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UMaine announces normal return to campus for fall amid rising COVID-19 cases

Megan Ashe
Contributor

Amid rising COVID-19 cases, the University of Maine announced that many classes will resume in person starting in the fall 2021 semester. On March 10, Chancellor Dannel P. Malloy sent an email to the UMaine community stating that everything will resume as normal in the fall 2021 semester.

"I'm happy to let you know that we are announcing later this morning that we expect to welcome our students, faculty and staff back to our university campuses this fall to safely resume the most traditional in-person college experiences we all took for granted before the pandemic" Malloy wrote in the email.

Malloy stated that because of the increased availability of vaccines and the push to relax COVID-19 safety measures by the

start of next semester, there is reason to believe that everything on campus could function as normal in the fall. The warmer weather in the spring and summer will also allow for more outdoor activities and less congregation of people indoors in spaces like restaurants, which will provide outdoor seating in the summer months.

Malloy did stress that safety is always the top priority and shared that wearing face masks and maintaining a social distance of six feet will be key to keeping the UMaine campus on the right track. Although there were mentions of testing every UMaine community member who is eligible through graduation, nothing was said about testing students who are returning in the fall. It is unclear if it will be done or who would qualify for potential testing.

With Gov. Janet

Mills' recent acceleration of the COVID-19 vaccine timeline, people are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel for this pandemic. All Maine residents ages 16 and older are eligible for vaccination beginning April 19. If students can get vaccinated over the course of this semester and the summer, the UMaine community hopes to be more protected from COVID-19 concerns in the fall.

However, in the past week the UMaine administration has taken a stricter and less hopeful approach to the situation regarding the pandemic. Vice President for Student Life and Inclusive Excellence and Dean of Students Robert Dana and President Joan Ferrini-Mundy shared a message to the UMaine community on March 15.

"While our spirits lift, it's important that we remain vigilant of

the health and safety guidance that has successfully gotten us to this point. We are still in a pandemic. And we have only eight weeks to go to finish this semester, which we would like to do by continuing the in-person and campus-based instruction and activity we have been able to do this semester," Dana and Ferrini-Fundy wrote.

Although a number of new COVID-19 cases have stemmed from college-age individuals in the state of Maine, the University of Maine System has reported 74 active cases of COVID-19 in the entire system as of March 19. These numbers are certainly not ideal, but with the rise of vaccine availability and the community taking proper precautions, an in-person fall 2021 semester is still on the table.

On par with relaxing restrictions and resuming normalcy,

the UMaine administration allowed sports like baseball and softball to resume, as well as pushed the football season to this spring. However, seven members from the baseball team are now in quarantine due to exposure to a COVID-19 positive person within the program. As a result, the team had to cancel its weekend baseball games against Stony Brook University. It is unclear if other games will go on as planned, and the baseball team, like all other sports teams, is being tested for COVID-19 twice a week.

"Our student athletes have modeled safe practices this year and we are proud of what they have accomplished in competition and in the effort to limit the spread of infection," Ferrini-Mundy shared in a press release sent on March 19.

It appears that the last eight weeks of the

spring semester are crucial to defining the trajectory of the university next fall. With the reading days and a mini-break fast approaching, students are encouraged to make safe choices in the coming days. University staff and students alike must stay vigilant with COVID-19 protocol even as the weather gets warmer and more vaccines are available.

UMaine's WGS department celebrates Women's History Month

Megan Ashe
News Editor

March is well known as Women's History Month and contains notable holidays like International Women's Day and The Day of the Girl. Every year, many events celebrate the accomplishments of women and aim to bring light to gender inequality. The women's, gender, and sexuality (WGS) department at the University of Maine is celebrating this month by hosting a series of events that students can access through their social media pages on Facebook and Instagram.

According to Laura Cowan, director of the WGS program at UMaine and associate professor of English Women's History used to be confined to March 8, 1911, rather than an entire month. In Cowan's experience as a teenager living in France, she remembered Women's Day as similar to Mother's Day, but more inclusive as it recognized every woman.

When asked what has prompted the in-

clusion of more events that promote gender equality and women this month Cowan stated,

"We believe in equity. We believe that power and human rights are not a zero sum game," Cowan said. "It is important that women's perspective and women's experiences are represented in all domains: education, politics, business, the arts. It is important for young children — no matter their gender — to see women celebrated and to see women's accomplishments so that they can aspire to contribute to their communities, their workplaces, and their families. The more power is shared equally by all people of all descriptions, the more power everyone has."

Cowan continued to stress the importance of equality when speaking about specific events.

"[WGS] sponsored the Women and Climate Change Lecture series through Professor Katie Glover's class on women and climate change be-

cause we believe that feminists and women can help solve the climate change crisis by cultural change and transformation," Cowan said. "Science has done a good job observing and explaining Climate Change, but humans need to change our attitudes and our worldviews if we are going to rise to this crisis. We believe that feminist principles of equity, stress on relationships between people and between nature and people, valuing others as subjects rather than as objects, and a resistance to hierarchies are the kinds of values that will lead us to live more sustainable lives."

The relationship between women and the people around them, as well as women and their environment, is a prevalent theme in the women's, gender, and sexuality studies department. Cowan acknowledged the difficulty of 2020 as a whole and how the situations brought about by the coronavirus pandemic caused different stresses for

women. She feels that although notable women have succeeded this year, it is important to focus on celebrating the everyday woman who has endured many challenges.

"Feminism is in principle about equity and diversity. The hardships imposed by the coronavirus, economic crisis, divisive politics and the killings of people of color this past year mean that every day women were heroines day after day as they worked in essential jobs, provided essential care to coronavirus patients and persevered in many domains in spite of challenges. So I would emphasize the 'notable accomplishments' this year were everyday women whose names are not recorded in newspapers or appear on TV or on billboards." Cowan stated.

As far as more famous women who have accomplished achievements in the past year, Cowan credits Stacey Abrams with her voting initiatives, Ruth Bader Ginsburg's legacy in law and Ka-

mala Harris becoming vice president.

Everyone has the opportunity to become more educated on feminist issues. UMaine has many resources available for students that would allow them to achieve this.

"Students at the University of Maine can start by going to the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality University of Maine website, our WGS Facebook page, our WGS Instagram, and WGS Twitter. We do our best to keep our community abreast of current events and also supply background information and references on all our sites," Cowan said.

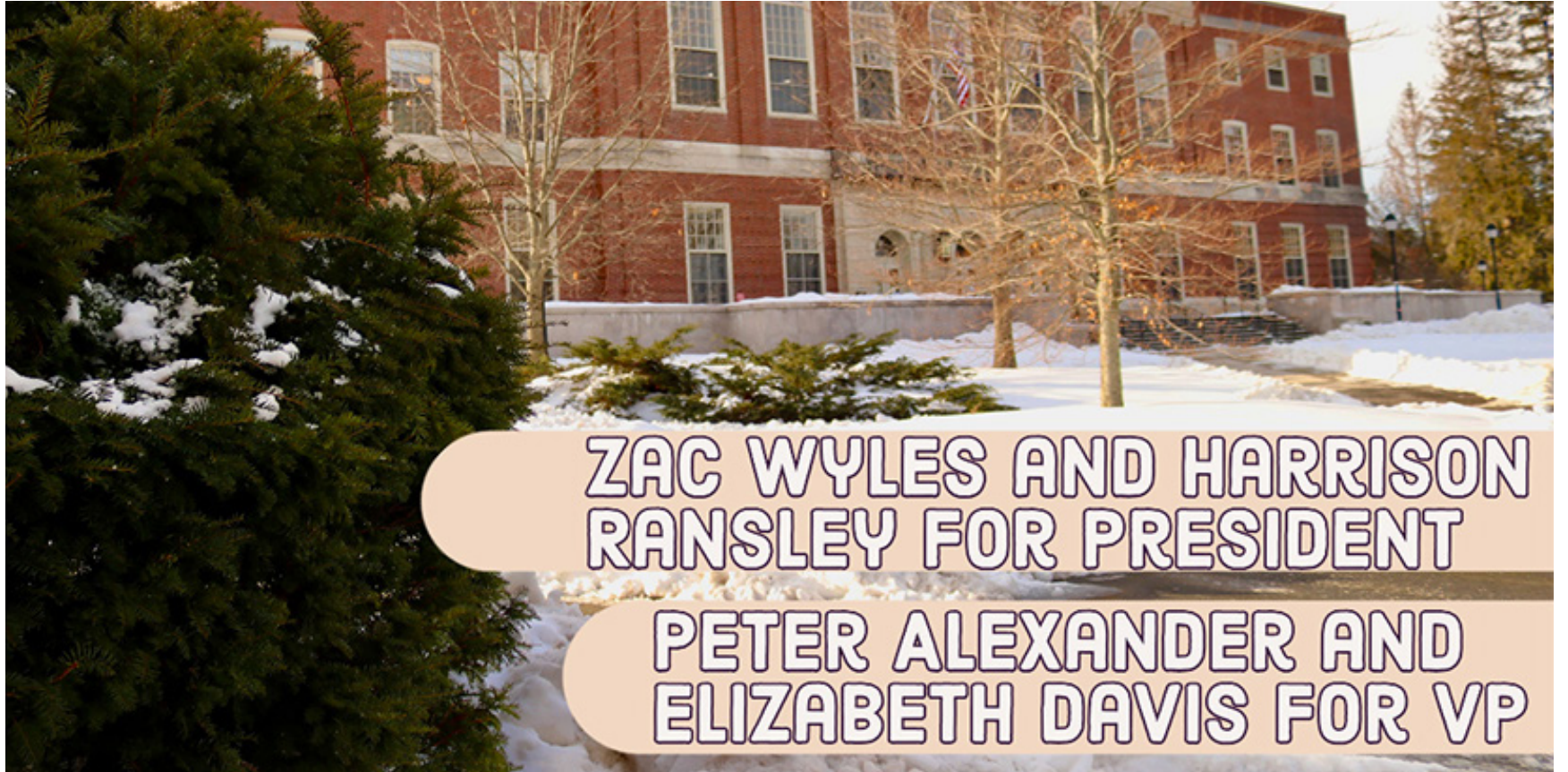
"Student Life sponsors student organizations which advocate for gender equality: the Feminist Collective (Fem C), Wilde-Stein (for LGBTQ people and allies), the Intersectional Feminist Resource Center, PRISM (a residential life community), and the Rainbow Resource Center. The WGS program stresses its intersections with other disadvantaged groups who lack pow-

er or privilege because of race, ethnicity, religion, class, disability, regionalism, country of origin. We study all these groups in our classes and encourage students to learn about our issues and share insights from their perspectives."

The WGS department will be hosting events this month to promote equality. Those interested can view their social media accounts or the UMaine websites for more information.

News

Student government presidential and vice presidential elections to take place this week



ZAC WYLES AND HARRISON RANSLEY FOR PRESIDENT

PETER ALEXANDER AND ELIZABETH DAVIS FOR VP

Graphic by Antyna Gould.

Maddy Gernhard Contributor

Elections for the University of Maine Student Government are set to take place on March 22. Students will be able to vote between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. via their university email account.

The candidates running for the office of president are Harrison Ransley, who currently serves as president of UMaine Student Government, and Zachary Wyles, who currently serves as vice president. Wyles is also the acting president of the General Student Senate. The candidates for vice president are Ransley's running mate Elizabeth Davis, and Wyles's running mate Peter Alexander.

Ransley is a fourth-year political science student. His vice presidential running mate, Davis, is a third-year political science student who is involved as a co-chair of the

UMaine Feminist Collective. Davis is also currently serving as vice president of the UMaine Pre-law Society, is a drug policy research fellow and a sweetheart at Alpha Tau Omega.

Ransley and Davis are focused on the key issues of strengthening student rights, representation, and resources around campus. Their platform points include better mental health resources for students, protection of student rights in interactions with police, providing a wider array of dining options for students with dietary restrictions, and increasing student involvement in dormitory programs among other points.

"We are looking to help create a system wide, student led committee for direct representation on system issues," Davis explained.

She also elaborated on some of the ideas

they plan to introduce to strengthen mental health services, such as "looking into pass fail options and supporting 24/7 call lines."

Davis expressed that they are looking into proposing amendments to the Student Conduct Code in order to promote a more just and equitable judicial process. Another key issue of their platform is strengthening student involvement in academic planning committees, so that student interests are supported by academic rules. Ransley and Davis hoped to promote interests such as extending pass/fail deadlines in times of crisis, as well as extending add and drop periods.

Wyles, who is a third-year political science student, and current vice president of UMaine Student Government, is interested in similar issues of student representation in academic planning.

"This election is an especially important one, since we are making some big academic changes, such as presumably returning to full in-person education in the fall. At UMaine, I would say the issues of student mental health, preparedness for classes, and students' right to be heard are the biggest priorities for my campaign," Wyles said. Wyles spoke to the importance of this year's race. The key issues of making UMaine a safe and healthy environment for a potential full return to campus in the coming fall are at the forefront of his concerns.

Wyles is running alongside his vice presidential selection, Alexander, who is also a third-year political science student. They intend to introduce some potential changes to student life at UMaine.

"Some of the big changes we hope to

bring to campus include the following: Two-week add period to match the drop period, textbook affordability options and transparency, syllabus banking and maintaining strong connections with the student body, which has been hard to do during COVID and must be done in the fall," Alexander said, emphasizing the importance of continual conversation with the student body of UMaine.

Wyles focuses heavily on listening to the experiences of his fellow students. He is involved in student government, and works part-time.

"My focuses, then, are less on my own experiences with clubs and more centered around creating an opportunity for others to bring their own experiences to the table," Wyles said on his involvement around campus.

With the potential

upcoming return to in-person classes in the fall, and changes happening around the University of Maine System, the importance of communication between the student body and the university has never been more important. The focus on ensuring the health and safety of the student body, and ensuring that the voices of students are heard are front and center in this year's student government presidential election.

The UMaine Student Government elections take place on March 22. Students may vote through their UMaine student email address on the day of the election. For more information regarding the election process, visit the UMaine Student Government website.

UMaine's TRIO SSS makes student success more tangible than ever

By Stella Tirone Contributor

The University of Maine has a unique student population. While the school tries to cater to everyone's specific needs, it's not always an easy task with a student body of over 11,000. Luckily, UMaine has a team of friendly staff and students who are there for those who might need a little extra support.

The TRIO SSS (Student Support Services) program at UMaine works with just over 400 students, according to Jenn Boynton-Allen who is TRIO's outreach coordinator. Nicole Cloud is also an

employee.

"For those students... we have been super fortunate to have this grant since the 1970s," Boynton-Allen said. "With the grant money, we are able to do things above and beyond what may not be available to the average UMaine student."

Although TRIO would love to be able to offer these services to all students, the team agreed that they feel fortunate to be able to assist even a small portion of students. TRIO does have a limit and therefore accepts students who may be at higher risk of not graduating.

"We work with first-generation college students... Pell Grant students, and students who have a documented disability," Cloud explained.

"When I interview a student, what I'm really looking for is what they are looking for," Boynton-Allen shared. "Is this program going to be a good match for this student? Is this a student who wants to be a part of the TRIO SSS program?" Once a student is accepted into TRIO, they are always a part of it throughout their entire college career — there is no annual application process.

TRIO is not a UMa-

ine-specific program — it is a nationwide organization that is funded by the Department of Education and works with over 750,000 students on a need basis. TRIO offers programs for students from elementary age and up, filling in for whatever might get undercut in the school system.

"We do a little bit of everything," Boynton-Allen shared.

For UMaine, this means tutoring, advising, counseling, peer coaching, assistance with FAFSA and so much more, including special events. This month is March Money Madness, a financial

literacy program that Peer Coach Coordinator Nicole Cloud feels very strongly about.

"[Students who participate in the program are] not just set during their university experience, but it is a launching for their entire lives," Cloud said. Encouraging students and young adults to know how finances work, whether that looks like taking out a loan or checking a credit score is hugely important, especially for TRIO students.

UMaine's TRIO SSS office stops at nothing to get the word out about their program. The office reaches out to potentially eligible

students before they even come to the university, in hopes that they can alleviate some initial stress. TRIO also attends first-year seminars and makes its program known to professors and advisors.

It is easy to tell that the team of individuals working in the TRIO office not only think very highly of the program but are truly passionate about what they do to help their students.

"Whatever is going to be useful to that student to help them graduate, that's the purpose of why we're here," Boynton-Allen said.

UMaine grad student makes chemistry discovery

Maddy Gernhard
Contributor

Duwage Charitha Perera, a chemistry doctoral candidate at the University of Maine, has recently discovered a compound which could be used in coating agents for moisture-wicking fabric.

Perera is a graduate student at UMaine. She is originally from Sri Lanka, where she attended the University of Ruhuna and researched the catalytic properties of metal clusters using the density functional theory.

"I use the theory called density functional theory, which is quite a popular theory among not only theo-

retical chemists, but also among experimental chemists because our findings can help the experimentalists to compare their results," Perera explained in an interview with UMaine Research News.

Perera worked closely with a colleague, Jinasena Hewage, at the University of Ruhuna as an undergraduate student. The two researched magnesium oxide reactions using the density functional theory. Eventually they began to research magnesium hydroxide as well, which is a safer compound to research in a laboratory setting.

When Perera came to UMaine as a grad-

uate student she consulted her advisor, professor Jayendran Rasaiah, for advice on how to continue her research.

"The current study is theoretical and the objective is to work out the optimal conditions under which the experiments can be carried out," Rasaiah explained to UMaine Research. By carrying out the experiments in this way it helps researchers select catalysts from a number of different candidates through computational methods, effectively getting rid of the need for longer experimental trials.

Perera's work was recently published in the Journal of Materi-

als Science. The work outlines a new process for acetic acid decarboxylation. When the magnesium hydroxide is introduced as a catalyst, the acetic acid decarboxylation occurs in a direct pathway. To break this down in simpler terms, the acetic acid compound has its carbon removed in a way which is more efficient than it would be if a different catalyst was introduced.

This research is useful in many ways. For one, acetic acid decarboxylation is considered an eco-friendly treatment for waste-water and air pollution.

This research is also useful in the realm of the textile and fabric

industries. Using the results of this research, and applying it to the propionic acid found in human sweat would suggest that the introduction of the same catalyst would affect the decarboxylation of propionic acid in a similar fashion. If the catalyst, magnesium hydroxide, is coated onto the fabric, then it could potentially decompose sweat.

"If the textile industry were to look for odor-eliminating components they would produce odor-eliminating clothes by coating with some catalyst. So they can use this magnesium hydroxide nanocluster as a coating material to eliminate odor, as a suitable

option," Perera said to UMaine Research News.

Perera's research could help to revolutionize both the athletic textile industry, as well as the world of waste-water treatment and air pollution. As a graduate researcher she has undertaken other noteworthy research projects as well, such as using catalysts to split water to form hydrogen in presence and absence of light, according to UMaine Research News. The application of these techniques have widespread uses in the field of chemistry, and Perera's work is leading to exciting discoveries in the realm of acetic acid decomposition.

This Week in Student Government

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

Avery Norman
Contributor

GSS March 16

The General Student Senate meeting 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 bringing an item from the table. This is used to bring back a bill that was tabled indefinitely so that it can be talked about again.

Executive Reports:

President Harrison Ransley met with administrators about restructuring tuition bills. They are trying to roll general fees into the overall bill. This way students are

not getting fee updates throughout the semester. Vice President Wyles will be meeting with the director of the bookstore later in the week to try and negotiate textbook pricing. Vice President of Financial Affairs Jake Tauke spoke on unallocated funds, as well as some funding requests that are coming in the next couple of weeks. Vice President of Student Organizations Emmeline Willey is trying to restructure the student organization page online. Vice President of Student Entertainment Chase Flaherty thanked everyone for their support in the Q& A with Terry Crews. He is beginning to work on some in-person Maine Day plans, including food trucks and mini golf. Advisor to Student Government Lauri Sidelko is still recovering from surgery but should be back soon.

Periodic Reports:



Faculty Senate Student Representative Kylie Trawick announced that administration is looking at hybrid commencement, with a pre-recorded walk, and a virtual ceremony. However, this is currently still in discussion. Vaccines will not be required to come back to campus next fall. Old Town City Council Liaison Camryn Hamill said that the city of Old Town qualified for new construction grants and the construction will likely be seen later

in the year. Old Town will be opening its town office on March 22.

Reports of Standing Committees:

The Membership Committee is trying to order quarter zips for the senate, but the order can't be fulfilled until May. Apparel order forms will be in the works soon. The Policy and Procedure Committee voted on several resolutions. Representative to the Provost Council Blaize Vail report-

ed that there has been a lot of success in regards to the pass/fail change. The administration is also searching for new dean positions for the university. The Student Mental Health Committee is trying to jump start the student mentor program and is urging senators to volunteer. The Multicultural Affairs Advisory Committee had its first meeting this past week.

Representative Board Reports:

Honors College Student Advisory Board has begun planning for the Maine Day Meal Packout. They will be hosting a forum on Friday, March 26. The Interfraternity Council is finalizing a demo of chapter builder, which will be a way for all of Greek life to virtually connect.

Community Associa-

tion Reports:

The Feminist Collective is trying to get books related to women's history distributed to the group, as well as starting some women's history campaigns. Wilde Stein is fighting a bill in the Maine government that would forbid trans girls from being able to participate in high school sports in the state of Maine. The International Student Association will be having a coffee hour on Friday this week.

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

Tune Into This!

What's happening this week at UMaine & beyond

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
There will be no classes on March 23 and March 24. UMaine students will get to enjoy a reading day and a mini break back-to-back for a much-needed break. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, students will not get the full spring break as they normally would, but reading days are scattered throughout the semester.	Team Maine is looking to hire students. There will be an informational session at 4 p.m. on Zoom on March 24. Team Maine is looking for student ambassadors who are comfortable working in a fast paced environment and love all that the University of Maine has to offer. For more information find @GoUMaine on Instagram.	Gov. Janet Mills has announced she will be accelerating the COVID-19 vaccine timeline. On March 23, people aged 50 and older will qualify for the vaccine, while anyone 16 and older will qualify for the vaccine on April 19. Along with vaccine sites throughout the state, pharmacies at Hannaford, Walmart and Walgreens will administer the vaccine.	Amy Blackstone, a UMaine professor of sociology, was interviewed by CNBC Make It to discuss the challenges of raising children. Statistically, a parent's happiness will decline a year after having a child. Blackstone discussed all that and more in her book "Childfree by Choice".	A court in Japan has ruled that it is unconstitutional to deny same-sex couples the right to marry. This ruling could be the start of legalizing gay marriage in the future for Japan.	G-Force Adventures, a laser-tag park currently located in Brewer, is moving to a new location in the Bangor Mall. There is no set date for reopening.

Police Beat

Megan Ashe
News Editor

March 13

At 2:45 p.m. two male students were spotted by water-front security drinking beer during the

football game. Both were 21 and referred to conduct.

March 12

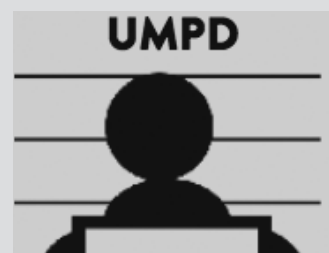
At 2:49 a.m. the Hart Hall sign was reported as stolen. Its value is \$300. There

are no suspects.

At 12:15 a.m. the Wells Dining sign was reported missing. There are no suspects and it is worth \$300.

March 11

At 1:20 p.m. University of Maine Police Department officers noticed the Penobscot Hall sign stolen. It is worth \$300 and there are no suspects.



Opinion

Editorial: Where do we go from 'performative' activism?

Nate Poole
Opinion Editor

Last Tuesday in Atlanta, a white man shot and killed eight people, six of them Asian American women, and much of the response across social media seemed to follow a familiar routine of condemnation and information, thoughts and prayers followed by infographics and statistics. Calls for social justice from allies across social media over the last year, while generally rooted in good intentions, have often been labeled as performative, or "slacktivism". To take full advantage of social media as an activist platform, well-meaning users ought to start thinking a little more critically about the purpose behind what goes on their Instagram stories.

On Saturday, crowds of activists gathered in Atlanta, San Francisco, Houston, New York and various other communities across the country to march and rally in response to the shootings that targeted three Atlanta-area massage parlors. While authorities have not concluded that the killer's motivation had to do with race, the tragedy has become a flashpoint for national condemnation, in the streets and online, of the uptick in hate incidents and racist rheto-

ric against Asian Americans since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stop AAPI Hate (AAPI standing for Asian American Pacific Islander), a nonprofit that tracks incidents of hate and discrimination against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States, received reports of 3,795 hate incidents between March 2020 and February 2021, which their report clarifies "represent only a fraction of the number of hate incidents that actually occur."

While many Asian Americans have been afraid to leave their homes for fear of becoming another statistic, social media has been an equally hostile environment.

According to a Harvard study published in the American Journal of Public Health, analysis of discourse on social media platforms from October 2019 to March 2020 revealed increases in sinophobic, or anti-Chinese, slurs. The New York Times reported that use of racist slurs for COVID-19 on sites and apps like Telegram and 4chan rose in December and that anti-Asian sentiment on Twitter has followed the rhetoric of conservative leaders like Donald Trump with hashtags like #gobacktochina and #makethecom-miechinese. pay.

One of the benefits of the flood of condemnation, grief, and support on social media that follows nationally publicized tragedies like that in Atlanta is that, however briefly, hateful and prejudiced sentiments are overwhelmed by advocacy in the form of calls to action, infographics, links to organizations to which users can donate, and various other media. However, these responses can also expose the danger of mass-mediated activism.

An extreme but useful example is the response to the shooting by 88rising, a media company that promotes Asian hip-hop musicians. The post was simply a yellow square with the caption beginning with "Enough is enough." This was, of course, an ill-advised attempt to mimic the black squares that many users shared on social media platforms for Blackout Tuesday, which was a campaign in response to the death of George Floyd last May.

The backlash from Twitter users against 88rising was swift, and the company took it down to post a hasty apology soon after. While the company likely had good intentions, it not only invoked the harmful "Yellow Peril" stereotype that dates back well into America's



Graphic by Nate Poole.

xenophobic history but copied a campaign that was widely criticized for drawing attention away from useful and important information from the Black Lives Matter movement in favor of posting countless, useless black squares.

Professor Pamela Hovland, a senior critic of graphic design at Yale who teaches courses on visual representations of protest and activism, suggests that so-called performative activism should be viewed as part of individuals learning how to situate their place and actions within a larger movement.

"I think that [#BlackoutTuesday] was more powerful in the end because of the critique that resulted from it," Hovland told the Yale Daily News. "If you were someone that gave over to that quickly ... and

then heard about that critique afterward, it caused you to think: What am I doing in addition to this? Am I donating to the cause? Am I speaking to other people about this offline?"

Part of the reason that posts regarding social justice issues are often characterized or regarded as performative or virtue signaling is because it is simply a superficial, performative medium. The fact of the matter is that an Instagram story doesn't lend itself to sincerity, so while it is a good start for disseminating news and information, it is not a key to meaningful action.

On Friday, University of Maine students and faculty gathered informally on campus in response to the tragedy in Atlanta to write out phrases of solidarity in chalk on the side-

walks across campus. One might regard this as no more different than a post to one's story, as an impermanent, easy-to-ignore, symbolic gesture. However, the one difference, and it is significant, is that those chalk messages are tangible, embedded in the campus, however impermanently. Like an Instagram post, it's not the answer, but if it's followed by critical thought and conversations within the community, then it's a decent place to start.

Orono is a college town, so why doesn't it feel like it?

Leah Savage
Contributor

Picture this: it's 2010. The Ave doesn't yet exist, with its abundance of officers patrolling for groups of people and any noise slightly above a dull roar. The Reserve is, at this time, the infamous Grove, a quintessential college living option. You're getting ready with friends to head over for dollar wells on a Wednesday at one of the bars on Mill Street that sell wildly cheap drinks. There's a hockey game on Friday that will create a line of students from the doors of the Alford to the entrance to the football field. Life is good.

Fast forward a decade, and there's really only one true bar in Orono. Sporting events aren't nearly what they used to be. One of the best teams on campus, the women's basketball team,

doesn't even play their home games in Orono, but in Bangor. The disconnect between the campus and the surrounding town is as great as ever. This town, the home of the University of Maine, is no longer much of a college town.

Orono has potential. Tons of it. If you ask a group of UMaine grads from the early 2000s, they'll tell you that Orono was a blast. But since then, the town has inched further from a college town and closer to a cute little family town, and when examining Orono and UMaine's qualities over the years, it's easy to see why.

First, it's important to note that a college town and a college experience aren't just about drinking. It's also important to note that drinking is something that does attract students, as most come of age while in

college and are eager to exercise that new right in whatever ways they desire. A couple of fun bars also change the vibe of the town. In a 2015 article from Business Insider, the very first line emphasizes the importance of campus bars as a part of the college experience. Now, UMaine doesn't really have any campus bars, aside from the Bear's Den in the Memorial Union, which in itself is a shame. But in the nearby town, having a couple of bars for college students to hang out in is, in fact, a large part of what differentiates a town from a college town.

Over the course of the past decade, Orono's bar scene has been slowly disappearing. There's no Bear Brew, no Roost, etc. Barstool Sports has a competition going for "Barstool Best Bar," and while our

very own Orono House of Pizza (OHOP) is still in the running, it's interesting to note that there's not a single other bar in Orono that could've made this list anymore, while a few years ago, there were at least a couple of others that could've been in the running. Now, they've been replaced by restaurants that, while they're great places that serve their purpose, aren't places that people actually go out to. In 2021, Orono's single small downtown street is mainly a handful of restaurants that you'd bring your kids to any night of the week. That's not how a college town looks.

So Orono needs more bars. That's a step. But there's more to it, and a study conducted by UMaine students highlights some other issues. The 2013 study surveyed UMaine students, faculty,

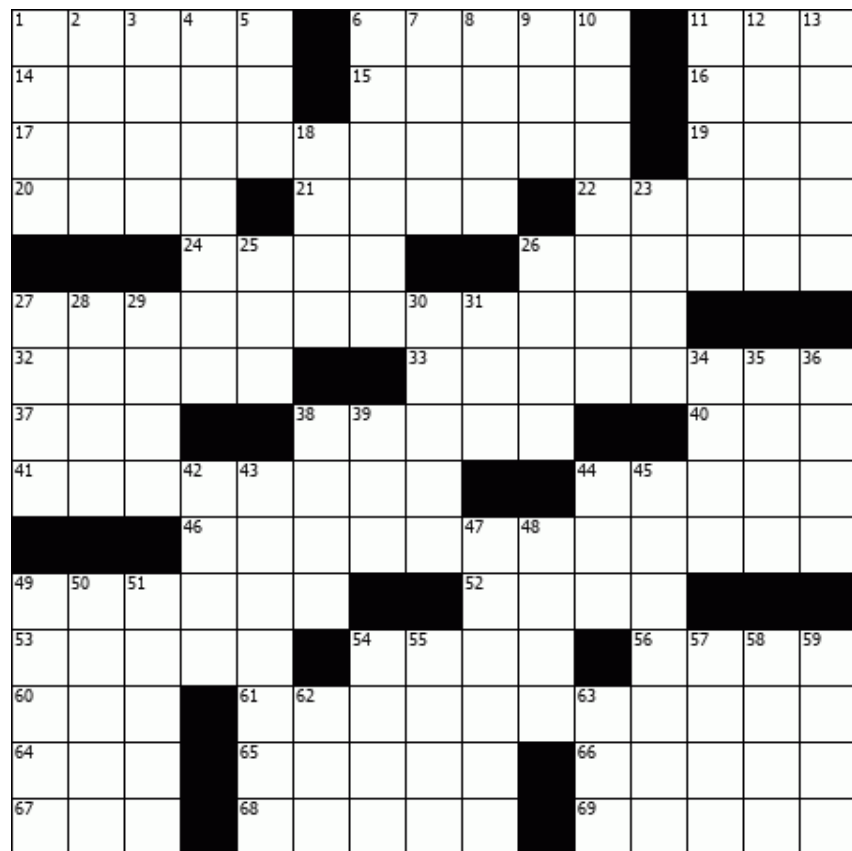
staff and Orono residents unaffiliated with the university about how satisfied they are with Orono as a college town. While UMaine students were only 40% satisfied, residents of Orono unaffiliated with the university were 80% satisfied. It's great that Orono residents are happy, but it just goes to show that it's not much of a college town, and there must be a way to bridge that gap to bring student satisfaction up as well. The study, as well as a Bangor Daily News article, also brings up the lack of connection between downtown Orono and the campus — both in distance, but also in the culture of the two communities. The short distance from Orono's downtown to the UMaine campus doesn't need to be something that creates a disconnect, but at the moment the

divide that it has fostered is significant.

Overall, Orono has some work to do at this time. It's closer to a small town feel than that of a college town, and there are a handful of directions the town could go in to get that college feel back. But ultimately, the lack of connection between the campus and the town, the lack of events on campus and the major lack of places for college kids to socialize in town are matters that need to be addressed to revive Orono as a great college town.

Diversions

Crossword



onlinecrosswords.net. Answer key located on A11

Across

- 1. Jane Goodall subject
- 6. City of Light

- 11. Impress tremendously
- 14. Mirage subject

- 15. Single-handedly
- 16. Summer shade?
- 17. Now!

- 19. Part of a jack-in-the-box
- 20. Division in many leagues
- 21. College that spawned a jacket
- 22. Tonsorial offering
- 24. Admitting a draft
- 26. Waited for the laughter to die down
- 27. Now!
- 32. Waited for the light to change
- 33. Certain storage space
- 37. Menagerie
- 38. AKC classification
- 40. Draft drink
- 41. Barbary Coast resident
- 44. Tuckered out
- 46. Now!
- 49. Minty cocktails
- 52. It may be feathered
- 53. Product requirements
- 54. Word with fire or white
- 56. President that sat on the Supreme Court
- 60. Kind of wrestling
- 61. Now!
- 64. Portmanteau
- 65. Deli side
- 66. River's end, often

- 67. Gene Autry's "___ Faithful"
 - 68. Works the land
 - 69. Clobbers with snowballs
- Down**
- 1. Sheep shelter
 - 2. Sardonic response
 - 3. Goddess of ancient Egypt
 - 4. Slip-up
 - 5. "___ Love You" (Beatles)
 - 6. Prune danish, e.g.
 - 7. Countertenor
 - 8. Speckled steed
 - 9. Quaint quarters
 - 10. Cast off
 - 11. Road scholar's book?
 - 12. Forgo
 - 13. Pulled the plug on
 - 18. Shipshape
 - 23. Humble dwellings
 - 25. Jethro's uncle
 - 26. Trudge
 - 27. Vincente's daughter
 - 28. Some worship it
 - 29. Blockage
 - 30. Speedy notetaker
 - 31. Pym's creator
 - 34. Corridor
 - 35. Charles Lamb's pen name

- 36. Claim otherwise
- 38. Drill accessories
- 39. Shout from the stands
- 42. Container of pre-plumbing days
- 43. Swindles
- 44. They can get personal
- 45. Rabbit food
- 47. Except on the condition
- 48. Angered (with "off")
- 49. Type of shrimp
- 50. Kind of suspects
- 51. Jumping-off point
- 54. Show signs of life
- 55. Polite interrupter
- 57. Fratricide victim
- 58. Without fizz
- 59. Change for a hundred, perhaps
- 62. Gun lobby, briefly
- 63. Alley of old comics

Word Search: Newspaper

- ADVERTISEMENTS
- ARTS
- BOOKS
- BUSINESS
- CIRCULATION
- CLASSIFIEDADS
- COLUMNISTS
- COLUMNS
- COMICS
- COMPUTERS
- COOKING
- CROSSWORD
- CULTURE
- EDITORIAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- EVENTS
- EXTRA
- FAMILY
- FASHION
- FINANCE
- HEADLINES
- HEALTH
- HOME
- INSERTS
- INTERNATIONAL

- INTERVIEWS
- LETTERS
- LIFESTYLE
- LOCAL
- MOVIES
- NEWSSTAND
- OBITUARIES
- OPINION
- PEOPLE
- POLITICS
- PUBLISHER
- PUZZLES
- RACK
- REPORTER
- REVIEWS
- SECTIONS
- SPORTS
- SUBSCRIPTION
- TECHNOLOGY
- TELEVISION
- GUIDE
- TRAVEL
- WEATHER

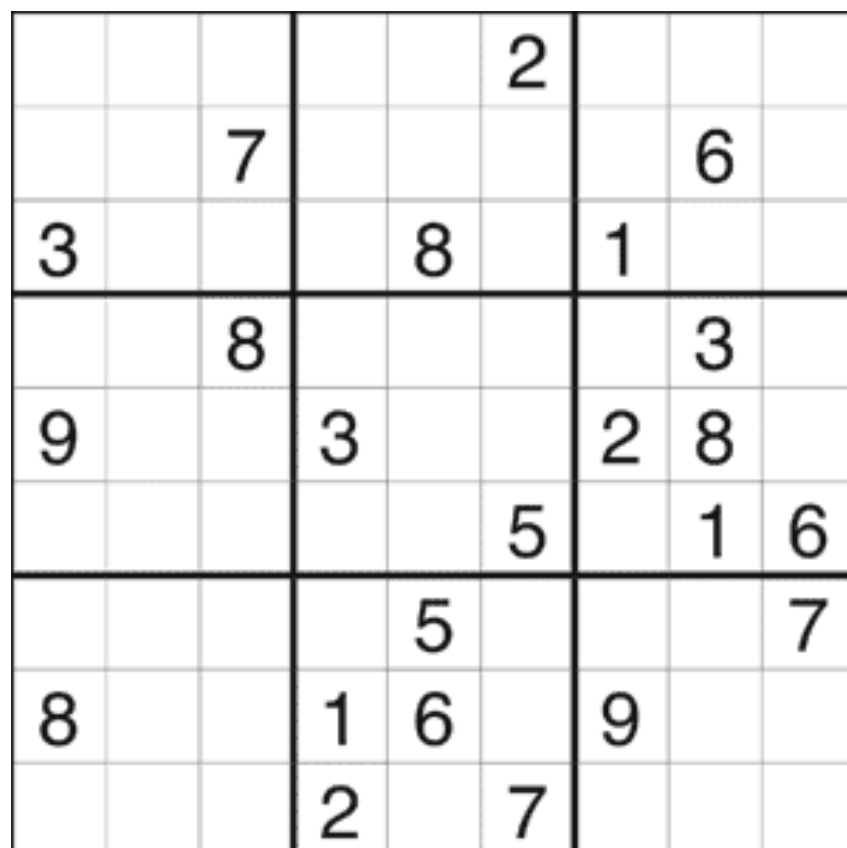
D N A T S S W E N F I R I S S N O I H S A F
 N A R T X E M O V I E S W N O T R P E C U B
 O L I S N H E E P L S E D I S T E I V U N S
 I T S E A E V D E I I T T E N E T T E L E N
 T E E N D S M T I V N A R I X C R T N T Y M
 P F O L V U T N E T L I C A R H O T T U T U
 I E H E E E O R I U O L O E O N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

puzzles.ca. Answer key located on A11

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



puzzles.ca. Answer key located on A11

Culture

Locally-based band Otis. shares insight into sophomore album 'Kill The Car'



Photo by Antyna Gould.

Rebekah Sands
Culture Editor

Local Maine indie rock band Otis. recently released their “Kill The Car” album to begin the new year as a tribute to pre-pandemic nostalgia, drawing up conversations of friends, beachy themes and vignettes of home. Otis. performed mid-March at the New England School of Communications featuring their new song “Miss My Friends” and others from their first album “Running Shoes”.

Otis. is composed of three members: Ian Goode, the lead singer and guitar player; Colby Koelsch as the drummer; and Matt Donovan as the bassist and supporting singer. Each member currently is or has played for multiple bands including Midnight Breakfast and Sullen Eyes.

Goode and Donovan are University of Maine alumni, all three members are currently living across the state of Maine. Through local UMaine connections, Otis. originated in November of 2018 through Goode’s search for a band to back his solo pieces, playing at “barn jams” where Koelsch and Donovan came together.

Thus far, Otis. has produced two albums, “not always right” featuring a seven-track windows-down summer angst in 2019 and in 2021, “Kill The Car” as a beachy, nostalgic collection of lighter, gritty pieces spanning 11 tracks.

Throughout both albums, external influences vary between members, each bringing in different backgrounds and filters to craft collaborative pieces in-studio. Influences include indie rock, classic rock, funk, jazz and generally early 2000s analog aspects.

“Each of us have very different influences, but we all enjoy each other’s [interests].

We each have a crucial part. Otis. could never exist without all three of us,” Goode said.

Functioning in the same way, the group’s lyrical process involves all three members, incorporating significant lines filtered through layers of interpretation, culminating in an inclusive, cohesive narrative.

Recently, Goode and Koelsch worked on a piece and are waiting for an opportunity to have Donovan preview and apply his artistic sense.

“We haven’t gotten the chance to run it through Donovan’s filter, so right now it sounds wrong. Each song has to get that, lyrically as well,” Goode said.

However, if a band member has a lyric that is particularly meaningful for them, the other two will opt to keep it and respect the significance it has for that person, regardless of how it may fit into the song. A lot of the time, significant lyrics shape their song development as a cornerstone piece, such as in the song, “Kill The Car.”

“[‘Kill The Car’] is a narrative story about how we all wrecked our cars within a month. Each verse of that song is one of our stories about one of our cars at that time, starting with mine and going to Koelsch’s,” Donovan said.

On their previous album, “Running Shoes” also stands out for the band. Written in the UMaine residence halls by Goode and Donovan, brought into their “jam barn” and knocked into place by Koelsch, the song functions as a culmination of each member’s creative process.

Additionally, “Worried,” one of the final tracks on the “Kill The Car” album, stands out for Goode, personally.

“I wrote that song when I was 15, recorded at 17 and then again with Otis. at 21. It was

on a solo album that I put out, [then] we reworked it and rewrote it for us [as a band] for the end of the album. It showcases 1) us making a song I never thought we could [in terms of sound], and 2) I love what [the band] did with it so much more than what I did on my own,” Goode said.

During their instrumental compositional process, the group draws from techniques of jazz exploration by hosting “long-jams” where members expand and contract sounds based on standout licks that appear throughout the session.

“[Every so often] you’d get one of those awesome moments when we would be playing on the same song for ten minutes, but then there’s one moment where everything clicks for a second and we all say ‘What was that?’ and ‘That was cool,’” Goode said.

Oppositely, the group tightens the loose ends of a long-form process by adding pressure, finding that a lot of their favorite songs began under the constraints of a deadline.

“A lot of those songs have stuck around and have been the core of a lot of what we have now. The creativity that was brought on by necessity forced us into such creativity that for the next two years, we [were able to develop] what happened in that first week,” Goode and Donovan said.

Specifically before their Woodman’s Bar and Grill gig in early 2019, they all sat down at Koelsch’s mom’s house and plunked out a number of songs before a four-hour performance where they knew they would not be able to fill the time with only covers by other artists.

Balancing each other out, Koelsch and Goode habitually “ride up” on deadlines and

perform well under pressure, while Donovan tends to work more in advance. One of the things the group recognized was how to work at a more steady pace by the end of 2020.

“Working on the album, there were a lot of us learning more and more how to work together and reach deadlines in a good way that wasn’t the total chaos of our first couple gigs,” Goode said.

Concerning the recording process of “Kill The Car”, the group scheduled time at Bangor’s Main Street Music Studios, where they met frequently before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Their recording progress was totally derailed for the next couple of months due to the pandemic and throughout the summer as their group moved out of their apartment and became physically separated in June.

“During those couple months when we were all separated and didn’t have any studio dates on the books or knew when we’d be able to go back... we didn’t really know where we stood as a band,” Koelsch said.

As schedules and life challenges normalized, the band began to regroup, however with challenges being long-distance, weeks passed without much visible progress. Little by little, Otis. began to return to the studio, working harder each session knowing meeting times were a precious commodity. To pick up their signature pressurized creative steam, the group needed to make a deadline for progress to continue on their 2021 album.

“We’ve done a lot to improve our process, just to accommodate for COVID-19. We’ve been finding ways to bounce tracks off each other remotely, and when we can use it, Donovan’s got a sweet

studio that we can all practice in,” Koelsch said.

During the recording process, Otis. rediscovered pieces and excerpts from shows and albums past such as “Kill The Car” and “Want To Be”

Most of the songs on “Kill The Car” started as completely different pieces or short, undiscovered excerpts which found their form during the last two months of studio time. The re-recorded songs “Want To Be” and “Miss My Friends” began as just a single riff.

“[Originally,] ‘Miss My Friends’ was just a [long-form] time waster when we didn’t have enough time in the set to make it work, or if we had a long show. We’d pull out the riff and play. ‘Kill The Car’ had been around since the very beginning, but didn’t [become] fully fledged until the last few months,” Donovan said.

Producing this album in the midst of COVID-19, the band got a chance to reflect upon previous shows and circumstances on which the songs were based through a bittersweet lens. “Kill The Car” approaches themes of nostalgia inclusive of friends and the comfort of a hometown reminiscing on fond memories.

“I grew up in a fishing town, so I wanted the sound of seagulls [in the opening track, ‘See You On The’], because I had so many good memories standing on the beach and thinking about stuff — hearing the gulls overhead,” Goode said.

Thematically, the group put special effort into the content and order of “Kill The Car” as opposed to their previous summer fun album. The two final tracks of the album exemplifies a careful placement of a question and answer form, “Worried” and “Kill The Car (Reprise),” playing with carefree themes.

“Comparing the two

albums, the date [they were released] correlates with the content of each album. With the first, [“not always right” album spins] a very young, summer heartbreak, coming of age thematic [palette, whereas] “Kill The Car” has an uplifting winter warmth,” Koelsch said.

Reception of “Kill The Car” has been a great experience for Otis., noting devout fans they’ve had the privilege of playing in the basement of college houses and those who keep coming back, telling the band that they love their work.

For Otis., it’s hard to fathom when certain songs hold a special meaning to listeners, but it’s certainly a high point after a release.

“I’ve had a lot of people come out and message me who I haven’t heard in years say that a certain song meant a lot to them personally. That was a really wild feeling, because those were people I hadn’t seen since high school,” Donovan said.

Otis. recently performed in the New England School of Communication’s Overdrive show virtual show, noting their success in quick changes and expressing gratitude for an opportunity to perform at a time when gigs seem stagnant. The group performed favorites “Miss My Friends” and “Running Shoes” among other tracks.

As for upcoming performances and publicity once the band regroups in the near future, the group would like to look more into streaming performances as well as signing to record labels or advancing their media presence overall.

To keep up to date with Otis., check out their linktree featuring their Facebook, Instagram and Spotify pages @otisbandme.

‘Women in Leadership and Social Justice’ talk contextualizes strides toward gender equity at UMaine

Abigail Martin
Contributor

University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy hosted “The Women in Leadership and Social Justice: The Importance of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion” talk on March 15 at 4 p.m. This talk was a part of Women’s History Month and focused on discussing women’s issues and the importance of diversity.

The talk featured three female panelists: Angela Okafor, a Bangor City Council member, attorney and business owner; Leigh Saufley, the dean of the UMaine School of Law and a former chief justice of the Maine Su-

preme Judicial Court and Shontay Delaloe, the vice president for institutional equality and diversity at Brown University.

The panelists spoke about inclusion and diversity in a professional setting, also touching on what inclusion and diversity means to them on a more personal basis. The panelists spoke of their own personal experiences and perspectives regarding social justice and equity in society.

In addition to leading the discussion of equity and social justice, President Ferrini-Mundy was able to provide insight from a more educational context as both the UMaine and UMaine Machi-

as president.

Saufley graduated from law school in 1980. “The number of women in law was about equal to the number of men,” she explained, saying how incredible this statistic was, as it was the first time that she had heard of these numbers being equal.

Saufley also works for the University of Maine System. Saufley’s main focus in the talk was advocating for equal access to education. Saufley also noted that despite some demographic shifts for the better concerning women’s involvement in higher education, cost remains a “frequent barrier,” citing her experience in

law school during the 1980s.

She recommends the educational system provide a larger, more varied pool of scholarships for education than what is already available to help mitigate this barrier.

“There hasn’t been investment in this regard,” Saufley said. She noted this type of investment would make a huge positive impact and would therefore be worthwhile for the future of our country, but finding the money to implement systematic change can often be a challenge.

“There has to be access assistance... [and that allocating resources for education]

is something we [UMaine] can be intentional about,” Ferrini-Mundy said, in response to Saufley.

In a similar light to Saufley, Delaloe explained how a longer discussion is necessary in order to really address financial barriers, but understood that a substantial shift in resources will be required to fulfill a meaningful discussion to further progress.

Delaloe then spoke of the difference between equality and equity as advice to students and young adults. First, she emphasized how important it is to find allies with patience and respect.

“[One] undoes

one-hundreds of years of an unhealthy and unfair system,” Delaloe said.

Okafor explained that we need to be inclusive in relation to one another and that purpose is an important aspect of diversity and inclusion. Noting the important role of empathy in cultural awareness, she explained how only when we enter conversations with openness about vulnerability and about our system, then we will be productive.

“We all have limits to our own knowledge [so it is important that] diversity [be] an access point,” Okafor said.

‘Penguin Bloom:’ New Netflix drama based on a true story will pull at your heartstrings

Meaghan Bellavance
Contributor

5/5 Stars

Among many different genres of newly released movies, Netflix’s “Penguin Bloom” was far from disappointing and gave a lasting outlook on life. Based on a true story from the book of the same name, this film gives viewers a look into how, even though life may not always go as planned, there is always happiness and forgiveness to be found throughout.

“Penguin Bloom” was released on Jan. 15. This film has a run time of 1 hour and 35 minutes and is the perfect heartfelt movie to curl up to in your free time — just make sure you have tissues available by your side.

Starring Oscar nominee Naomi Watts as Sam Bloom, the cast of “Penguin Bloom” is charismatic and compelling. Supporting

actors include Andrew Lincoln as Cameron Bloom, Jacki Weaver as Jan, Griffin Murray-Johnston as Noah Bloom and Rachel House as Gaye Hatfield. Watts is well-known for her roles in “Mulholland Drive,” “The Impossible,” “King Kong” and “The Ring.”

This film was directed by Glendyn Ivin and produced by Watts, Bruna Papandrea, Emma Cooper, Jodi Matterson and Steve Hutensky. The screenplay was written by Harry Cripps, Shaun Grant and Cameron Bloom, with the music composed by Marcelo Zarvos.

Based on the true story written by Cameron Bloom, the film follows the tragic event the Bloom family encountered on their vacation in Thailand. One of the three Bloom sons, Noah Bloom, blames himself for his mother, Sam Bloom’s, accident when a roof



Photo via indianexpress.com.

railing broke and she fell and broke her back, paralyzing her from the waist down. A year after the accident, he finds an injured magpie and brings her home. The family decides to name the magpie Penguin and cares for her, although Sam Bloom does not appear interested in Penguin at first. As time goes on, Penguin begins to grow on her, and the two become

nearly inseparable as life becomes more tolerable. After many hard months that take a toll on the Bloom family, things begin to finally get better.

“Penguin Bloom” is a tear-jerker, showing the effects a freak accident can have on a family, as well as how a bond with an animal can help mend a person. Sam Bloom’s difficult recovery and new perspective on life is a

reality for many people around the world, and this film is a reminder that even at one’s lowest point, it can always get better and happiness can be found again. Family and love are what is most important.

Today, Sam Bloom has defied the odds despite her injury. She has competed in the World Kayaking Championships and is a two-time World Adap-

tive Surfing Champion. Penguin has found her way in the wild and is no longer in need of care, but will always be a part of the Bloom family.

If you are looking for the perfect heartfelt, inspiring and emotional film to watch, don’t let “Penguin Bloom” slip through the cracks. This film is well worth the watch and will stick with you long after watching it.

Grab some breakfast and flip on Apple TV’s ‘The Morning Show’ before your Zoom morning commute

Abigail Martin
Contributor

3/5 Stars

If you regularly enjoy waking up and tuning-in, but are sick of the doom and gloom of pandemic news, Apple TV’s “The Morning Show” might be for you. “The Morning Show” is a wake-up America type show in New York City centered around the lives of the people who are the cast and production members of a big-time production.

Co-produced by Jay Carson and Kerry Ehrin through Apple TV, the show was filmed solely in Los Angeles, California, and released in 2019.

Throughout the first season, the characters become both relatable and dislikeable as they face hardships and drama while attempting to keep their television news program afloat. The show may be considered controversial given that the show highlights a character who is suspected of sexual assault, how-

ever, many characters are relatable and enjoyable, such as Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon, who exemplify female power in the workplace.

The first season of the show earned a number of nominations and was the first Apple TV show to be nominated for a Grammy. “The Morning Show” was nominated for outstanding main title design and a Golden Globe for best television series in 2020. Aniston, starring as Alex Levy, won the

Screen Actors’ Guild Award for outstanding performance by a female in a drama series. Additionally, she and co-star Witherspoon were nominated for Golden Globes in 2020. Martin Short earned the show a nomination for a primetime creative arts Emmy Award for outstanding guest actor in a drama series. Billy Crudup also won two awards for the show.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ehrin said a week after the first release date

during an interview with Variety, “We’re writing the show now. We’ll film it this summer, and we’ll be on next November.” However, given the unpredictability of these times, the show has been amidst season two production for almost a year.

If all goes as planned, the show will be ready for the season two release in October of 2021. Season two will feature all of the actors and actresses from season one, as there’s a lot of un-

resolved tension from the end of the first season.

Given that it was produced by Apple TV, the platform is the only place that has “The Morning Show” available for streaming. With 10 episodes so far, “The Morning Show” is easy to binge, so for all those looking for a weekend activity, gather the family or friends and stream “The Morning Show.”

Zillman Art Museum showcases a variety of art mediums by featured artists during its winter through summer exhibition



Photos by Olivia Schanck.

Meaghan Bellavance Contributor

From Jan. 21 to Aug. 7, the Zillman Art Museum (ZAM) in Bangor is showcasing a wide variety of art media from photographs to oil paintings and etchings. Featured artists in the exhibition include Amy Stein, Thomas Cornell, Gene A. Felice and Kimathi Moore, as well as selections from the museum collection. With a range of different art styles on display, there are pieces for everyone to enjoy in this show.

Stein's artwork consists of photographs that bring awareness to current environmental concerns. Themes in her art include simple settings in the open outdoors or a friendly suburb, which are actually barriers between what is human and nature, and not in a positive way.

"The 'Domesticated: Amy Stein' exhibition sheds light on

environmental issues, particularly the destruction of animal habitat as a result of encroachment to build houses and commercial uses," George Kinghorn, ZAM's director and curator, said. "At first glance, Stein's photographs may trick the viewer, but things are not as they seem. The animals in each of the images may look a bit threatening, but they are all taxidermy. Stein has employed these taxidermy animals, to create these thought-provoking narratives in her photographs."

Stein is based in Los Angeles, and many of her pieces are based on real stories that took place around Matamoras, Pennsylvania from 2005 to 2008.

Cornell's work includes oil paints, etchings, drawings and more. Many of his works are inspired by mythology, with a special interest in the Greek god Dio-

nysus.

"The 'Thomas Cornell: A Vision Accomplished' exhibition is a must-see for art students," Kinghorn said. "Cornell was such a skilled artist who created paintings that had bold, expressive brushstrokes and also created prints that were incredibly detailed and realistically rendered, as seen in his Michelangelo portrait. It's wonderful for students to see an artist who was confident in working in a variety of media and to view the artist's absolute commitment to his subjects."

Cornell was an art professor at Bowdoin College and spent many of his years in Maine. His pieces on exhibition at ZAM spans his vast practice across 48 years.

Felice and Moore took a different approach to their art at ZAM as opposed to traditional mediums. "Living Windows" is an

immersive media installation, consisting of 3D-printed sculptures, video projection mapping and immersive sound design all enclosed in a dark room to create an experience that appeals to all your senses. This installation explores the forms and functions of micro and macro algae to inspire the form of digital storytelling. Following through the depths of aquatic ecosystems in California, Maine and North Carolina, viewers can expect to explore rivers and watersheds over time as they flow into the Earth's oceans.

One final exhibit that can be found among the diverse artwork at ZAM is the "Pop Art and Influence" showcase that features selections from the museum's collection. Early pop art figures such as Richard Hamilton, Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein are featured in this gallery, along with works from

newer artists such as Alisa Henriquez, Hannah Cole and Jim Darling.

All of these pieces continue to inspire public viewers, as ZAM has been successful in continuing its exhibition throughout the pandemic.

"Museums, like other cultural organizations, have encountered challenges during the pandemic, but I'm pleased that we've been able to continue to curate quality exhibitions for our citizens," Kinghorn said. "The museum has successfully implemented safety guidelines and visitors have enjoyed touring the galleries, even with the reduced numbers that are required. The primary challenge has been a few delays in our exhibition schedule [although] our featured artists have been flexible and a delight to work with."

In addition to staying open to the public

amidst the pandemic, the ZAM has exciting news regarding overall growth and exhibition expansion.

"The Zillman Art Museum is embarking on an exciting period of growth," Kinghorn said. "Construction has recently begun on five new galleries on the second floor of the 40 Harlow Street building. When ZAM's expansion is complete, the Museum will increase its public gallery spaces by 42%."

Currently, ZAM is now open to the public by reservation as strict guidelines for the pandemic have lessened. Visiting hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information regarding ZAM's galleries, artists and events, visit <https://zam.umaine.edu/>, or view their Facebook at @ZAMatUMaine and Instagram at @zillmanartmuseum.

National Holidays: March 22 through 26

Rebekah Sands Culture Editor

Monday: World Water Day

Created in 1993, we kick off our week of holidays with World Water Day, not only created to spread awareness of those who do not have access to clean, plentiful water, but to value water as having an impact on our local culture. What does water mean to you? To celebrate World Water Day, visit worldwaterday.org to learn more about global water concerns and topics. For a local focus, learn more about where your tap or well water comes from. What freshwater sources do you utilize

and how might you stay aware of your own water footprint?

Tuesday: World Meteorological Day

Just like it sounds, World Meteorological Day celebrates both the practice and those who study weather events to help predict, prepare and mitigate unusual and natural disaster situations. On March 23, 1950, the World Meteorological Organization was founded, creating a unified, international basis of weather research and reporting. First and foremost, to celebrate World Meteorological Day, be sure to check the weather this week — it's looking up and finally into

the high 50s! Second, tune into familiar weather channels such as WABI TV5 and News Center Maine and support local news.

Wednesday: National Equal Pay Day

According to 2018 data from the United States Census Bureau, women earn 81.6 cents to every dollar earned by men, a figure that has remained stagnant two years later as observed in Payscale's more recent 2020 data of 81 cents per dollar. To celebrate National Equal Pay Day, transparency is key. Share your story with friends or by a timely post on social media to spread awareness. Within your sphere, you could even

strike up what might be an uncomfortable conversation and discover where you stand in relation to those working alongside you.

Thursday: International Waffle Day

Whether you like indulgent, fluffy Belgian waffles or simply cannot "L' Eggo my Eggo," celebrate International Waffle Day on March 25 by waking up early and enjoying a sweet treat. There is a great variety of waffle toppings and textures around the world, including the cookie-like stroopwafel from Amsterdam with its sweet toppings, pizzelles from Italy which have a wafer texture and are topped with pow-

dered sugar and Belgian waffles, similar to American waffles in their fluffy texture. To celebrate International Waffle Day, sample toppings and textures from around the world or even more simply, shop local and celebrate in the American-style by adding fresh fruits and maple syrup from some freshly-tapped trees.

Friday: National Spinach Day

To counteract the sweetness of International Waffle Day, lighten up your palette with a nutrient-packed punch. Not only is spinach rich in iron, but it's also a substantial supplement of vitamin C and K, folic

acid and calcium. Celebrate today by making your favorite recipes that incorporate spinach such as spinach-stuffed chicken, a cheesy, baked spinach casserole or a spring-time fresh spinach salad with apple, pecan, feta and a maple cider vinaigrette.

All holidays were found on NationalDayCalendar.com and NationalToday.com. Be sure to keep up to date with our regularly featured holidays featured both on our Instagram @themainecampus and website.

Five well-loved Italian recipes to try at home

Gustav Anderson
Contributor

It has been quite a long year. No doubt at this point you have exhausted your pantry, reducing it to nothing but sad slices of white bread, cans of patty pinto beans and a few trusty packets of chili ramen. Perhaps the odd jar of half-eaten peanut butter lurks in the far corner, but this is neither here nor there. While you may have begun the year overflowing with culinary ideas, your inner Gordon Ramsey has surely gone into deep hibernation. As midterms have finally come to pass, not many have the time for such kitchen foolery these days.

However, take a moment and picture yourself far away from Orono and rest your sights on Torino, Italy. It is in this very city that I discovered amazing food and drink while abroad in the spring of 2020. Brush the cobwebs from the cooking lobe of your brain and follow along as I give you five Italian recipes to recreate right here in Maine.

Bruschetta

I do not care what your local Olive Garden server might say, it is pronounced “brook-keh-tuh” not “broo-shet-ah.” An extremely simple snack that will impress not only your friends but maybe even your significant other’s mother, this appetizer is always a hit. The best part? Left-

over ingredients can easily be used another day to whip together a convenient lunch. Here is my personal spin on the classic bruschetta which I made several times while abroad.

Ingredients:

- 1 baguette
- Goat cheese or brie
- Prosciutto
- Cherry tomatoes
- Olive oil
- Black pepper

Directions:

Heat the oven to 350 F.

Slice the baguette widthwise into pieces about an inch thick.

Slice the cheese and tomatoes into thin disks.

Place the bread slices into the oven and toast for three minutes on one side, then flip and repeat.

Take the bread out and drizzle olive oil onto each slice.

Place the cheese and tomato slices onto the bread slices.

Pepper each slice according to taste.

Top each slice with a piece of prosciutto.

Aperol Spritz

Bruschetta is the perfect appetizer. However, every proper appetizer needs a drink to complement it. For those of you age 21 and over, I have a recipe just for you. In northern Italy, the aperol spritz is enjoyed in cafes and restaurants everywhere during a time known as “aperitivo,” which occurs in the evening before dinner from about 6 to 8 p.m. Think of it as a sort of “happy hour” except longer and in-

volving much more food. It is the perfect time for friends to meet up after a long workday to stimulate their appetites with simple food and light cocktails. The aperol spritz is the most famous of these aperitivo cocktails. The staple ingredient, aperol, is a bitter, reddish liquor with hints of orange and rhubarb flavor.

Ingredients:

- 3 ounces of prosecco
- 2 ounces of aperol
- 1 ounce of club soda
- Orange slice
- Ice

Directions:

Fill a stemmed wine glass with ice.

Add the prosecco and aperol.

Top off with club soda.

Give the ingredients a brief stir.

Garnish with an orange slice and straw.

(Recipe from Liquor.com.)

Cacio e Pepe

Up next is a straightforward dish packed with flavor. Making an appearance on nearly every menu in Italy, cacio e pepe is almost like a refined Italian mac and cheese for adults. So, instead of making a bowl of suspiciously yellow Velveeta, consider whipping together this delightful recipe. Simply proclaiming the name alone makes you sound like an Italian chef when in all honesty, it’s just pasta with pepper and cheese. I mean, come on. The name literally trans-

lates to “cheese and pepper.” You can find this recipe and more on gimmesomeoven.com.

Ingredients (2 servings):

- 6 ounces of thick pasta (spaghetti, fettuccine or linguine)
- 2 teaspoons of cracked black pepper
- 3 tablespoons of butter
- 2 cloves of minced garlic
- 2 ounces of shredded pecorino or Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese
- Salt

Directions:

Bring a pot of heavily salted water to a boil, then cook the pasta for about 8 minutes.

If you are smart and did not already buy sacrilegious pre-shredded cheese, grate the pecorino or Parmigiano-Reggiano.

Strain the pasta, making sure to save about a cup of the pasta water.

Place the pasta back into the pot. Make sure the pot is off of the hot burner.

Add half the pasta water, all the butter and all the minced garlic to the pasta and mix.

Add the cheese and pepper and continue mixing. Add more pasta water as needed to make sure the cheese and butter melt evenly.

Serve onto a plate and garnish with more cheese.

(Recipe from Gimmesomeoven.com.)

Bicerin

We have explored

appetizers, drinks and main courses. What is missing, you ask? Why, dessert, of course. Native to and almost exclusively found in Torino, bicerin has major cultural significance to the city. I had the great pleasure of visiting the birthplace of bicerin, the Caffe al Bicerin, during my semester abroad. Mostly composed of espresso and hot chocolate, Bicerin is the perfect silky and rich cure to a cold Orono evening. While an authentic recreation is impossible since Caffe al Bicerin keeps its recipe a secret, the following is a very modest attempt at one found on linsfood.com.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup whole milk
- 2 ounces of dark chocolate
- 1 tablespoon of white sugar
- 1 tablespoon of unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon of cornstarch
- 2 shots of espresso
- Whipped cream

Directions:

First, you need to make a proper hot chocolate. Mix 2 tablespoons of milk with the cornstarch, so it turns into a paste. Set aside.

Pour the rest of the milk into a saucepan over low heat.

Once the milk is warm, add the dark chocolate and whisk to melt the chocolate.

Add in the sugar and cocoa powder slowly while continuously whisking the mixture.

Pour in the cornstarch mixture and

continue to whisk. Once it is mixed thoroughly, remove the hot chocolate from the heat.

Pour the espresso into a glass, then fill it 3/4 full with the Italian hot chocolate.

Top it all off with a thick layer of whipped cream.

(Recipe from linsfood.com.)

Pasta al Dente

As a hearty entree to a four-course meal, look no further for traditional Italian cuisine than this. Dating back to the Renaissance, this dish first began in Michelangelo’s second uncle’s step-sister’s kitchen. Make this recipe if you want to treat yourself or others to the zeitgeist of Italian culture.

Ingredients:

- Pasta (any kind)
- Water (tap, bottled, boxed, etc.)

Directions:

Bring a pot of water to a boil

Place the pasta in the boiling water

Cook the pasta as you normally would, except this time, take it out 2-3 minutes earlier than usual

Test the pasta. If it is slightly firm and chewy, congratulations, you have your meal.

Please spice up your cooking life just a tad and give each of these recipes a shot. Visit liquor.com, linsfood.com and gimmesomeoven.com for even more delicious ideas.



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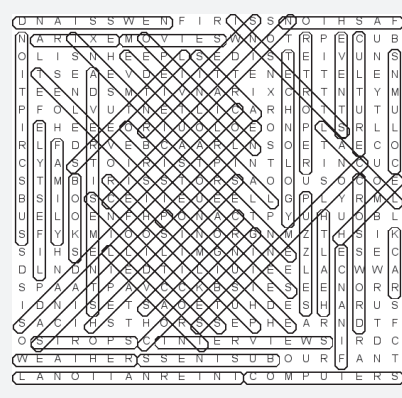
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Crossword

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Sudoku



Word Search

Sports

UMaine baseball off to a strong start in the 2021 season



Graphic by David Jackacky.

Patrick Silvia
Contributor

In a unique season that does not foresee the University of Maine's baseball team traveling outside of the Northeast, the Black Bears are off to a strong start. Last year before the season was shut down due to the pandemic, the Maine baseball team was a miserable 1-12. Now a year later, the Black Bears appear to be a more competitive group.

Maine's opening weekend premiered in North Andover, Massachusetts at Merrimack College for a four game series with two double headers on March 6 and 7. Maine went on to win three of those four games, and outscored Merrimack 27-17 over the course of the four games. The first two games saw great pitching performances for Maine.

Third-year pitcher Nicholas Sinacola had 11 strikeouts and only let up one run in the opening game of the season for the Black Bears, en route to a 9-2 victory. The second game, which happened on the same day, saw

first-year pitcher Noah Lewis follow in Sinacola's footsteps. Lewis only let up one run in six innings of play with five strikeouts. Fifth-year pitcher Matthew Pushard would relieve Lewis and strikeout three of the four batters he would face to seal the 4-1 victory for Maine.

The third game, and first of the day two of games, saw the Maine offense struggle to build momentum. The Black Bears totaled six hits, but none came within the same inning, and Maine was shutout by a Merrimack team that benefitted early in the first inning from a bases loaded walk, and an error that put Merrimack up 2-0 early. A three-run sixth inning, which saw the lone home run of the game, put Merrimack up 5-0. Despite Maine having one more hit than Merrimack, they lost 5-0.

The fourth and final game of the opening series saw a dramatic comeback for the Black Bears. Going into the final inning of the game, Maine was down 9-6 to Merrimack. The ninth started out with Maine get-

ting two runners on base with their first two batters. This was followed by second-year infielder Connor Goodman singling to right center and driving in a run to drop the Merrimack lead to two. With two men on base and one out, first-year infielder Jake Rainess hit a bomb to left field that left the park and put Maine up 10-9. Maine would go on to put up four more runs in the ninth inning, followed by fifth-year pitcher Dillon Stimpson striking out the side in the ninth inning to seal the 14-9 win for Maine.

Leaving the opening weekend with a record of 3-1 was a good start, but their next game would be their toughest test of the season. On Tuesday, March 9, Maine traveled to Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts to take on the nationally-ranked Boston College Eagles. Maine got off to a great start with a solo home run by first-year infielder Quinn McDaniel in the top of the first inning, but Boston College would respond with a solo home run of their own in the bottom of the first. Boston Col-

lege and Maine traded runs with each other throughout the game until the seventh inning, where Boston College pulled away. With the game tied 5-5 in the bottom of the seventh, Boston College hit back-to-back home runs that allowed them to take an 8-5 lead. This was followed by another home run in the eighth that extended their lead and culminated in a final score of 10-5. A good effort by Maine, but the Boston College offense proved to be too much to handle for the Black Bears.

The Black Bears then traveled to West Hartford, Connecticut to take on Wagner College in a three-game series with a double header on March 13, and a single game on March 14. In the first game of the series, Sinacola threw a gem of a game. Throughout seven innings of pitching, he struck out 12 batters and only surrendered one run, and advanced his personal record to 2-0 on the season. He has only let up two runs against in 12.2 innings pitched, and has an astonishing 23 strikeouts in his

two starts. The Black Bears scored five runs, all coming in the sixth inning. Rainess's grand slam proved to be the difference in the game, and the score ended with a 5-1 win for UMaine.

The second game saw Wagner College pick up a 6-2 victory over Maine. Maine out hit Wagner, but they had trouble stringing together hits for runs. Wagner College scored two runs in the first inning, and three in the eighth. These two surges by Wagner proved to be the difference.

In the third game, Maine's offense heated up, and they put up double digit runs for the second time this season. Rainess again would do damage and hit a three-run home run to give Maine a 3-1 lead in the fourth inning. Fourth-year infielder Sean Lawlor hit a double that drove in three runs in the same inning, and Maine went from trailing 1-0 to up 6-1. Maine would add another run in the sixth, and then exploded again for five runs in the eighth to extend their lead to 12-1. Wagner scored two

runs in the bottom of the ninth but it wasn't enough to take the lead, and Maine won the game 12-3.

The performances this weekend by Sinacola and Rainess were good enough for them to pick up weekly awards. Sinacola took home America East Pitcher of the week, and Rainess was awarded America East Rookie of the week.

Maine's next series was scheduled to be at Stony Brook for games on March 20 and 21, but it was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns within the Stony Brook team. The Black Bears' next series will be their home opener on March 27 and 28. They will take on the University of Maryland Baltimore County on the Black Bears' home turf in Orono. The Black Bears will look to build on their strong start against an undefeated UMBC team that has scored 13 or more runs in all five of their games thus far, but with the performances we have seen already, there is hope for a triumphant performance on the home turf.

This week in sports history: No. 16 seed UMBC beat No. 1 seed Virginia

Brian Sundstrom
Contributor

During March Madness each year, millions of people fill out brackets trying to pick the perfect scenario. One thing people never do is pick a No. 16 seed to beat a No. 1 seed on opening weekend because it simply never happened — until University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) pulled the miracle upset. This extremely rare upset may not be seen again for decades, if ever. For sports fans, this is one of the most exciting times of the year, with

basketball and hockey in full swing and baseball starting soon. The tournament is one of the most highly anticipated annual events.

The most recent playoff memory for the Virginia Cavaliers men's basketball team is from 2019 when they went from "worst to first" and beat Texas Tech in the NCAA championship game, winning the tournament. How did they go from worst to first? Well, in the 2018 tournament, they shocked the world and busted millions of brackets when they choked in

the round of 64.

The team who came out of the America East, the conference Maine plays in, was UMBC who played the game of their lives versus the best defense in the nation.

The Retrievers from UMBC caught the Cavaliers sleeping right from the jump and they did not take their foot off the gas for a second because they knew what type of talent was on the other side. Not only did they pull off the upset, but they also dominated this game from start to finish, winning by 20 points and fin-

ishing the game with a score of 74-54. It's one of those moments in sports that leaves the viewers at home speechless, especially if you're a Virginia fan or you had picked them to win the entire tournament. One of the reasons sports fans are glued to games is the unpredictability, that games are not won "on paper." Wins are achieved on the court in a display of meritocracy which often rewards effort and mental toughness.

While the Retrievers had big performances from everyone who stepped foot out on the

court that evening, the star was guard Jaius Lyles. He was known as their best scorer and overall player beforehand, but this game cemented his legacy in the history books forever. If it was not for this game, who knows if Lyles would have a professional basketball career, as he has bounced around teams overseas as well as playing in the NBA G-League. The game showed that it can be a realistic dream to think that one night can change a player's life. UMBC is a small school and being noticed there is about

as difficult as it gets.

The NCAA tournament kicks off this weekend following a one-year absence due to the pandemic. Fans will not be in attendance and the teams will be playing within a bubble, much like the NBA and NHL have done previously. With no fans, it is hard to say whether there will be more or fewer upsets than usual. One thing is for sure and that is no one will be expecting a No. 16 seed to knock off a No. 1 seed, but you never know, and in a nod to UMBC, anything could happen.

UMaine softball season finally begins with weekend series against Merrimack and Sacred Heart



Graphic by David Jackacky.

Patrick Silvia Contributor

Last year, the University of Maine softball season was shut down within the first two weeks of opening day due to the pandemic. On March 1, 2020 the Maine softball team ended up playing their last game of the 2020 season. Now, over a year later the team gets to step back onto the diamond to play ball.

Their first series of the season was set to take place in West Point, New York against Army University on March 6 and 7, but sadly that series was canceled. Maine's opening day was pushed back and the wait for softball would last another week. Shortly after the weekend that would have been the opening week of their season, it was announced that Maine would travel to Ando-

ver, Massachusetts to take on Merrimack College on Saturday, March 13 for a double header.

The first game of the double header saw the UMaine team shutout, and the Black Bears were limited to only one hit in the game. The lone hit for Maine was a single from third-year utility player Keely Clark in the top of the third inning. Clark got on base later in the game when she was walked by Merrimack fourth-year pitcher Bry Michitson. Michitson played a complete game, struck out eight batters and did not let another player on base besides Clark the whole game. Merrimack picked up the 3-0 win on the back of Michitson's spectacular outing. Fourth-year utility player Abigail Amato would hit a solo homerun in the third inning for Merrimack for the lone homerun of

the game.

The second game of the double header saw the same result with Merrimack winning 3-2, but Maine was able to demonstrate its offensive skills. Maine's first run of the season came in the fourth inning off the bat of Caitlyn Fallon. The second-year pitcher from Warwick, Rhode Island would single up the middle and drive in fourth-year center-fielder Shanna Scribner to cut Merrimack's lead to 2-1. Merrimack would extend their lead to 3-1 in the sixth inning due to a defensive error by Maine. Maine's second run of the season came in the final inning of the game when third-year player Brianna Neely scored on an error by Merrimack.

The next day Maine traveled to Fairfield, Connecticut to take on Sacred Heart University where they would

compete in another double header that resulted in two higher scoring affairs. In the first game of the day, Maine picked up their first victory of the season on the back of third-year shortstop Kelby Drews' four run-batted-in (RBI) performance. Maine heated up in the third inning when Fallon and Drews hit back-to-back home runs to give Maine a 3-2 lead. Drews would then hit a two-run home run in the fifth to extend Maine's lead to 5-2. Scribner would get involved in the scoring, driving in a two-run triple shortly after Drews' second home run to make the lead 7-2. Drews would get her fourth RBI in the seventh and final inning on a double to center-field to make the final score 8-2. Fourth-year pitcher Kyleigh O'Donnell picked up the win while pitching a complete game with seven

strikeouts and only allowing one hit.

The final game of the weekend saw the script of the first game flipped. Sacred Heart jumped out to a 6-0 lead after the fifth inning and looked as though they had the game completely in control. Maine refused to go down without a fight. An explosive sixth inning saw fourth-year catcher Makayla Livingston hit a two-run homer to cut Sacred Heart's lead to 6-2. Using momentum from Livingstons home run, the Black Bears were able to get two runners in scoring position with their next two batters. Fourth-year right fielder Maddie Kimble hit a single, followed by third-year infielder Amanda MacBurnie hitting a double that advanced Kimble to third base. Third-year outfielder Emma Larke would come up to the plate and hit

both in with a single. This cut the lead down by two more, making the score 6-4. Sacred Heart would respond to Maine's offense with offense of their own. They would also have a four-run sixth inning. The nail in the coffin for Maine came on a three-run home run by third-year catcher Alyssa Gonzalez of Sacred Heart. Gonzalez's home run increased their lead to 10-4, which would end up being the final score.

After the first weekend of play, Maine's record stands at 1-3. Maine's next games will be played on the road against Fordham University. They will play three games versus Fordham on the weekend of March 20-21. Maine's first home series will not come until April when they take on the University of Hartford on April 10-11.

Maine football rebounds from rocky start with narrow win over Albany

Brian Sundstrom Contributor

With only six games in the spring season, the University of Maine Black Bears cannot afford to waste any time finding a rhythm and gaining momentum. Assuming the team stays on the field and does not have issues with COVID-19, they are poised to be a playoff contender by the season's end. The Black Bears did not come out of the gates hot, but they were able to rebound in week two, giving hope for faithful Black Bear fans.

It is safe to say that the program got off to

their worst start in history when Delaware returned the opening kickoff for an 87-yard touchdown. That is not the way any squad wants to open up the season, especially after having to wait so long to kick things off. After the rough start, Maine could not get anything going on offense, as they continued to punt throughout the first half. A 21-yard score for Delaware put them up 17-0 with just a few minutes before the break, and went into halftime with that hefty lead.

The game certainly was not over as the Black Bears took the field for a second half

filled with action, although things didn't turn in favor of UMaine. While Maine's defense struggled at times, the offense's inability to put up points prevented them from staying in the game. Delaware racked up a total of 224 rushing yards on the afternoon. Meanwhile, Maine's second-year quarterback Joe Fagnano managed to throw for 61 total yards on 23 passing attempts. Maine ended up falling by a final of 37-0, a game fans hoped to forget and move on from.

The second game of the shortened season took place against nationally-ranked

Albany. During this game, the Black Bears came out and played with far more purpose and emotion. The first quarter was defined by solid defense from both sides, and Albany led 3-0 after 15 minutes. Fagnano led the offense down the field early in the second quarter and got the team on the board with a rushing touchdown, cutting the deficit to a field goal. On their next possession, the offense continued to roll, as they scored another touchdown via a pass to third-year wide receiver Jacob Hennie, giving Maine their first lead of the season. Maine maintained the

lead at the half, leading with a score of 17-13.

This game seemed destined to come down to the very last second. The teams were evenly matched, and both played well on offense for the majority of the game. Fagnano and fourth-year wide receiver Andre Miller carried the offense and led the story of the second half. Rushing yards were just about even between the two teams but the passing attack of Maine helped separate the team and they continuously put points on the board. Fagnano had about 250 pass yards and added four touchdown passes, three of which

were caught by Miller, who finished with eight catches for 144 yards. This tandem put the Black Bears on top late in the fourth with a 10-yard score. The two teams broke even in the second half and Fagnano was able to seal the deal with a 4-yard rush on third down. Maine came away with a victory, winning 38-34. Maine showed an ability to focus after a poor initial outing and now has momentum behind them as they look toward next week's matchup with Stony Brook.