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Maine Campus

The University of Maine's Student Newspaper Est. 1875

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Ted Koffman guest lectures at UMaine about creating sustainable housing solutions in Maine

Bhavana Scalia-Bruce Contributor

On Monday, Feb. 24, Ted Koffman, a former member of the Maine House of Representatives, spoke at the University of Maine. Koffman's lecture at the George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions was on the topic of creating sustainable communities in the state of Maine, as well as sharing the work he does with the Island Housing Trust (IHT) organization.

Koffman, who hails from Mount Desert Island (MDI), is currently a member of the board of directors for the Island Housing Trust, an organization that works to promote "viable, year-round island communities." From the years 2002-08, Koffman worked for the Natural Resources Committee where he served as co-chair. Additionally, Koffman worked as the director of government and community relations at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor and has spent time working for the Maine Audubon Society.

Koffman's lecture primarily focused on the societal issues in MDI communities and posed

potential solutions to aid in community development.

In his role at the IHT, Koffman works to facilitate discussions and works with the Mount Desert Island community where they pose solutions to the issues the island is facing.

Koffman is passionate about the island and advocates strongly for a sense of place. A large quantity of the work he does is geared toward the improvement of the MDI community.

"You can conserve the natural environment, but what about the community," Koffman asked of the audience at Monday's event.

One of the primary issues that Koffman has identified in MDI is that there is a dwindling number of year-round residents on the island, in comparison with the number of seasonal visitors.

This significant decline in population is visible in many areas, primarily in elementary schools. Koffman spoke highly on behalf of the island's public school system. However, the enrollment has significantly dropped in recent years, with the number of enrolled students dropping 23% since



On Tuesday, Feb. 25 former Maine State Representative, Ted Koffman spoke on creating sustainable housing solutions for residents of Mount Desert Island.

Photo by Antyna Gould.

2000. This is a result of a lack of year-round residents.

Koffman presented the fact that an increasing number of people want to live on the island all year, but are not able to due to the high cost of living in MDI.

"60% of people would live on the island if they could, but they can't," Koffman said.

The work that Koffman is involved with through the IHT works

toward making housing on the island affordable. The IHT promotes their work through community outreach and envisions a future where MDI has a significant percentage of affordable year-round housing available to the workforce. The housing units that the IHT provides seeks to address the high cost of living, as housing costs in MDI have more than doubled, while median

incomes on the island have increased by less than 50%.

"From 2000 to 2016, median home values on the island increased by more than 120%, while median income increased only by 44%," Koffman noted.

As a result of this increase, as of 2017, 84% of homes that were for sale on MDI were not affordable for median income families.

Koffman is an advo-

cate for initiatives that retain year-round residents on the island.

"We'd like more of them to come back," Koffman said, referring to those who have left the island.

For those interested in learning more about the IHC, they should visit www.islandhousing-trust.org/.

UMaine takes down activist banner recognizing Wet'suwet'en Nation

Aidan Leavitt Contributor

Early in the morning on Feb. 20, activists raised a banner high above the University of Maine's Raymond H. Fogler Library in support of Wet'suwet'en Nation in their struggle against the installation of a massive pipeline through their ancestral lands in southwestern Canada. The banner was emblazoned with the words "All Eyes on Wet'suwet'en, No Access Without Consent" and included a URL to a website providing information on the tribal nation.

The banner above Fogler Library was removed by mid-morning on the same day of its hoisting in accordance with university policy that prohibits non-university material to be hung from any of the buildings on campus. However, a similar banner appeared this past Tuesday, Feb. 25, on the railway bridge connecting Bangor to

Brewer across the Penobscot River. In a similar fashion, this banner bore the name of the embattled tribal nation. This second banner remained in place significantly longer, likely due to its perilous placement high above the river. It also was strategically placed in a high traffic area and was visible to commuter crowds on the nearby State Street bridge and surrounding downtown area.

The Wet'suwet'en people currently reside in unceded territory in British Columbia and have been fighting against projects like the TC Energy Coastal GasLink pipeline for decades. The pipeline threatens to disrupt life at Unist'ot'en camp, home to numerous indigenous people, and the heart of recent protests. The construction of the pipeline through the territory and camp has sparked fierce debate across the country about how the Canadian government

deals with indigenous land recognition. Wet'suwet'en Nation serves as an especially interesting case, as they have never made any formal agreement ceding the land to the Canadian government, and have fiercely defended their rights in court.

On the other hand, TC Energy, a natural gas company based out of Calgary, contends the pipeline will bring various economic benefits to the region without altering it in an impactful way. Many of the nation's chiefs disagree, arguing that the installation would defile their lands, hinder food gathering and settlement and function as another harmful example of how Indigenous land rights are being overlooked by the government. Yet TC Energy might just get their way. With backing from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Force, demonstrations have become increasingly scrutinized with multiple



Activist banner in front of Fogler Library.

Photo by John Welton.

arrests having occurred, and officers allegedly being prompted to use violence to dispel protesters. The RCMP has since entered talks with the Wet'suwet'en Nation, but neither the arrests nor protests have ceased.

The Wet'suwet'en people continue to fight, as they have for the past century, against the erasure of their culture and heritage at the hands of government-backed en-

ergy corporations like TC Energy. Not only are there economic and political implications to consider, but cultural ones as well. The nationwide protests have received attention from officials in Canada, as well as outside of Canada, with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau saying that "the fact remains that the barriers need to come down." The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination released

a statement urging Canada to "immediately suspend work on the Coastal GasLink pipeline, the Trans Mountain pipeline and the Site C dam until free, prior and informed consent is obtained from Indigenous peoples."

News

Harrison Ransley seeks UMSG president position

Leela Stockley
News Editor

Harrison Ransley, a third-year political science and economics student, has put forward his bid to run for the position of University of Maine Student Government (UMSG) president. The role, which is currently filled by fourth-year marine science student Bentley Simpson, is crucial in facilitating the relationships between the members of the student community, the faculty and administration and the UMaine Graduate Student Government. The organization works throughout the year to engage with the student community in order to allocate funding towards student organizations, projects for the betterment of the UMaine community and initiatives that help to connect the UMaine community.

Ransley has been involved with various student organizations and clubs on campus since his first year as a student, and feels as though one of the most important things that the student government does is allocate money towards student organizations. He feels as though, through the environment created with the UMSG, students are encouraged to get involved in new initiatives. He hopes that if he is elected as UMSG pres-

ident, he will be able to continue to foster an environment that encourages students to invest in the wellbeing of the UMaine community.

Throughout his undergraduate career, Ransley has been heavily involved in the UMaine Student Senate and worked in the fall of 2018 to implement a Student Conduct Code Committee. The special committee is an opportunity for students, whether involved with the UMSG or not, to discuss concerns that they have in regards to the current Student Conduct Code. Ransley noted that, through his relationships with a wide variety of UMaine students, he realized that there were many areas of the Student Conduct Code that raised concern among the student body.

"I had heard about how there was very little organization, and very little idea on how to proceed to address the Student Conduct Code," Ransley said. "Part of it is trial and error. But, that leaves growth potential. I hope to bring the energy to establish longevity [in these committees and organizations] in my time with UMSG."

Ransley has also assisted the UMSG with the formation of two other oversight committees; one which assists students in finding re-

sources to deal with legal issues, and one that is currently in the works to address student mental health across the campus. Ransley has also taken the initiative to contact and work with other campuses and student governments within the University of Maine System. This has allowed for more comprehensive approach to issues that students across Maine are facing, rather than simply working in a closed system at the UMaine Orono campus.

"It was so thrilling to make something new with [the UMSG]," Ransley noted. "Seeing bigger change, and taking the job of [the UMSG] in a whole new direction was exciting."

Ransley is extremely impassioned about his role with the UMSG, even though he has not sat on an executive board. He feels as though it is his role to encourage students in the UMaine community, and finds joy in working to empower others.

"Part of the mindset is exciting people to take initiative. [If I don't], it's almost irresponsible," Ransley noted. "I think that people will be attracted to people who keep the ball rolling. Putting yourself out there to get trust, rather than asking for it preemptively [can help build that relationship with the community]."



Two students, Harrison Ransley and Zack Wyles are candidates for the positions of student body president and vice president respectively.

Photo by Leela Stockley.

Ransley hopes that should he get elected to the position of UMSG president, he will be able to implement initiatives that will empower other student's voices and encourage them to continue to pursue their passions and create lasting, meaningful connections with various members of the UMaine community.

"It's so important for students to feel empowered I wish there was more energy on campus, because if you really put your mind to it, you can get a surprising amount done," Ransley explained. "I had heard that in the past, the UMSG President had spoken at [first-year] orientation. I'm not the best public speaker, but I hope that if the opportunity to speak [at orientation] presents itself,

my passion would come across."

Ransley is an advocate for taking time to foster personal passions, alongside his passion for community-building. Ransley was a registered whitewater raft guide before pursuing his undergraduate degree, and finds activities like ice skating and tango dancing exciting and engaging.

"Whitewater rafting teaches you a lot of responsibility," Ransley said. "I took the time to get to know myself [while guiding], and it was a lot of fun. But it also provides a level of seriousness. There is a huge amount of responsibility involved [with rafting] because you are not in control of the elements but you have to keep everyone safe."

Ransley feels as

though this experience had taught him valuable leadership skills, helping him realize that the small moments between people and the relationships that you build with people are the ones that matter.

"It's not every day that you get to take part in something that you know you're doing the right thing," Ransley stated. "It's even less often that you have the opportunity to have a powerful say in something. Those turning points in life are [when you ask] what your next step is."

The candidates for UMSG president and vice president will be presenting their campaign arguments at the General Student Senate on Tuesday, March 3 at 6 p.m.

YAL and College Republicans host speaker on criminal justice reform

Maria Maxsimic
Contributor

On Feb. 27, Sarah Anderson, the Director of Policy at FreedomWorks, spoke to University of Maine students about criminal justice reform in America. Anderson was invited to speak by UMaine's Young Americans for Liberty (YAL) chapter in cooperation with the UMaine College Republicans.

FreedomWorks is a group of over six million Americans that promote free markets and individual liberty. The group states that their members "all share three common traits; a desire for less government oversight, lower taxes and more economic freedom." FreedomWorks does this by educating citizens "on important issues, or helping [people] contact [their] elected officials," according to the organization's website.

The organization takes stances specifically on fiscal issues, such as healthcare and education reform, but does not take sides on

the majority of social issues.

One of the issues that FreedomWorks does take a position on is criminal justice reform.

"The top priority of criminal justice reform is to increase public safety, and the best way to do that is to prevent crime from happening," Anderson said at the event.

The United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world, according to FreedomWorks' website.

Anderson also shared that rates of reincarceration after a first offense in the U.S. are incredibly high, making criminal justice reform even more necessary. Reincarceration is known as recidivism, which is the tendency for a convicted criminal to re-offend. Anderson stated that criminal justice reform needs to occur to lower rates of recidivism, and it will only happen if citizens and politicians look carefully at America's prison systems to determine whether or not inmates

are receiving the help that they need to be able to succeed once they get out of prison.

"When inmates are coming into a prison, we [need to] look at 'What got you here? What is the situation at home? Are there reasons that you weren't able to be successful in society without committing a crime - whether it is lack of education, inability to find a job, or lack of literacy?' What can we do while someone is incarcerated to help them get the skills they will need to succeed on the back-end?" Anderson said. "Whether it is drug treatment, mental health treatment, education, or vocational skills [we need to] allow non-profits and industries to come into prisons and offer those without any cost to the taxpayers to create people [who come out] and are able to participate in society."

One example of this is America's war on drugs. Anderson stated that America's war on drugs has taken over prisons and that oftentimes people are incar-

cerated for far too long for their non-violent crimes.

"I don't think there are many people out there that don't think that there should be some level of punishment for a proven crime, but oftentimes the crime does not fit the punishment," Anderson noted.

Anderson presented the fact that within the judiciary and the criminal justice system, there isn't a distinction made between drug users, dealers and traffickers, resulting in jails holding these people for decades, leaving people to come out feeling hopeless. She argued that the prison system should be getting these people the help they need for their potential addiction problems, so they can come out of jail ready to make healthy choices.

FreedomWorks is passionate about this issue, as they believe it will create opportunities for those in jail to become more productive members of society once they leave, but also because of the cost

taxpayers pay to keep someone in jail. Anderson says that it costs approximately \$36,000 in taxpayer money per inmate to hold a person in jail for a year, according to the federal average.

Anderson shared that recidivism rates are incredibly high in the U.S. because there is a huge stigma surrounding people with a criminal record when they go back into society, even if they were able to get the help they needed in jail.

"Ban the Box" is a political campaign that argues that hiring applications should remove the box asking whether or not an applicant has a criminal record. This campaign believes that a conditional offer should be made to an applicant before the hiring personnel are able to ask if the applicant has a criminal record. In turn, this is thought to avoid the instant rejection that many people with a criminal record get when they try to apply for jobs. This kind of law has been passed in a number of states.

Pennsylvania has sought to reduce recidivism and welcome people back into society by enacting a Clean Slate Act. This act allows some criminals records, for crimes that are non-violent and misdemeanors that meet certain standards, to be sealed. In turn, these people will be given a better shot at obtaining jobs and licenses that they might not otherwise qualify for with their criminal record.

In 2019, President Trump signed the First Step Act that intends to reduce recidivism, among other things.

"The First Step Act is providing prisoners with a second chance through rehabilitative programs, fair sentencing, and smart confinement," according to the White House's website. This act was seen as monumental, for both Republicans and Democrats, as is it thought to be the first step towards criminal justice reform in America.

For more information about FreedomWorks visit www.freedomworks.org.

Co-founder of RateMyProfessors.com speaks on entrepreneurial skills at UMaine

Maria Maxsimic
Contributor

On Feb. 27 Michael Hussey, a co-founder of RateMyProfessors.com, spoke to University of Maine students at the Foster Center for Student Innovation. Hussey's presentation focused on the lessons he learned as an entrepreneur and from his experience building start-up companies.

Hussey shared that he founded the "Rate My..." network in 1999 while he was a third-year student studying financial economics at the University of Maine.

"I've always been obsessed with organizing ideas, organizing data, and organizing abstract concepts and knowledge and trying to bring structure, meaning and usefulness to those things," Hussey shared. He stated that this was what motivated him to create not only the "Rate My..." network, but also all of the startups he has created since.

"After each course, we would fill out these really nice professor evaluations and would spend a lot of time on that. Then

I just remember thinking 'no one is ever going to see this. All these people [are] taking the time to share their opinions and what good is that? It will probably go in some folder somewhere and get locked away,'" Hussey said.

Hussey questioned what the world would be like if students could see what others wrote about their professors and help each other by sharing their experiences. This is what inspired him to create an incredibly successful online platform for students to rate their professors, as well as another platform to rate high school teachers. The platform exploded with nearly 100,000 visitors to the site in the first few days.

Hussey left the "Rate My..." sites a few years after founding them, and RateMyProfessors.com was eventually acquired by MTV. The site is now owned by the company Cheddar. The website has seen success, with over 19 million ratings and feedback on faculty at over 8,000 schools, according to its website.

After leaving the "Rate My..." platforms, Hussey

founded the companies PeekYou and StatSocial based on the same premise of organizing ideas and data.

PeekYou is a site that acts as a database for people. Hussey described it as a site where you can basically "Google yourself" and others to find all of the web's information about a person. Similarly, Hussey continues to run StatSocial, a company that assists brands in navigating through customer data to help them make more educated decisions that target their specific audiences.

Hussey shared specific lessons that he has learned in the past 20 years as an entrepreneur. One of the lessons he shared was that, as an entrepreneur, everyone will experience failure. Hussey harped on the point that it is okay to feel sorry for yourself, but that a great entrepreneur should not hold on to failure and should put it behind them immediately and continue to innovate.

Another important lesson Hussey shared was that every decision has an opportunity cost, which is whatever else you could



Michael Hussey, co-founder of RateMyProfessor.com, speaks about his experience of being a successful entrepreneur at the UMaine Foster Center for Student Innovation. Photo by Lauren Erlanson.

be doing or what you must give up to do what you choose. He shared that his economics classes at UMaine taught him this and that he considers opportunity cost every time he makes a decision.

After initially launching the "Rate My..." network, the site received so much traffic that Hussey shared that he wasn't properly equipped to handle or deal with. Knowing that his summer break was ending and Hussey was going back to school, he decided to shut down the

website and come back to it after he graduated. Hussey stated that his biggest entrepreneurial regret was not stopping school and focusing on the "Rate My..." network during this time. He shared that in the meantime, while the site shutdown, other companies were able to copy the idea.

"There's a window, and if you truly are first, then be first," Hussey stated.

He shared that owners of software and technology companies will always

have competitors because startup costs are so small for their businesses, so it is important to have a sense of urgency and make use of your head start.

Hussey grew up in Alfred, Maine, but now lives in New York City with his wife and four daughters. He currently works as the president of StatSocial.

The UMaine AI Initiative—Maine as a hub of technological advancement

Liron Estrach
Contributor

The University of Maine Artificial Intelligence Initiative (UMaine AI) is focused on the development of transformative AI solutions that will help overcome the challenges of the future. Its research addresses issues such as space travel, autonomous vehicle programs, forestry modeling, cancer detection and many others.

Associate Professor of Computer Science Roy Turner, is leading a project that aims to build an instrument capable of previously unachieved high-speed computa-

tions. According to Turner, an instrument of such computing capacity will make UMaine more likely to be considered for national grants and will facilitate greater statewide research. Turner's project has already received a \$350,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Another project, co-led by Dr. Nicholas Giudice and Dr. Richard Corey, who run and direct the VEMI Lab at UMaine, is dedicated to improving user trust of autonomous vehicles through a new study they call human-vehicle collaboration (HVC). Its goal is to explore new ways of communication

between human passengers and the operating artificial intelligence "driver." The NSF awarded the project a \$500,000 grant.

There are many more projects that fall under the initiative's umbrella. From AI models that detect liver cancer to ones that optimize forest and lumber management, UMaine AI is at the forefront of artificial intelligence research.

As part of the UMaine AI Initiative, the university offers a number of different courses on the subject of artificial intelligence to students with AI-related degree programs. From computer science to electrical engineering, UMaine AI casts a wide net for all

those who may want to get involved in research opportunities. According to the program's workforce development directive, the program operates at the intersection of diverse disciplines and fosters a synergistic environment that brings together interdisciplinary teams of collaborators dedicated to the advancement of artificial intelligence and its applications.

"UMaine AI is dedicated to enhancing human life and societal well-being. It draws top talent and leverages a distinctive set of capabilities from the University of Maine across many disciplines and other collaborating

institutions from across Maine and beyond, while it also recruits world-class talent from across the nation and the world," Kody Varahramyan, UMaine vice president for research and dean of the graduate school, said.

With the artificial intelligence market expected to grow by about 45% before 2025 — reaching an estimated global net worth of almost \$400 billion — AI is quickly becoming one of the most important divisions in the tech industry. With research opportunities and developments aplenty, UMaine AI creates a great learning environment for students who are inter-

ested in pursuing careers in the technologies and technology market.

Whether or not UMaine will become the "Silicon Valley of the East" we cannot say, but with its current developments, UMaine has established itself as a competitive research university nationwide which is a step in the right direction. Having procured more than \$750,000 in funding, its newly acquired resources are sure to advance our knowledge of artificial intelligence and its applications.

UMaine hosts 5th John F. Kennedy recognition dinner

Bhavana Scalia-Bruce
Contributor

On Sat. Feb. 29, the University of Maine hosted the fifth bi-annual John F. Kennedy Recognition Dinner.

Every two years, UMaine hosts an awards dinner to honor former U.S. President Kennedy's memory, as well as to recognize one of his final addresses which took place on Oct. 19, 1963, at UMaine, nearly a month before his assassination.

The UMaine College Democrats were in attendance, selling raffle tickets to raise funds for their club, as well as former elected officials and a large number of current running candidates.

The dinner was presented by the Penobscot County Democratic

Committee. The Chair, Bev Uhlenhake of Brewer, was the primary organizer of the dinner and responsible for its success. The evening commenced with a welcome from Uhlenhake and an invocation by former member of the State of Maine Legislature, Rev. Frank Murray.

All of the money raised from the dinner goes directly to the Penobscot County Democratic Committee, which they proceed to donate toward those running for Maine elected offices and their campaigns.

"Tonight, we're gonna celebrate doers," Uhlenhake said at the start of the dinner.

The first award of the evening, the President John F. Kennedy Award, was presented to Gov. Janet Mills.

Maine's Secretary of State Matt Dunlap introduced Mills and presented her the award. During her introduction, Dunlap spoke highly of Mills' accomplishments thus far in her term as governor.

"Janet's a lot more than her resume," Dunlap noted in his presentation. Dunlap went on to passionately discuss the motivation that Mills shows for the work that she is doing in the state of Maine.

"She fights for people who don't even know they're worth fighting for," Dunlap noted.

Mills graciously accepted her award and began her acceptance speech by emphasizing the recent changes made in her fourteen months in office. She explicitly stated her hard dedication to

ward improving Maine for the people.

"Because Democrats do care about every life," Mills stated, as she promoted the continual fight for change by Democratic officials.

As a part of her acceptance speech, Mills stated her appreciation of President John F. Kennedy and referred to him as her favorite president. She quoted President Kennedy in her speech, stating, "The greater our knowledge increases the more our ignorance unfolds."

The second award of the evening, the Penobscot Award, was presented to the William and Mary Davis family. The Davis family is recognized in the state of Maine for their Democratic advocacy, and are well-known for their kind-hearted

personalities. They were described as "[living] and [breathing] Democratic values."

The final award presented was the William J. Sullivan Award, given to Aaron Frey. Frey is the current attorney general for the state of Maine. Emily Cain, former member of the Maine House of Representatives, introduced the award and welcomed Frey to the stage.

"Aaron is always on the right side of the law," Cain noted, applauding the work that Frey has done as the Attorney General.

When accepting his award, Frey thanked Cain for recognizing his passionate work ethic on behalf of the state.

Alongside enforcing the law through serious regulation in the state of Maine, Frey wants to make sure that Maine is a welcoming place.

"I do what the trust has been put in me to do," Frey stated as he finished his speech.

For more information on getting involved in Democratic events on campus, the UMaine College Democrats hold their meetings on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Lown Room of the Memorial Union or can be contacted by emailing stephen.kent@maine.edu.

Weekly Updates

This Week in Student Government

Weekly recap of decisions made by the UMaine Student Government General Student Senate

Maria Maxsimic Contributor

The General Student Senate meeting on Feb. 25 began with the approval of the Feb. 18 meeting minutes and agenda.

General Good and Welfare:

Sen. Emmeline Willey spoke for Vice President Chase Flaherty, who was absent the Feb. 25 meeting, and discussed the Robert's Rules item of the week. The item of the week highlighted the motion of voting on a ruling by the chair. A senator may say that they would like to make a motion to appeal the chair's decision.

New Senators, Officer Appointments, Resignations:

Connor Bray was appointed as a senator. Sen. Willey reported that Angel K Loreda and Will Erlanson were present to participate in a senator observation.

Club Presentations:

Representatives from the Recreational Ski & Snowboard Club argued for the recognition of their group and were granted preliminary recognition.

Executive Reports:

President Bentley Simpson reported that he sat in on UMaine's First-Generation Student Meeting last week. He shared that the group is looking to create videos highlighting stories about current first-generation students at UMaine and to reach out to him if any first-generation student wanted to take part. Additionally, President Simpson shared that he would be meeting with the Assistant Dean of Student Life Andrea Gifford regarding a potential collaboration with a national company called Rent College Pads. This company is used as a resource for finding places to rent and lease for students at universities across the nation. He reported that he is discussing with the others the potential of live streaming future senate meetings. Lastly, he shared that the Maine Day committee would be meeting on Feb. 26 at 9 a.m.

President Bentley Simpson presented the report of Vice President Flaherty. The report stated that Vice President Flaherty is continuing to plan the senate retreat. Additionally, Vice President Flaherty wanted the Senate to know that Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students Robert Dana would be attending the next Senate meeting on March 3.

Vice President for Financial Affairs Jack O'Donoghue reported that there is currently \$285,357.18 in unallocated funds. He shared that budget meetings are almost complete and that the deadline for sports clubs budgets to be complete is March 6. He reported that the majority of his work in the spring would focus on preparing UMaine's disc golf course.

Lastly, he reported that anyone interested in the position of Vice President of Financial Affairs should contact him.

Vice President for Student Organizations (VPSO) Taylor Cray reported that anyone interested in the VPSO position should contact her. Additionally, she reported that the Dungeons & Dragons bylaw was passed last week. She shared that she is working with the Coordinator of Student Organizations Heather Hogan on revising the relationship agreement that all clubs and organizations have to sign. Lastly, Cray reported that she went to a meeting at the Blaine House and discussed youth retention in the state of Maine.

Vice President for Student Entertainment Logan Aromando reported that he is continuing to work on small details for the Maine Day concert. He shared that he has gotten photography for the main artist approved and is currently focusing on getting an opener or possibly a new artist and is in contact with a few different artists. He reported that he is working with President Simpson to contact food trucks and that this year they will be charging food trucks that decide to come to the concert. They have already heard from a number of food trucks who plan to attend. He reported that he is still communicating with the University of Maine Volunteer Ambulance Corps and the facilities department on campus to finalize the number of these utilities that will be needed on the day of the concert. He is also creating a schedule for the specific tasks and needs for the day of the concert. Additionally, Vice President Aromando reported that he is working with the Graduate Student Government on a plan to potentially sell tickets to graduate students. He reported that he is speaking to production agencies regarding next year's concert in attempts to get a better deal on ticket prices.

The Advisor to Student Government Lauri Sidelko encouraged people to volunteer for the Maine Day concert. She reported that March 3 is Super Tuesday and the primary election. She shared that she has been working with the NextGen voter organization to run vans to the polling office that day. She reported that vans will take UMaine students from the Union to the polling office at the Orono Municipal Building from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and that students should bring a piece of mail and an identification card with them if they aren't registered to vote yet. Additionally, she reported that she has attended a few events in honor of Black History Month on campus. Sidelko also reminded the senate that if they are a part of an organization that is hosting an event

with 50 or more people or an event in a room that can hold 50 or more people, the organization needs to fill out an event management request form so that UMaine officials can make security and safety accommodations. Lastly, she shared that she is working with Spotlight Cinemas on a deal to potentially provide free movie passes to students.

Periodic Reports:

Faculty Senate Student Rep. Camryn Hammill had no report.

UMaine Board of Trustees Student Rep. Abby Despres reported that she attended the Academic and Student Affairs Meeting on Feb. 24. She announced that UMaine in Orono will collaborate with the University of Southern Maine and the University of Maine at Presque Isle to offer a graduate degree in athletic training. The program will kick off in the summer of 2022. She also reported that there is movement on potentially altering the Student Code of Conduct and she will keep the senate updated on this in the future.

Chair of the Fair Election Practices Commission Matthew Akers reported that on Feb. 20 there was a meeting for UMSG, Inc. President and Vice President candidates. He reported that these candidates will be giving their platform speeches at the next senate meeting in preparation for the upcoming election. Lastly, he reported that voting for the election will occur electronically and be sent out via email.

Student Legal Services Liaison Elisabeth Redwood reported that the legal services are currently preparing legal contracts for events such as the Maine Day concert, the Drag Show and the Hair Care Fair. Redwood also reported that the legal services can review leases for students and can help students in this manner, among other services.

Representative to the Graduate Student Senate Frank Kelly reported that he would be attending the Graduate Student Senate next week.

Orono Town Council Liaison Camryn Hammill had no report.

Old Town City Council Liaison Peter Alexander had no report.

Representative of the UMaine Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Austin Westfield reported that the Naval ROTC

program has announced that the Zimmerman Fitness Challenge will take place on April 18. He also shared that the Army ROTC program will hold a barbecue in April at the National Guard Base in Bangor.

Director of Communications Owen Vadala reported that he has been conversing with President Simpson about shirts for the organization. He also reported that he advertised the Bumper Ball event that took place on Feb. 22 on the student government social media pages last weekend.

University of Maine Security Rep. Gabriela Reyes had no report.

Center for Undergraduate Research Liaison Olivia Lovejoy had no report.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Marketing and Public Relations Rep. Owen Vadala had no report.

Membership Rep. Gabriela Reyes reported that she will have beverages available at the next senate meeting. She also shared that she has been working with Vice President Flaherty on the senate retreat that will take place on March 29. Lastly, she shared that she will have binders prepared in the near future for the newly appointed senators, Sens. Bray and Curro.

Policy & Procedure Rep. Harrison Ransley had no report.

Political Activism Rep. Cody Embelton reported that the primary election will take place on March 3 and there will be transportation available to bring students from campus to the polls. He shared that he will be having a meeting on Feb. 26 with the presidents of the political clubs on campus to discuss election day.

Student Services Rep. Emmeline Willey reported that at the last committee meeting Lauri Sidelko and Vice President Flaherty attended and the group talked about plans for a Maine Day mural in the atrium of the Union. Additionally, at the meeting, Sidelko told the group that there will be a game room in the Union in the future and new seating arrangements to provide more space for students. Lastly, Rep. Willey announced that there would not be a services committee this coming week.

Reports of Special Committees:

Student Conduct Code Oversight and Review Committee Rep. Harrison Ransley reported

that posters encouraging students to reach out with concerns about the student conduct code have been printed out and that he and Sen. Reyes are in need of assistance to post them around campus.

Representative Board Reports:

Commuter and Non-Traditional Students Rep. Ian Johnson reported that there will be a pancake breakfast on March 27.

Honors College Student Advisory Board Rep. Dominique Dispirito reported that the group is \$250 away from their monetary goal for the Maine Day meal packout. She shared that making this goal so early allows them to raise funds for next year. She shared that the board is continuing to work with faculty and administration on recruitment initiatives. Lastly, Dispirito shared that a discussion event will occur on Feb. 28 on the fourth floor of Colvin Hall and all students are welcome.

Interfraternity Council Rep. Morgan Ford reported that members of the council are going to the National Greek Leadership Association conference this week. Rep. Ford also shared that Greek Week is approaching and members of the council are meeting with administration from Upward Bound about a potential collaboration for that week on Feb. 26. Additionally, the council is putting together a planning committee for Greek Week's events.

Panhellenic Council Rep. Allison Swede reported that members of the council will be attending the National Greek Leadership Association conference this Thursday, in Baltimore, Maryland. She shared that Greek Week is approaching and the council is looking to have an outreach event during that week. She reported that the council will be tabling for the Circle of Sisterhood, Panhellenic's philanthropy, during March. Lastly, she reported that they are planning the talent show that will occur during Greek Week.

Senior Class Council Rep. Joshua Minor had no report.

Sustainability and Environment Action Division Rep. Dalton Bouchless was not present and did not pass along a report.

Community Association Reports:

Student Heritage Alliance Council Rep. Anna Schaab reported that Japanese students will be eating lunch in the North Pod for the rest of the week and would love to talk to students. Additionally, she shared that on March 5, the German Club is hosting a cake demo at their weekly meeting where they will be making German cakes and anyone is welcome to come to the meeting to learn how to make them.

Feminist Collective Rep. Rachel Jones reported that on Feb. 24,

the group met to discuss the future of the organization. At this meeting, the group created goals and brainstormed how they would have more active participants. Rep. Jones shared that the group will be working on restructuring and rebuilding in the next semester.

Wilde Stein Queer-Straight Alliance Rep. MJ Smith reported that in this week's meeting the group will split into committees to discuss the upcoming carnival and lavender prom. Rep. Smith told the senate to look out for events for Diversity Week and Pride Week that are coming up in April.

International Student Association Rep. Hannah Holbrook was not present and did not pass along a report.

Consent Agenda:

A motion to allocate \$700 to the Maine Peace Action Committee for formatting and printing was introduced. This motion was passed.

A motion to allocate \$35 to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for popsicle sticks, rubber bands and starburst candy was introduced. This motion was passed.

New Business:

An Act to allocate \$2,250 to the International Affairs Association for registration fees and airfare costs for nine students to attend the Harvard World Model UN in Tokyo, Japan on March 16 was passed.

Main Motion:

President Simpson discussed the main motion of the night, allocating a total of \$10,275 to UMaine's Student Symposium event that is held on April 17 at the Alford Sports Arena. President Simpson argued that because UMaine has a large number of undergraduate students taking part in research, it is important to help fund this event. He reported that there are 1,060 coauthors at this event and 45% of them are undergraduate students. Additionally, he shared that the graduate student government has provided a large portion of the funding for this event in the past years, so it is necessary for the undergraduate student government to contribute as well.

Sen. Kelly proposed an amendment to the wording of the motion, as the original motion had stated that the event was at the Cross Insurance Center, as it was in past years, but has since changed locations, to the Alford Sports Arena. The amendment was passed.

Vice President Aromando suggested tabling the motion for next week's meeting, as he believed there was more information necessary before a decision could be made.

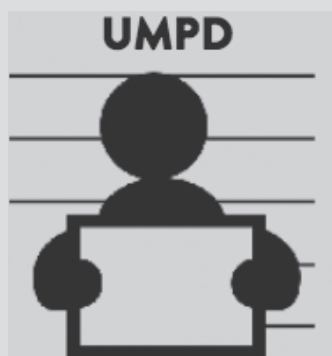
The Senate voted and the majority agreed to table the motion.

The final roll was called and the meeting was then adjourned.



Police Beat

The best from UMaine's finest



Leela Stockley
News Editor

Feb. 21 - 2:47 p.m.
The University of Maine Police Department (UMPD) received a call from the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity house that a person had been trespassing. The brothers who called in the report told UMPD that they

thought that they knew the person. UMPD identified Coplin Fickett of Old Town as the suspect and spoke with Fickett who denied being in the area. Fickett was issued a criminal trespass warning.

Feb. 22 - 1:10 a.m.
While on duty, Officer Angelo of the Orono Police Department (OPD) noticed an influx of traffic

that was creating a traffic jam at a house on Park Street. Officer Angelo spoke to the drivers of the vehicles, advising people to keep traffic moving, and assessed the situation. After speaking to some of the drivers, Officer Angelo performed a traffic stop on a Honda CRV which had eight people in the vehicle. Officer

Angelo determined that a number of the passengers had been drinking and were under the age of 21. After speaking with the driver and passengers, Officer Angelo determined that there was reasonable suspicion to approach the house and spoke to the tenants. Bryce Rolf, 21, of Orono and Cooper Chap, 21, of Orono, were determined to be furnishing a place for minors to possess or consume alcohol and were summoned. Rolf and Chap have a court date in April.

Feb. 22 - 2:25 p.m.
UMPD received a call from a female student who said that she had been running on College

Avenue when brothers from the Theta Chi fraternity started throwing snowballs at her from the roof deck of their fraternity house. UMPD issued the brothers a disorderly warning and were referred to the Fraternity and Sorority Affairs Office.

Feb. 26 - 5:25 a.m.
While on duty, a UMPD officer on foot patrol smelled the strong scent of marijuana in Oxford Hall. The officer identified the room that the smell was coming from and knocked on the door. The officer identified Nathan Curtis, who was found to have various bottles of liquor, usable amounts of marijuana in the form of hash oil and various items

of marijuana paraphernalia. Curtis was compliant with UMPD and poured out the bottles of liquor and destroyed the paraphernalia. Curtis was summoned for possession of drug paraphernalia and referred to the Student Conduct Code Committee.

Feb. 26
UMPD received a call that someone had stolen \$350 worth of Hanaford gift cards and \$60 of cash from an unlocked office in Donald P. Corbett Hall. The suspects were not identified and an investigation is ongoing. If anyone has any information on the theft, they are urged to contact UMPD at 581-4040.

Briefs

Quick news from around the country



Leela Stockley
News Editor

Feb. 28
Gov. Janet Mills has signed a new law that will allow students to take excused mental health

days from school. The law states that there will be an allowance for "student absences for mental health or behavioral health needs as excusable absences." The bill was sponsored by Rep. Joyce

McCreight, a Democrat from Harpswell, who had formerly worked as a school social worker. "It's a huge issue with a little tiny bill," McCreight said, noting that she hopes that the bill helps

to address the stigma around mental health issues.

Feb. 28
The Concord Coach Lines, the busses which operate within and serve Maine and New Hampshire, announced Friday that they will no longer allow Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers to search their busses without a warrant. The decision comes after Greyhound,

the nation's largest bus company, announced on Friday that they will no longer allow ICE officers to search their vehicles and perform immigration checks without a warrant.

Feb. 29
Officials at Baxter State Park, one of Maine's largest wilderness areas preserved as a state park, have released a statement saying that they have "no affiliation with Hydro Quebec" after the

company ran an ad with a photo of Mount Katahdin. Hydro Quebec is one of the companies that has publicly backed Central Maine Power's proposed NECEC project which would run a 145-mile transmission line through the state of Maine.

"Baxter State Park has no position on any Hydro Quebec project," Eben Sypitkowsky, the parks director, told the Portland Press Herald.



The World This Week



Feb. 24

Harvey Weinstein was found guilty of sexual assault after a controversial trial. Weinstein was convicted of committing a criminal sex act in the first degree involving one woman and rape in the third degree involving another. He will face a minimum of five years and a maximum of more than two decades in prison. The verdict was hailed as a landmark case in the #MeToo movement, with Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. stating that he felt as though, "This is a big day ... this is the new landscape for survivors of sexual assault in America."

Feb. 26

President Donald Trump announced on Wednesday that he will appoint Vice President Mike Pence as the leader of a task force which will seek to combat the spread of COVID-19, commonly known as the coronavirus. The decision was made after the Centers for Disease Control confirmed a coronavirus infection in California that was not contracted by overseas travel. The total number of infections in the U.S. is currently 15. Pence stated that he has hopes of working with the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the State Department and the White House.

Feb. 29

The United States has signed an agreement with Taliban negotiators to withdraw American troops from Afghanistan after 20 years and the deployment of more than 100,000 troops. The agreement hinges on the understanding that the Taliban will deny sanctuary to terrorist groups, like Al Qaeda. The conditions-based withdrawal is set to take place over 14 months, with about 5,000 troops leaving within 135 days as part of the first stage of the agreement. The Taliban and the Afghanistan government hope to continue working on a power-sharing settlement during that time.

This week at UMaine...

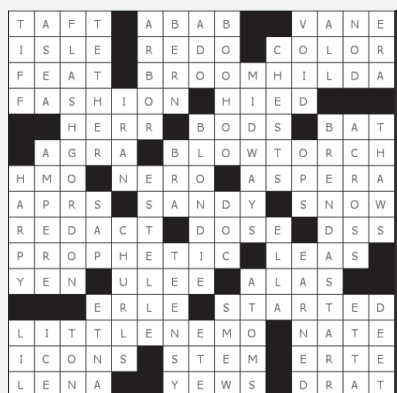
What's happening this week at UMaine

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Citation Manager Workshop 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Fogler Library Classroom 1 Finding Neverland 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Collins Center for the Arts	Spring 2020 WGS Colloquium Series 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Bangor Room SpiritualTEA 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm The Wilson Center	Mary Austin's Time Machine: Modernist Poetics and Settler Time 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Hill Auditorium	New Writing Series: Laird Hunt 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm IMRC, Stewart Commons DIY Zen Garden 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm North Pod of Memorial Union	A Wilder Night: Three One-Act Plays by Thornton Wilder 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm Hauck Auditorium	Supporting Diverse Women's Life Experiences March 7 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, York Complex 4

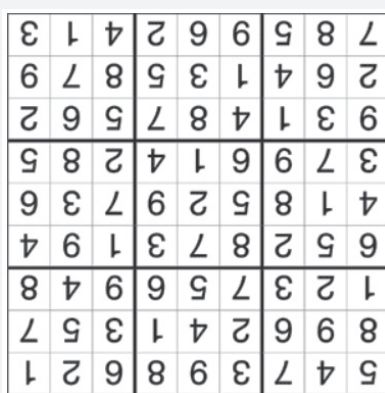
Want to see your club or organization's event represented here? Send the info to eic@mainecampus.com

Diversions Answer Key

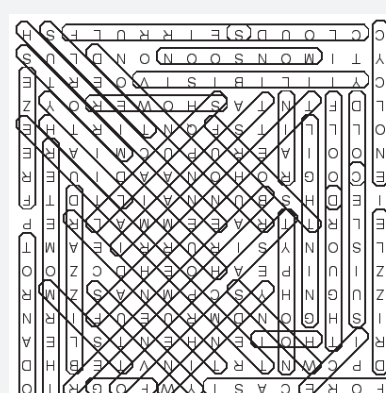
Puzzles, comics and more on A8



Crossword



Sudoku



Word Search

Opinion

Monday, March 2, 2020

Editorial: UMaine's inclusivity efforts are important but flawed

Liz Theriault
Opinion Editor

In her speech at the State of the University Address, President Joan Ferrini-Mundy stressed the way higher education works as a strong influence on the future. Higher education is one of society's only institutions focused solely on preparing students, increasing capacities and improving practices to make a better tomorrow. This is why it was so important that President Ferrini-Mundy dedicated a portion of her speech to the University of Maine's commitment to inclusive excellence. However, in the process of implementing a new position that would encapsulate the diversity and inclusivity efforts that are happening campus-wide, a white man was appointed as the leader.

Robert Dana, vice president for student life

and dean of students at UMaine, had his title expanded to read "vice president for student life and inclusive excellence," as UMaine attempts to increase their inclusivity efforts and implement new policies across all UMaine campuses.

But as Susan Gardner, the director of UMaine's women's, gender, and sexuality studies department and director of the Rising Tide Center, said in the question and answer portion of the address Dean Dana is a white man "through no fault of his own." Yet, Gardner also stressed the identity politics that are tied to positions of influence such as the one Dana has been assigned to, and that for UMaine's students of color, the choice to appoint a white man may raise questions about UMaine's dedication to raising diverse perspectives and promoting individuals of

color to powerful positions.

By introducing this new position, UMaine is shining a spotlight on its dedication to inclusive excellence. At the same time, they are setting a precedent for what these diversity and inclusivity efforts will manifest for the university and its students.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that Maine's population is 94.6% white. UMaine's student body is also composed of a majority of white individuals, equating to 82% of UMaine's population. As Maine's flagship university in the center of the state, it can be hard to find diversity on our campus. But it is there, and positions such as the dean of inclusive excellence create important opportunities for institutions like UMaine to support individuals of color and provide powerful platforms for diverse

voices, perspectives and ideas.

By appointing a white man to the position of dean of inclusive excellence, UMaine perpetuates society's tendencies to favor privilege and limit the influence of people of color in the very efforts that are supposed to raise them up. This position's intent is to lead by example and could give an individual of color a chance to have their perspectives heard for future UMaine policies or activities. The university has the resources to foster a diverse community, and this new role serves as a perfect opportunity for that work to be done on a fully recognized and direct scale.

In response to Gardner's concerns, President Ferrini-Mundy responded that UMaine has an "unequivocal commitment to inclusive excellence as a campus," and that the purpose of the position

is to foster and shape campus-wide dialogues around diversity and inclusion, but provided no direct explanation behind the university's choice to appoint a white man.

Although the appointment of Dana to the dean of inclusive excellence was a flawed choice by the university, it is also extremely important to note the level of importance President Ferrini-Mundy placed on UMaine's dedication to diversity and inclusion during her speech. In recent years, UMaine's students, faculty, departments and organizations have dedicated themselves to fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment. The Rising Tide Center, Multicultural Student Center and the Diversity Leadership Institute are just a few examples of organizations on campus that work to improve both institutional and community inclusion

at UMaine. Recognizing their work and reiterating UMaine's dedication to diversity, equity and inclusion is an important step in enacting change for UMaine's future.

It is for that same reason, ensuring change in UMaine's future, that the university should reconsider their choice for dean of inclusive excellence. Dana is a highly respected and valued member of the UMaine community, and works hard for the student body, but the full potential for the position of dean of inclusive excellence should be used by appointing an individual of color to an influential role in UMaine's administration. By doing this, UMaine would essentially practice what it preaches, by clearly demonstrating to its students and faculty of color that they are valued and heard.

Syria's new place in the world

Owen Baertlein
Contributor

For almost 30 years, Iraq and Afghanistan have been flashpoints for modern global conflict. U.S.-led coalitions have spent decades in hostile lands, harassed by shepherds and day-laborers cooped up in mountain hideouts with nothing more than a rifle and a few rounds of ammunition. Since 2003, bands of insurgents have negated western military operations to deny them of leadership, arms and recruiting bases, and have succeeded at almost every turn. But now, even with the con-

flicts in Iraq and Afghanistan ongoing, global attention has turned to a new Middle Eastern hotspot: Syria.

Last Friday, Feb. 21, Turkish officials revealed that between 29 and 33 Turkish soldiers were killed in an airstrike by the Syrian government. Turkish forces quickly responded by ramping up operations in the region, specifically intensifying artillery fire against government positions in the region. This is just the beginning of an extremely convoluted conflict, one that draws in the United States, multiple European nations, Turkey, and Russia, each

cooperating with or opposing a variety of Syrian civil forces in the region.

Turkish involvement in Syria recently made headlines with President Trump's decision to abandon the Kurdish freedom fighters in the region. Kurdish forces had been indirectly supported by American military intelligence and training up until this point, and were quickly left without a safety net. They stood little to no chance against the well-organized and well-funded Turkish military, but have managed to scratch and claw their way so far.

However, the Syrian

attack on Turkish forces has drawn more global players into the mix. With Turkey's attacks on Syrian government forces, Russia, who supports the reign of Bashar Al-Assad, has been forced to consider Turkish operations hostile to its own interests. With the U.S., Russia and Turkey all involved and all considering each other hostile to one degree or another, Syria is quickly rising to stardom in the role of the globe's next major conflict.

Fears have been exacerbated by Turkey's position in NATO, which threatens to draw the international organization

into conflict with Russia. Steps need to be taken to minimize the tensions in Syria, but exactly what this might entail is still unclear. American involvement is being minimized, but whether this is beneficial or detrimental to either side of the Syrian conflict is debatable. Russian involvement is decidedly detrimental, as the country supports the Al-Assad administration through military equipment and intelligence. Turkey's part in the conflict is largely in self-defense, though the exact steps Turkish military officials have taken can be a little confusing. Turkey is decidedly against

Al-Assad, but Turkish forces have attacked Kurdish freedom fighters in the past as part of a discriminatory military campaign designed to eliminate Kurdish presence in the area.

Syria has the potential to become a major conflict zone at a time when global powers could not be more engaged in other matters. With the rise of COVID-19, commonly known as coronavirus, technological warfare and international tensions, steps must be taken to resolve the conflict in Syria before it explodes into a global conflict.



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

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Opinion pieces should be roughly 650 words and clearly written. Include your name, year and major.

Submissions should be in .doc format.

Send all opinion pieces to Liz Theriault.

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.

Ranked-choice voting is unconstitutional and undemocratic

Gabriel Karam
Contributor

Maine voters passed ranked-choice voting (RCV) into law from the November 2016 referendum. RCV, otherwise known as instant runoff voting, has now been used in the state for the 2018 gubernatorial election, primaries and Congress races. Gov. Mills announced that Maine will be the first state in the nation to choose a president with RCV. The system is allegedly more democratic, since it allows voters to not have to exclusively choose their top candidate; voters can support less popular candidates without fearing that their vote will be “wasted;” Additionally, politicians must appeal to a wider demographic as the winning candidate has to win by a majority instead of a plurality. Unfortunately, RCV does not actually deliver these benefits.

“The Huffington Post” describes how if no candidate wins a majority, the

candidate with the fewest top votes is eliminated. The secondary votes of supporters of this ousted candidate get redistributed. This continues until one candidate has a majority.

While states are democracy’s laboratories, RCV has been problematic since first passed. According to FairVote, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court issued that it would consider RCV to be unconstitutional in a trial. The Maine State Constitution establishes that state offices are to be determined by a plurality. However, under this instant runoff voting, offices would be determined by a majority. Maine’s Constitution also establishes that Maine’s Senate is to determine the winner with an election failure, instead of having ballots recounted. Following a legislative decision to repeal the bill based on unconstitutionality, a people’s veto established that Maine will only use RCV for federal office elections not state office elections.

The fact that it took a people’s veto to overrule legislation concerning RCV’s state unconstitutionality affirms that RCV remains questionable at best.

On a federal level, RCV questions the dogma “one person, one vote.” While a federal district judge found that Rep. Jared Golden was the official U.S. Representative for Maine’s Second Congressional District after the RCV based 2018 election, the Bangor Daily News states that Bruce Poliquin would have won this seat had it not been for RCV. Although the U.S. Constitution does reserve elections to be conducted by the states, the system of RCV does mean that some ballots will be weighted stronger than others. A 2014 study published in Electoral Studies concluded that under RCV, some ballots are unused. The New York Daily News estimates that as high as nine to 27% of voters’ ballots in RCV elections are not even used, due to a majority

being determined before all votes are considered. Considering how RCV unfairly weights some ballots, it is unconstitutional since it does not adhere to “one person, one vote.” In a democracy, each citizen should receive exactly one, equal vote.

RCV also has problems pertaining to costs, complications, and potential for interference. Even Gov. Mills, who generally supports RCV, acknowledges that it has flaws.

“There are serious questions about the cost and logistics of ... RCV, including collecting and transporting ballots from more than 400 towns in ... winter,” Mills stated in a memo to the state legislature.

Critics object to how the process could confuse voters. Additionally, having all ballots for each municipality transported to Augusta, instead of counted in their municipality, could lead to lost ballots or even tampering. Secretary of State Matt Dunlap estimated

that RCV could cost as much as \$750,000 annually, which is nearly twice as expensive as tallying votes without RCV. With RCV, Maine can expect to see voter confusion, complications, drastically heightened costs, and greater potential for tallying mistakes or even election fraud.

RCV is not as democratic as its proponents claim. The New York Daily News suggests that across the states, special interest groups push for RCV. The motives of these groups could vary, but this is likely to push for certain political agendas. Citizens should be responsible for these initiatives, not “big money” from out of state interest groups. Relatedly, RCV will not lead to more amicable campaigns, since political action committees are often the ones who engage in negative campaigning, not the candidates themselves. RCV is pushed for by “big money,” and does not foster more civil campaigns.

The journal Democracy describes how, due to some voters not ranking each candidate, RCV does occasionally produce a winner who did not even receive a majority of votes. Additionally, the results of RCV often parallel what the outcomes would have been without the system. This means that the whole system may be totally unnecessary. RCV often does not produce a majority winner, and often does not produce a different result than what an election without RCV would have.

RCV is not democratic, constitutional or effective. RCV was originally deemed contrary to Maine’s Constitution and does not ensure “one person, one vote.” This new system of voting is overly complex and expensive, increases the potential for electoral mishap or fraud and produces ineffective results heavily affected by special interest groups. Maine would be better off without ranked-choice voting.

Study habits to help you ace your next exam

Ellen Moon
Contributor

Studying is something most of us dread. From stress to wandering thoughts, it is easy to get lost on where to begin when there is so much information in front of you. To help prevent pre-test anxieties and to help you ace your next exam, here are some ways that you can perfect your study routine in the most effective ways possible.

The most obvious skill to acquire is note taking, and it is better to write notes on a notepad instead of typing on a digi-

tal device. The main issue with typing as a form of note taking is that students are more likely to type what they hear without putting any critical, cognitive thinking into it. Note taking can be simplified into the key points of the lecture, that way you can separate unimportant information into key concepts for the most effective results. It is also good to talk with your professor if you feel as if you aren’t grasping a certain concept or you are confused, that way your notes are complete when it comes time to study.

Having an organized

space often leads to having a more organized mind. The cleanliness of your workspace can have a positive effect on your mindset when it is time to start the studying process. This means having a clean desk, keeping a planner and calendar with important dates and keeping your classes separate in terms of notes, folders and notebooks. Placing sticky notes on pages or concepts you want to return to can help your textbooks stay organized before an exam. If your textbook is online, highlighting key points to come back to works just

as well.

Although tricky, unplugging from social media during study time not only saves time but also helps improve the longevity and speed of information retention. Apps such as Offtime or Flipd can lock you out of social media for a certain amount of time, which helps enforce studying if you have a bad habit of checking your phone frequently.

Cramming for tests last minute may be tempting, but this only increases stress and limits the amount of information you retain. You will also be more successful if you

start studying bits and pieces at a time. It is often recommended that after getting done with a section, review the topics discussed instead of saving it for the few days before the test when you have a ton of work due on top of exam preparation.

Although hard to believe, there is a thing such as “over-studying.” This can be easily solved by scheduling specific times to go to the library or your dorm to study. Schedule what chapters you will be studying and key concepts, that way you do not intake more information than your brain can handle

in one sitting. Time management is key to being a successful test taker. Taking a break from studying is crucial. We are human, not machines. Studying in intervals helps reset your brain and allows you to relax. Try reviewing for 50 minutes and then taking a 10 minute break to refresh, grab a drink, stretch or close your eyes.

While studying is important, so is your physical and mental health. Taking care of your body by eating a nutritious meal or taking a hot shower can make all the difference in preparing for that upcoming exam.

Representatives considering ignoring voters’ selection for a nominee need a reality check

Nate Poole
Contributor

Sen. Bernie Sanders is leading in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination after presidential primaries in three states and it seems to have generated a panic within the senator’s own party. A lack of faith in Sanders’ electability against Donald Trump and concerns over the divisive potential of his platform has led some party members to push for the Democratic Party to somehow hinder Sanders’ campaign. This is exactly the sort of meddling that creates the division that these politicians want to avoid; if Sanders is the nominee, it will be the responsibility of the party to fall in line and support the decision of the American people.

If last Tuesday’s Democratic debate in South Carolina was any indication, all of the candidates see Sanders as an immediate threat to their success. There was nary an analysis afterward which didn’t comment on the

chaos of the proceedings as candidates frequently shouted over one another, eager to get a piece of the self-espoused Democratic socialist. Sanders himself commented during the debate, tongue firmly in cheek, “I’m hearing my name mentioned a little bit tonight. I wonder why?”

The story of Bernie Sanders versus the political establishment is as long as his career, and while this is something which many voters find refreshing about the Vermont senator, other politicians have openly criticized him for his status as a political outsider. Pete Buttigieg echoed the thoughts of many other established Democrats when he argued that the nomination of a far-left candidate would endanger the reelection chances of moderates in traditionally conservative states.

A New York Times article summarized some of the thoughts, collected from interviews of 93 Democratic Party officials, all superdelegates, regarding the election. The journalists found that the

vast majority of the officials opposed the idea of awarding the nomination to Sanders if he should only have a plurality of delegates. To clarify, according to Democratic convention rules which Sanders helped write, to win the nomination a candidate must have the majority of all of the 3,979 delegates. For context, Sanders currently leads with 45 delegates, while Buttigieg and Biden follow him with 25 and 15 respectively. If no candidate earns the majority, then the convention moves to a second round of voting where all of the delegates vote again along with superdelegates, of which there are 771.

It is with the power of the superdelegates, who consist entirely of Democratic Party officials, that many representatives can see legitimately upsetting Sanders’ election should he only come into the convention with a plurality rather than a majority of delegates. There would be no precedent for this, as superdelegates usually support the candidate

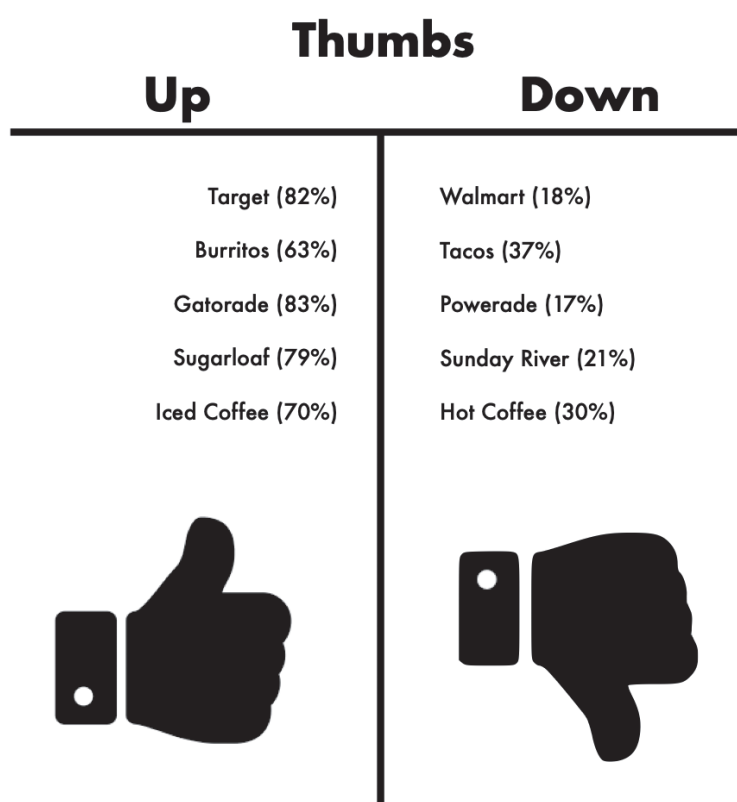
with the most pledged delegates, except for the nomination of Adlai Stevenson, in 1952.

Should this sort of brokered convention come about it would be deeply problematic for the Democratic Party at large, and would likely alienate voters to an irrevocable degree. Fortunately, par-

ty leaders such as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and former President Barack Obama have expressed zero interest in affecting the outcome of the primary election and have refused to endorse any one candidate.

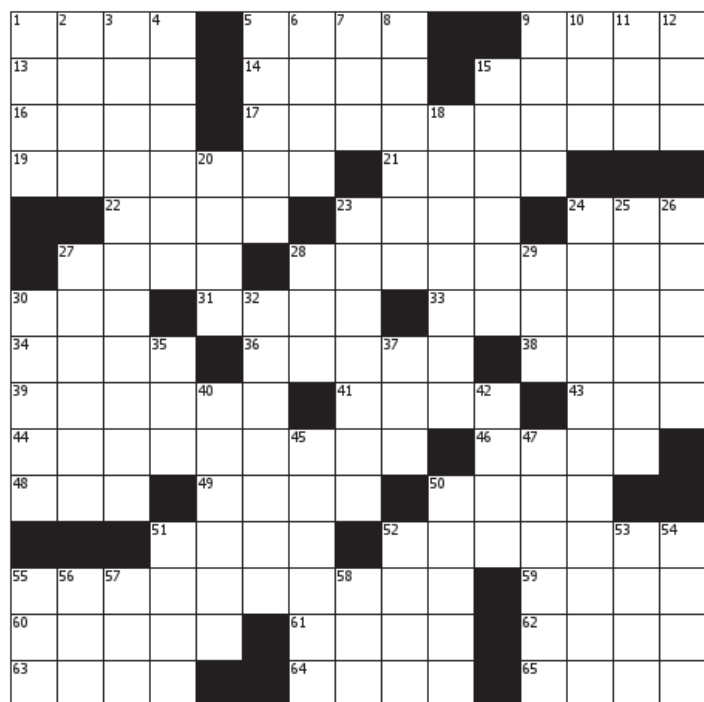
Regardless of who has the most delegates going into the 2020 Democrat-

ic convention, the result of the primary election should be solely a choice made by the people, unaffected by representatives concerned for their job safety. If they are willing to upset the will of the people then they shouldn’t have those jobs in the first place.



Diversions

Crossword



onlinecrosswords.net. Answer key located on A5

Across

- 1. Heaviest U.S. president
- 5. Rhymer's scheme, perhaps
- 9. Windmill blade
- 13. Man, but not Woman
- 14. Give a makeover
- 15. Decorator's decision

- 16. Potential Guinness World Records entry
- 17. Comic strip witch
- 19. Kind of plate
- 21. Beat it!
- 22. Munster man
- 23. Sites of abs and lats
- 24. Roy Hobbs' "Wonder Boy"
- 27. Shah Jahan's domain
- 28. Metalworker's tool
- 30. Co. perk, perhaps
- 31. Wolfe the sleuth
- 33. "Ad astra per ____" (Kansas motto)
- 34. Spring mos.
- 36. Comic strip barker
- 38. White adored by 37-Down
- 39. Change for the better
- 41. Prescribed amount
- 43. Behaviorist's advanced degree
- 44. Like Jeremiah
- 46. Grazing grounds
- 48. Strong longing
- 49. Peter Fonda 1997 film role
- 50. Cry of dismay
- 51. Lawyer/writer Gardner
- 52. Kicked off
- 55. Winsor McCay comic strip
- 59. Archibald of NBA fame
- 60. Targets for modern mice
- 61. Dam up
- 62. Aka Romain de Tirtoff
- 63. Singing Horne
- 64. Common conifers
- 65. Major Hoopie expletive
- 20. Persian Gulf republic
- 23. Young comic heroine
- 24. Fictional reporter
- 25. Crossword section
- 26. Springtime events
- 27. Current matter?
- 28. Flammable '60s item
- 29. Word with special or photo
- 30. Creature that's part woman and part bird
- 32. 1967 Oscar winner Parsons
- 35. Tree output
- 37. Disney cartoon character
- 40. Boorish fellows
- 42. "A-Tisket, A-Tasket" singer
- 45. Itty-bitty
- 47. Had coming
- 50. Physics units
- 51. Sicilian spouter
- 52. Small merganser
- 53. Kett of old funnies
- 54. Insect repellent ingredient
- 55. "Diamond ____"
- 56. Winter coat?
- 57. Weigh station unit
- 58. The hot saison

Down

- 1. Small quarrel
- 2. Having a row, maybe?
- 3. Space traveler of serials
- 4. Canine restraint
- 5. Shady recess
- 6. European capital
- 7. Turbulent time
- 8. Crybaby's plaint
- 9. Null's companion
- 10. Every one of
- 11. Silent bid
- 12. Slab stat
- 15. They may be thumped
- 18. Carnival locales

Word Search: Weather

- BAROMETER
- BLIZZARD
- CELSIUS
- CLOUDS
- COLD
- CYCLONE
- DOWNPOUR
- DRIZZLE
- DROUGHT
- FAHRENHEIT
- FLOOD
- FLURRIES
- FOG
- FORECAST
- FREEZE
- FROST
- HAIL
- HOT
- HUMIDITY
- HURRICANE
- ICE
- LIGHTNING
- MIST
- MONSOON
- OVERCAST
- RAIN
- SHOWER
- SLEET
- SNOW
- SQUALL
- STORM
- SUNNY
- TEMPERATURE
- THERMOMETER
- THUNDER
- TORNADO
- TSUNAMI
- TYPHOON
- VISIBILITY
- WINDY

puzzles.ca. Answer key located on A5

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

Horoscopes

By Antyna Gould

Aries (March 21 - April 20)

The delays in Mercury's retrograde can be grating. Take time to meditate a few minutes each day starting on Wednesday, March 4 to help manage your stress when Mercury enters Aquarius. Feeling insecure in your career and love life is not unusual, but it doesn't have to be permanent. Search within yourself to get to the root of your problems. Pay attention to the signals from your partner on Thursday, March 5 when Venus enters Taurus. They are trying to tell you something.

Taurus (April 21 - May 21)

Don't take the communication delays personally. Mercury is still in retrograde so be patient with others. While playing it safe is a good way to go, when Mercury enters Aquarius on Wednesday, March 4 the effects of retrograde will be reduced a little. Take a risk and step into a new role during this ease in negative energy. When ruling planet Venus enters your sign, communication and affection will start pouring in. Plan a night to bask in the attention.

Gemini (May 22 - June 21)

Communicating in your career and love life doesn't slow down for anything, so the retrograde is really testing your patience. While the full effect won't subside for a while, there will be a reprieve when Mercury enters Aquarius on Wednesday, March 4. Relationships exist outside of your phone. On Thursday, March 5 when Venus enters Taurus, turn your phone off and reconnect with your

contacts face to face. Go on a date with the cutie you've been crushing on, or have a lavish date night with your partner.

Cancer (May 22 - June 21)

The retrograde has been bombarding you with people from your past and a huge wave of the way things used to be. Join everyone back in the present day on Wednesday, March 4 when Mercury enters Aquarius. When Venus enters Taurus on Thursday, March 5, take a night to indulge in the luxuries of a sensual evening. If you have a partner, explore new sensations and try something new. If you are single, treat yourself like a loved one and have a night of pleasure.

Leo (July 23 - August 21)

Pleas for attention will finally be answered on Wednesday, March 4 when Mercury enters Aquarius. This will reduce some of the lethargic feelings caused by the retrograde season. However, don't get caught up in a social wave. Use this time to buckle down and get some serious work done. This apathetic feeling is slowly seeping into your love life and it may feel like your relationship is taking forever to get going. When romantic Venus enters Taurus on Thursday, March 5 take charge and move the relationship in the direction you want it to go.

Virgo (August 22 - September 23)

The end of retrograde is almost in sight. Luckily you won't have to suffer the full effects the whole time. Logical Aquarius welcomes Mercury into its territory on Wednesday, March 4. Proceed with caution until the end

of retrograde, but don't shy away from taking small risks. Ground yourself in your relationships when Venus enters Taurus on Thursday, March 5. Look around you; things are as they should be. Take comfort in that and enjoy what you have right now.

Libra (September 24 - October 23)

Pull your head out of the clouds and face reality again when Mercury enters Aquarius on Wednesday, March 4. While retrograde is not over, the energy of logical Aquarius reduces the effects enough to give you room to make headway on projects in your professional life. Ruling planet Venus enters earthy Taurus on Thursday. The energy of the transition continues to pull you into the present. Take root in the relationships you have right now. Express your love and appreciation for the ones who always have your back.

Scorpio (October 24 - November 22)

A friendly reminder to not take everything personally while Mercury remains in retrograde. Your paranoia levels will ease slightly when Mercury enters logical Aquarius on Wednesday, March 4. Everyone around you will be in a clearer state of mind. Put yourself at the top of your list when Venus enters Taurus on Thursday, March 5. Your stress levels are always higher than the other signs. Be vain and indulge in luxuries, or do something impulsive. Would your hair look good with bangs?

Sagittarius (November 23 - December 22)

The feeling of adventure is addicting. However, constantly moving from one new place to the

Sudoku

Each row, column and 3x3 square must have numbers 1 - 9 in any order, but each digit can only appear once. There is only one correct answer.

Difficulty level: Medium

			8					
			4			5	7	
	3		6			4		
6	2							
4			5			3		
	7		1					5
		1	8			6		
						8		9
7						4		

puzzles.ca. Answer key located on A5

next is exhausting others. Be sure to slow down during this retrograde and keep pace with your friends, or risk leaving them behind. Don't keep people at arm's length anymore when Venus enters Taurus on Thursday, March 5. Have an adventure close to home. Say yes to a date or spend an evening exploring something new with a partner. You'd be surprised how often adventure can be found close to home.

Capricorn (December 23 - January 20)

Expect delays at work while Mercury remains in retrograde, but look forward to easier communication come Wednesday, March 4 when Mercury enters Aquarius. Relax the tension in your shoulders now that you don't feel like you have to babysit your coworkers

anymore. When Venus enters Taurus on Thursday, March 5 let your emotions come to the surface. Invite a crush or partner over, spend time enjoying one another's company, then take a moment to express your true feelings towards them. They want and need to hear it.

Aquarius (January 21 - February 19)

Everyone acting so illogical during retrograde can cause feelings of frustration. Stay strong footed in your logical mind to help you navigate the rest of retrograde. Breathe deep on Wednesday, March 4 when Mercury enters your sign. Others will see the world more like you. Take comfort in being the wonderfully unique you and express your romantic feelings on Thursday, March 5 when

Venus enters Taurus. Take a chance and ask your crush out, or spend a night indulging in chocolate and conspiracy theories with your partner.

Pisces (February 20 - March 20)

Lover planet Venus enters Taurus on Thursday, March 5. Feel the ground beneath your feet and let the confidence seep into your soul. Despite Mercury still being in retrograde, take a risk. Ask your crush out or do something different with your current partner. Remember to let the leaves of yesterday fall away to make room for stronger, healthier growth. Good things come in the springtime.

Reviews

MUSIC

Beach Bunny's 'Honeymoon' is the most fun breakup album of the year



Photo via consequencesofsound.net

RATING



Jeremy Slaven
Contributor

Chicago based four-piece indie-pop band Beach Bunny made a name for themselves with their 2018 EP "Prom Queen," which was themed around heart-break and loss. That theme continues with "Honeymoon," dealing with raw emotion that anyone can relate to all in one indie-pop package.

"Honeymoon" flies out the gate with "Promises." The tapping of the snare to settle you in, the soft but strained voice of lead singer Lilli Trifilio, the ramping up of the guitar and the gut-wrenching question, "When you're alone in your bedroom do you ever think of me?" does a good job setting the tone for the entire album. The album focuses on coping with being alone and struggling to get that other person out of your head. The following song, "Cuffing Season," is a bit of a low point on the album, though it has some fun moments in the chorus. It plays to their sad-but-relatable brand, supported by the lines "Sometimes I like being on my own / I'm scared of winding up alone." It feels incredibly honest, like all their work does, but it also feels the most like a dime-store Alvvays song.

Something that sticks out to me about Beach Bunny is that, despite their name, they don't evoke much typical surf rock. The aforementioned Alvvays fit that bill more while Beach Bunny is more of an indie-pop unit. They evoke early 2000s teen rock more than anything. Specifically, the song "Ms. California" which succeeds despite how silly it is. It's like the best Avril Lavigne song that she never released.

The pacing of the album is exceptional. It covers its bases well and runs at a clean 25 minutes. It does everything it can do with its premise and directions. There are the fast, fun songs that are sad if you listen to the lyrics, and then there are the sad, slow songs that manage not to detract too much from the overall upbeat

vibe of the album. The balance that it finds between sadness and fun is key and is indicative of the creators. The album has sad songwriting but very fun instrumentation. Even songs like the incredibly somber "Racetrack" provide the listener with something they can find comfort in. "Honeymoon" brings out many feelings, but the one that it treats its listener to the most is comfort. The level of honesty displayed is commendable, and it gives the listener something that they can relate to. It asks questions and brings listeners back to lonely nights, break-ups and love-filled daydreams.

It is easy to view "Honeymoon" as just another indie-pop album and Beach Bunny as just another indie-pop band and if that is your ultimate takeaway then that's understandable. While they have a good sound, it's certainly not the most unique. If you threw this album in a mix, it may be hard to pull tracks out from the rest of the pack. Despite that, I do think that they are a good indie-pop band that makes inoffensive and entertaining music. "Honeymoon" is aptly named, as it is fun, but, much like the honeymoon phase, doesn't have much staying-power.

MOVIE

A 'Downhill' warning: this is not a comedy



Photo via variety.com

RATING



Sierra Semmel
Staff Writer

There are some faces in acting that are difficult to separate from what we know of them in the past. For example, it's hard to watch Steve Carrell in a serious role without picturing Michael Scott from "The Office," just as it's a small hurdle to move past the ever-present playful connotation of Ben Stiller when he's not acting as a comedian. In the 2020 drama "Downhill," directed by Nat Faxon and Jim Rash, Will Ferrell and Julia Louis-Dreyfus attempt to disentangle themselves from their previous comedic personas. The ratings are certainly not great, only netting 38% on Rotten Tomatoes, but digging a little deeper, I can't say the actors or directors are to blame. In fact, the movie itself is, in its own way, a bit of a masterpiece.

It's pertinent to understand two things heading into the movie. The first is that it is a remake of a 2014 Swedish film, "Force Majeure," and the second is that it is certainly not a comedy. From the moment Ferrell appears on screen, you will want to laugh at most things he says and does. His character is certainly ridiculous; he's an adult who acts like a teenager. He's obsessed with his phone and the social-media appearances of his peers, and his lack of maturity is clear relatively quickly. But, it's crucial to note that it's not supposed to be funny. His lines are part of his role, and his role is not a funny one.

Ferrell and Louis-Dreyfus star as the parents of two pre-teens who take their family on a vacation to the Swiss alps. From the first minutes of the movie, there's a nearly tangible discomfort in every scene. Throughout the film, little things seem to go wrong left and right; Louis-Dreyfus plays Billie, a relatively uptight woman who's a stark contrast to her overly relaxed husband Pete, who seems to put his own needs first in a rather un-fatherly manner. Billie, albeit uptight, is certainly doing her job as a parent. Pete, on the other hand, is not. This is not to establish Pete as the bad guy, he simply doesn't have his priorities straight.

As consumers, we're used to getting what we

want out of movies; we see faces like Louis-Dreyfus and Ferrell and we expect a lighthearted film, perhaps a comedy with a few hurdles for the characters to get over in a humorous manner before it all wraps up at the end. We may even expect slight discomfort at the more intense parts of the movie, when things start to go wrong, but it's usually minimal. As viewers, we also expect satisfaction.

This movie may have received low ratings from viewers because it is simply not what they expect. It's genius in that it's incredibly realistic, but this doesn't make it an entirely pleasant viewing experience. Billie and Pete clash with each other in the real ways that a couple does when the seeds of doubt about their relationship have been planted; they get on each other's nerves, they snap at each other and they look at other couples and want what they have. It's uncomfortable, but it's real.

In one particularly memorable scene, Pete attempts to plan an exciting activity for the family to do together, one that makes him feel as though he's doing what the younger, adventurous couples he so desires to be like would do. But, leading up to the activity, one thing after another goes wrong: small, realistic things, like a kid losing a ski glove at the last minute and not having enough time to eat breakfast. It all adds up to a climactic scene that accurately represents all of the frustrations of being in a family and a relationship that you're trying to salvage as it continues to go rapidly downhill.

Overall, the movie is uncomfortable, but it is incredibly real. It's not going to be loved by most viewers, because it's not pleasant; it's anxiety-inducing, and it certainly isn't an escape from reality. Instead, it shoves reality in the face of its viewers, and when you go to the movies, that's typically the opposite of what you're there for. But this accurate reality that Faxon and Rash have crafted, with the help of Ferrell and Louis-Dreyfus, is, in its own way, a work of art. Just don't go see it after a stressful day at work, or in the midst of any stress at all.

SERIES

New Netflix original series something to 'Cheer' for

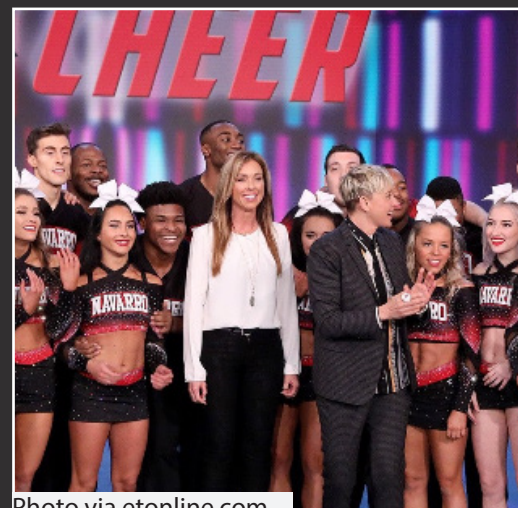


Photo via etonline.com

RATING



Sierra Semmel
Staff Writer

I started the Netflix original series "Cheer" while looking for something to watch on the treadmill that was exciting and drama-filled enough to distract me from a workout. Thankfully, "Cheer" turned out to be all that and more.

Directed by Greg Whiteley, the six-part series hit Netflix in January. It follows the triumphs and tribulations of the Navarro Junior College cheer team, giving viewers a very personal, candid perspective on the sport of cheerleading, helping to reveal a side to the sport that not everyone is familiar with. The documentary-style series provides much-needed exposure for the sport at every level, highlighting the intensity, athleticism, and dedication that it requires.

Beginning a few months out from the National Cheer Championships, held in Daytona, Florida each year, the show introduces viewers to the Navarro Bulldogs team athlete-by-athlete. The series develops the viewer's connection to the characters through not only individual interviews but also footage from the group at practice, in the classroom and in their dorm rooms. With each episode, the team inches closer to perfecting their skills and routine for Nationals.

I knew nothing about cheerleading before watching the series, but the particular brand of the sport displayed in this show is one that, as the show stresses, not nearly enough people are familiar with. The stunts and routines are physically taxing, testing the athletes' bodies in ways few sports do. Injuries are incredibly common, highlighted in nearly every episode, as athletes get kicked in the face, dropped from midair, break bones and strain muscles. There are no pom-poms involved, just bodies flying and individuals flipping back and forth across the mat.

In addition to showing footage from the Navarro team, "Cheer" also traces the path that athletes must take to get to the highest level of the sport, and stresses that the dreams of a cheerleader

end after college, which is a factor of the sport that many either don't know or simply overlook. With no professional cheerleading options or Olympic teams, the athletes pour every ounce of passion and talent they have into their college cheer experience, and the show illustrates this beautifully. Interviews with coaches showcase not only the intensity but also the time and commitment college-level cheerleading requires. It's cutthroat and competitive but, if all goes well, incredibly rewarding.

But the show sends a message beyond just showing viewers the ins and outs of the sport. It is aimed at Varsity Spirit Corporation for making it nearly impossible for the sport to gain exposure. Varsity Spirit is an American organization that essentially owns the sport of cheerleading in the United States. It puts on camps, competitions such as Nationals, sells apparel and oversees the entire sport. But it also restricts the spread of the sport and all its publicity. Under the rule of Varsity Spirit, competitions are no longer shown on ESPN and cameras are not allowed inside the events. The show displays this by showing event footage taken with iPhone cameras, a contrast to the professional filming used throughout the series.

With no actors or actresses, just honest interviews and candid footage, a documentary series like "Cheer" is not what would immediately come to mind when looking for a gripping, drama-filled escape from reality. But, as viewers will discover very quickly into the first episode, it is just that. The footage included from practices will have you rooting for the team to land every trick and perfect every skill, allowing viewers to develop an intense and unexpected level of investment in each person in the show, something not always anticipated in documentaries.

And at the end of the show, when you're recovering from the intensity of the final episode, you remember: these are real people, real athletes and this is their reality. Once again, you'll be impressed beyond belief.

Strawberries, shrines, and hot springs: A day in Nikko

Shania Soler
Contributor

Family vacations are something that are generally done at least once a year and are, usually, a blast for everyone who takes part. There are lots of laughs, good times and ample opportunities to connect with people you may have otherwise lost touch with throughout the year. This is no different when a host family is involved.

Months ago, my host family and I started talking about plans to go on a weekend trip somewhere. We didn't have a clue about where to go, but since my spring break would allow for the opportunity, we knew we had to do something. My host mom, Ran, came up with the idea to travel to Nikko, a city about three hours away from where we lived in Tokyo. The cold weather and snow the city often received made it the perfect destination to go hot springs hopping while enjoying the scenery attached to the open-air baths. I'd agreed wholeheartedly, eager for the opportunity to experience more onsen and ryokan.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with it, a ryokan is a traditional Japanese hotel. It can be a bit pricey for more than one night, but it's a definite must if you ever visit Japan. With its hefty price tag, you get a traditional dinner and breakfast. There's usually a really nice bath or onsen attached to it as well. The two that my host family and I visited had this feature, both coming with a beautiful open-air bath.

The first day of the trip began on Sunday morning. With a three-hour car ride in front of us and plans to fill the day, we woke up early to leave the house. At the beginning of the year, when I was taken pear picking, Ran had told me about strawberry picking in February so we'd decided to add the adventure to our vacation. It was one of the best parts of the entire trip.

The place we went to was huge and located in the mountains. Its surrounding area was beautiful and the air was fresh. As someone who grew up in the mountains with countless trees and hiking trails around, it was nice to get out of the big city for a while and experience the countryside of Japan.

Coming from America, I was only ever familiar with one type of strawberry. At the place we went, however, there were three different types of strawberries to pick from and the ones we picked were called the tochiotome, the sweetest, largest strawberries I've ever picked and eaten. We weren't allowed to take any with us, but the place offered a small sitting area where we could take all of our picked strawberries and chow down. Once we started, I was glad I hadn't eaten anything for breakfast. I think we all ate at least twenty strawberries. It filled everyone up for the entire day. The highlight of the excursion was watching my little host sister eat them. She was the cutest chowing down on the sweet snack.

Once our fifty minutes was up, we gath-

ered our things and drove the remainder of the way to Nikko, which wasn't long at all. Since we couldn't check into our ryokan until 2 p.m., and it was only noon, we had plenty of time to kill, so we decided to spend it at a huge shrine.

The sun was at its peak when we got there so, despite it being cold, it was still a nice day to walk around the area. The grounds for the shrine were huge and, if I remember correctly, my host mom said there were actually two shrines and one temple in the entire place.

You know the old saying "Hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil?" Well, this place is famous for having pictures of the monkeys on one of the buildings. It was breathtaking to see the intricate artwork not just on this building, but on every piece of architecture at the site. Just from a glance, it's apparent how much work and time went into even a piece of one building.

You could also see the infamous picture of the sleeping cat that brings good luck at the shrine. It was pretty funny to find that the aforementioned picture was just a tiny thing and not extravagant like the rest of the place.

We easily spent two hours exploring every aspect of the shrine, and, before we knew it, we were on our way to check into our ryokan. It was a quaint place with a beautiful entryway that housed a small gift shop and five floors. In the entrance, there were dolls sitting, commemorating a doll festival that takes place on



Picking strawberries in Nikko.

Photo by Shania Soler.

March 3 during which people celebrate their daughters' happiness, growth and good health by setting up dolls that represent the empress, emperor, attendants and musicians. I was partially awestruck by seeing the elaborate set up of the dolls, since we don't celebrate anything of the like, as far as I know, in the U.S.

The check-in was easy enough, and we were given our spacious room on the fifth floor. While the view left something to be desired, the onsen was nice. My host mom had gone first and once she was done, I rushed down before dinner to get in, as the place was empty. It was breathtaking. The outer bath was hot and

steamrolled over the surface. Large rocks were stacked outside the bath and there were bare trees scattered around. It almost felt like I was in the forest.

The thing about onsens in Japan is that you can spend an hour in one and it will feel like mere minutes have passed. I almost missed dinner because of this. Thankfully, my host family waited for me and we all went together to the eating area. The place was beautiful and the dinner was extravagant and definitely something that reminded me I was in Japan.

While studying abroad, I found that it's easy to get into a set routine as one would back in the States.

You wake up, do what you have to do, maybe sightsee a little, eat, then go to bed. It's like the original appeal of living in another country loses some of its shine until you get to moments like these where it can come from a huge trip or a small thing like dinner when you're just hit with the reminder that you're in another country. It's a wow moment that always hits at the most unexpected times, and it's one thing that makes travel all the more fun.

Poetics from A12

against it.

Ahumada evidently took this knowledge to heart when he visited China, connecting with people from a variety of different countries, including fellow Latin Americans, with whom he conversed constantly on a wide range of issues. He noted that the removal from his home country

allowed him to discuss contentious topics like politics with others from the region, with greater freedom than he might have been able to otherwise, and he contends that this removal allows for such interactions to occur because it's such a great platform for adaptation.

During the lecture, Ahumada took time to touch on other abstract concepts, providing interesting angles from

which to approach them. For example, in discussing the idea of emptiness, Ahumada explained that emptiness is of great importance in that it doesn't have to represent nothingness; instead, it can represent all that can be done in the available space. He also suggested that sharing your opinions and experiences with a group enables the group as a whole to balance the Ch'i and better interact

with one another.

Always animated and engaging, Ahumada's energy and skills as a storyteller were on display as he closed out the presentation with a tale about the power of conquering one's fears. With Ahumada exploring what it means to create poetry from intangibles, and how movement and Ch'i play a vital role in how this creative energy is managed, the presentation was

an opportunity for the audience to engage in Ahumada's fascinating viewpoints. Especially noteworthy was perhaps the meditative practice, which compelled attendees to examine their own thoughts and emotions from a fresh perspective.

The event, sponsored by the Rising Tide Center in partnership with the University of Maine Unido project, helmed by profes-

sors Dan Sandweiss and Carlos Villacorta, which aims to bring speakers from Latin and South America to the University, will be presenting another lecture later this week. On March 3, archaeologist Gabriel Prieto will give a free lecture on El Nino-related sacrifices on Peru's northern coast in the Collins Center for the Arts.



Thornton Wilder's plays draw a crowd to Hauck Auditorium



Students of the UMaine School of Performing Arts presented the play "A Wilder Night: Three One Act Plays by Thornton Wilder" in the last weekend of February.

Photo by Will Bickford.

Bria Lamonica
Staff Writer

On Friday Feb. 28, cast members of the University of Maine School of Performing Arts (SPA) presented "A Wilder Night: Three One-Act Plays by Thornton Wilder." The performance was also held on Saturday, Feb. 29 and Sunday, March 1. Each performance took place in the Hauck Auditorium of the Memorial Union.

Thornton Wilder, an American novelist and playwright, has won many awards for his work, including Pulitzer Prizes for fiction and drama. He was known as one of the most prevalent playwrights of the 20th century. Other plays that Wilder wrote include "Our Town," "The Skin of Our Teeth," "The Matchmaker" and dozens more. Wilder also wrote seven novels, the first titled "The Cabala," written in 1926.

The three plays UMaine SPA performed, "The Long Christmas Dinner," "Pullman Car Hiawatha" and "The Happy Journey to Trenton and Camden," were all written in 1931.

Each play, directed by Ljubi Matic, showed a different side of Wilder to share with the audience. In "The Long Christmas Dinner," the cast relied on pantomime to serve as props for their dinner table, and the act spanned dozens of years while following generations of the same family. With intricate and dramatic lighting, and a set that well reflected the mood of the 19th-century setting, every element of the show came together to create a reflection of Wilder's typical style, described on the show's website as "his use of the stage manager as a character, his use of pantomime, minimal scenery and

farce, as well as his signature connection between the commonplace and common dimensions of the human experience."

The play also took a humorous twist as male cast member Curran Grant played the role of Mother Bayard, the grandmother in the performance. The cast for "The Long Christmas Dinner" also included Pooja Bawat playing Lucia, Peter Bacon playing Roderick, Connor Bolduc playing Cousin Brandon, and others who also took on roles in the later performances.

In "Pullman Car Hiawatha," cast members acted out scenes from a train that was traveling from New York to Chicago. The set for the performance was arranged to look like the top and bottom sections of a moving train car, with chairs set up in rows for the audience

to view each member on board. The members took turns sharing their internal thoughts with the audience with the help of humorous Grant, this time in the role of the stage manager. The projection screen behind the set in the auditorium allowed for changing black and white video clips and pictures to help create a more realistic feel and help viewers understand the setting.

Sarcastic humor and lighthearted personalities set the stage for unexpected events that took the act in different directions. Some of the actors who appeared in this play included Katie Luck, William Bickford, Rowan Jellison and Jacob Siegel.

The last of the plays, "The Happy Journey To Trenton and Camden," included a small cast of six members and followed the Kirby family on a

seemingly-pleasant road trip. The cast included Grant, Vanessa Graham, Mark Muir, Karissa Cooper, Travis Burr and Luck.

In each of the three one-act plays, the costumes were representative of the 1930s, the era that the plays were written in. The cast wore intricate gowns, servant costumes and suits to help differentiate between the changing times, personalities and scenes in Wilder's plays.

In the first of the three one-act plays, "The Long Christmas Dinner," each cast member who played an older generation adult was fit in a flowing, high-neck gown or suit and dress coat. As the show progressed, each new generation brought with them more modern clothes and language that represented the time period they were growing up in. With deaths, plot

twists and complex character development, Wilder uses elements such as character conversation and setting to tell his audience a story.

The show is running this coming weekend March 5-8. The next showing of the plays at UMaine is on Thursday, March 5. Tickets are available online in advance or at the door of Hauck Auditorium. To see a list of upcoming events by The School of Performing Arts, visit umaine.edu/spa/.

#YouMaine: Parks, recreation and tourism student addresses need for time outside

Bria Lamonica
Staff Writer

Fourth-year student Kim Stoddard walks through the Mall on her way to her outdoor leadership class, enjoying her last few months at the University of Maine and reveling in the natural space.

As a parks, recreation and tourism student, Stoddard is often surrounded by the outdoors and even enjoys studying outside when the weather permits. She also studies outdoor leadership and management.

After graduation in May, Stoddard will be working for the National Parks Service

as an Interpretive Park Ranger. She will serve as both a guide and educator who handles educational materials and signage throughout the park. She hopes to move to Oregon and begin her career there.

"My old high school basketball coach was the one who first got me interested in studying the outdoors in college. I very much enjoy being outside, and decided that I should just go to school for it," Stoddard said. "I love the wide range of seasons, and with each season comes different opportunities. There is so much to do outdoors, and there are activities for

a wide range of people. You can walk, hike, ice climb, mountain bike, swim, kayak and do so many other things during the winter months alone. The possibilities are endless."

Stoddard originally chose to attend UMaine as an engineering student and hoped that the opportunities and available connections through the school would benefit her in her career and in her future.

"I love the community here on campus, and love the people that I have met. Being able to have classes outside and participate in outdoor labs is such a unique experience

that not many college students get to be a part of," Stoddard said. "I have gotten to identify different trees and what kills them, and have gotten other amazing opportunities that exposed me to things I will be working on after I graduate."

Stoddard's favorite courses she has taken at UMaine include a paddling course and a field experience course to fulfill her minor requirements. During her paddling course, she learned basic canoeing paddle strokes and got to practice them out on the water. For Stoddard's field experience, she spent 10 days at the Bryant Pond 4H Center, where she par-

ticipated in activities such as mountaineering and ice climbing. During her time at the center, Stoddard also worked with first-year students from the Telstar school, teaching them how to use compasses and maps and how to snowshoe.

"Being outside is super important for your mental and physical health," Stoddard said. "Some of the classes I have taken at UMaine have taught me that outdoor education helps student development, and there are actually proven benefits to being outside."

Stoddard worked at York Dining Hall for three years on cam-

pus, and currently lives off-campus with friends in Old Town. Her favorite activities include walking the Orono trails, hanging out with her sorority sisters, and exploring the Demerit Forest. She also enjoys going to the Maine Bound Adventure Center and using the climbing wall when she gets the chance.

FEATURED STORY

A Wilder's Night

The University of Maine School of Performing Arts (SPA) presented "A Wilder's Night: Three One-Act Plays by Thornton Wilder." The show is running again this coming weekend March 5-8.

A11

NEW AND UPCOMING RELEASES

🎧 ~how im feeling~ by Lauv	March 6
🎧 Bone Structure - Ron Pope	March 6
🎧 Silver Landing - Mandy Moore	March 6
🎧 Sorry We Missed You	March 4
🎧 Onward	March 6
🎧 Extra Ordinary	March 6

Reviews

Beach Bunny's "Honeymoon"
"Downhill"
"Cheer"

A9

Peruvian poet delivers lecture on the poetics of movement



Florentino Diaz Ahumada gives a talk about his time spent in China as a Latin man on Friday, Feb. 28 in the Memorial Union.

Photo by Lauren Erlanson.

Aiden Leavitt Contributor

On Friday, Feb. 28, students and faculty members gathered in the Bangor Room of the Memorial Union for a presentation entitled "China and Latin America: a Poetic Experience" given by Peruvian poet Florentino Diaz Ahumada.

The presentation was a unique auditory and emotional experience for those in attendance. Ahumada opened by explaining what drove him to consider taking part in a trip to China, and how his love of poetry influ-

enced him throughout his early life. It was soon after the publication of his book, he recalls, that he began to get interested in traditional Chinese medicine.

Ahumada's interest in Chinese culture began unexpectedly when he sought acupuncture treatment over a decade ago. The treatment eventually prompted him to study traditional Chinese medicine, completing the first part of his training in 2009.

"Like with any passion, we practice a sort of continual learning," Ahumada explained,

speaking about subjects we deeply care about. As he continued his studies, and the more he began to explore other areas of Chinese culture, the more he realized that it was, in some ways, very similar to the Andean way of life in which he was raised. He explained that the human role in creating poetry is as an intermediary one, shifting between the physical and emotional realms of being and interpreting the life force that the Chinese call Ch'i.

Ahumada also invited all those in attendance to participate

in a relaxing breathing exercise. Playing soothing music, he asked the audience to remain present and experience the emotion inside themselves. He went on to explain in greater detail some of the ties the practice had to Chinese cultural beliefs, such as "meditation being elemental food for the soul" among other things.

Ahumada went on to explain the paradox poetry represents, particularly "in describing things that are [intangible] in relation to reality," he said, calling "the fact ... that we can be moved emotionally

by such things" a contradiction in itself. He related the emotional transformation present in poetry to the concept of Ch'i and Chinese calligraphy, which similarly uses movement to map energy.

Sickness, he explained, is something he categorizes in a general sense, calling it "a disharmony between the Ch'i around you and the Ch'i within you," and noting that to harness the Ch'i, or movement, it is necessary to dance with it rather than struggle

See Poetics on A10

go!

What's happening in and around Orono this week

Monday, March 2

Finding Neverland
7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Collins Center for the Arts

Tuesday, March 3

Filmfest
7 p.m.
IMRC

Wednesday, March 4

"Mary Austin's Time Machine: Modernist Poetics and Settler Time"
3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Hill Auditorium

Thursday, March 5

New Writing Series: Laird Hunt
4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Stewart Commons, IMRC

Saturday, March 7

Supporting Diverse Women's Life Experiences
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center

Biweekly Lunch and Learn opens dialogue on Black Digital History

Avery Norman Contributor

This Wednesday, Karen Schreiber spoke at the weekly Lunch and Learn on Black Digital History. Schreiber, a humanities specialist, discussed sites and resources for learning more about often overlooked events and people in Black history and civil rights.

Many of the resources depicted have detailed maps and timelines, plotting significant events and places throughout history. One of Schreiber's main focuses is on the Red Summer of 1919, an often overlooked but devastating period of race riots and lynchings that lasted for months.

"The thing that may be surprising about the Red Summer is

that these riots weren't just happening in the South," Schreiber said. "While a great many of them were, the most violent riots were in places like Chicago and Omaha."

The map on the site color codes and plots the locations of the riots and can be organized by themes or by categories such as if troops or law enforcement got involved.

One of the key people discussed on Wednesday's Lunch and Learn was sociologist Monroe Work. Work took data on violence against African Americans in the United States.

"Thanks to digital history," Schreiber said. "His works have been mapped out and time-lined, providing detailed data all the way up until 1964."

The inspiration for the 2018 best picture winner "Green Book," Schreiber described a 20th-century driver's guide that gave African Americans traveling within the United States an idea of what stores and hotels they could visit without being harassed. A new version of the publication would come out every year, sort of like an almanac. These green books are accessible through the New York Public Library.

Karen Schreiber does research for the McGillicuddy Humanities Center, and at the end of her presentation, she mentioned more upcoming events. The current theme is "Cinema of Colonisation and Decolonisation," which is a dinner and show series being



Karen Sieber from the McGillicuddy Humanities Center educates an audience on the tools available online to find various information of African American history in the Multicultural Center on Feb. 26.

Photo by Antyna Gould.

held in the Hill Auditorium in Barrows Hall. On March 9, Professor Ernest Mathijs will host the film "Coffy."

Lunch and Learn events occur every

Wednesday, hosted by the Multicultural Center. All of these events give students the opportunity to interact with one another and observe

a presentation that sheds light on a topic or issue that they may not have known about.