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News

A2

Opinion

A5

Culture

A8

Sports

A12

Dominique DiSpirito announced as a Truman Scholarship finalist

Editorial: For Maine's tourism industry to reopen, hospitality workers need vaccinations

McGillicuddy Humanities Center features notable artists Jill Pelto and Deirdre Murphy in 'The Art of Climate Change'

UMaine women's basketball falls 64-60 to Stony Brook in America East title game

## UMaine offers expedited ways for students to earn graduate degrees



File Photo.

**Megan Ashe**  
News Editor

The University of Maine is offering accelerated graduate programs in a variety of majors. These programs allow currently enrolled undergraduate students to earn their bachelor's and master's degrees in less time, usually taking five years as opposed to the usual six or more years it would take to receive the same education elsewhere. For this reason, the accelerated graduate degree program is often dubbed as the 4+1 program, referring to the number of years it takes to complete. Many programs of study offer this opportunity, and some accelerated degree programs are open to all majors.

Students need to apply for a 4+1 program either at the end of their second year or the beginning of their third year. Often, students who apply for these programs and are accepted must take graduate-level classes in their fourth year at UMaine. This allows students to earn their degree faster and gives them a strong base of knowledge before they begin their graduate year.

Sara Gundermann is a third-year food science and human nutrition major with a concentration in food science who hopes to pursue a master's through UMaine's accelerated program. Food science is an interdisciplinary science that combines chemistry, biology, physics and engineering to

study parts of the food industry like product development and food processing. Gundermann wanted to attend UMaine because of the specific 4+1 program that UMaine offers with food science. She applied for the 4+1 accelerated degree program in the fall 2020 semester and hopes to complete a master's in food science with the thesis option. Students can choose whether or not they complete a thesis with a degree in many disciplines, but the thesis option typically leads to more opportunities after graduation. In the STEM fields, a thesis option gives students more opportunities to conduct research in a lab under a graduate advisor.

Getting a master's degree and completing a thesis in one year

was very appealing to Gundermann, as it will save her a lot of money in the long run and will provide her with the tools she needs to succeed in the workforce.

"I chose the thesis option because I am interested in doing research and development for a food company," Gundermann said. "It looks good to employers to show that you have research experience and can conduct your own research. It also is a great way to get hands-on learning [experience] along with typical classroom learning."

If students are interested in the 4+1 program, it can be helpful if they begin networking within their department early on. A student's academic

advisor can be a key ally when it comes to determining if the student would benefit from enrolling in a 4+1 program. In Gundermann's experience, she found that applying to work in labs provided her a way to meaningfully connect with professors within her department.

"I have had the fortunate opportunity to be involved in several labs on campus the past three years at UMaine. Working in the labs has really helped me to develop relationships with the professors and graduate students of the department," Gundermann said. "All of the professors are doing research in different areas of food science, so it has helped me to explore the major. Also, by being close

to professors and the graduate students, I was able to hear about things like the 4+1 program as well as speak to people who are currently doing the program."

After Gundermann graduates from the 4+1 program, she is interested in doing research and development for a food company. "This means I would be designing new products as well as researching past products to determine how to adjust them to fit the wants of consumers," Gundermann said.

Undergraduate students who may be interested in a 4+1 program can reach out to their academic adviser, or find more information at <https://umaine.edu/graduate/programs/accelerated-programs/>

## The McGillicuddy Humanities Center gives final seminar on impact of humanities on environment

**Maddy Gernhard**  
Contributor

The final installment of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center's reading group on "Entangled: People and Ecological Change in Alaska's Kachemak Bay" occurred on March 11. Professor Laura Cowan May hosted the presentation which featured the author of the work, Marilyn Sigman. This meeting concluded the month-long weekly seminar, encouraging participants to engage with their own com-

munities and to stay in touch with the changes and the environment which they affect.

Cowan began the meeting by thanking the McGillicuddy Humanities Center, as well as the reading group's participants. She also took time to do a land acknowledgment, expressing thanks to the Indigenous Peoples of Maine as well as those in Alaska. Cowan also talked briefly about the importance of programs like these.

"We need the humanities and the arts to accomplish change,"

she said, speaking to the idea that the sciences and the humanities are not at odds with each other, and in fact, both are necessary to achieve growth.

She then passed the discussion to Sigman, who thanked the participants as well and expressed the hope that reading this work would inspire her readers to do their own writing.

This discussion centered around the final portion of the book titled "The Ecology of Desire," which reflects upon Sigman's work

with younger researchers, as well as exploring the history of the sea otter populations in the region. This section of her work also ties together the various threads of ecology, archeology and culture which she had previously explored in the book.

Sigman presented a brief slideshow on the history of the otter populations in Kachemak Bay. She highlighted the development of the Kechemac tradition of otter hunting and the shift towards the exploita-

tion of the indigenous peoples' hunting by Russian sailors for fur exports when they arrived in the region. The exploitation of this resource for commercial harvest was ended in 1911 with the passing of the North Pacific Fur Seal Convention. Later, more scientific-based conservation efforts led to the passing of the Marine Mammal Protection Act in 1972. When the otter population was reintroduced to the area, they quickly became a keystone species in the complex marine

ecosystem. Despite a great deal of competition for resources between the otters and commercial fisheries, they remain important to both the ecological and cultural landscape of Kachemak Bay.

Sigman also spoke to the importance of her favorite section of the work, a chapter titled "Tidepooling to the Stars," which she described as being a sort of love letter to the work she had done in education and conservation. In this section,

See MHC on A3

# News

## Dominique DiSpirito announced as a Truman Scholarship finalist

**Megan Ashe**  
News Editor

Dominique DiSpirito, a third-year political science student at the University of Maine, has been announced as a Truman Scholarship finalist. The Truman Scholarship is meant to honor college students who wish to use their future careers in public service as a way to make the world a better place. Students who are awarded the Truman Scholarship are awarded \$30,000 for graduate school expenses, as well as opportunities to network with people in their professional sphere. The scholarship also offers training opportunities for winners to strengthen their skills to better them for a public service career.

DiSpirito has been identified as a finalist for the Truman Scholarship but has a regional interview scheduled for March 31 which will determine how she moves forward in the process. A panel of Truman scholars from past years will interview her. By

April 14, DiSpirito will be notified whether or not she has been officially named a Truman scholar.

DiSpirito, who is in the Honors College, will graduate with minors in interdisciplinary legal studies, ecology and environmental sciences, and is also very involved on campus.

"I am currently involved in a number of different ways on campus. I have been a research assistant in the School of Biology and Ecology since the summer of 2019 and I'm also working as a student intern for the Senator George J. Mitchell Center's Food Waste Reduction Project," DiSpirito said.

"I am also very involved in the Honors College both as an Honors College Student Ambassador and as the president of the Honors College Student Advisory Board since January 2020," DiSpirito said. "I also helped establish the new UMaine Interfaith Group this semester and am currently serving as their president. I am also working to

organize this year's MDMP [Maine Day Meal Packout] hunger awareness campaign as the coordinator. I also co-organize the annual International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day Events each fall semester."

Along with her involvement on campus, DiSpirito has stood out as a bright and promising student in the UMaine community. She wishes to continue her education after she earns her degree at UMaine. Currently, her plan is to attend law school and earn a master's degree in environmental management to better prepare her for a career in public service.

"I look forward to continuing to build resilience through community-based environmental work," DiSpirito said. "To start this off, I plan on applying to a dual degree program where I can get a J.D. and master's in environmental management or policy. The two schools I am interested in going to that have this program are Vermont Law School and



Graphic by Antyna Gould.

Yale Law School."

DiSpirito acknowledged that many people in her life have led her to this successful path that she is currently on. Throughout her time at UMaine thus far, she feels that she's made wonderful connections with people in the community. She credits UMaine with promoting student leaders and allowing them to thrive. Additionally, she notes that UMaine has a lot of fantastic resources for students that she has been able to turn to over the years. She is thankful that the university has allowed her

to engage in so many community-based activities. Part of the reason why she applied for the Truman Scholarship was because of her love for community service.

"My passion for community service drives everything I do now and all my aspirations for the future. The Truman Scholarship recognizes students across the country who have demonstrated [the] potential to be a change agent through a career in public service. As someone who strives to strengthen their community, this scholarship stood out

to me as an opportunity to access experiences, resources and networks that would further support my interests in a public service career," DiSpirito said.

Working in environmental law will give DiSpirito opportunities to make a difference in a world that too often neglects the importance of nature and environmental policies. The last Truman Scholar from UMaine was awarded the title in 2008, meaning DiSpirito would be the first student in over a decade from this institution to win.

## Graton Constitutional Essay Contest opens to all undergraduate students

**Maddy Gernhard**  
Contributor

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"We need the humanities and the arts to accomplish change," she said, speaking to the idea that the sciences and the humanities are not at odds with each other, and in fact, both are necessary to achieve growth.

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on the history of the otter populations in Kachemak Bay. She highlighted the development of the Kechemac tradition of otter hunting and the shift towards the exploitation of the indigenous peoples' hunting by Russian sailors for fur exports when they arrived in the region. The exploitation of this resource for commercial harvest was ended in 1911 with the passing of the North Pacific Fur Seal Convention. Later, more scientific-based conservation efforts led to the passing of the Marine Mammal Protection Act in 1972. When the otter population was reintroduced to the area, they quickly became a keystone species in the complex marine ecosystem. Despite a great deal of competition for resources between the otters and commercial fisheries, they remain important to both the ecological and cultural landscape of Kachemak Bay.

Sigman also spoke

to the importance of her favorite section of the work, a chapter titled "Tidepooling to the Stars," which she described as being a sort of love letter to the work she had done in education and conservation. In this section, she describes taking a field trip to the tidepools of Kachemak Bay with a group of young students. She read these sections of the work aloud, which made it seem as though she was bringing the audience with her on these educational field trips.

At the end of the presentation, the group broke apart into small discussion rooms. Each member of the group was encouraged to bring forward a moment of the text which stuck with them or inspired them in some way. Many of the quotes that the participants brought forward dealt with the idea of entanglement and the interconnectedness of humanity with the natural world.

When the group reconvened after the 25-minute small group discussions, the floor was opened to questions. Sigman spoke to the complexity of the genre in which she wrote, noting that finding the proper blend between scientific writing and her personal narrative was a point of difficulty, but a necessity in telling the story of Kachemak Bay properly. When asked what she was looking into writing about next, Sigman expressed interest in some of the more psychological aspects of how humanity interacts with nature.

"I've been interested in [studying] generational trauma," she said, explaining how culturally and psychologically humanity ties into nature, and how the loss of connections to the world affects generational troubles.

Finally, to conclude the discussion group, Sigman read aloud from the epi-

logue of the work.

"Just like this place we call Kachemak Bay and the people who lived there before me, I had been shaped by sea, wind, rain, snow, long and short seasons, volcanoes and earthquakes. But I had shaped something too in the people who walked alongside me, inhabiting this place, however briefly, and learning something about it in our human way, however scant. Something to savor, like the scent of seal oil and smoke," Sigman read.

The epilogue closed the discussion group with a fitting reflection not only upon how the world shapes us, but how we, in turn, are able to shape the world.

Sigman's work is available to purchase at the University of Maine Bookstore. For more information on future programs hosted by the McGillicuddy Humanities Center, visit their website.

# UMaine collaborates with College of the Atlantic to host Black studies discussion



## IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

### MARXIST AND SOCIALIST LECTURE

Graphic by Olivia Schanck.

#### Maddy Gernhard Contributor

The University of Maine philosophy department in collaboration with the College of the Atlantic hosted a discussion on “Black Studies and Questions of Institutional and Structural Change” on Monday, March 8. Professor Kirsten Jacobsen from UMaine’s philosophy department and professor Netta Van Vliet from the College of the Atlantic’s department of cultural anthropology organized the event.

The discussion hosted guest presenters professor Charisse Burden-Stelly and professor Jonathan Fenderson. Burden-Stelly is an assistant professor of Africana studies and political science at Carleton College; she is currently a visiting scholar in the race and capitalism project at the University of Chicago. Fenderson is an assistant professor of African and African American studies at Washington University in St. Louis. He has notably published a work titled “Building the Black Arts Movement: Hoyt Fuller and the Cultural Politics of the 1960s.”

Burden-Stelly spoke first on her interests in the capitalist exploitation of the Black community. Her work investigates race

and class and how those issues are related to both anti-Blackness and anti-radicalism in the modern capitalist society.

“In a broad sense, my work interrogates how to bring together class, or more specific, anti-Black racism and capitalistic exploitation,” she explained. “First, I interrogate the conjunctures of anti-Blackness and anti-radicalism, and it is really this sort of interrogation of those entanglements that brought me to racial-capitalism.”

Her work is grounded in these intersections of racism and classism and how they are at work in capitalism. She explained that her own work builds off of the work done by Claudia Jones, W.E.B. DuBois, Walter Rodney and other thinkers whom she describes as early theorists of what is now called racial capitalism. She explained that this racial capitalism is most often found in something called “super-exploitation.”

“[Super-exploitation] is a form of capitalist exploitation that goes over and above the exploitation of the working class. So they’re really interrogating structural and material conditions at the intersection of exploitation and oppression,” Burden-Stelly

explained.

She also explained the necessity of combating white-supremacy and challenging neo-colonialism.

Fenderson spoke next, explaining that his interests were similar to Burden-Stelly’s.

“My work emanates from three areas. One is intellectual history, one is trying to think through the connections or political relationships between folks in the diaspora and folks on the African continent, and also the diaspora within Africa and then my last major point of interest is social movement history,” Fenderson said.

He explained that Black intellectual history developed from a defense mechanism against more conservative administrations in education who did not see the need for Black studies departments in the early foundations of these programs. He also attributes his own interests in the field of Black intellectual history due to social movements.

“I actually came to Black studies by accident,” Fenderson explained. “Not because I was familiar with the field but because I was engaged in various social movements which were taking place in Los Angeles, different types of community organizations. I found

that Black studies was a type of rest haven or a place where I could go to extend these conversations that I was having in the community and have them in the classroom.”

He spoke to the importance of his work as a questioning of various conversations which are still ongoing in modern discussions of race relations. He cited his book about Hoyt Fuller as a moment in which these questions of race relations and reparations were really being brought to the forefront of the Black Arts Movement. He explained the issue of how these conversations were absorbed from community spaces into academic fields and into corporate America.

The speakers were then given time to ask questions about each other’s work and to continue the conversation at hand. Fenderson asked Burden-Stelly about how she encountered the issue of Marxism.

“Unlike Jonathan, I don’t have an activist background, I am just an academic,” she explained. “All of my consciousness-raising came through study, books and courses.”

She cites that one of the first courses which inspired her to explore political economy was a class called “The Making of Mod-

ern Africa.” She claims that Walter Rodney’s work especially raised questions for her on the issue of political economics. She was inspired to continue exploring these issues through further courses. She came to understand how economics was essential to understanding the African diaspora, and when she later tried to connect political economy to Black studies, she found that there were very few academics who worked in that field of research. This sparked further curiosity, and her research grew from there.

Burden-Stelly then asked Fenderson about the issues of celebrity culture and the reliance upon an elite class to understand Blackness. She wanted to understand what a rigorous and engaged Black studies curriculum and analysis would entail.

Fenderson spoke to the importance of including Black Marxist thinkers as well as engaging with Karl Marx’s work on its own. The incorporation of political economy and texts that deal with it is important, he explained.

“But also I think it’s important to not fall completely back on texts,” he went on. “Part of it I think is also getting our students to engage with the world around them and

thinking of the ways political economy impacts them directly.”

He discussed the importance of engaging with work that might frighten students or deter them. He particularly spoke to the issue of Marx’s work on capital and labor as an intimidating or boring course of study, even though these issues directly impact the lives of every student. Fenderson also explained the importance of arts and culture as they are tied to questions of classism and political economy.

The event wrapped up with questions from the audience, which was made up of both students from UMaine as well as the College of the Atlantic. The questions mostly centered around the issues of how the Western university can be challenged in its relationship with Black studies and how it may better itself going forward in conversations on race and politics.

Fenderson and Burden-Stelly both cited the importance of community vigilance and awareness of the political and social climate around them as a way in which individuals can combat the issues of institutionalized racism.

#### MHC from A1

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# Weekly Updates

## This Week in Student Government

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

**David DiMinno**  
Contributor

GSS 3/9

The General Student Senate meeting on March 9 began with roll call and the approval of the previous meetings minutes by Senate Clerk John Cyr.

General Good and Welfare:

Vice President Zachary Wyles gave his Robert's Rule item of the week, which was tabling indefinitely. This is used to kill a bill that senators no longer want to talk about so that it is not brought up again. One can move to bring it back from the table.

Executive reports:

President Harrison Ransley is meeting with Vice President for Student Life and Inclusive Excellence and Dean of Students Robert Dana this week, and urged senators to let him know about any ideas that they want

to be brought up with Dean Dana. The Maine Day planning committee has been created and is looking for senators to join. Ransley will be meeting with the faculty senate to discuss changing the pass/fail policy currently in place, as well as restructuring billing for students. Wyles is working on all the same projects as Ransley, with the exception of trying to get the administration to add syllabus banking to MaineStreet and negotiating affordable textbook pricing. Vice President of Financial Affairs Jake Tauke discussed unallocated funds, as well as some funding requests. He commented that the president and vice president debates went very well. He has also been preparing for the annual audit and has received budgets from almost all clubs and organizations on campus. Vice President of Student Organizations Emma Willey will be having amendments coming through next week pertaining to preliminary recognition time. Vice President of



Student Entertainment Chase Flaherty mentioned again that Terry Crews will be meeting with Dean Dana for a Q&A session on March 12. Spotlight Cinemas still have free tickets available for students. Advisor to the Student Government stand-in Heather Hogan is accepting nominations for student life leadership awards.

Periodic Reports:

Faculty Senate Student Representative Kylie Trawick reiterated that she will be meeting with the

faculty senate this week, and if the senate wants anything brought up, they should let her know. University of Maine Board of Trustees Student Representative Abigail Despres won't be able to attend meetings for a couple of weeks and is passing her position on to a new senator. Representative to the UMaine ROTC Austin Westfield said that Army and Navy ceremonies are still unsure if they will be meeting in person. Director of Communications Daniell Jarosz has been trying to promote the president and vice president elections.

Reports of Standing Committees:

The Marketing and Public Relations Committee will be having a meeting this week after a hiatus. The Membership Committee is trying to distribute gift cards for food to senators, as well as thank you cards. It is hoping to meet with the vice president to discuss T-shirt sizes. The Policy and Procedure Committee is proposing new resolutions regarding some paid positions.

Reports of Special Committees:

The Student Mental Health Committee is trying to launch a mentorship project and is looking for volunteers.

Representative Board Reports:

Interfraternity Council and Pan-Hellenic Council have been working on

their social media presence, trying to appeal to the campus as a whole. The senior class council has been making preparations for senior week.

New Business:

A request to allocate \$18,000 to the Maine Outing Club for various equipment expenses. This was approved by the senate.

The senate then went into executive session, and then shortly after, the senate adjourned.

## Tune Into This!

What's happening this week at UMaine & Beyond

**Megan Ashe**  
News Editor

The University of Maine New Balance Recreation Center is now accepting applications for lifeguards. The position would begin in summer 2021 and students with previous training are preferred. Please apply on the Rec Center website if you are interested.

The Dunkin' at 522 Stillwater Ave. in Old

Town has closed. It has moved to a new location at 975 Stillwater Ave. in Old Town, which is sandwiched between McDonald's and Governor's Restaurant. This location will likely be more convenient for UMaine students as it's closer to College Ave. and the UMaine campus.

Wednesday, March 17 is St. Patrick's Day. St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland,

and this holiday is celebrated on the anniversary of his death. He is celebrated in folktales for 'chasing snakes out of Ireland and into the sea with charming music,' according to legend. Today, people around the world attend mass, feast and party in his honor every March 17.

The Greek Awards are now open through March 19. Students can apply or nomi-

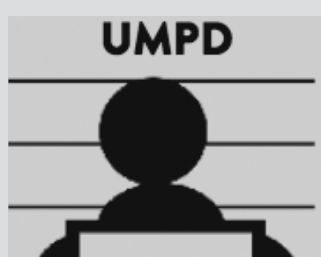
nate anyone that deserves recognition in Greek Life for these awards. The following categories for the awards are fraternity man of the year, sorority woman of the year, chapter of the year, most improved chapter, traditionalism, outstanding advisor, emerging greek leader, fraternity president of the year and sorority president of the year. Reach out to the Center for Student Involvement for

more information.

The spring equinox will be on Saturday, March 20, marking the first day of spring. On the spring equinox, the sun passes from the Southern to the Northern Hemisphere, moving over the equator. This means warmer weather is in store for the Northern Hemisphere while the Southern Hemisphere braces for winter weather.

Tacorita, a restaurant in Downtown Orono, is offering plant-based protein burritos for \$9.25. The burritos are vegan and customizable with different filling options such as rice, guacamole and vegetables. Enjoy one on their sunny patio next time you're in town!

## Police Beat



**Megan Ashe**  
News Editor

March 5  
At 12:19 a.m. Samuel Boudreau, 20, of Massachusetts, was charged with operating a vehicle without

a license in violation of a condition Class E, which was being under 21 while drinking and driving.

At 12:26 a.m. Jonathan Rivet, 21, of Orono, was charged with driving to endanger.

At 2:38 a.m. the University of Maine Police Department (UMPD) was called to the first floor of Somerset Hall due to suspicion of drug use. Officers found first-year student Collin O'Brien using marijuana in his room. He

was compliant and was issued a summons for drug possession. He was also referred to conduct.

March 7

At 10:06 p.m a student was driving on Ransley Road when their snowboard, val-

ued at \$700, fell off of their car. Another car stopped and the driver picked up the snowboard from the road and drove away. This is being investigated by UMPD as a theft.

At 3:55 a.m. Omed Habibzai, 19, of Port-

land, was charged with operating under the influence.

# Opinion

## Editorial: For Maine's tourism industry to reopen, hospitality workers need vaccinations



Graphic by Nate Poole.

### Nate Poole Opinion Editor

On March 5, Gov. Janet Mills released a plan to exempt all states from travel restrictions by May 1 and to increase indoor and outdoor gathering capacity to 75% and 100%, respectively, in preparation for the traditional opening of Maine's tourism season over Memorial Day weekend. However, many workers in the hospitality industry will not have been eligible for vaccinations by the time the state reopens, exposing an already vulnerable population of essential staff to undue risk.

While Maine's hospitality industry has suffered immense losses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a vaccination plan that doesn't account for workers' concerns will only undermine any potential economic recovery.

Mills' Moving Maine

Forward plan is, in and of itself, something that Maine's hotel and restaurant owners and staff dearly need. According to Hospitality-Maine, about 10% of hospitality businesses went out of business in 2020, and the Bangor Daily News has reported that Maine restaurant's taxable sales declined 25% in December alone. Sen. Angus King has publicly lamented restaurant sale losses of about \$240 billion and job losses of around 2.5 million nationally, in an effort to stir up support for stimulus spending on the hospitality industry in the Senate, but every solution besides reopening is not much more than a Band-Aid.

However, any attempt at reopening restaurants and hotels for the event reservations and tourism that once powered the industry will not work without, well, workers. Without a place in the

state's current vaccination timeline, many simply will not return.

On March 3, the governor's office made a significant change to the state's vaccination plan by shifting from a complex phase structure that prioritized health care personnel and long-term care facility residents to a logistically simpler system that structures eligibility based on age, in addition to federally required eligibility for all members of the education workforce.

The current plan only expands eligibility to residents below the age of 40 in June and below the age of 30 in July. This is to prioritize older Mainers who are more likely to experience severe symptoms and place more strain on the healthcare system. The only problem is that much of the young hospitality staff will be expected to expose themselves to out-of-state germs for

months with lower capacity restrictions before they can receive a vaccine.

Rich Shambaugh is one Maine restaurant owner who was incredulous in response to the state's conflicting plans, according to the Portland Press Herald.

"Without being able to vaccinate our staff, and the floodgates of exposure from other states having been ratcheted open, how can we possibly return to normal operations?" Shambaugh asked in a letter to state officials.

Ted Hugger, owner of the Cedar Crest Inn in Camden and the Cod Cove Inn in Edgecomb, has already noticed an uptick in wedding reservations for the summer in response to the state's plan, but he told the BDN that he is concerned that rehiring enough staff "will be an issue."

The obvious limitation for any plan regarding vaccinations is the number of vac-

inations that are actually available; since President Biden has required states to prioritize all educators, supplies have been even more strained. It bears acknowledging that adding another large demographic to an already burdened eligibility plan is not quite a politically viable decision for the governor or state leaders.

However, since Biden has invoked the Defense Production Act and forecast vaccine eligibility expanding to all adults come May 1, that could give state leaders significant wiggle room. Otherwise, the wisest decision could be to simply revise the Moving Maine Forward plan to be less ambitious.

Chloe Hepburn, a former UMaine student and staff member at the Maine Campus and current restaurant and hotel employee in the Portland area, created a Change.org peti-

tion to Maine leaders calling on Gov. Mills to include essential workers in vaccination plans.

"It goes without saying that we all want life to go back to normal, but lifting these restrictions before vaccinating the employees that keep Maine's tourism industry alive is a dangerous step backwards," Hepburn writes on the petition's page, which can be found here.

Balancing people's health and a state's economic woes is not simple, and neither are the logistical details involved in creating and implementing a comprehensive vaccination plan. With that said, that is exactly what Maine leaders need to do in order to stand on ethically solid ground and reopen the state to the rest of the country.

# Maine should bring back its original flag



Photo via mainepublic.org.

## Devin Daignault Contributor

To put it lightly, Maine's state flag is terrible. The flag is somehow bland and over-complicated at the same time. It breaks all the rules of good flag design established by the North American Vexillological Association. The worst part about the current flag is that it replaced a flag that was perfect for the state. It is because of the current flag's poor design that Maine should revert to its original flag.

In vexillology, which is the study of flags, there are five

rules for creating a well-designed flag. The first rule is that a flag should be simple enough for a child to draw it from memory. Take a moment and try to imagine the current flag of Maine. I am sure there are parts of it you can conjure to mind. Do you think you could draw it from memory?

Maine's original flag was beautiful and simple. It has a buff-colored background with a green pine tree in the center and a blue star in the upper right corner. Without even seeing it, I'm sure you can imagine it. This means the original flag passes the first rule.

The second rule is that a flag should use meaningful symbolism. The current flag does pass this rule. The sailor on the flag represents Maine's strong ties to the sea, and the farmer represents agriculture. The North Star represents that Maine was once the most northern state. The moose and pine tree represent the state's wildlife and forests. The original flag has a pine tree and a star for the same representations as on the current flag. Even though the current flag has more symbols, the original flag has enough to be distinctly Maine.

The third rule is a flag should only use two to three simple colors. The current flag doesn't even come close to passing this. In total, there are about 15 different colors in the current flag, with three different shades of blue alone. The original flag nails this rule with only three colors total: blue, green, and buff yellow.

The fourth rule is that a flag should never have any lettering or seals. The original flag also passes this rule while the current flag fails miserably. Perhaps the most embarrassing part about the current flag is the fact

that it says Maine right on it. I think it's fair to say that if a flag has to say where it is from, it fails to effectively represent the state.

The final rule is that a flag should either be distinct or intentionally related to another flag. The current flag is similar to 20 other state flags in the United States. The flags in question all have a blue backdrop with a seal on top of that. This rule is where the original flag shows its worth. There is not a single flag that is even remotely similar to it. The original flag is unmistakable in its uniqueness.

All of these rules don't just help design a flag that is pleasing to the eye. These rules set guidelines to create a symbol people can be proud of and recognize as their own. A state as beautiful as Maine needs a flag that is as striking as it is.

## TV and the movies: gluing us together during the pandemic

## Leah Savage Contributor

Most people know that watching TV isn't the most productive use of time. Parents tell us we will rot away in front of the TV as kids, and often, TV-time is limited growing up. This is all for good reason; there are certainly healthier activities for everyone than lounging on a couch and staring at a screen. However, during a pandemic in which most people have been isolated to various degrees, we've all been craving social interaction and TV and movies have been an answer to our pleas for connection in numerous ways. An activity that can be considered isolating in itself has become, in this time of isolation, the catalyst for conversations and one of the most

reliable ways to keep us all connected while we've been apart.

Throughout high school and much of college, I didn't really watch TV. I would watch one show at a time on Netflix and slowly watch it all the way through, one episode per viewing session. It would take months. I even prided myself on the fact that, compared to most people, I didn't really watch TV (as if spending time doom-scrolling on my phone at night was much better). During the pandemic, that all changed. Stuck at home last March, I began to just put shows on, the same shows that I'd been ignoring recommendations to watch for months. It wasn't long before I got sucked in, and became a certified TV watcher.

Bringing up a TV

show or movie you've recently watched, or ever watched, can spark conversation like few other topics can. For one, many shows tackle topics that are incredibly pertinent to society in ways that we may not think to address them ourselves. Right now, it also serves as the perfect topic of conversation because it's often inconsequential. It's fun. Forbes magazine has reported that watching TV can offer us an escape from our day-to-day worries, which have been more pressing than usual as of late.

In a discussion with Lulu Garcia Navallo of NPR, media psychologist Dr. Pamela Rutledge explains that, particularly during the pandemic, we're turning to easy-to-consume, familiar-feeling TV shows that not only

give our brains a break from the stress of uncertainty but also give us some of our energy back. We consume the content on TV for a little escape, and then we turn to our friends or even just the Twitterosphere for a little connection. The bridge between the escape and the connection is the conversation that TV shows can spark without fail.

TV shows can be silly, dramatic and a mix of everything in between. They give us something else to talk about other than the bizarre and upsetting things that have unfolded around us in the past year, and the easy conversation brings us together in an isolating time. A study written in ScienceDaily found that watching a TV series and discussing it online helps female audiences "express

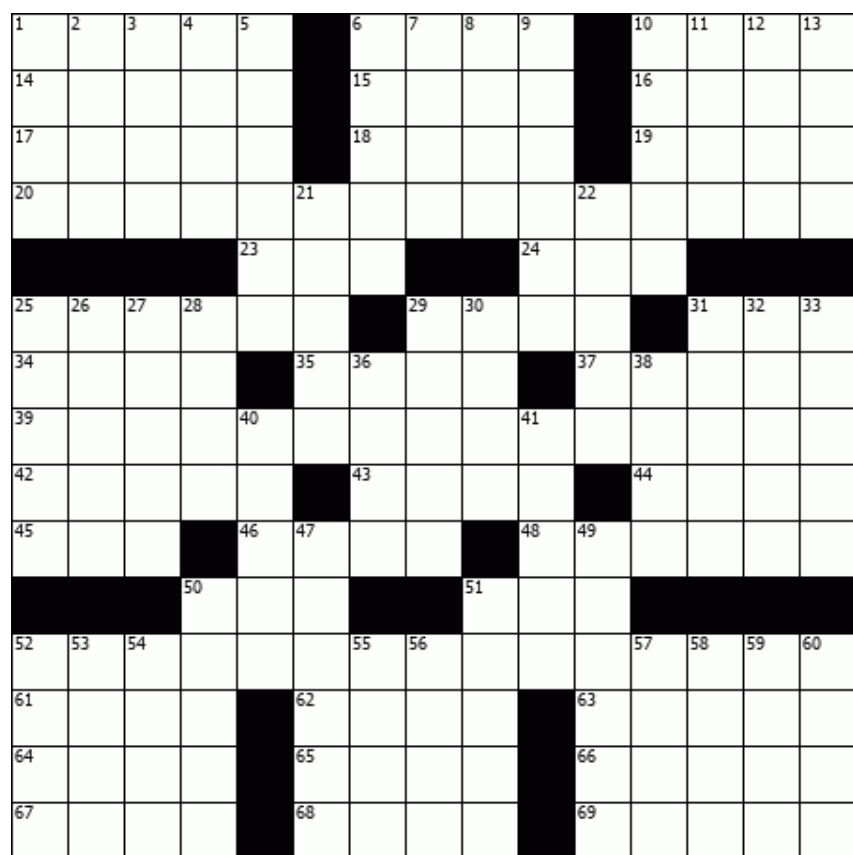
themselves and feel a sense of belonging to a community."

I work in a restaurant, and through the months of slow business, as we all stood around the bar rolling silverware, the conversation always quickly moved to the most recent Netflix show or movie, or some recent documentary on a celebrity's life, or that week's episode of "The Bachelor." When it was slow and boring and we were all making no money at our job, and there were no parties to go to, no drama in our own lives, we always had TV to count on for content to discuss. When friends have been far away, or even nearby but inaccessible, a quick text to let your friend know that you finally finished "New Girl" could bring you together instantly, even at a distance.

The weather is getting nicer, it's about to start staying light out through dinner time, and we should absolutely be getting off the couch and moving around and taking advantage of Maine's great outdoors. But there's no shame in flopping onto the couch at night and working through a couple of episodes of whatever everyone's talking about on Twitter that week. Because then you can join the conversation, and you can bring that conversation to your friends, or your mom, and suddenly there, in your apartment alone in the middle of a pandemic, you're not so alone after all.

# Diversions

## Crossword



- 17. Computer timesaver
- 18. Invasion date
- 19. Bancroft of "The Graduate"
- 20. An oboe, perhaps?
- 23. Were now?
- 24. Mature acorn
- 25. Certain former senior
- 29. He was Bjorn to serve?
- 31. Baden-Baden, e.g.
- 34. Novelist Jaffe
- 35. Lanky
- 37. Language for the masses
- 39. Grocery shopper's claim?
- 42. First-rate
- 43. Medicinal herb
- 44. Diet section word
- 45. D.C. time
- 46. Cinematic explorer Jones, for short
- 48. Some game sites
- 50. Eastern title
- 51. Had something
- 52. Stuffing the onion?
- 61. Strike zone?
- 62. Nautical prefix?
- 63. Carpenter who sang
- 64. Related
- 65. Kettle or snare
- 66. Author Zola
- 67. Barber's call
- 68. Sounds of unhappiness
- 69. Needs another way?
- Down
- 1. \_\_\_ mater
- 2. Kind of shark
- 3. Single time
- 4. Nonflowering plant
- 5. Type of horse
- 6. Color over
- 7. Last name in classic TV sitcoms
- 8. Love handles, really
- 9. Twelfth U.S. president
- 10. South-central mountain range
- 11. Mr. Descartes
- 12. Downfall
- 13. Vehicle on runners
- 21. Speechify
- 22. American symbol
- 25. Get up
- 26. Activity center
- 27. Not appropriate or suitable
- 28. Pride of lions?
- 29. Type of goat
- 30. Informed about
- 31. Mug
- 32. Michelangelo sculpture
- 33. Pays to play
- 36. Word with master or waiter
- 38. Equal to the task
- 40. Mrs. Odin
- 41. Moor
- 47. Water nymphs of mythology
- 49. Stank
- 50. Word with secret or press
- 51. Smashable items
- 52. Scheme
- 53. George or Victoria
- 54. Alternative to Windows
- 55. Successor to Claudius
- 56. Food on the ranch
- 57. Like a poor excuse
- 58. Ireland, poetically
- 59. Congers
- 60. Dummy's perch

onlinecrosswords.net. Answer key located on A10

- Across
- 1. Drifting above
  - 6. Great number
  - 10. Basketballs, but not footballs, e.g.
  - 14. Hermit
  - 15. What she is in Madrid
  - 16. Passion

## Word Search: Trees

- APPLE
- APRICOT
- ASH
- ASPEN
- ARBORVITAE
- BALD CYPRESS
- BEECH
- BIRCH
- BOXWOOD
- BUCKEYE
- BUTTERNUT
- CATALPA
- spacer CEDAR
- CHERRY
- CHESTNUT
- COTTONWOOD
- ELM
- FIR
- GINKGO
- GOLDENRAIN
- HAZELNUT
- HEMLOCK
- HICKORY
- LARCH
- LINDEN
- LONDON PLANE
- MAPLE
- NECTARINE
- OAK
- PALM
- PEACH
- PEAR
- PECAN
- PLUM
- PINE spacer
- POPLAR
- REDBUD
- RUBBER TREE
- SEQUOIA
- SPRUCE
- SYCAMORE
- TULIPTREE
- WALNUT
- WITCHHAZEL
- WILLOW
- YELLOWWOOD

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

puzzles.ca. Answer key located on A10

## THUMBS UP DOWN

- Spring!**
- Warm weather
  - Light jacket
  - Getting fresh air
  - Long days

- Winter**
- Below freezing
  - Winter hats
  - Staying inside
  - Long nights



## 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

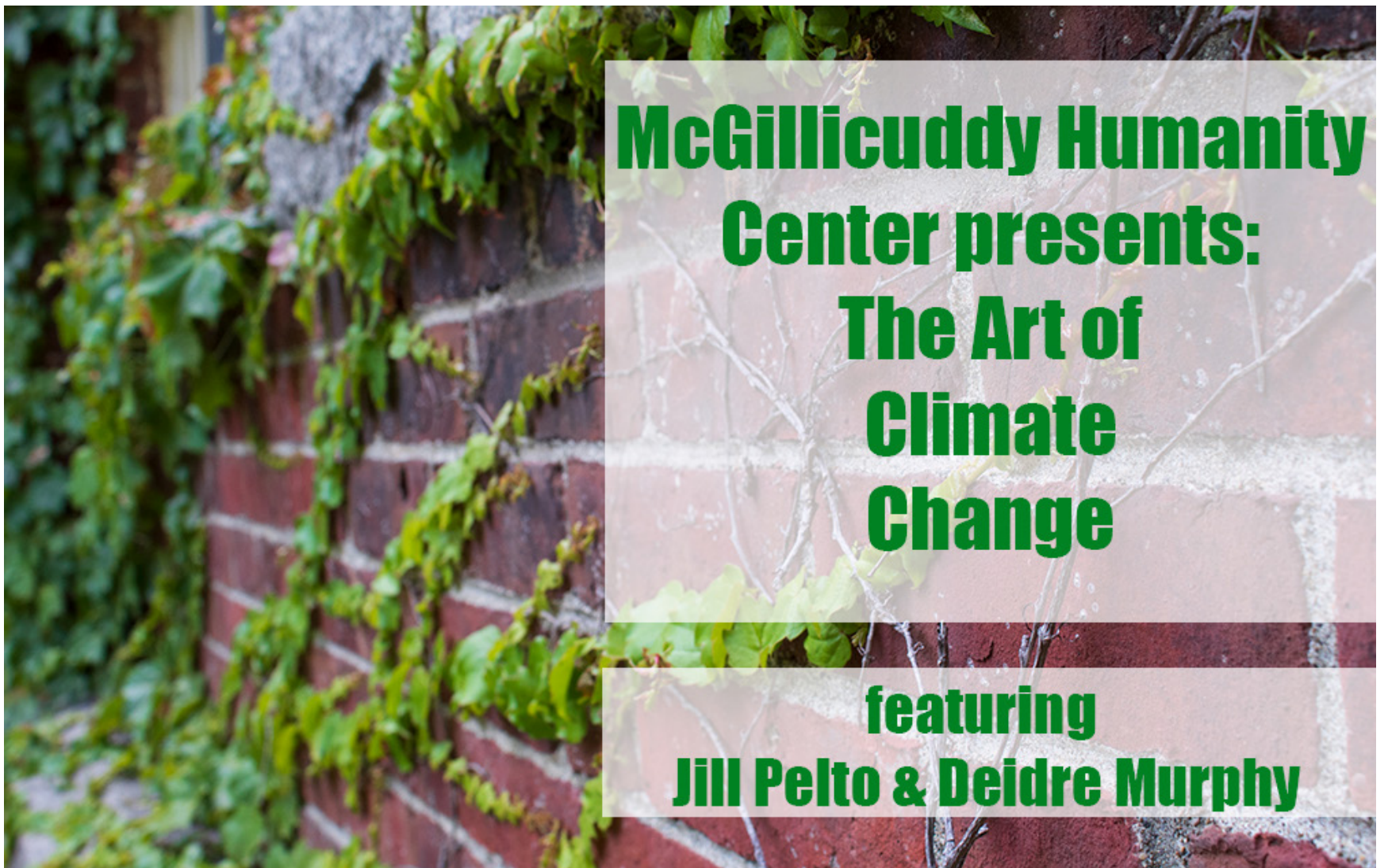
2	3	1	7
7	9	2	6
2	4	3	1
5	6	2	3
1	7	5	4
6	8	6	3
5	4	6	6

puzzles.ca. Answer key located on A10



# Culture

## McGillicuddy Humanities Center features notable artists Jill Pelto and Deirdre Murphy in 'The Art of Climate Change'



Graphic by Antyna Gould.

### Meaghan Bellavance Contributor

On March 10 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., the McGillicuddy Humanities Center featured artists Jill Pelto and Deirdre Murphy in their presentation "The Art of Climate Change." Both artists have found a new way to communicate climate change through more than just scientific data reports, but also by artistic expression.

Pelto is a climate scientist and artist who focuses on communicating human-environment connections to the public. She is based in Westbrook, Maine, and her artwork primarily consists of watercolor paintings. Pelto is well-known for her fieldwork in the glaciers of Washington and the Transantarctic Mountains, and especially for one of her paintings appearing on the July 2020 TIME

Magazine cover.

Pelto's watercolor paintings incorporate climate data, making the data more visual, emotional and easier to get its point across about what is going on with climate change.

"My art reflecting science really started when I was doing science field work," Pelto said. "So, I would bring supplies with me into the field and create paintings that captured what was in front of me. I found in those moments my process was observing the landscape and really thinking about what changes I saw, what the ice was doing in a location or how the plants had changed their growth season that year, and I would be taking those moments to really pause and observe the environment."

Pelto takes her fieldwork data and weaves it into the landscapes.

One painting features the data line creating the peaks and shape of the glaciers, showing how the glaciers have become smaller and smaller. Another painting includes data running right through a boat and the surface of the water, indicating the rapid variations of the temperature of the ocean's water. Pelto even makes sure to include sea animals in her paintings that are from the specific area the data was recorded.

"I chose species in this painting based on stories here in Maine," Pelto said. "The fish are cod and I have them disappearing across the painting as they've been overfished in Maine to the point where you often are no longer allowed to fish them. I chose shrimp who are also often overfished. Lobster who are sensitive to temperature and have an uncertain future in

the Gulf of Maine despite their importance here. And then in the sand are soft shell clams that are burrowing in which are very susceptible to changes in ocean chemistry."

Murphy, the second climate artist featured in this event, decodes the interconnected patterns that exist in art and science by creating biological patterns and data visualization in her paintings. Murphy is well-known for her work being exhibited at the Philadelphia International Airport, Palm Springs Museum of Art, Zillman Art Museum, Biggs Museum of American Art, New Bedford Art Museum and Tacoma Art Museum. She has conducted research that has led her to art residencies at Integral Molecular Biotech and Winterthur Museum.

Pertaining to her current exhibit featuring climate change

work, Murphy recalled consulting with ornithologists, behavioral biologists and cartographers during her beginning stages as an artist, collectively accounting for 15 to 20 years of work and research which led her to create multiple relevant works. In many of her paintings, Murphy has focused on bird migrations in response to climate change. One of her paintings features songbird migrations, including the Atlantic Flyway, a major flyway for migratory birds in North America.

"Looking at how I can utilize scientific data to express the changes in bird migration is the beginning of my journey," Murphy said. "'Winds of Change' was an exhibition I had in Philadelphia and I worked with Hawk Mountain Sanctuary on this one. I wanted to really try and educate the view-

er to see the crisis of climate change and global wanting but I wanted to do it through the hook of beauty and that narrative that wouldn't be kind of finger-wagging and make people feel the intense negativity that indeed is there, but to take the colors and the beautiful bird forms and images and hook the viewer with the beauty and then softly educate them with this climate change awareness."

Both artists have created inspiring works of art that allow the public to see science data in another form — a more communicable and emotional form. To find out more information about Pelto and Murphy's artwork, you can find their online galleries at [www.jillpelto.com](http://www.jillpelto.com) and [www.deirdremurphyart.com](http://www.deirdremurphyart.com).

# Reviews

## MUSIC

Olivia Rodrigo's 'drivers license' is the ultimate pop power ballad for your shower-singing repertoire

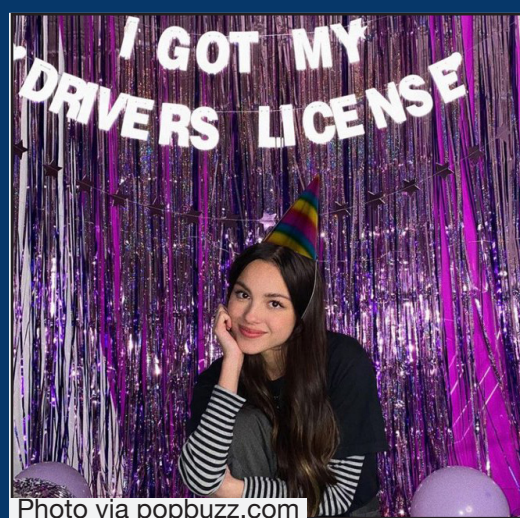


Photo via popbuzz.com

## RATING

★★★★★

**Abigail Martin**  
Staff Writer

"Drivers license" by Olivia Rodrigo is the song currently defining spring of 2021. As a debut January 2021 single on Rodrigo's first EP, written by Rodrigo and David Nigro, this song has been in the works since this past summer, referenced by Rodrigo working on and discussing the song on social media.

Rodrigo's "drivers license" fits within the power pop, bedroom pop and indie pop genres. Above everything else, the song is considered a power ballad with poignant lyrics and minimalistic qualities. The musical composition incorporates kick drums, harmonies, syncopated hand claps and a dreamy bridge. One might begin to hear influences from Taylor Swift and Lorde in the single.

The song set a Spotify record twice for being the most played song in a single day for a non-holiday related piece. "Drivers license" also broke Amazon records for being the most listened to song and as the No. 1 hit in history in the U.S. Billboard Top 100 chart with a reach as far as the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy and Spain among others.

Directly related, fans interpret that the song is Rodrigo lamenting over a recent break up between her and her "High School Musical: The Musical: The Series" co-star, Joshua Bassett, as many lines in the song point to this conclusion. For example, within the first couple of verses Rodrigo sings "And you're probably with that blond girl / who always made me doubt / she's so much older than me / She's everything I'm insecure about," referencing drama between her, Bassett and Sabrina Carpenter.

Fans think this lyric refers to the fact that Bassett began dating Sabrina Carpenter, a blonde singer and actress who is older than Rodrigo. Another reason for why people assume that the song is about the couple's breakup is

because Bassett wrote a song that presumably is about Rodrigo and in relation to the end of their relationship called "Lie Lie Lie." Carpenter also released "Skin", referencing the chosen "blonde" lyric by Rodrigo. The song is available on Apple Music, YouTube Music, Spotify and plays on indie and pop radio stations.

## MOVIE

'Moxie': A new Netflix coming of age film supports activism during Women's History Month

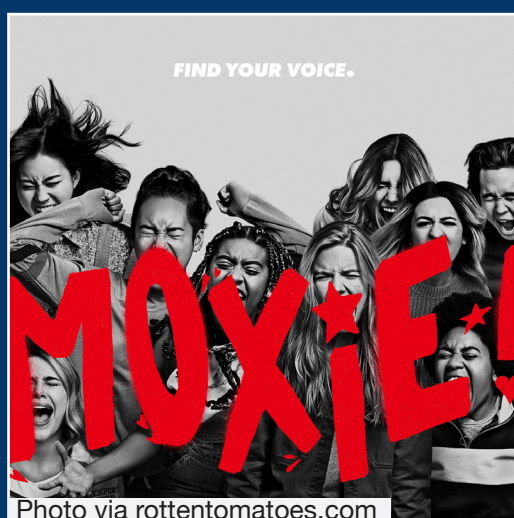


Photo via rottentomatoes.com

## RATING

★★★★

**Rebekah Sands**  
Culture Editor

With March marking Women's History Month, "Moxie," a new coming of age rom-com drama, was released on Netflix March 3. The film caters to a younger audience and presents information in an easily digestible format. With a runtime of 1 hour 51 minutes, this film still brings a wide range of women's issues into the spotlight through a high-school lens, demonstrating issues with dress code, sports pay gap, accepted microaggressions, with hints at immigration and LGBTQ culture.

"Moxie" was directed by Amy Poehler, produced by herself, Kim Lessing and Morgan Sackett, and written by Tamara Chestna. This film was adapted from the 2017 novel by Jennifer Mathieu also titled "Moxie."

Hadley Robinson stars as Vivian, the protagonist of the film. Starring in supporting roles are Lauren Tsai as Claudia, Vivian's best friend, Alycia Pascual-Pena as Lucy, the new girl in school, Nico Hirago as Seth, Vivian's love interest, and Patrick Schwarzenegger as the main antagonist and bully, Mitchell.

Other notable appearances include Amy Poehler as Lisa, Vivian's mom who inspired the Moxie revolution, Isaac Barinholtz, known for roles in "Suicide Squad" and "Neighbors," as Mr. Davis as well as Clark Gregg, known for his role as Agent Phil Coulson in "The Avengers" and "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.," as John.

Beginning in Rockport High School, Vivian, a shy girl with a long-time best friend, Claudia, comes face-to-face with her feminist awakening after witnessing "more than annoying" acts of bullying between Lucy and Mitchell as a result of Lucy speaking against reading "The Great Gatsby" as an American classic, questioning a woman's role.

Vivian witnesses repeated microaggressions toward the school's female population such as literal talking-over or silencing of voice, dress-code interruptions and a school superlative list

where all the girls are ranked by their so-called attractive qualities among others. She takes it upon herself to secretly create a feminist "Moxie" zine in rebellion to shed light on deep-seated issues that shouldn't be brushed off by school administration, avidly supported by everyone she knows.

In a punk rock format, this film incorporates the musical stylings of "Rebel Girl" by Bikini Kill coupled with the campaign form featuring stickers, a zine and lots of sharpie. The pacing of "Moxie" fell into a comfortable beat, helped along with each stunt created by the Moxie girl group at school. Treading safely behind the line of being unrealistic, this film portrays high school life in a grounded hyperbole by giving the audience characters like people we know and love, but in a larger-than life setting.

This movie does a good job at casting a surprisingly diverse group, although both the main protagonist and antagonist remain white among the core cast. Explicitly mentioned in the beginning of the film when Vivian and her mother, Lisa, talked about her mother's previous feminist protests and gatherings, intersectionality wasn't taken into account nearly as much as it should have. In a Cosmopolitan op-ed, Vivian's view of feminism through a white lens proves problematic, especially when Vivian remains anonymous while those of color take a defining role in the film.

Regardless, "Moxie" brings up several critical women's issues, and does a great job covering such a wide range without it seeming like there's a timer and checklist driving the plot to the finish. Specifically during the scene which addresses sports support and funding, "Moxie" made a statement which iterated women's work is still unfinished, making this a great film to open up a conversation with a younger sibling and sit and talk about current issues and events.

## NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

National Holidays: March 15 through 19



Photo via post-gazette.com

**Meaghan Bellavance**  
Contributor

Monday: National Napping Day

With daylight savings time yesterday, today is the perfect opportunity to catch up on your sleep. It is scientifically proven that naps can be better for you than coffee or energy drinks. Whether you can take a quick nap between classes or not, even just finding a moment to sit down, breathe and ease your mind is enough to make your day less stressful. As we are midway through the semester, finding time to relax can be difficult. Don't skip out on this national holiday — you deserve it and you'll feel much better afterwards! March 15 is also Ides of March Day.

Tuesday: National Artichoke Day

If you have been looking for an excuse to finally try out some new foods and recipes, today is the perfect opportunity for it. Take the time with friends and family to cook your favorite recipes with artichokes, or even try out new artichoke recipes. Artichokes are from the Mediterranean and have been eaten all the way since the eighth century. In the U.S. today, more than 99% of our artichokes are grown in California. So get cooking and make the best out of National Artichoke Day. March 16 is also National Panda Day.

Wednesday: St. Patrick's Day

Whether you are Irish or not, St. Patrick's Day is a day for everyone to celebrate. This holiday celebrates the famous Irish patron saint who brought Christianity to Ireland. The first ever St. Patrick's Day parade actually took place in America, not Ireland, in 1601. Make sure to wear green today, drink beer and whiskey (if you are 21 or older) and celebrate all things Irish.

Thursday: National Close the Gap Day

Every year on the

third Thursday of March, National Close the Gap Day takes place to advocate for Australia's Indigenous people. On this day, Australians from all over America take action to work towards better health and living conditions for the Indigenous people in Australia, as well as spread awareness about the conditions they live in. Even if you are not Australian, you can still help spread the word to raise awareness. Find an organization to donate to or spread awareness on social media. The opportunities are endless. March 18 is also Awkward Moments Day, National Biodiesel Day and Absolutely Incredible Kid Day.

Friday: Certified Nurses Day

March 19 is Certified Nurses Day, celebrating nurses who have chosen to continue and further their knowledge and education in the medical field through certification. Nursing is one of America's largest career-fields, with over 3.8 million nurses working in the country. Take time today to recognize and thank the nurses around you, especially as they are working harder than ever to help treat people during the pandemic. With COVID-19 still upon us, it is an understatement to say that our nurses are essential superheroes. March 19 is also National Let's Laugh Day, National Poultry Day and Red Nose Day.

# #YouMaine: Ryan Berry finds community in chemical engineering and fraternal intramural sports

**Abigail Martin**  
Contributor

Ryan Berry, a second-year chemical engineering student from Brunswick, Maine, is a motivated and involved student at the University of Maine. Berry is currently taking part in the Chemical and Biomedical Engineering Department Co-op Program and is always on the lookout for the best interest of his acquaintances, the university and himself.

When it came time to make a decision on which school to attend, Barry had to weigh factors such as quality of education, expenses, community involvement and student enthusiasm. UMaine won out against his other option, Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

In high school, Berry was planning to earn a bachelor's in chemistry, then move on to medical school. However, after the first year, Berry felt that he wouldn't truly enjoy this course of action enough to make it worth the education, despite prospective earnings. Berry then chose chemical engineering because he realized he thrived in chemistry and physics.

Both his parents and peers consider him to think like an engineer.

Berry is looking forward to doing his capstone research in the new Ferland Engineering Education and Design Center on campus because of the excitement of new equipment to learn and experiment with. Additionally, he noted he's appreciative of UMaine's commitment to engineering and student learning by funding projects and supplying equipment to keep students and faculty current and engaged.

Berry was interested in being a part of this program, not just for the career experience, but also because he wants to do his all to give back to the state he calls home.

Being from Maine, he liked knowing that he'll be somewhere familiar, which would make transitioning into adulthood an easier process.

"Orono is a cute little town on the river and it reminds me of Belgrade, Maine, a town just West of Augusta," Berry said. "It's where I grew up and I got to experience the amazing forests and outdoor scenery."

Berry lived in Belgrade for around six or seven years. The scenery in Orono has had the same effect on Berry.

During his time at UMaine thus far, Berry participates on the Men's Ultimate Frisbee team as an extracurricular activity.

"I had a blast with the team last year, and although COVID-19 restricts the sport a little, it's still fun to go out there and throw a disc around," Berry said. "All of [his fellow players] are great and fun to hang out with. The practices are very casual because, given COVID-19 we aren't playing official games."

Berry is also a member of the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity on campus which allows him to participate in fraternal intramural sports in order to stay in shape, feel good and be social. ATO is a dry academic fraternity, meaning that there are no substances allowed in the house premises and that the brothers strive for high academic standards.

Although Berry had some preconceptions about fraternity life on campus, he discovered ATO changed his mind by including an



Photo Courtesy of Ryan Berry.

amazing group of guys who he can now say are the best on-campus family.

"I clicked well with ATO because it's an

academically-focused fraternity and a lot of them share the same work ethic and determination that I have," Berry said. "They still

like to have their fun though which I also appreciate, it's all about that balance."

## Horoscopes

**Antyna Gould**  
Photo Editor

**Aries (March 21 - April 20)**

This is a week of intense activity, but you are built to handle the high demands of your social life and career right now. Buckle down and break a sweat on to get stuff done. The sacrifice will be worth it and will bring many rewards in the future.

**Taurus (April 21 - May 20)**

You are rounding the bend and entering a new chapter in life. Close the book on your past and leave it there. You did the right thing, so stop worrying about it. What's done is done. Feel the weight lift from your chest. Indulge in something luxurious as a means to celebrate the new start in your life.

**Gemini (May 21 - June 22)**

A fresh wave of en-

ergy has helped get the ball rolling on many projects. However, the wave has swept you off your feet, causing you to overbook your time. This is a friendly reminder to slow down and stop burning the candle from both ends. Start saying no to new things and prioritize the commitments you've already made.

**Cancer (June 23 - July 21)**

It's time for you to start taking more risks in life. Broaden your horizons and see how new opportunities fall into your lap. This will help to bring in a new sense of purpose. Taking chances on a new opportunity will bring you closer to realizing your calling in life.

**Leo (July 22 - Aug. 23)**

Dreams do not become a reality if they only ever reside inside your head. Start sharing your ideas, no

matter how silly you think they are. Someone will support you in reaching your goals. True friends will always listen and be there for you. Speaking up will lead to a chain of events, bringing a transformation closer.

**Virgo (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)**

Take a risk in your decision-making and trust yourself to land on your feet. This does not mean to act irrationally, but instead, don't be afraid to think and work outside the box. Remember to focus on the big picture and always be looking for ideal opportunities coming your way.

**Libra (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)**

Something intense and possibly life-changing is coming your way — a transformation, if you will, of yourself. A transformation of such magnitude will only happen if you

are open and accepting of the change. The month of March will be a game-changer in your book. Be open and be ready. Good things are waiting just behind the clouds.

**Scorpio (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)**

It's best not to judge a book by its cover. There are people you have kept from your life that have much positivity to contribute to it. Give them a second chance, and see what lies beneath the surface. A life-long bond is waiting for you if you give them the chance.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)**

Don't let a bump in the road towards your ultimate goal force you to quit altogether. If the problem seems too big to handle, break it down into smaller problems. You always find the solution to problems through your

hard work and effort. This problem is here for a reason, to help you learn a valuable lesson.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)**

If the input you have been receiving is confusing, it's because your communication has been unclear. Be direct in your communication so others can understand your expectations. Know where you stand with yourself before taking a stand with others.

**Aquarius (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)**

Check-in with yourself. Prevent bad things from happening before they do. Your ego can be your worst enemy at times, slowly pushing you off course. Is there a reason for this? Is this really the direction you want to go in? Having a conversation with yourself will help get you on the correct path.

**Pisces (Feb. 20 - March 20)**

When you're always stuck in your head, it's easy to lose sight of what's really going on around you. Things are not as bad as you perceive them to be. The troubles you have faced recently have earned you the right to step back from life to heal. Do not keep yourself isolated for too long or risk becoming stuck in the past.

# Ivy Flessen presents her research for McGillicuddy Humanities Center fellowship



## THE RESISTANCE TO REASON: AN ENDURING PROBLEM

**IVY FLESSEN**  
MCGILLICUDDY  
HUMANITIES  
CENTER FELLOW



Graphic from McGillicuddy Humanities Center.

**David DiMinno**  
Contributor

The political sphere in the United States has become an increasingly hostile environment over the last couple of years. With increased polarization, the environment for discourse becomes more and more skewed, turning many off of the topic of politics altogether. However, with COVID-19 heightening tensions and ideas even further, the pandemic calls into question the resistance to reason that we see in modern politics. Americans have seen the denial of scientific evidence and the denial of proof with little apparent reason. The McGillicuddy Humanities Center fellow Ivy Flessen aimed to

answer how this has come to be through the presentation of her research on March 12. Flessens' presentation revolved around the resistance to reason as seen in contemporary American society, illustrated through the use of the Myth of Er, as seen at the end of Plato's Republic.

Flessens' presentation gave a summary of the Myth of Er and its relevance for understanding the resistance to reason.

"My inspiration for this comes from the same idea as the talk today. There is a stark resistance to scientific fact in American society. Plato was most helpful to run this, especially through the use of the Republic. It helped better pave the way to observe the

intersection between morality and philosophy in politics," Flessen stated.

Her presentation then talked about the implications that the resistance to reason has on society, as well as the political sphere today. Flessen has found that no matter the insistence or strength of reason, it will be, at least in some way, resisted in the political world, just as it was in the myth. The resistance is something buried deep in society because the world is naturally irrational. This, along with other issues surrounding it, will continue to be a problem that needs adaptation in the future.

The McGillicuddy Humanities Center Undergraduate

Fellows program is a program for third and fourth-year students at UMaine who want to partake in independent research. Fellows attend meetings, collaborate and build relationships with their cohort, participate in interdisciplinary humanities programs and act as student representatives of the humanities on campus. After being inducted into the program, fellows spend two semesters doing their research, which culminates with their presentations. Fellows receive \$8,000 from the program, which is distributed in two awards of \$4000 per semester. Flessen recounted her experience getting involved in the Fellows program.

"I heard about the

fellowship partially because of the publication the center puts out every year," Flessen said. "I was getting ready to transfer, but the center would give me the financial support I needed to stay. I had to write a proposal, and that process took about a month due to diligence. Even if students are pressed for time, they can put out a good proposal in less time."

At the end of this spring semester, Flessen will be graduating and pursuing a Ph.D. program.

"I am actually graduating this year and going to graduate school. Going into a Ph.D. program [I will be contemplating the] classical question of the noble, and the pursuit of power in the

modern power sphere. The tensions between those two things, and how we solve that, is my interest going forward, and hopefully, an academic career can still come from that," Flessen said.

### Diversions Answer Key

Puzzles, comics and more on **A7**

Puzzle Solution © OnlineCrosswords.net

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

Crossword

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

Sudoku

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

Word Search

# Sports

## UMaine women's basketball falls 64-60 to Stony Brook in America East title game



Graphic by Antyna Gould.

### Patrick Silvia Contributor

The University of Maine women's basketball team went into its title game Friday evening with significant momentum. Having just beaten the University of Albany by 20 points in the semifinals, the team entered this game with a dominant 17-2 record. However, the Black Bears understood that Stony Brook, one of the two teams to beat UMaine in the regular season, would be a challenge. UMaine played two very close games against the Seawolves in February, splitting the weekend with one win and one loss for each team. This title game grudge match would be in Orono to

determine the champions of the America East Conference and who would receive an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

A tight first quarter made it seem as though the game would come down to the wire. Towards the end of the first quarter and early in the second quarter, UMaine went on a run for 10 unanswered points to take their biggest lead of the night at 31-20. The Black Bears would maintain the lead until the end of the first half, when Stony Brook would go on a run of their own, outscoring the Black Bears 19-2. This run extended into the third quarter, and saw Maine go scoreless for over seven minutes of play.

Stony Brook's lead would be its biggest at 6 points in the third quarter, but Maine was able to cut the lead down to 2 going into the fourth, setting the stage for a dramatic ending. Stony Brook had a 5-point lead late in the quarter until UMaine went on a 10-4 run led by fifth-year guard and America East Conference Player of the Year Blanca Millan. The Black Bears were able to cut the lead back down to 1 with 2:33 left in the game. Stony Brook would respond with 5 straight points, and a score of 60-56. Millan would score a bucket to put the Black Bears down 2 with 31 seconds left.

With 31 seconds left, the Black Bears

had a chance to tie or take the lead. UMaine fifth-year forward Fanny Wadling would create a turnover and a 3-point opportunity for fourth-year guard Dor Saar, that the latter would unfortunately miss. Millan, displaying trademark tenacity, picked up a clutch offensive rebound, but her layup attempt would not fall. Stony Brook third-year guard Anastasia Warren got the defensive rebound off the missed layup, got fouled and hit two free throws to win the game for Stony Brook with a score of 64-60. This win earned Stony Brook their first ever NCAA Tournament appearance.

Warren essentially willed the Seawolves to their first title. She

tallied 31 points on 11 of 18 shots from the field, along with 9 rebounds. Her clutch play at the end also sealed the game for Stony Brook, and she was the player of the game without a doubt. Only one other player on the team scored more than 5 points, and that was third-year guard Asiah Dingle who had 20 points on 10 of 16 shots from the field. UMaine struggled to defend Stony Brook's dynamic duo throughout the game. They hit 21 of Stony Brook's 27 made field goals in the game.

The Black Bears were led in scoring by Blanca Millan who had 20 points, while shooting eight for 15 from the field. She also had a team high seven re-

bounds. She was doing it all, and made some key buckets for her team down the stretch, scoring 11 points in the fourth quarter. She ends her career a two-time America East Player of the Year, a two-time America East Defender of the Year, a two-time America East Champion and No. 5 on the all time scoring list for the University of Maine — a true legend of the program.

## This week in sports history: a world on pause

### Brian Sundstrom Contributor

With everything that is going on in the world, it has been easy to lose track of time. It has now been over a year since the sports world took a turn for the ages, and it still has not been reshaped to normalcy. On March 11, 2020, the NBA season was put on hold after Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert tested positive for COVID-19. At the time, no one had an understanding of what having COVID-19 truly meant for Gobert. Regardless, the NBA was the first professional sports league

to suspend all activity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. None of the players or the fans could predict when basketball would resume. Some people probably thought just a few weeks, while most probably saw this suspension as indefinite.

It's remarkable that it has been over a year since the sports world was put on pause. While health and safety are clearly the No. 1 concern, the loss of sports for many months made fans appreciate the games they love to watch even more. The four major sports leagues have all resumed action in differ-

ent fashions, attempting to keep everyone as safe as possible while guiding players through intense protocols. The NBA was at least able to wrap up last year's season because the teams were in an isolated bubble. MLB teams were also able to get through their shortened season without too many hurdles along the way.

The difference between watching games on television and in person has always been a fun topic to discuss. Some fans prefer the noise and atmosphere, while others prefer comfort at home. But the

difference between watching a game on television with fans compared to without fans is an interesting subject to consider. Watching games, specifically NBA and NFL games, without fans on television can be unfulfilling without the crowd reaction to get you even more into the game. Pumping in fake crowd noise can only do so much in terms of making the people at home envision the normal experience at any venue.

A small percentage of attendance in the stands is better than absolutely nobody being able to attend

games. While there will not be sellout crowds anytime soon, it is a positive sign that 17 NBA teams are allowing a portion of fans to enter the arenas. More and more teams are expecting to permit a small capacity of fans as the season heads toward the home stretch. The playoff scene will be even more exciting now that there can be some live noise involved with the gameplay.

The most encouraging news recently came out of Texas when the Rangers announced they will be having 100% capacity for Opening Day this

spring. They likely will not sell out because of the risk it involves and the fact that not everyone is vaccinated yet. Nonetheless if everything goes smoothly in Texas, it could serve as a blueprint for other sports franchises. Hopefully, one year from now, we can say that everything in the sports world is back to its original form.

# New Hampshire eliminates Maine in Hockey East playoffs



## New Hampshire Eliminates Black Bears from Hockey East Playoffs

Graphic by Antyna Gould.

### Patrick Silvia Contributor

On Wednesday night in the first round of the Hockey East playoffs the University of Maine men's ice hockey team lost 7-2 to rivals the University of New Hampshire. The game was close, until the third period when UNH put their foot on the gas pedal and Maine just could not keep up. This season was not pretty for the Black Bears, who finished with a record of 3-11-2. UMaine's defense and goaltending was inconsistent all year, and UNH exposed that in this playoff game.

On the bright side, this was UMaine's first home game all season. The UMaine men, like the women, played all of their regular season games on the road. Unlike the women's team, the men's team was lucky enough to host a play-

off game at the Alford Sports Arena. Fans were not allowed to attend, and sadly the home ice advantage was not noticeable at all with how things played out on the ice.

The lone goal of the first period was for UNH. Second-year defender Kalle Eriksson found the back of the net for the Wildcats on a shot from the blueline through traffic. UMaine first-year goalie Victor Ostman had a great first period, stopping 18 of 19 shots, but he was unable to track the shot from Eriksson. UNH went into the first intermission up 1-0.

The start of the second period was chaos. Each team would score twice within the first six minutes of the period. UNH would open the scoring in the second period with a scrappy net front power play goal by fourth-year forward Eric MacAdams, after an interference penalty

by UMaine fourth-year defender Veli-Matti Tiuraniemi. Maine would strike right back, just 46 seconds after the UNH goal. It came at 4-on-4 play after both teams took roughing minors. Second-year defender Adrien Bisson would take advantage of the extra space, walk in and snipe one past UNH fourth-year goalie Mike Robinson to make the score 2-1.

The Wildcats responded with another goal just 35 seconds later, still at 4-on-4. Similar to the goal by Bisson, UNH's third-year forward Jackson Pierson walked into empty space and sniped one past Ostman. UMaine would respond quickly again, less than two minutes later first-year forward Lynden Breen would cut the deficit back down to one with another snipe. These four goals were all of marksman-like quality,

and came within a little less than three minutes of each other.

The real dagger for UMaine came halfway through the second period. UMaine would go on the powerplay after UNH's Eriksson took a penalty for holding. Just 16 seconds into the powerplay, the Wildcats third-year forward Tyler Ward was awarded a breakaway after a UMaine turnover and Ward beat Ostman to put UNH up 4-2. From this point on the UNH Wildcats took control, and left UMaine in the dust.

UNH started the third period with a goal in the first minute of the period by third-year forward Filip Engaras to go up 5-2. Engaras hit a bullet of a one-timer from point blank, Ostman had no time to react to this shot. UMaine struggled to respond, and eventually pulled their goalie fairly early to try and get a goal. This tactic

did not work, and UNH was able to score on the empty net to seal the deal with four minutes left in the game. UNH added a seventh goal on a powerplay in the dying minutes of the game. The final score ended up being UNH 7, UMaine 2.

This loss against archrivals UNH was a hard finale to an underwhelming season for the Black Bears, which may just be a season to forget. Fans knew it was going to be a tough season after losing graduating captain Mitch Fossier and Richter-award-winning goalie Jeremy Swayman, who left after his third year to play professionally with the Boston Bruins organization. However, few could have imagined that the season would pan out this way, and the string of losses for the Black Bears left fans and teammates alike wanting.

As head coach Red

Gendron's contract is set to expire in June, the future of the Black Bears is uncertain. Many fans have expressed concern over the fact that Gendron was unable to maintain the team's prior momentum, as the Black Bears haven't made the Hockey East semifinals since 2012. Despite Gendron's uneasy relationship with fans, UMaine's inability to host games with spectators and a stadium that needs some tender loving care, the Black Bears can only move forward and train for success in the 2021-22 season.



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