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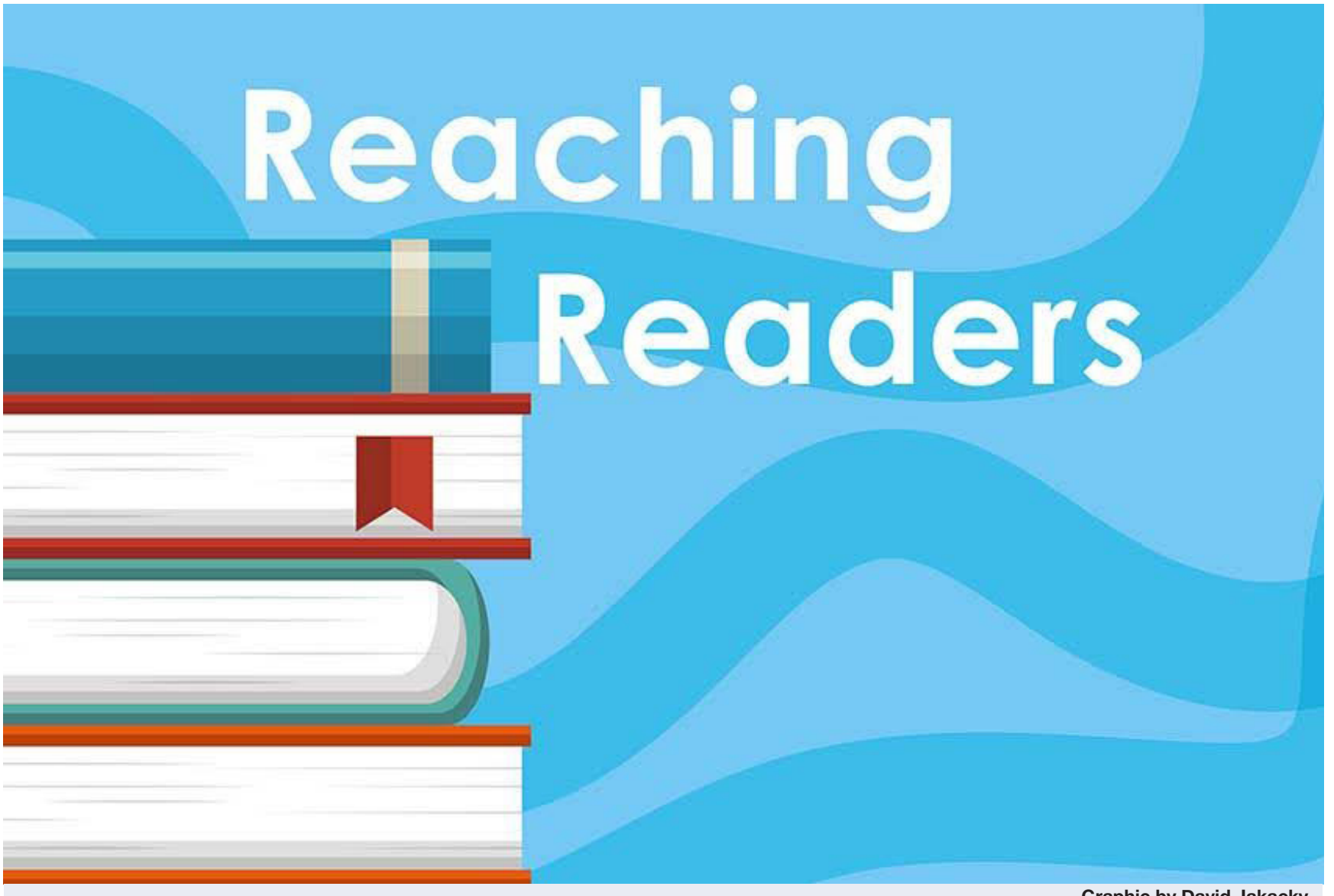
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McGillicuddy Humanities Center hosts Reaching Readers



Graphic by David Jakacky.

Megan Ashe
Contributor

On Dec. 2 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., the McGillicuddy Humanities Center (MHC) held their final public event of the year called Reaching Readers. This was a hybrid event with attendees in-person and on Zoom. Mike Socolow, the director of the MHC, introduced the event. He thanked the panelists for their willingness to present their work and also extended thanks to the center's humanities specialist Karen Sieber. Sieber's last day of working with the MHC was Dec. 2, and during her two years at the center she has put in a lot of work connecting the public to the humanities.

This event showcased three separate panelists. Margo Lukens is a UMaine professor in English with a special interest in Native American literature. In the past, she was the director of the MHC. She co-authored a book titled "Still They Remember Me' Penobscot Transformer Tales, Volume 1." Amy Fried is a political science professor at UMaine and she co-authored a book called "At War with Government: How Conservative Weaponized Distrust from Goldwater to Trump." Lastly, he

introduced Sociology Professor Kyriacos Markides who wrote "The Accidental Immigrant: A Quest for Spirit in a Skeptical Age."

Fried presented her book first. Each author was asked to describe what sources they used and what audience they were intending to write to. The driving point in Fried's book was that political distrust has been steadily increasing over the last 50 years. She published this book with Doug Harris, a political science professor at Loyola University. The book was published under Columbia Press. Fried feels that political distrust is a tool used by conservatives to do one or more of the following: build organizations, provide messages to wage election campaigns, reshape institutional power and to wager in policy battles (especially those surrounding health-care). There has been a shift from public skepticism about government, which can be healthy, to delegitimizing the government entirely, which is harmful. Events like the Jan 6, 2021 insurrection on the U.S. Capitol shows how much these ideas have seeped into our society and some possible outcomes that stem from government distrust.

Fried used many sources to make this book, including statistics, stories from contemporary news media, scholarly articles, public statements and archival research. She and her co-author crafted this book as a narrative to make it more accessible to readers who don't often read scholarly writing. Columbia Press dubbed it an "academic trade book," meaning that it is one of ten of these types of easier-to-digest books on scholarly topics the press published every year. Fried presented her book via Zoom from New York.

Lukens presented her co-authored book next. She said this book was a result of friendships she made over the years with members of the Penobscot Nation. One of her friends and co-authors, Carol Dana, is a Penobscot Nation Language Carrier and she hopes to teach others the Penobscot language. A big focus of this text was to pay attention to language reformation and language revitalization. They had a linguist, Connor M. Quinn, who specializes in the Penobscot language, co-author the book as well. Lukens shared that the intended audience for this book were people who grew up in an anglo-

phone world but had Penobscot heritage. This book would allow them to learn more about their culture.

The book is a retelling of another book written by Frank Speck called "Penobscot Transformer Tales." Speck was an anthropologist who worked with Penobscot storyteller Newell Lyon to write down versions of Penobscot stories. The stories were printed in both Penobscot and English but the translations were not visually appealing and a bit hard to read in their original version. When rewriting the book, Lukens had to track down Speck's notes and the original version of the notes, which were located at Cornell University's library.

In the new book, Lukens and her team made sure to pay close attention to language and wanted people who were unfamiliar with the language to be able to read the novel. They decided to put the Penobscot language on the left side of the book and the English translation on the right side. Lukens also applied for many grants which made it possible to donate a copy of the book to everyone who lives on Indian Island. She is working on shipping out copies of the

book to those who no longer live on the reservation but are part of Penobscot Nation. Unfortunately, there is no mailing list for the tribe so this portion of the project is taking longer than expected. Lukens expressed her thanks to the Penobscot members who helped her with this project in both English and Penobscot language. This text was published by UMass Press.

Markides then shared his autobiography, which he wrote himself after talking to one of his dear friends, who is a monk. His friend told him that the two most important things in life are learning and loving, and this advice sparked Markides' interest in writing an autobiography. Markides was born in Cyprus and grew up there during the 1950s when there was a lot of political unrest, war and a revolution. The island was trying to free itself from British control. Markides came to the U.S. to further his education in the 1960s and got an undergraduate degree in accounting. Later, through guidance from professors and a series of coincidences, Markides decided to go to graduate school for sociology. He always thought he would just finish

school and return to Cyprus, but he went to school for longer than expected and then he was offered a job here at UMaine.

One of the first things he wanted to write was a book on national terrorism. When he was working on this project in 1979, it was before it was a coveted topic. The idea was not really taking off in the way he had hoped so he decided, while back home in Cyprus for a visit, to change research ideas. He met a Christian elder while he was there and he found his ideas on mysticism and spirituality to be enthralling. He decided to research this topic through being a participant observer in mysticism. He recorded his experiences and wrote a few books on this topic. He felt that this topic was completely unknown to mainstream Cyprus, and that motivated him to write the books. Markides feels that society judges mysticism too harshly. In his opinion, society would be at its best if it could figure out a way to blend scientific and spiritual powers together. Markides is very proud to write his autobiography and says it was a nice change of pace from traditional research.



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News

Philosophy department hosts discussion on Virginia Woolf and physics

Samantha Sudol
Contributor

On Dec. 3, Dr. Michael Swacha participated in the Philosophy Colloquium in his talk titled, "Reconciling the One and the Many: On the Possibility of Fragmentation and Perception in Virginia Woolf and the New Physics." Swacha is a lecturer in English and philosophy and his talk was hosted by the philosophy department to discuss Virginia Woolf's "The Waves" and its connection to modern physics.

Swacha's work discusses the relation of Virginia Woolf's 1931 novel "The Waves" with the new discoveries in physics made during the early 20th century and the rise of Modernism. Dominated by events such as World War I, World

War II, the Spanish flu pandemic, nuclear weapons and power, space exploration, nationalism and decolonization and the Cold War, many members of society began to ask questions reflecting the welfare of culture and society at the time. 20th century Modernism is often referred to as the global movement in society and culture which looked for a realignment with different values of industrial life. Swacha was able to explain the Modernist notions of perception and fragmentation, and how they allow readers to imagine new ways of knowing, existing and relating to one another.

"Time would appear to slow for the observer at the pole, however interceptively this would be such a relatively close cog-

nitive distance. While this notion maintains the concept of individuation where two moving objects are discrete and distinct from one another, it also shows that their respective qualities are a function of perspective, and with various possible perspectives the perceived nature of any given object exists within a multiplicity. And what Einstein's special theory of relativity therefore shows most strikingly, at least for this paper, is that perception involves an entanglement or intertwining of this seemingly mutually exclusive concepts of singularity in a multiplicity or individuation in a collective unity," Swacha said.

Swacha continued by explaining theories of electromagnetism and how electrody-

namics could be applied to moving bodies and moving in time. Specifically, he referred to how Einstein needed to develop a strict definition of simultaneity to import the concept of time without the complications that two different accelerations would pose, and how our judgments in which time plays a part are always simultaneous events.

"That a given time, a simultaneous time is simply when two things happen concurrently," Swacha said. "The concept of time is relational, just by definition. The time that something occurs is by definition, temporally connected to what is occurring on the clock you observed at the same moment. Time in of itself is meaningless, it only matters, or

only has significance when you observe it with something like a clock with the moving hands and so on. But perception becomes a much more interesting concept when Einstein proceeds to discuss the nature of space and its intertwining with time."

Virginia Woolf's "The Waves" is a novel which elaborates on the connected lives between the characters. It has been argued that the book was used to reflect the beliefs of Modernist artists at the time, who believed that art must reflect the distorted nature of reality and its complications.

"It's hard to tell whether this is one person with different characteristics or a full group of friends. Through this nature of perception we have found, the fluidity of

the characters and the fluidity of our own perceptions as readers prevents us from locking down a stable notion of an object," Swacha said. "Through Woolf's narrative, we apprehend the quality of each character but we can not know for certain they are not the complex unified qualities of one voice."

Swacha concluded the lecture by discussing the importance of particular characters to the overall structure of Woolf's work. There was a Q&A segment which followed this discussion, that addressed the concepts of reality as perception and thematic commonalities between "The Waves" and another of Woolf's works, "To the Lighthouse".

Mitchell Center hosts discussion on state policy

Samantha Sudol
Contributor

On Nov. 29, the Mitchell Center hosted a talk on the role of municipal government in implementing state policy priorities. This session, held by Executive Director Cathy Conlow and Director of State & Federal Relations Kate Dufour of the Maine Municipal Association, was a part of the Sustainability Talk Series.

"The intent of this conversation is to talk about the municipality's role in advancing state policies," said Kate Dufour, Director of State & Federal Relations. "Municipal government is commu-

nity." Municipalities are composed of local authorities within the community. In the beginning of the presentation, Dufour discussed the role of engagement in order to encourage municipalities to implement statewide policy principles. This relates to the idea that successful engagement relies on the community's understanding and recognition of certain attributes of municipalities.

"Municipality has been relied upon for a large amount, and that list has grown over time," Dufour said.

In each town there is a lot of reliance on

the municipal government for local services that members of the community can use. Services that rely on municipal government include the police department, fire department, EMS services, public works, parks & recreations, tax assessment & collection, elections, and other general assistance. With everything that municipalities do for the community, they need to be more recognized and supported in every community.

"History has taught us that a once very sacred partnership is bountiful ... Revenue sharing partners are one of the most fundamental partnerships,"

Dufour said. "The state is going to have hard times, but we're all in this together."

Municipalities partner with the state in order to aid in revenue sharing, local road assistance programs, state aid for K-12 education and the increasing homestead exemption reimbursement. The state relies on the municipal governments to help advance state policies, and to do so we have to know who we are as a community.

"It's important that your voices are heard. Because if we don't hear a diverse group of people, we can't accommodate everyone's needs," Dufour

said. "Municipalities do the right thing. Gets back to that ingenuity and local control. How best to move communities forward ... In order for us to advance state policies, we need to understand who we actually are ... There's a community for each and every one of us and that uniqueness is incredibly important."

To conclude the presentation, Conlow and Dufour discussed the power of local ingenuity. In this respect, it is primarily the community that makes things happen. The decision to not get involved is also a decision that affects how the municipalities can best serve the community.

"Despite all the challenges, burdens and responsibilities... [m]unicipalities are doing great work ... At the crux of sustainability is equity and mutual accountability. We're all affected by this so it's important to all work together, to all work in the same direction to get our goals met," Dufour said. "Municipal government is the best form of government there is. Closest to the people, largest non-partisan, where people get work done."

This Week in Student Government

Grace Blanchard
Contributor

On Tuesday, Nov. 30, the General Student Senate temporarily moved their weekly senate meeting to Bennett Hall to speak with the former University of Maine Student Government President Brian Harris.

Harris served as the UMSG president from 2009 to 2010, and talked to the current senate about how his role as president impacted his future endeavours.

Harris is a co-founder and CEO of Med-Rhythms, a neuro-rehab company that helps people recover from brain injuries through music and sensory technology.

"The lessons that I learned while I was sitting in those chairs that you're sitting in now was a direct connection and certainly a transformational time for me to give me the skills necessary to be in the role that I'm in now as a co-founder and CEO," Harris said.

Harris talked about how his leadership role in the student senate at UMaine gave him his first experience in managing a budget, managing people and understanding the power of relationships.

"You certainly have your mission and your mandates but you're not only influencing each other, but you're also influencing your peers around you and being advocates for your peers to enact change," Harris said.

Harris also talked about how the connections he made at UMaine have stuck with him since he graduated almost 11 years ago.

"The UMaine connection runs strong and runs deep," Harris said. "UMaine blue runs deep, and those leaders on campus became the leaders of their communities and we've stayed connected so it's a pretty incredible bond."

The senate also had some club maintenance to take care of during their meeting. A representative

from Circle K was present to seek their final recognition from the senate.

"We are a community service organization here on campus and we are here to try to get some more funding so we can do more community service projects, and overall help the community around us in Orono and around the whole country," said Maxwell Rich, the secretary of Circle K.

According to Rich, they have plans to do a de-stressing event during finals week and currently are trying to get word out about their club across campus.

After a majority vote, the club received final recognition.

There was also a representative from the American Sign Language Club also seeking recognition.

"Our mission is to spread awareness about deaf history and culture and make campus more deaf friendly by getting members familiar and excited about the lan-

guage," the President of American Sign Language Club Morgan Oehler said.

They currently have around 15 members, and next semester they hope to get started on putting together some fundraisers.

After a majority vote, the club received final recognition from the senate.

The senate also heard from a new club seeking recognition. A representative from the new Ski and Snowboard Club was present.

"We just started up around November 1st, and we are officially 100 members strong as of today," Kyle Gallas the president of Ski and Snowboarding Club said. "We are a club that wants to incorporate skiers and snowboarders and anybody who wants to participate."

According to Gallas, the mission of the club is to get people outside to enjoy the winter weather and the colder months.

After a majority vote,

the club received their preliminary recognition and now need to move forward to the final step, receiving final recognition, before becoming a fully recognized university club by the student government.

On the agenda was also a request to allocate funds to the Men's Club Volleyball that recently received their final recognition from the senate.

"We are just a group of guys who want to play volleyball competitively," the club President Noah Bourussa said. "We have to pay dues to the New England Collegiate Volleyball league who places us into three different tournaments and that is the biggest amount of money we need because their dues are expensive."

The club was requesting \$2,000 to cover their dues and any equipment or travel expenses required.

After a clear majority vote, the club received their funding request.

There were some up-

dates from members of the senate, including a new program making its way to campus.

"I met with Colleen Frazier, Jenny Desmond and Vice President Lewis to turn the UMSG Mentor Program into the Students Organization Success Coaches," the Vice President of Student Leadership Alyssandra Ciassulo said. "The new program will assign a success coach to each student organization. Please let me know if you have any questions about the new program."

The interfraternity council representative also announced that Conor Foley is the newly elected president and will be taking over next semester. There will also be Panhellenic election results concluding this week to elect a new president for next semester.

The senate moved into executive session for the closing of their meeting which means any general public were dismissed from the meeting.

Opinion

The illusion of the blue safety light: Female safety on college campuses

Sydney Jackson
Contributor

On Nov. 14, students and faculty received an emergency alert from the University of Maine. “Crime Alert: UMaine Police received a report after 10 p.m. of an assault that occurred at approximately 8:30 p.m. today, Nov. 14 in the vicinity of East Annex on campus” the alert read. “An unknown male subject grabbed a female from behind, threatened with an unknown object, pushed her to the ground and

ran off. Suspect is described as 6 feet tall, wearing dark clothing and gloves.”

Another similar incident occurred earlier this semester when a woman was assaulted by a man on the University Mall in September. Police say that they received an anonymous tip in which the caller told them the man allegedly briefly choked the victim, yelled a slur at her for wearing a pride shirt and then ran off, according to Q106.5 FM.

The article then went on to state that

local police remind students to always try to find someone to accompany them when going outside late at night and that they should be mindful of their surroundings and keep a safe distance between themselves and potential hiding places, according to Q106.5 FM.

This advice is not going to protect the women at UMaine’s campus. These women should feel safe while getting their education. There needs to be more security on campus, as well as

more information provided regarding these incidents and what is going to be done to ensure these assaults won’t happen again.

UMaine, along with many colleges and universities across the country, have blue emergency boxes set up sporadically all around campus, which provide a phone that has a direct line to campus security. Once the call is made, the person experiencing an emergency must wait until help arrives. This system is ineffective in helping those

who are experiencing a true emergency. If a woman is being attacked and can not reach the emergency phone, she is left to her own devices. Even if she is able to reach the phone, it takes time to make the call and for help to arrive, at which point she may already be in grave danger.

Many universities use the emergency light system as a response to assaults on their campuses, but it is not enough. It is a symbol of security, not an active solution.

Despite hearing sto-

ries of assault and attacks on our own campus again and again, we tend to hear very little about whether the suspect was caught or what authorities are doing to apprehend the assaulter.

This makes people afraid on campus, knowing that someone is capable of attacking someone and won’t be reprimanded.

A whole new world: Why the high fantasy genre needs a reboot

Lauren Andrews
Contributor

Few authors have defined an entire genre the way J.R.R. Tolkien defined high fantasy with the universe of Middle-earth. Tolkien, an avid linguist, developed the mythos, languages and cultures within Middle-earth based on Europe, with heavy emphasis on Scandinavian and Celtic influences.

Tolkien’s timeless classics fertilized the soil from which grew an entire forest of high fantasy works over the successive decades. Yet, the majority of these works use the same worldbuilding blueprint as Tolkien,

conjuring biomes and names that emulate the same Nordic and British Isles inspiration.

Some of the tropes begin to feel repetitive and overused: most characters have some sort of an English accent, in addition to dwarves being Scottish and having a vaguely Viking-appearing race filling the “generic Nordic” role. Landscapes often mimic the rugged snowy forests of northern Scandinavia or the English countryside.

Detailing every overused trope would be nearly impossible, but it’s easy to name specific works of media where this is glaringly obvious, the most

notable being “The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim,” the “Witcher” and the “Dragon Age” series of video games. In literature, Westeros from “Game of Thrones” is the most prominent example.

Within such an echo chamber of a genre, it can be difficult for young aspiring authors to feel compelled to share their voice and stories if all the salient works follow the same cliches and source material. It can feel as if the genre is exclusive or uninspiring when many literary devices are easily predictable even before diving deep into the story.

In modern high fantasy, some authors are

bringing a much-needed infusion of innovation by constructing completely original worlds that don’t follow the stereotypical trope checklist as described above. Paul Krueger’s “Steel Crow Saga” builds on Asian geography and culture, similar to “Avatar: The Last Airbender,” to create a world of nations that are driven by enchantments and animal magic. The worldbuilding isn’t restricted by the typical pre-Medieval technologies and politics seen in most epic fantasy either; it blends magic with societies and warfare reminiscent of our modern world.

Seen even more

rarely in fantasy stories are elements of African folklore and mythos, which is the heart of Jamaican author Marlon James’ novel “Black Leopard, Red Wolf.” A distinctly dark and grueling story, its plot is told in a very non-linear fashion with background lore as rich as Tolkien’s universe. Nothing in James’ worldbuilding is even remotely similar to plot devices found in most Western high fantasy. This can make the storytelling style and characters difficult to follow in a way that invites multiple re-reads to discover more tidbits hidden within the very intricate narrative.

Infusing epic fantasy with stories such as Krueger’s and James’ brings new mythologies and cultural inspirations to the forefront of the genre, breathing much-needed excitement into stories consistently told with the same overused tropes. For up-and-coming young authors from all backgrounds, it will not only entice them to jump into these new works of modern fantasy, but it will also show them that their voices have a home in the genre.

Tune Into This!

What’s happening this week at UMaine & Beyond

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
On this day in 1998, Hugo Chavez was elected as the president of Venezuela.	Today is the 80th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. The attack prompted the U.S.’s entry into the second World War.	On this day in 1980, the Beatles’ frontman John Lennon was murdered in New York City. Lennon was also a notable peace advocate and wrote the song “Imagine,” which is used to commemorate the location where he passed.	The Center for Student Involvement is hosting a Holiday Crafts event in the North Pod of the Memorial Union at 8 p.m. Craft supplies will be provided. Grab some friends to de-stress with some crafting before finals season!	Today is the 20th anniversary of “The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring” releasing in theatres in 2001. The film was the first of Peter Jackson’s trilogy adapting J.R.R. Tolkien’s “The Lord of the Rings” novels, and went on to receive 13 nominations at the Academy Awards.

Culture

#YouMaine: Fourth-year student looks forward to finishing out her studies at UMaine

Meaghan Bellavance
Culture Editor

Fourth-year University of Maine student Amber Coxen is making the best out of her prolonged undergraduate career. While her expected graduation date had to be pushed back due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she still has a positive outlook and is focusing on her studies to reach her end goal.

Growing up in Dayton, Maine, just outside of Saco, Coxen attended Thornton Academy before attending UMaine. She is studying biology with a concentration in pre-med and anthropology.

"I decided to do two majors because I've always really liked [understanding] the humanistic side of things," Coxen said. "It's very rigorous but I really enjoy having both the sciences and the humanities working together to give me a broader perspective."

Coxen will be receiving two bachelor's degrees rather than having the two majors listed on one bachelor's degree.

Her family and home

life were an inspiration for choosing what she'd like to do in the future. Coxen hopes to join her two majors to become a doctor. She plans to apply to medical school after she graduates.

"I chose to study bio pre-med because I've always had a passion for medicine and I think it's really powerful to be able to help others," Coxen said. "I have a family that is all medical professionals, so it seemed like a natural choice for me. I also really had a passion for understanding why people needed the help that they do, and getting a more cultural relativist perspective was why I combined anthropology."

Coxen's dream medical school is Tufts University, but she appreciates all the avenues that are available to her and where she'll eventually end up. Although she is unsure of what kind of specialty she'd want to pursue as a doctor, dermatology and cardiology are some standouts. She also hopes to work at a small family practice.

"I think it's better to have interpersonal connections and especially close connections



Photo provided by Amber Coxen.

with the people you're treating," Coxen said. "That way you do get the humanities side and just have a broader connection with the community you're working for rather than

just treating someone once and saying 'see you later'."

Before she graduates and moves on to medical school, Coxen is making the most out of the time she has left

at UMaine.

"I think what really stands out to me about going to UMaine is how dedicated everyone is to ensuring that people are not only succeeding in what

they're doing, but also by guiding them into being the best adult or professional they can be," Coxen said. "Everyone here genuinely cares."

Spotify Wrapped 2021: The Maine Campus' top music of the year



Graphic by David Jakacky.

Leela Stockley
Editor in Chief

The time of year that everyone anticipates has finally come. Spotify Wrapped is here for 2021, along with the many screenshots people share on their social media stories across popular platforms.

This year, Spotify has mixed up their

Spotify Wrapped a bit, including new features such as letting listeners know their musical auras.

Here at The Maine Campus, we've collected our top artists, songs, genres and minutes listened to share. Whether it includes new, upbeat songs or throwback genres, our Spotify Wrapped has a unique mix with some-

thing for everyone.

TOP ARTIST:

- Juice WRLD
- Morgan Wallen
- Mac Miller
- Drake
- Orla Gartland
- Megan Thee Stallion
- Taylor Swift
- Joe Hisaishi
- LMFAO

TOP SONG:

- "GANG GANG (with Lil Wayne)" by Polo G
- "More Than My Hometown" by Morgan Wallen
- "Montero (Call Me By Your Name)" by Lil Nas X
- "Slide" by Calvin Harris
- "Life Goes On" by Lil Baby, Gunna and Lil Uzi Vert
- "Lent" by Autoheart
- "Party Rock Anthem" by LMFAO

- "All Too Well" by Taylor Swift
- "Fluorescent Adolescent" by Arctic Monkeys
- TOP GENRE:**
- Dance Pop
- Underground Hip Hop
- Pop Rap
- Indie Pop
- Modern Rock
- Indie Folk

MINUTES LISTENED:	
14,073	
70,848	
35,792	
62,580	
49,076	
12,607	
13,457	
28,974	
20,796	

National Holidays Dec. 6 through Dec. 10

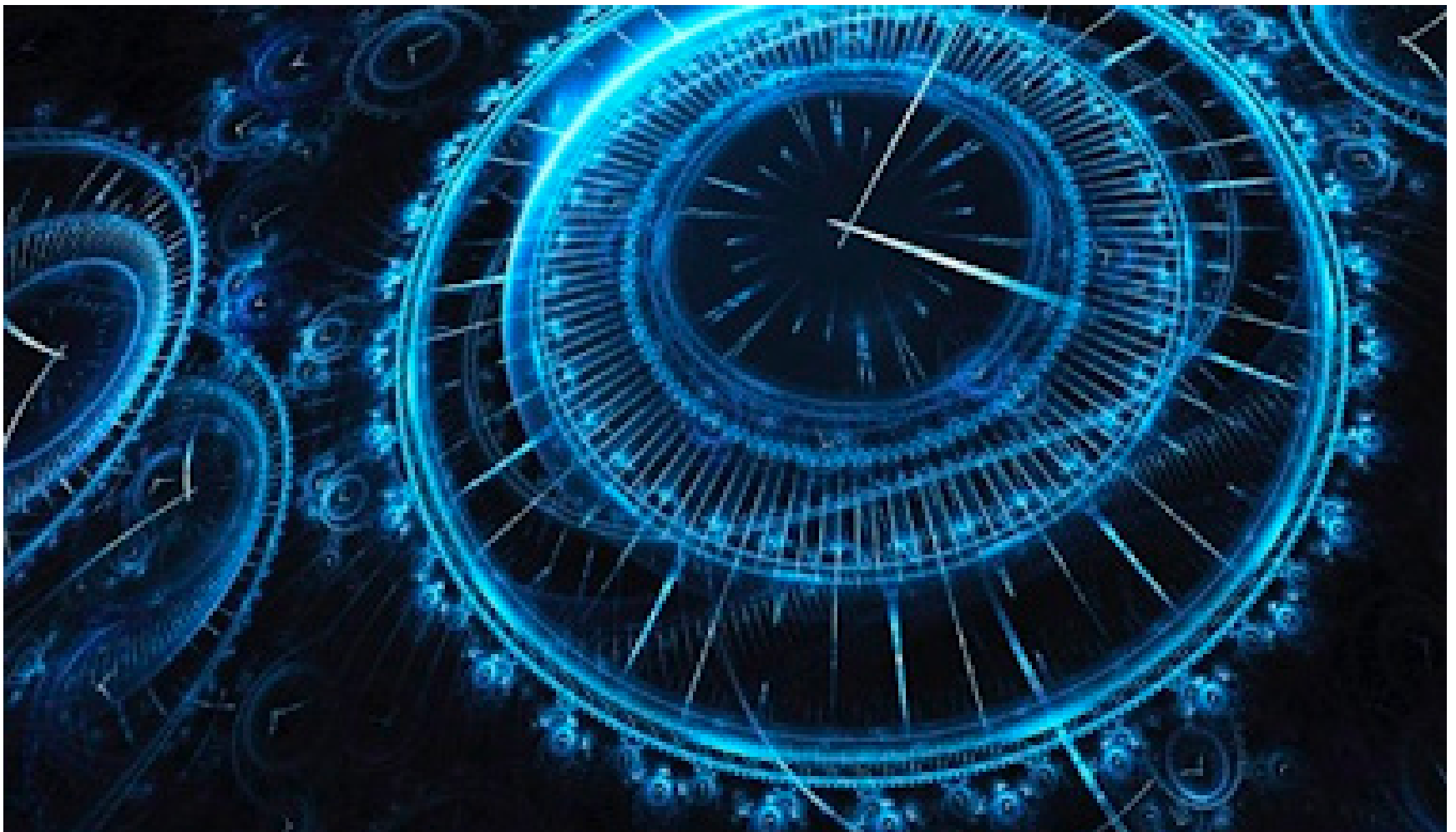


Photo via sciencefocus.com.

Rebekah Sands
Editor in Chief

Monday: National Microwave Oven Day

It's officially the week before finals and now's the time to break out all the late-night snacks. Monday is National Microwave Oven Day, the perfect opportunity to cook up some popcorn, ramen or instant mac and cheese. Invented in 1945, Percy Spencer discovered the transformative power of microwave radiation when working with active radar, causing his candy bar to melt in his pocket. Spencer then patented his microwave oven

invention and brought it to life in 1947. Monday is also Walt Disney Day, National Gazpacho Day and National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

Tuesday: National Letter Writing Day

Perhaps an art lost during the internet age, letter writing is a wonderful way to show someone you care. Especially with the end of the fall semester quickly approaching, celebrate National Letter Writing Day by picking a few people who mean the most to you and draft up a handwritten note to

slip into their desk or send in the mail. Tuesday is also National Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance, World Trick Shot Day, National Illinois Day and National Cotton Candy Day.

Wednesday: Pretend To Be A Time Traveler Day

Do you ever wish you lived in a different era? Now is the perfect time to daydream. Inspired by pop culture icons such as "Back to the Future" and "Dr. Who," Pretend to Be A Time Traveler Day embraces the exploratory nature of science fiction to discover where

we've been or where we'll go as a part of the human race. To celebrate this holiday, open to a blank page and brainstorm some of your most character-defining moments in the past and set goals for one, five and ten years in the future. Wednesday is also National Brownie Day.

Thursday: National Pastry Day

One of the most indulgent holidays this week, National Pastry Day gives us an opportunity to treat ourselves before the impending doom of finals week. To celebrate this holiday, visit your local

bakery such as Bagel Central or Frank's Bakery in Bangor to purchase and enjoy your favorite desserts with friends. Alternatively, seek out a favorite pastry recipe and warm up by baking at home. Thursday is also Techno Day, National Llama Day and International Day of Veterinary Medicine.

Friday: Nobel Prize Day

Nobel Prize Day concludes the week in celebration of Alfred Bernhard Nobel, a Swedish engineer, chemist, entrepreneur and philanthropist. An incredibly prestigious

award to receive, there are several categories of nomination: physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, peace and economic sciences. To celebrate this holiday, familiarize yourself with recent winners and their achievements here. Friday is also Human Rights Day, International Animal Rights Day and National Lager Day.

All holidays were found on nationalto-day.com. Be sure to keep up to date with our regularly featured holidays featured both on our Instagram @ [themainecampus](https://www.instagram.com/themainecampus) and our website.

Sports

UMaine sits at the bottom of Hockey East after series against Vermont



Photo by Percy Ulsamer.

Patrick Silvia
Sports Editor

This past weekend, the University of Maine men's hockey team lost twice to the University of Vermont at the Alford Arena. UMaine's record now sits at 1-13-3 and they are currently the only team in the country to not have a win in regulation.

UMaine was shut-out by Vermont 1-0 in the first game of the series. The lone goal of the contest did not come until overtime when Vermont was given a power play after first-year defenseman David Brezeale took an interference penalty that stopped a breakout for the Catamounts. Although the penalty stopped Vermont from gaining a scoring chance in the moment, Vermont capitalized on the power play when a wrist shot by second-year defenseman Cory Babichuk beat second-year

UMaine goalie Victor Ostman.

The second game of the series put UMaine's scoring struggles on full display. UMaine outshot Vermont 51-17, but only managed one goal. UMaine's power play struggles were on full display late in the game on Saturday night.

Late in the third period with the game tied 1-1, Vermont first-year defender Luca Münzenberger was ejected from the contest for a hit to the head of UMaine fourth-year forward Adam Dawe. This gave UMaine a five-minute power play for the last 4:27 of regulation and the first 33 seconds of overtime. A golden opportunity for UMaine to score and win their first game in regulation.

UMaine was unable to score on the power play, and they lacked high quality opportunities. After Vermont finished off the impressive penalty kill in

overtime, neither team could break the deadlock and the game went to a shootout. Vermont fourth-year forward Philip Lagunov scored the only goal of the shootout, winning the game for Vermont with a highlight reel deke to beat UMaine third-year goalie Matthew Thiessen.

After the weekend the Black Bears are now ranked 58 out of the 59 teams in the country according to the Pairwise ranking system. Vermont is currently ranked 55 after getting the better of UMaine both nights. The only team ranked below UMaine is Yale University, who currently have a 2-7-0 record.

The defense for UMaine has not been the problem, but rather it's their inability to score that has made UMaine fall to the bottom of the country. UMaine is bottom five in the country in goals with 25 goals in

15 games, averaging a measly 1.67 goals per game. They have been shutout five times and have scored more than one goal only eight times this season.

This past weekend in the span of two games that both went into overtime, UMaine was only able to score one goal on 74 shots. That one goal was more so the result of a mistake by Vermont than UMaine's ability to score. The lone goal came in the second game of the two game series when second-year Vermont goalie Gabe Carriere passed the puck directly to UMaine second-year forward Donovan Houle who put it into essentially an empty net.

This weekend UMaine received solid performances from both goalies. On Friday, Ostman made 23 saves on 24 shots and was not beaten until overtime. On Saturday, Thiessen stopped

16 of 17 shots. Both were let down by their teammates' inability to score.

One of the reasons UMaine cannot score is because they are particularly bad on the power play. Currently, UMaine has the third worst power play in the nation, only converting on 6.4% of man advantage opportunities. The average across the country is around 18-19%.

Brezeale and fourth-year defender Jakub Sirota make up the team's top defensive pairing. They also share the team lead in scoring with seven points. The team's leading scorers amongst the forwards are Dawe and second-year forward Lynden Breen with six points each. UMaine has not gotten enough production from their skill players offensively, and the depth scoring is non-existent.

Along with being at the bottom of the

country, UMaine also currently sits at the bottom of the Hockey East standings. Not to mention most of their remaining in-conference games are against the better teams of the division such as Providence College, UMass Amherst and UMass Lowell.

Next up on the schedule is two non-conference home games against Union College next weekend. Union has been decent as of late, and they have won three of their last four contests, only losing to Quinnipiac University in that stretch, who are currently ranked seventh in the country according to Pairwise.

UMaine knew with a new head coach this year was going to be a rebuilding year, but the play on the ice has far underperformed everyone's lowest expectations.

NBA early championship contenders

Dalton Bartlett
Contributor

Every NBA season seems to have very clear front runners for who will be the champions come the season's end. In the 1960s you had the Boston Celtics, in the 1980s the Los Angeles Lakers, the 1990s the Chicago Bulls, the 2000s again with the Lakers and in the 2010s, you had both the Miami Heat and then the Golden State Warriors.

Though every season there are a few key front runners, this season there has not been a team that has stood out from the pack yet. However, some have the potential to surprise us.

The Phoenix Suns are currently tied with

the best record in the NBA, continuing off of last year's surprise run to the finals. They are led by star shooting guard Devin Booker, who is averaging 23.2 points, 4.5 assists, 4.9 rebounds and 0.9 steals. Center Deandre Ayton is second in the team averaging a double-double with 16.1 points, 11.5 rebounds and 1.3 assists.

The Warriors are back on a winning streak even though they lost star player Kevin Durant. Point guard Stephen Curry is off to a great start having one of his best seasons so far, averaging 27.8 points on 45.2% shooting, 6.6 assists, 5.7 rebounds, and 1.8 steals. Andrew Wiggins has had a breakout season so far

averaging 18.6 points on 49% shooting, 4.5 rebounds, 6.6 assists and 1.8 steals.

To help out their team even more, All-Star shooting guard Klay Thompson is slated to return after missing the last two seasons due to knee injuries to make the Warriors even more dangerous.

Even without star point guard Kyrie Irving playing, due to his refusal to get the COVID-19 vaccine, the Brooklyn Nets are still tied for the first seed in the East Conference.

Along with Curry, Durant was named Player of the Month in November and he has had a terrific start to the season with 28.6 points on 53.9% shooting, 7.5 rebounds, 5.6

assists and 0.7 steals. Guard James Harden has also had a great start to the year averaging 21 points on 41.6% shooting, 8 rebounds, 9.3 assists and 0.7 steals.

Every NBA season has a surprise team that has done well, and this year that seems to be the Chicago Bulls. They are currently one of the hottest teams in all of basketball and they are tied with the Nets for the best record in the East Conference.

Guard DeMar Derozan has bounced back to all-star for them so far, leading the team with 26.3 points on 49.5% shooting, 5.3 rebounds, 4.1 assists and 1 steal. Guard Zach LaVine has been playing at an all-star

level as well, averaging 25.4 points on 48.8% shooting, 5.3 rebounds and 3.8 assists.

Coming into this season, no one expected the Lakers to struggle as much as they have been. While the season might still be young, the Lakers are showing worrying signs that they might continue to disappoint if something does not change, and with the age of the team, injuries could easily become a major concern.

LeBron James and Anthony Davis have continued to prove themselves when they're active. James has only played in 11 games this season so far and has averaged 25.8 points, 5.2 rebounds and 6.8 assists. Davis has av-

eraged 24.3 points, 10 rebounds and 2.3 blocks.

While LeBron and Davis have been playing at the level they are expected to, the Lakers star acquisition, Russell Westbrook, has not. When he was brought in, he was expected to help take the load off of James and Davis, but he has not mixed well and has not done well defensively. So far this season, he has averaged 20.7 points, 8.6 assists, 8.2 rebounds and 1.3 steals.

It is too early to tell who will win the NBA finals but with no clear top dog, anything can happen.

Buffalo Bills vs New England Patriots game preview



Graphic by David Jakacky.

Dalton Bartlett Contributor

With the NFL season winding down, every game matters for the teams still fighting for a playoff spot. There is no bigger matchup than this Monday night when the Buffalo Bills and the New England Patriots face off.

The Patriots are coming in hot, riding a six game win streak that's put them in the second seed in the AFC. They have not played any great teams during this stretch; the best team they have beaten is the Los Angeles Chargers on Hal- loween.

The Bills have struggled the last few weeks, losing in embarrassing fashion 9-6 against the two-win Jacksonville Jaguars, and then the Colts defeated them 41-15.

The Patriots quarterback Josh Allen has had a very good sea-

son so far this year. While he might have cooled off since the beginning of the year, he has still completed 66.8% of his passes for 3,071 yards and 25 touchdowns to 10 interceptions. He has had issues with turnovers in the last few weeks and needs to cut that down in order for the Bills to win this week.

The Patriots quarterback Mac Jones has continued his very solid rookie season with another strong performance against the Tennessee Titans. Coming into this game, he has completed 70.3% of his passes for 2,850 yards and 16 touchdowns to eight interceptions. He has yet to put up eye popping numbers, but he has stayed surprisingly consistent for a rookie. If he continues this way and does not turn the ball over, New England's offense should

do well this week.

Devin Singletary leads the Bills in rushing 459 yards on 98 attempts for two touchdowns. Veteran Matt Brieda has started to show some good signs the last few weeks with Zack Moss not playing, and he has done well with 109 yards on just 21 carries and one touchdown. With the Patriots having issues stopping the run this year, the Bills could look for more from their running backs, but it is hard to see anyone having a big game.

The Patriots gained a big part of their offense back two weeks ago when leading rusher Damien Harris returned. He has by far been the top running back on the team with 154 carries for 643 yards and 8 touchdowns. With the Bills having the fourth best run defense, Harris will have his work cut out for him.

Stefon Diggs leads the Bills in receiving with 67 catches for 847 yards and seven touchdowns. Veteran Cole Beasley is second on the team with 62 catches for 530 yards and four touchdowns. Tight end Dawson Knox has had a solid season as well, catching 31 passes for 315 yards and seven touchdowns. The matchup of Diggs and cornerback J.C. Jackson is one to keep an eye out for this week.

Jakobi Meyers leads the Patriots in receiving with 59 receptions for 620 yards and one touchdown. Kendrick Bourne is second on the team with 42 receptions for 623 yards and five touchdowns. With the Bills secondary being one of the best in football, the Patriots will need big games from both receivers.

The Bills defensively have been one

of the best teams this year. Outside of their loss to the Colts, only one team has scored over 30 points on them all season. Linebacker Tremaine Edmunds leads the team with 63 tackles, defensive end Mario Addison leads the team with four sacks and safety Jordan Poyer leads the team with five interceptions.

Similarly to the Bills, the Patriots also have one of the top defenses in the league with the group only giving up 20 points once in the last six weeks. Safety Kyle Dugger leads the team with 80 tackles, Matthew Judon is third in the league with 11.5 sacks and cornerback J.C. Jackson is continuing his ballhawking skills and is second in the NFL with seven interceptions.

This game is extremely important for both sides as they both fight for the lead in the

AFC East, which the Patriots currently have by half a game. They are also set to play each other one more time this season in three weeks. With the Patriots currently the second seed and the Bills the sixth, these two games could be the decider on where the teams wind up in the playoffs. Expect whichever quarterback that plays better to win this game, but with two great defenses, it could go either way.

The tight race for the Premier League title

Michael Corrado Contributor

In what has been one of the most exciting Premier League seasons in recent memory, the race for the league title is hotter than ever. While the top six teams have remained fairly unchanged, this year's tight title race has made for some surprisingly exciting and high stakes bouts. Considering the signing of Cristiano Ronaldo hasn't even propelled Manchester United into the title race, it's clear that the Premier League's level of competition is second to none in domestic competitions across the globe.

With Pep Guardiola's Manchester City

claiming the top spot in the league this past weekend and stringing together five straight wins, no team is in a better position. Led by Raheem Sterling, Phil Foden and Bernardo Silva, it's hard to find a team as well-rounded and complete as Guardiola's squad. While their summer splash signing of Jack Grealish has been less than perfect to start his City career, Guardiola has put his faith in the English youngster, continuing to provide him with minutes.

In Merseyside, Liverpool and Jurgen Klopp sit in second with 34 points, only trailing Manchester City by one after recovering nicely from a loss with four wins in a row. With their defense

finally back at full strength thanks to Virgil Van Dijk's recovery, and the resurgence of Trent Alexander-Arnold and Andy Robertson at the outside back positions, the Reds have dominated and controlled their games against most, if not every opponent they've faced this season. Mohamed Salah has been arguably the best winger in world football this season, earning Premier League Player of the Month in October.

Chelsea, the defending UEFA Champions League winners, are currently in third with 33 points. They have managed to find themselves in the hunt thanks to head coach Thomas Tuchel's system meshing perfectly

with the players currently on the roster he inherited from last season. While Timo Werner's inability to find the back of the net has been well documented, new addition Romelu Lukaku has managed to fill that goal-scoring void, while players like Mason Mount and Marcos Alonso have shown major development across all aspects of their game throughout the year.

While Chelsea held the lead in the title race going into last Saturday, a last second strike from West Ham's Arthur Masuaku found its way into the short side netting to win the game 3-2 for the Hammers and not only tightened the gap between third and fourth in the table, but

also knocked Chelsea from the top spot in the league.

West Ham has transformed under former Manchester United manager David Moyes. Jamaican International forward Michail Antonio has been pivotal in their success, while Declan Rice and Vladimir Coufal have managed to keep things moving all across the pitch in the meantime. The Hammers sit only eight points from the first spot in the table, and have only looked better and better as the Premier League season carries on.

Though the four teams mentioned should most likely qualify for next season's Champions League competition, only one of those fan-

tastic groups will be able to be crowned the Champions of the Premier League next May. While teams like Arsenal, Tottenham and Manchester United will look to fight their way into the top four as well, the title race looks to be a three horse race between Manchester City, Chelsea and Liverpool for the time being.

This Week in Sports History: Hextall makes history against the Bruins



Graphic by David Jakacky.

Michael Corrado Contributor

On Dec. 8, 1987, Philadelphia Flyers goaltender Ron Hextall made NHL history by becoming the first goalie to score a goal. In a game against the Boston Bruins at The Spectrum in Philadelphia, the Flyers were able to climb out to a 3-2 lead in the final minutes of the game. In response, the Bruins pulled their backstop Rejean Lemelin for an extra attacker, allowing Hextall a golden opportunity.

Following a Bruins dump-in, the future

Hall of Famer controlled the puck on his stick before sending a looping shot down the length of the ice. The Bruins players directly in front of Hextall ducked as the shot flew toward their goal, with it bouncing just once before landing flat and sliding smoothly into the empty and exposed goalmouth. The goal put the Flyers two goals ahead, en route to a comfortable 4-2 victory.

Both of the aforementioned team's seasons went in different directions after the game. The Flyers got eliminated in the first

round of the playoffs against the Washington Capitals, and the Bruins reached the Stanley Cup Finals, where they were swept by Wayne Gretzky and the Edmonton Oilers.

Hextall proved himself handy with his stick later on in his career, scoring the very next season in a playoff game against the Washington Capitals. The goal was even more impressive than the first, where Hextall controlled the puck behind the goal and slung it with ease across the rink into an unprotected goal.

Legendary Red

Wings goaltender Chris Osgood became the next goalie to score a goal seven years after Hextall's second goal. In a game during the 1994-95 season against the Hartford Whalers, Osgood slid to control a shot with his stick and unleashed a laser beam down the ice. Fluttering and spinning, the puck comfortably went into the middle of an empty net to cement Osgood's legacy as one of only twelve goalies to have ever scored in the league.

While Hextall scored the first, one of his understudies, Martin Bro-

deur, became known for his ability to play the puck with his stick and score. Brodeur scored just like Hextall did in a 1997 playoff game against the Montreal Canadiens, and he scored twice more in his career thanks to some fortunate deflections into empty nets on the other end of the ice.

In part due to Brodeur's sporadic and adventurous playstyle, the "trapezoid rule" was implemented into the league's rules, limiting the areas in which a goaltender is able to control the puck.

In his final NHL sea-

son, Nashville goaltender Pekka Rinne became the most recent goalie to score. In a regular season game against the Blackhawks, Rinne dropped to one knee and used all his might to lift the puck in the air. The shot outpaced a Chicago defenseman and ended up rattling off of the back of the goal frame to give Nashville a comfortable 5-2 victory.



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