webb Look"

This show is absolutely hilarious. Like "Skins," it's also British and can be seen in its entirety only on YouTube. Basically, the show is a British version of "Saturday Night Live" minus the celebrity

guests and big cast. Instead, there are just two funny British guys who are both insanely ridiculous and take on many different characters in various satirical skits.

The improvisational skits go anywhere from a knock-off of the game show "The Weakest Link," called "Hole in the Ring," to alcoholic billiard critics who have strange conversations as they commentate a game of pool.

Although not as important to view in order as "Skins," the first episode from the first series can be found here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5sw-RQotrK>

In addition to these, poke around YouTube and find what you like. There are some great exports — "Australia's Next Top Model" is a lot different from its American counterpart — and there are treasures from familiar shows, such as bloopers from "Whose Line Is It Anyway?"

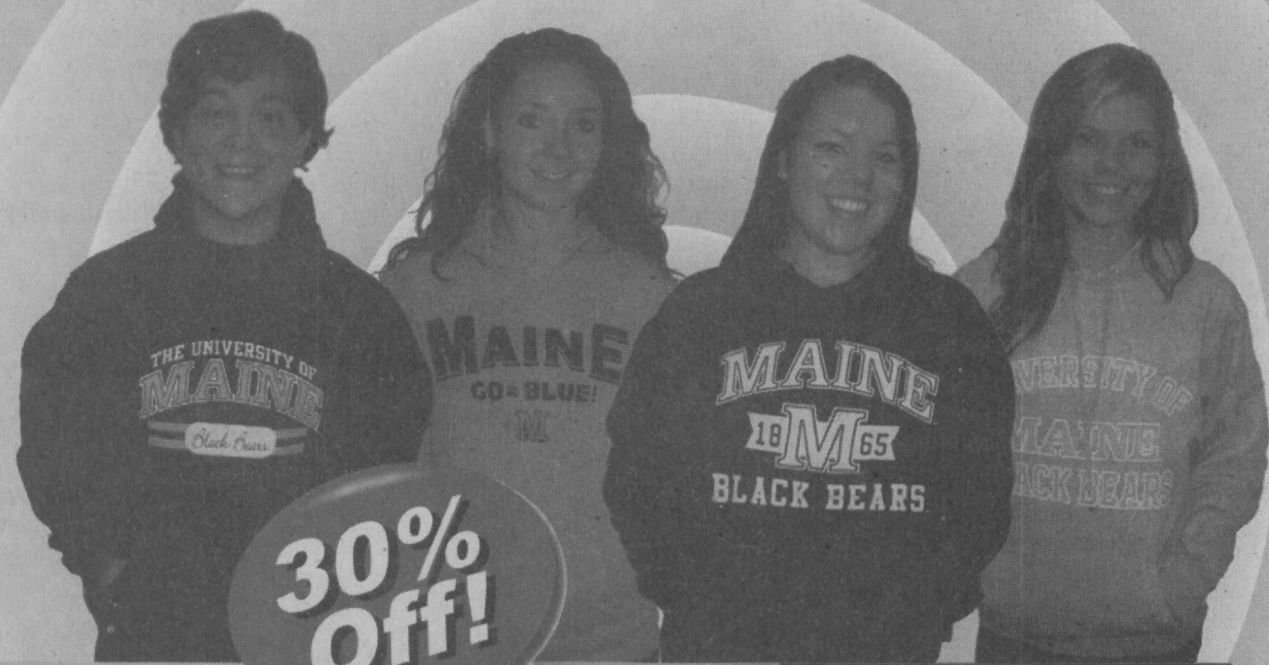
See what readers are viewing

Last column, I shared with you a couple of indie short films I found on YouTube. The channel reader Nelson Mantecon shared with me a 20-minute dark comedy about a smooth-talking Miami valet driver and his crazy night with homemade vodka. See the short film for yourself: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Umf18J8rK4>

Do you have a favorite show you watch on YouTube? E-mail me at the_channel@mainecampus.com and your favorite YouTube TV show can be featured in my next installment of the_channel.

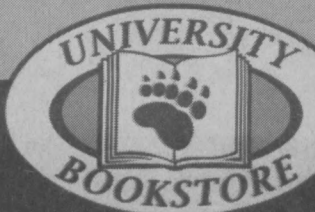
Go to mainecampus.com for links to all videos.

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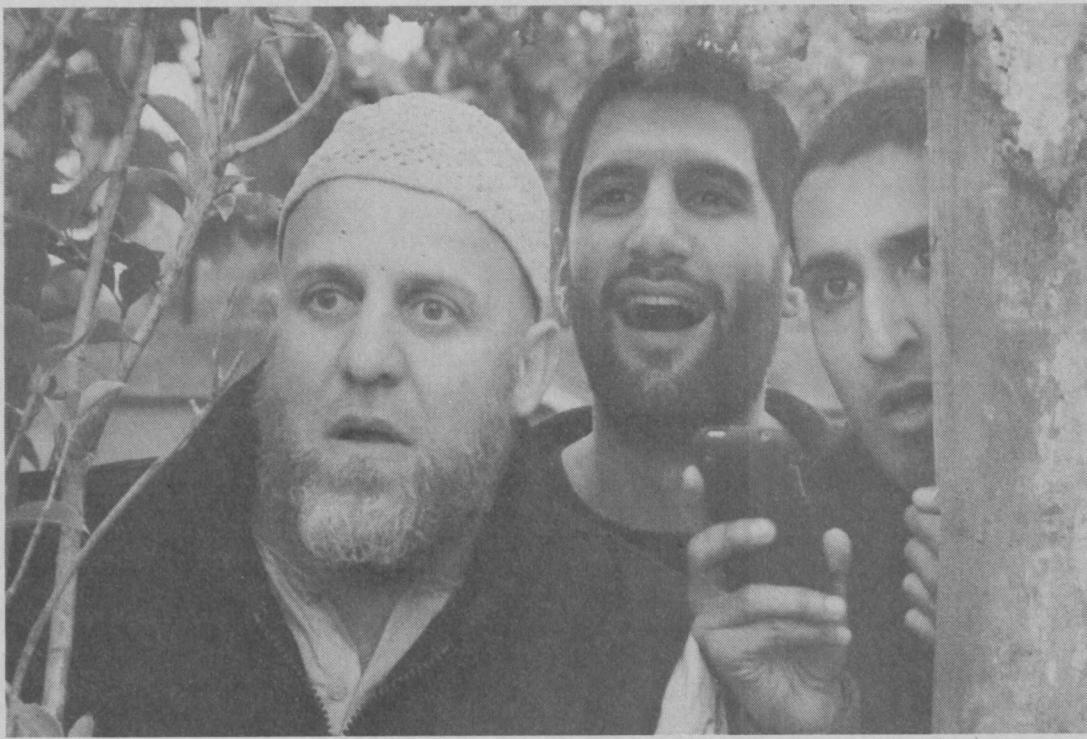
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DVD REVIEW: 'Four Lions'

Terrorist comedy is provocative fun for every American



Optimum Releasing

By John Shannon
Film Critic

You won't find a copy of "Four Lions" at Walmart, Target or Best Buy. These American juggernauts wouldn't touch this film with a 10-foot pole. It's hard to believe this film even exists, let alone that it found a willing American distributor.

If you want it, the curious, independent DVD shops will have to be scoured, or you can be lazy and order it online.

You see, "Four Lions" is a look at the world of fundamental Islamic terrorists, following a small group of radicals as they plan a Jihad in Britain. Oh, and it's a comedy.

Yes. A comedy.

Just as "Dr. Strangelove" tackled the fear of nuclear war with sharp, satirical wit, "Four Lions" does the same to the contemporary threat of terrorist acts. The five men in this terror cell are, for the most part, complete nincompoops. There is no communication — a fundamental misunderstanding of their own cause — and it is revealed that this sect isn't receiving instructions from the rest of Islam at all. They are so radical that they operate on their own ac-

cord, so their judgment cannot be clouded by any outside forces.

With this mindset, the filmmakers effectively neuter terrorism, making it the butt of the joke and letting us all laugh at something that is supposed to scare us. It's healthy and something the world needs right now. As these bumbling idiots try to record their videos, acting as big and bad as they can and failing miserably, the bloopers keep coming — it makes me wonder if Osama bin Laden has his own blooper reel.

Shot in a hand-held documentary style, "Four Lions" is the brainchild of Chris Morris, a British comic who's had a lot of success across the pond. "Lions" is his first big move toward an American audience. Morris is appropriately fearless, taking this satire to its logical conclusion and unafraid to get a bit messy or make the audience squirm in delight. After all, this is a film about people hell-bent on blowing themselves up. The death toll rises in conjunction with the laughs.

The standout in the cast is Riz Ahmen as Omar, the group's leader. He has more common sense than the rest of the cell put together; if he weren't surrounded by

incompetence, he'd actually get something accomplished. He's the straight man to the lunacy, and when we visit his home life with his wife and child, the film switches gears effortlessly.

The relationship between Omar and his family feels very real, putting a human face on the whole enterprise. It's easy to go for the slapstick and push for laughs, but this drama cements it as something to care about, even if Omar's worldview is severely warped.

Our country is sharply divided right now, with many groups fighting for their own personal version of "America" and refusing to compromise. People are angry. Most of them should be. I can't imagine a single American citizen that wouldn't consider this film hilarious. Gay, straight, black, white, Republican, Democrat, Islamic, Jewish — we can all come together and fight against the greater threat. Part of that fight is taking away their power, something "Four Lions" accomplishes.

They say that laughter is the best medicine, and with that in mind, "Four Lions" is a dose that every American citizen should take.

Grade: A

LOCAL MUSIC

CD REVIEW:

Jakob Battick & Friends

Slow-burning folk artist continues to explore his sound

By Kegan Zema
Style Editor

On last year's "Heavy the Mountains, Heavy are the Seas," atmospheric folk artist Jakob Battick was finding solace in his creations, singing, "These songs, they are my home." But on his latest release, "Bloodworm Songs," we find him repeatedly asking, "Which way is home?"

There is a feeling of discovery throughout the five tracks on this album. The formula is the same — down-tempo, sprawling folk tunes, with ghostly voices and sparse instrumentation — but the desperation of his last album is traded for a more calming wonderment.

Instead of settling into his sonic landscapes, Battick is still exploring. The comfortable and familiar are too easy, so Battick has receded into harsher sounds and longer arrangements, abandoning traditional structure.

Each of the two "Bloodworm Songs" are ambient collections of lost recordings, tape noise and other musical rumblings. On "My First Bloodworm Song (Up in the Sky)," drawn-out tones bleed into one another — the exact instrument they come from is indistinguishable. Distant murmurs create a melancholy presence. "My Second Bloodworm Song (Fed Through Isinglass)" is an ode to Penderick's "Threnody for the Victims of Hiroshima," a jarring chorus of screeching and weeping.

Aside from the obvious musical experiments, Battick's songwriting is taking new shape. Take "Nine Brothers & the Wolf," which returns from "Heavy the Mountains" to close out the album. On "Heavy the Mountains" it was a bass-heavy, drowned-out lullaby that lasted 6 minutes. On "Bloodworm Songs" it's 10 minutes of dizzying grandeur. The arpeggiated guitar notes dance around in more



Courtesy photo

directions than ever before, while the floor tom's rhythmic thunder crashes against the screeching violin.

Even the most straightforward of the songs, "Three Orphans," is a slow-burner of a folk ballad. Alternating two-note lines and a reverby trio of vocalists constitute the backbone, as Battick and company carefully build the song piece by piece. Then it drops to just Battick and guitar. When the full band kicks back, it's enough to jostle even the weariest of listeners.

The first chords of "Lep-er K" appear out of ghostly white noise and the repeated chords gather momentum from there. The sheer mass of Battick's arrangements seems to be what makes his songs so slow.

It is on this track where Battick and his dreamy choir wonder, "Which way is home?" They offer suggestions, but with such escalating movement, it's more about the journey than the destination.

"Bloodworm Songs" is a beautiful and intriguing installment into Battick's dis-

cography. The Bangor native — and current Portland resident — isn't so much a songwriter as an artist through music. Perhaps music became his medium of choice because it's never static.

"Live at the Oak + The Ax" — his live album packaged with "Bloodworm Songs" — captures many of the same songs in reimagined yet familiar ways. For instance, "Nine Brothers" appears yet again — this time in a 7-and-a-half-minute form to open the set where the signature arpeggios disappear at the end.

It sounds remarkably complete for a live album, proving his dreamscapes aren't studio trickery and overdubs but real sounds.

Retreating into Battick's world can be a little much. Gloom — even beautiful gloom — grows tiresome. But Battick continues to awe by repeatedly capturing such a vivid and distinct mood in his music. The further he wanders trying to find where he belongs, the more complex and intriguing this world becomes.

Grease from B1

musicals have stage-stealers. The stage-stealer in this production was undoubtedly Lauren Elaine Taylor in the role of Betty Rizzo, the tough and sassy leader of the Pink Ladies. Everything from Taylor's line delivery to her goose bump-inducing vocals made her impossible to ignore.

Given a strong role to fill, any decent actor could slide by on snappy dialogue, but Taylor took the role further, adding layers to Rizzo's character that were both unexpected and captivating. One pleased audience member said it best: "Rizzo was exactly what Rizzo should be."

Old standbys, such as the classic "We Go Together" and the foot-tapping "Greased Lightning," were performed with strong vocals and flawless choreography, but the glamorous set

and costumes of "Beauty School Dropout" and playful dances of "Shakin' at the High School Hop" easily made them the most memorable numbers.

The scene containing "Shakin' at the High School Hop" is especially notable for its reference to a place that numerous University of Maine students have frequented in the wee hours of the morning and night — not Fogler Library, but the one and only Dysart's — the truck stop diner in Bangor. The New Dollar Entertainment Company must have done its research, because a \$10 discount coupon to Dysart's was given as one of the prizes for Danny Zuko's success at the dance competition.

An energetic and wildly talented cast, creative choreographer, flashy set design and expert musicians all contributed to "Grease" being a memorable show, the tunes of which will be hummed long after all the cigarette smoke has disappeared from the venue.

Madness from B1

complete a bracket for the NCAA tournament. In the same story, they quote Central Michigan University faculty member Tim Otteman, a leading authority on sports-related gambling, speaks of some of the problems with gambling on the basketball tournament.

"While completing a tournament bracket for \$5 or \$10 seems to be a harmless activity, in reality it potentially starts the slippery slope toward gambling addiction," Otteman said. "No one becomes an alcoholic before they have their first drink, and no one becomes a drug addict before they smoke their first joint. Similarly, no one becomes addicted to gambling on sports before they make their first bet — and frequently the first bet is filling out a bracket for the NCAA Tournament."

He further asserts that college students are particularly at risk because of the popularity of college athletics and disposable time.

"I love gambling," said Brennan Connor, a second-year com-

munication student. "The best thing with this tournament is the how long it lasts. And you have a shot if you pick the champion right. So as long as your team's still in it, you have a chance."

Connor said he fills out five to 10 brackets a year.

The NCAA is even more strict when it comes to student-athletes in particular. According to their official position, they have "adopted specific rules prohibiting athletics department staff members and student-athletes from engaging in gambling activities as they relate to intercollegiate or professional sporting events."

Even with the policies, many athletes at UMaine still fill out brackets and place bets. A former UMaine athlete who preferred not to be named said he and his friends would participate in a pool each year. He said he was unafraid of getting caught.

"We trusted nobody would be that stupid and like, honestly, who cares?" he wrote in an e-mail. "It was always for no more than 10 bucks. A university has bigger problems to worry about."

Jesse Scardina and Amy Brooks contributed to this story.

Hardcore from B2

lyrical subject matter constitute edginess? What modern rock band rivals the obscene lyrics of Nirvana's "Rape Me" or Limp Bizkit's "Nookie"?

All of the songs with lyrics that are wildly sexist, violent

or just blindly offensive can be found primarily on Top 40 radio today. Even "Crazy Bitch" by Buckcherry was being played mostly on Top 40 radio stations back when it premiered in 2006. Modern Top 40 radio stations have adopted the songs that used to be considered edgy or only playable on alternative, Howard Stern-style radio

stations. This transition has forced modern alternative stations to either play some of the same songs as Top 40 stations, or to play songs that were edgy during a bygone era.

In essence, alternative radio has become somewhat of an oxymoron. Virtually every radio station has become interchangeable, with a few excep-


tions. Alternative stations may refuse to play Katy Perry and Top 40 stations may refuse to play Disturbed, but both stations will play a healthy dose of the same music.

Radio, like print news, will eventually go the way of the Dodo. Until then I would highly recommend purchasing an mp3 player or listening to NPR.

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March Madness headquarters

The favorites, the upsets and everything else you need to know about March

By Jesse Scardina
Sports Editor

Everybody's doing it. I'm doing it. The Maine Campus secretary is doing it, even the President of the United States is taking time to do it.

"It," of course, refers to our NCAA March Madness bracket, and as usual filling out the giant bracket is truly maddening.

This is the first year that the tournament has expanded to 68 teams, but it wasn't enough to stop some teams from feeling left out of the party. Most noticeably absent were Virginia Tech and the University of Colorado. The Buffaloes defeated three teams in the tournament and came within four points of beating No. 1 seed University of Kansas.

The Hokies managed to defeat a No. 1 seed, beating the Duke Blue Devils toward the end of conference play, but still had to watch the big dance next to the punch bowl.

On to the teams that actually made the tournament, the NCAA selection committee did manage to get the No. 1 seeds right, choosing the University of Pittsburgh, Duke, the University of Kansas and the No. 1 overall seed, Ohio State University.

Out of the one seeds, the Buckeyes have the best shot to cut down the nets, while the Panthers have been vitally inconsistent this season — granted the inconsistency occurred in the toughest conference, the Big East.

The Buckeyes have a proven coach in Thad Motta, as well as a group of experience mixed with the most dominant freshman in the country, forward Jared Sullinger. Senior guard Jon Diebler has been on fire from three as of late, draining half his shots during the year. If Diebler continues his hot shooting, he could lead the way to the finals.

Out of the two seeds, mid-major San Diego State has the best chance of winning the National Championship with an experienced coach and NBA-ready talent on their squad in sophomore forward Kawhi Leonard. The Aztecs have the tough task of finagling their way through the Big East

Tournament Champions, the University of Connecticut and the defending National Champions — the Blue Devils — in the West region.

The University of North Carolina has as much talent as any two-seed ever, but runs into a tough region with talent-laden Ohio State, Syracuse University and the University of Kentucky, the first, third and fourth seed in the East region, respectively.

Out of any No. 1 seed, the Panthers have the easiest road to Houston, with the more questionable of No. 2 seeds, the University of Florida as their fiercest competition. Sitting at No. 3 in the Southeast region is fan-favorite senior guard Jimmer Fredette and Brigham Young University. Unfortunately for the Cougars, their title dreams went out the window when their talented big man, sophomore Brandon Davies acted on his "animal instincts" and was kicked off the team for breaking the BYU honor code.

"I know if we were playing Kansas, we would try to make them shoot from the outside and have someone other than the Morris twins beat us."

Troy Barnies
UMaine men's basketball senior forward

Perennial tournament powerhouse Kansas sits atop the Southwest region, with two Big East teams threatening to take down the Jayhawks. The University of Notre Dame, led by Big East Player of the Year senior guard Ben Hansbrough, sits at the other end of the region as the No. 2 seed and are a serious threat to usurp the Jayhawks from their No. 1 perch. Kansas has the ability to defeat anyone in this tournament with their tremendous size in junior twins Marcus and Markieff Morris — both projected as first round picks. The Jayhawks need to get past the University of Louisville, which they could meet in the Sweet 16 if they want a shot at their Midwest neighbor, the Fighting Irish.

With UMaine's March Madness hopes dashed during the American East tournament, the victor of the AEC Championship — Boston University — has the difficult

task of trying to stop the Jayhawks.

All-AEC First Team member — and UMaine's own senior forward Troy Barnies talked about the tough task BU has at hand.

"I know if we were playing Kansas, we would try to make them shoot from outside and have someone other than the Morris twins beat us," Barnies said. "We faced a similar task a few years ago when we played the Griffin brothers on Oklahoma. We tried to three-quarter defend Blake and Taylor or front them in hopes of slowing them down."

The possibilities of upsets are aplenty in this year's tournament, with some first round powers in danger of making an early exit.

Two 13-seeds have a chance of making a lot of noise, with Princeton University riding their emotional conference tournament wave to a matchup with the Wildcats of Kentucky. The Tigers earned a spot in the dance on a last-second bucket over Harvard University and could continue that momentum to a monumental upset over the Wildcats. In addition, the tournament-experienced Oakland University could upset the inconsistent University of Texas.

Another team that could cause some immediate bracket-busting is Bucknell University. The Bison aren't strangers to the tournament and face one of college basketball's top stories in UConn. The Huskies won an unprecedented five Big East games in five days, and have just four days of rest until they have another marathon of a tournament to enter. If junior guard Kemba Walker and the Huskies already have their eyes set on the second round, they could make for an early exit.

When publishing your picks, there's no turning back on the possible scrutiny that could be tossed your way. With that said, The Buckeyes will meet the Aztecs in one National Semifinal and the Fighting Irish and the Panthers will make the other Semifinal an all-Big East affair. The National Championship will be a contest fit for a football field, with pigskin powers Ohio State and Notre Dame challenging for the championship, only to have the Buckeyes cut down the nets.

Cleveland	
1 OSU	3/18
UTSA/ALST	4:40
8 GMU	3/18
9 VILL	2:10

Tampa	
5 WVU	3/17
UAB/CLEM	12:15

4 UK	3/17
13 PRIN	2:45

Cleveland	
6 XAV	3/18
11 MARQ	7:27
3 SYR	3/18
14 INST	9:57

Charlotte	
7 WASH	3/18
10 UGA	9:45
2 UNC	3/18
15 LIU	7:15

Charlotte	
1 DUKE	3/18
16 HAMP	3:10
8 MICH	3/18
9 TENN	12:40

Tulsa	
5 ARIZ	3/18
12 MEM	2:45
4 TEX	3/18
13 OAK	12:15

Washington DC	
6 CIN	3/17
11 MIZZ	9:50
3 CONN	3/17
14 BUCK	7:20

Tucson	
7 TEM	3/17
10 PSU	2:10
2 SDSU	3/17
15 UNCO	4:40

Tulsa	
1 KU	3/18
16 BU	6:50
8 UNLV	3/18
9 ILL	9:20

Denver	
5 VAN	3/17
12 RICH	4:10
4 LOU	3/17
13 MORE	1:40

Chicago	
6 GTWN	3/18
USC/VCU	9:50
3 PUR	3/18
14 SPC	7:20

Chicago	
7 TA&M	3/18
10 FSU	4:10
2 ND	3/18
15 AKR	1:40

Washington DC	
1 PITT	3/17
UNCA/UARL	3:10
8 BUT	3/17
9 ODU	12:40

Tucson	
5 KSU	3/17
12 USU	9:57
4 WIS	3/17
13 BEL	7:27

Denver	
6 SJU	3/17
11 GONZ	9:45
3 BYU	3/17
14 WOF	7:15

Tampa	
7 UCLA	3/17
10 MSU	9:20
2 FLA	3/17
15 UCSB	6:50

NFL draft No. 1 pick should go against grain

LSU's Peterson should be first cornerback taken first overall in modern era

Column

Few sporting events annually carry the ambiguity and anticipation of the NFL Draft. Each March, about a month before the draft, a variety of names begin to emerge as potential candidates for the No. 1 overall pick.

By this time, the sexy pick after Bowl Season has already had his injuries discovered, game tape exposed and physical stature questioned. He has been picked, prodded and by now plummeted a couple spots down the boards of draft gurus everywhere.

See Auburn defensive tackle Nick Fairley. He was the unanimous choice for the Carolina Panthers in January, but when he only weighed in at 297 pounds at the combine, teams began to question if he was big enough to play all positions along the defensive line. His South East Conference counterpart defensive tackle Marcell Dareus from Alabama, who weighed in at 317 pounds, supplanted Fairley at No. 1 in a lot of mock drafts.

Other names like Clemson's defensive end Da'Quan Bowers, Auburn quarterback Cam Newton and Missouri gun-slinger Blaine Gabbert have also gotten some play in that discussion. The sleeper pick right now is Louisiana State University cornerback Patrick Peterson, and he's picking up speed at the ideal stage in the scouting process to position himself to surpass all of those aforementioned players and be the Panthers'

choice at No. 1.

Peterson meets all the requirements from a talent standpoint to warrant the pick. He is considered by most analysts to be one of the top five available players and some say he is the safest pick. Teams picking at No. 1 prefer taking low-risk guys because of the implications in the event of a backfire. Peterson ran the second fastest 40-yard dash of the cornerbacks at the combine, with a 4.34 and at six-feet and 219 pounds, he possesses an NFL build for the position.

To go along with great positional skills, Peterson is a weapon when the ball is in his

hands. Champ Bailey and Nnamdi Asomugha are some of the rarest commodities in the league. If Carolina head coach Ron Rivera thinks Peterson can be the next Woodson, he would be wise to make him the selection. Shutdown cornerbacks in today's NFL are needed to neutralize the Calvin Johnson's and DeSean Jackson's of the league.

A defensive lineman would fill a more immediate need for the Panthers, but the talent is deep enough at each of those spots to convince the Carolina brass to postpone addressing that need until later in the draft. The perfect storm seems to be brewing for Peterson to emerge as a favorite for the top choice.

Another star that aligned for Peterson in his campaign to get on Glick's level: the NFL lock-

outs. The history of the draft suggests that the incredible amounts of money dispensed to the first overall pick — last year it was \$50 million guaranteed, \$41.7 million the year before — narrows the choices down to players at "premium" positions — quarterback, left tackle and defensive end.

Teams are weary to award contracts to rookies not playing one of those three positions. But this year is different because Carolina won't be able to sign Peterson until a new collective bargaining agreement is reached, and a new agreement is certain to include a rookie-wage scale. Capable of cutting down the amount of cash given to unproven rookies and eliminating the financial variable involved with high draft picks. Not having to worry about giving their choice \$55 million before he plays a snap, Carolina can truly choose the player they feel is the best in the draft regardless of position which could very well be

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Peterson.

The 20-year-old LSU junior is considered to be a well-rounded, blue-chip NFL prospect and he benefits from a favorable number of teams at the top of the draft in need of a corner. His immense talent and the current status of the NFL could open the window for Peterson to be the first defensive back in the modern era to be the top choice in the draft. Not many people seem to doubt his talent, I'm not sure how Rivera has him graded out, but it's hard to picture his evaluation differing much from other coaches and scouts.

History hints that Peterson probably won't end up being the pick, but he plays the game on another level and could very well be the best player to emerge from this entire class.

Baseball from B6

playing games and traveling mostly on weekends, with four games this coming week against Rider University.

"Rider is a very good ball club," Trimmer said. "They won their conference last year. They have tremendous team speed and three outstanding starting pitchers."

Leading the way for Rider is senior pitcher Mike Thomas, who broke the Broncos record for strikeouts in a season last year with 98 and innings pitched with 104.1. Thomas led the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference in wins with nine.

To counter on the mound, the Black Bears send out junior pitcher Keith Bilodeau. So far, Bilodeau has been the ace, going 2-0 in four starts and boasting an earned run average of 2.96.

"Bilodeau's been outstanding," Trimmer said. "In addition, two freshman pitchers D.J. Voisine and Shaun Coughlin have been outstanding

out of the bullpen. Throwing strikes, getting ground ball outs, they've done a really great job."

Coughlin's appeared in seven games in relief this season, posting a 1.72 ERA and giving up less than a hit per inning. Voisine's appeared in four games and has a high strikeout rate for a freshman, fanning just under six per game.

In the field, junior center fielder Taylor Lewis has continued to be the catalyst for the Black Bears, batting .362 with eight stolen bases and an on-base plus slugging percentage of over .900.

"I'm pretty confident with about seven of our hitters," Trimmer said. "We need to have one more guy step up, whether it be [sophomore outfielder] Pat Thibodeau or [freshman] Colin Gay in the outfield or one of the Leisenheimer twins to play a little better."

Despite the sub-.500 record, the Black Bears remain confident entering the end of their out-of-conference schedule and the beginning of America East Conference play.

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Sports

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B5



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Men's hockey (Fri.) 4 5 Merrimack
Men's hockey (Sat.) 2 6 Merrimack

Celtics (Sun.) 87 56 Bucks
Celtics (Mon.) 79 88 Nets

"Although we had a winning record, it doesn't feel that way. We wanted to do more; our fans wanted us to do more."

University of Maine men's hockey head coach Tim Whitehead

COLUMN

NFL Draft No. 1 needs a mix-up

LSU's Peterson should be No. 1 overall

B5



AL West preview

Texas favorites to repeat as champion

By Liam Nee

For The Maine Campus

We continue the 2011 MLB season preview series this week with the AL West, one of three divisions from the American League and home to the least amount of teams than any other division with four.

1. Texas Rangers — Last Year: 1st place (90-72)

First off, I'll admit this team lost a lot this offseason. With the subtraction of both Cy Young ace Cliff Lee and nine-time All-Star outfielder Vladimir Guerrero, along with a potential upcoming exit of six-time All-Star shortstop Michael Young, the Rangers have certainly lost a few key contributors.

But for a team that made the World Series last year and produced the league's MVP in Josh Hamilton, it's tough to say they won't be winning their division this year. Texas helped cover up their major subtraction this offseason by signing former All-Star and two-time Gold Glove award winning shortstop Adrian Beltré from Boston on Jan. 5. Beltré is coming off his best season in years and will help the club both offensively and defensively.

Look for Hamilton to produce most of this team's offensive production after he led the Majors with a batting average of .359 and earned 22 of 28 first-place votes to bring home MVP honors while also leading Texas in home runs, hits and on

base percentage.

Hamilton will have to somehow compensate for Guerrero's 115 RBI last year, which was good for the league's sixth best overall. Two-time All-Star second baseman Ian Kinsler, All-Star right fielder Nelson Cruz and the newly acquired Beltré will all aid in guiding this team back to the top of the division.

With a slightly poor pitching rotation, the Rangers are contemplating whether or not to move 2010 AL Rookie of the Year phenom Neftali Feliz, who saved a rookie record 40 games last year, into the starting rotation or to keep him in the bullpen as a closer where he played last season. Regardless of their choice, Texas remains weak in their rotation with the loss of Lee. With the exception

of 15-game winner C.J. Wilson, the Rangers are in trouble, especially after newly acquired 3-time All-Star pitcher Brandon Webb, who hasn't

pitched since 2008, injured his shoulder during spring training and is doubtful to be ready for the start of the regular season.

The Rangers have little to work with in comparison to last year's successful season, but it will only make the club try harder, especially Hamilton, who will again be in the running for this season's MVP award.

2. Los Angeles Angels — Last Year: 3rd place, 10 GB (80-82)

The Angels had good intentions this offseason. In need of a solid hitter to add to their

See MLB on B4

1. Texas Rangers, 87-75
2. Los Angeles Angels, 83-79
3. Oakland Athletics, 82-80
4. Seattle Mariners, 63-99



Betsy Caron • Design Assistant

Senior captain Tanner House and the University of Maine men's hockey team's season most likely came to an abrupt end over the weekend with a loss against Merrimack College.

Black Bears swept in playoffs

Men's hockey falls in conference opening round; at-large bid a longshot

By Jesse Scardina

Sports Editor

It was a roller coaster ride of a season for the University of Maine men's hockey team, and just like the amusement park ride itself, the parts going down really made your stomach turn.

The Black Bears finished 17-12-7 and never fell out of the nation's top 20, but it was far under the national championship expectations the team had heading into the season.

Technically, the season isn't over, as 11 at-large bids in addition to the five conference cham-

pions are selected for the national tournament. However, the Black Bears are a long shot to gain an at-large bid.

"The guys fought through a lot of adversity this year," Head Coach Tim Whitehead said.

"Although we had a winning record, it doesn't feel that way. We wanted to do more; our fans

wanted us to do more."

The ups started early on,

with a resounding sweep over one of the nation's top teams, the University of North Dakota. The hard-hitting Fighting Sioux couldn't keep up with the speed

and technique of the Black Bears, and it looked like a season fit for a championship.

The Black Bears were brought back to earth by the Boston College Eagles, who handed UMaine their first shut-out of the season Nov. 19.

The most memorable games of the season, however, were the heartbreaking battles against rival University of New Hampshire. The Wildcats delivered

See Hokcey on B4

Masters, Conner honored

Second team All-American selections for track standouts

After stellar performances throughout the indoor track season and at the NCAA Tournament, University of Maine juniors Riley Masters and Corey Conner earned second team All-American recognition.

Masters, who ran a sub-four-minute mile earlier this season, finished ninth in the indoor mile at the NCAA Track and Field Championships. It's

Masters' second All-American honor after earning it in the



Conner



Masters

same event last year. Masters' also received an honorable

mention for his performance in the 3,000-meter finals.

Conner finished 11th in the 5,000 meter over the weekend, the same event in which she broke the school record earlier this year with a time of 17:10.23. It was the second NCAA Championship of the school year for Conner, as she also competed in the NCAA Cross Country Championships during the fall.

Baseball anxious to return

Difficult opening schedule doesn't derail 5-12 Black Bears

By Jesse Scardina

Sports Editor

The ground beneath the snow finally emerging at Mahaney Diamond here on campus is a sign that University of Maine baseball is on its way home.

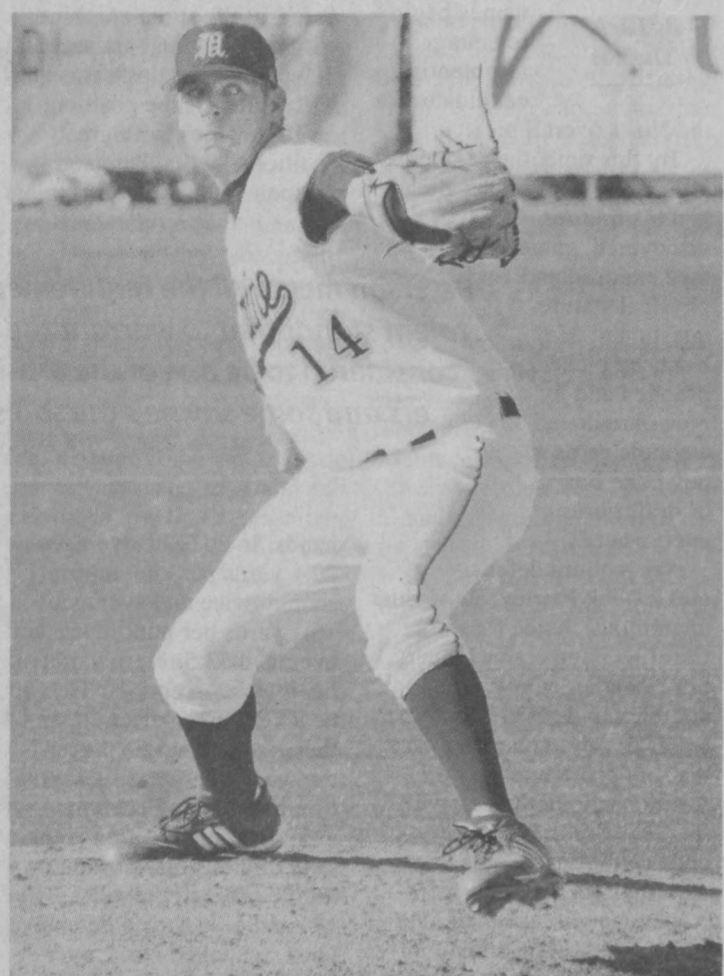
After 17 games played on the road and nine more coming over the next two weekends, the beginning of April marks the start of home play for the Black Bears.

Although the Black Bears got out to a 5-12 record, according to head coach Steve Trimper, it's not indicative of how they've played.

"We played one of the most challenging schedules we've ever tackled," Trimper said. "The teams we played were good and it's important for us to go through adversity. The complex world of NCAA baseball — we can't get an at-large bid, we need to win our conference. By playing in tough situations gets us better equipped for the teams we need to be."

It certainly hasn't been a cakewalk. The Black Bears' opening opponent the University of Nevada Las Vegas, boasts a 16-4; Stetson University is 12-4 with one of the losses by the hands of UMaine; the University of Central Florida is 13-4; and Florida State is 15-2 and ranked fourth in the country.

"We're hitting .281 right



File photo

Junior pitcher A.J. Bazdanes has a strikeout ratio of 9.43 K's per nine innings.

now, and we saw knockdown lights-out pitching," Trimper

ond-round picks and are grabbing hits up the middle. We played these good teams to challenge ourselves and get better for conference. Would I like to be .500? Of course, but that would be remarkable with the schedule we had."

The Black Bears return to a normal schedule in their terms,

See Baseball on B5

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Wednesday — Karaoke with Marissa

Thursday — Frank & the Red Hots

Friday — Chaos Sauce



UMaine @ Rider
Fri. 3 p.m.
Sat. 12 p.m. 3 p.m.
Sun. 12 p.m.



said. "We had close to 15 hits robbed because some of the middle infielders were sec-