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Maine Campus February 24 1999

Maine Campus Staff

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• Defense

UMaine secures \$10 million grant

By Brett Cough
Maine Campus staff

Thanks to a \$10.3 million grant from the U.S. Navy, the largest in the University of Maine's history, UMaine will be on the cutting edge in developing new technology that will help the military detect chemical and biological weapons.

Sen. Olympia Snowe's office announced the grant's approval last week.

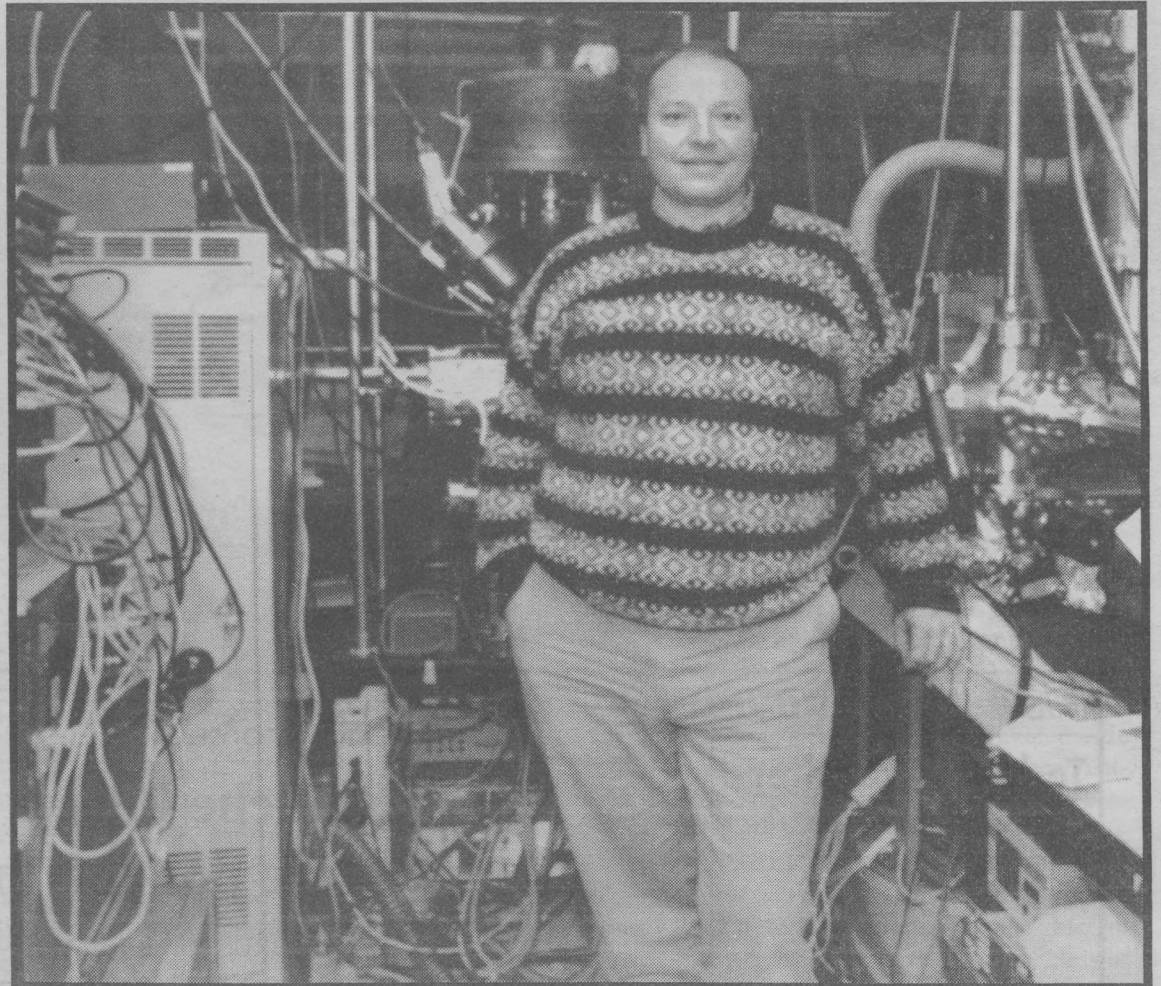
The grant will create up to 40 jobs at both UMaine and Sensor Research and Development of Orono, the university's collaborative partner in the two-year project, according to physics professor

Robert Lad, who is head of the project as director of the Laboratory for Surface Science and Technology.

SRD will be able to add 12 to 15 people to its staff with jobs in the \$40,000 to \$60,000 range, which should have a significant impact on the community, said Carl Freeman, president of SRD. While the university is "a major pipeline of talent" from which Freeman hires new graduates, he will also be bringing in other people to work on the project.

Money coming in through the university's research and development initiatives enabled the

See GRANT on page 5



Robert Lad, director of the Laboratory for Surface Science and Technology, will lead a joint project with an Orono company to develop sensors to detect biological and chemical weapons. (Jason Canniff photo.)

• Construction

On-campus housing to expand, improve

By Judy Williams
Maine Campus staff

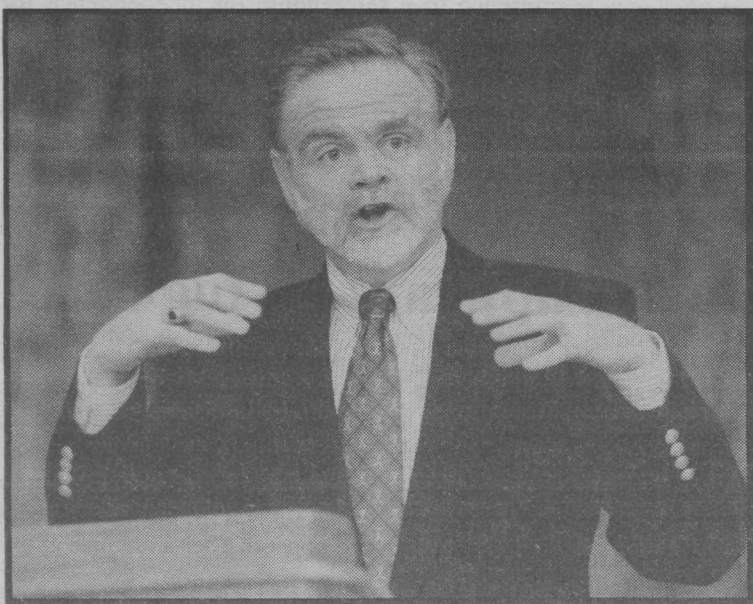
A proposal to build new dorms and a plan to renovate old ones were presented to the General Student Senate last night.

A new residence hall would be built between Balentine and Chadbourne while building addi-

next five to eight years the number of on-campus residents is expected to rise to 9,000, Anderson said.

"For this reason we need to make housing and dining facilities more appealing," he said.

The new dorms would be suite style with each room containing separate bedrooms surrounding one central room, he said.



Mark Anderson, interim vice president for Student Affairs, outlined a plan to expand on-campus housing at last night's GSS meeting. (Jason Canniff photo.)

tions to DTAV.

"We've proposed a scheme to add about 600 new resident spaces over a six-year period," said Mark Anderson, interim vice president for Student Affairs, when he addressed the Senate last night.

One of the reasons the dorms will be expanded is because in the

"There also will be no mandatory meal plan," he said.

The proposal for dorm expansion will be presented to the Board of Trustees in March and hopefully construction will begin next spring, he said.

In addition, current residence See NEW DORMS on page 5

• Legislation

Proposed bill targets Greeks

By Elizabeth Beaulieu
Maine Campus staff

The 121-year tradition of Greek organizations at the University of Maine will be disputed at a legislative hearing tomorrow in Augusta.

If passed, LD 559, an act to prohibit the University of

Maine System from financially supporting Greek organizations, would serve as a severe blow to the existence and morale of fraternities and sororities on campus.

"Across the country there are Greek organizations that are astray, but we have standards and expectations, and the

Greeks here are strong, healthy students and a vital part of the community," said Robert Dana, the associate dean for Students and Community Life who also oversees the Greek organiza-

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• Changing of guard

ROC officers sworn in

By Stanley Dankoski
Maine Campus staff

The new president and vice president of Residents on Campus were sworn into office Monday night in the Peabody Lounge.

Kathleen Burke and Jacquelyn Chiasson became the new leaders of the organization, a board of the General Student Senate.

"This year is the perfect year," Burke said. "We've got old people and new people on the board ... Our meetings weren't perfect, but we were really relaxed."

She thanked ROC member Heather Nelson, with whom she recently talked after meeting the group's auditor. Together they wrote down many ideas for their future plans.

"I was pumped," she said. Burke stepped up from vice president into the shoes of Jonathan Duke, who had been

See ROC on page 3



Kathleen Burke, the new president of Residents on Campus. (File photo.)

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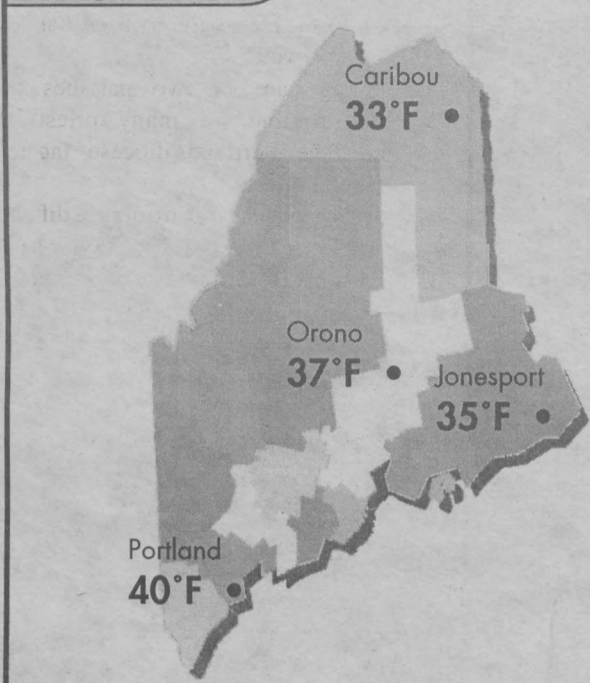


Sunshine and cold temps..

PAGE 2

WORLD BRIEFS

Today's Highs



World Map



Five-Day Summary

Today's Weather

A little warmer than yesterday. Temperatures reaching 37.



Thursday's Weather

Cold early, with some sun. High near 40.



Extended Forecast

Friday... Fair.
Saturday... cold.
Sunday... Fair.



• Deadly Force

Avalanche kills at least 7, more possibly buried

1 INNSBRUCK, Austria (AP) — An avalanche roared into a small town in the Alps in western Austria today, reportedly killing at least seven people. About 35 people were feared buried.

At least 13 people were injured, some critically, in the latest of a series of deadly avalanches this winter in Europe.

Rescuers dug out 20 people in the first hours after the avalanche hit the town of Galtuer, but seven of those were dead, the Austria Press Agency reported.

"We were drinking hot mulled wine, when suddenly it started. The lights went out. It was dark. There was only dust and snow. We got out of there as fast as we could," Franz Wenko, a hotel operator in Galtuer told Austrian television.

Austrian Army Maj. Wartok, who declined to give his first name, told The Associated Press that it was assumed the missing people were trapped in houses buried by the avalanche. He said people trapped in houses have a better chance of surviving than those caught in the open, where the snow soon suffocates them.

• Kosovo

Ethnic Albanians ready to sign, Serbs not moving

2 RAMBOUILLET, France (AP) — After 17 days of laborious negotiations, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said today that ethnic Albanians have agreed to sign a Kosovo peace agreement within two weeks but Serbs continue to balk at a deal.

James P. Rubin, the State Department spokesman, told reporters that ethnic Albanians said they would sign after "consultations" with residents in Kosovo, where a year-long conflict between separatists and the Serbs has killed more than 2,000 people.

Albright said, we have "not reached full agreement today."

"Unfortunately, (Yugoslav) President Milosevic and his delegation failed to seize the opportunity for progress," she said.

Both sides agreed to wide-ranging autonomy for the Kosovo Albanians. But the Serbs object to any reference to a referendum on independence for the ethnic Albanians, which still insist on a referendum after a 3-year interim period.

• Disability Woes

Women claim insurance test is unfair, humiliating

3 RAANANA, Israel (AP) — The bed is unmade, the bread is unsliced, the potatoes are unpeeled, and Penina Muchtar is all apologies.

"I can't do any of these tasks," the distraught 47-year-old homemaker said — but medical records alone won't get her a disability pension in Israel.

Suffering after spinal surgery that has left her unable to bend, sit or stand for very long, she must first fail a series of government-designed housewife tests to prove she can no longer manage her home.

Women who have run the gauntlet of buckets, bed sheets and bottle-washing complain the test is humiliating — but the National Insurance Institute says there's no other way to test their disability claims. The issue has prompted a debate in the media.

The 18 household chores include making a cup of tea, slicing bread, washing and ironing laundry (including hand-washable delicates), mopping the floor and cleaning out closets — all tested in a simulated kitchen, laundry room and bedroom.

Up to three officials watch closely, grading speed, confidence, and expertise. The results are assessed by a team of doctors and occupational therapists.

• Death to Blasphemers

High-ranking Muslim leader retracts threats

4 NEW DELHI, India (AP) — A hard-line Muslim cleric on Tuesday withdrew his threats against British author Salman Rushdie, who plans to visit his native India later this year.

Syed Ahmed Bukhari, a leader at India's largest mosque, threatened last month that Muslims would follow and harass Rushdie throughout his visit. In a speech about Rushdie to thousands of followers during Friday prayers last month, Bukhari had said: "The punishment for blasphemy is death."

India has a sizable Muslim minority and was the first to ban Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" — the novel called blasphemous by Muslim leaders. The government granted the Bombay-born Rushdie a visa in January for the first time since the 1980s.

Rushdie, 51, has not yet said when he will visit India, but it is likely to be next month, when his newest novel is released in India.

Bukhari withdrew his threats after a meeting Monday with President K. R. Narayanan. Bukhari said the president had promised to discuss with the prime minister the Muslim leaders' request that Rushdie's visa be withdrawn.

• Mulan Politics

Motion picture finally appears on big screen

5 SHANGHAI, China (AP) — Disney's "Mulan" premiered Tuesday in the homeland of its cartoon heroine, delighting its young audience after being held hostage for months by Chinese politics.

"I liked everything — the story, the music, the songs. It was perfect," 8-year-old Fu Weimeng said between mouthfuls of candied popcorn after a matinee at the Big Bright Cinema.

The film, based on a Chinese tale about a woman who disguises herself as a man to replace her father in battle, had been rejected last year by China's cultural mandarins.

China allows in only 10 foreign films a year to protect its own industry, and Disney had angered it two years ago with "Kundun," about Chinese rule in Tibet.

"Decisions on importing foreign movies usually relate to political and cultural considerations," the official Xinhua News Agency said last month in announcing censors had reversed their position.

"Mulan" is to show for one month in Shanghai, possibly longer if it is a success. It is also expected to show in Beijing and other cities, although it was not immediately clear when.

Faces: Rev. Joseph Koury

By Brad Morin
Maine Campus staff

The Rev. Joseph Koury has probably spent more time in colleges and universities than some of the faculty at the University of Maine. So it is natural for him to be pastor to a Catholic community built around the university.

"My life ended up in higher education," he said.

Koury is the priest for the Newman Center, the place of worship for UMaine's Catholics, and St. Mary's Catholic Church in Orono.

During his 15 years of post-secondary education, Koury has studied subjects such as Arabic, Islamic studies and theology at five universities and colleges. He also taught church law for nine years.

Koury's career in the priesthood took him away from higher education for several years when he ministered parishes in Seattle and Washington, D.C.

"I was ready to move out of the academic world after all those years in academics," he said.

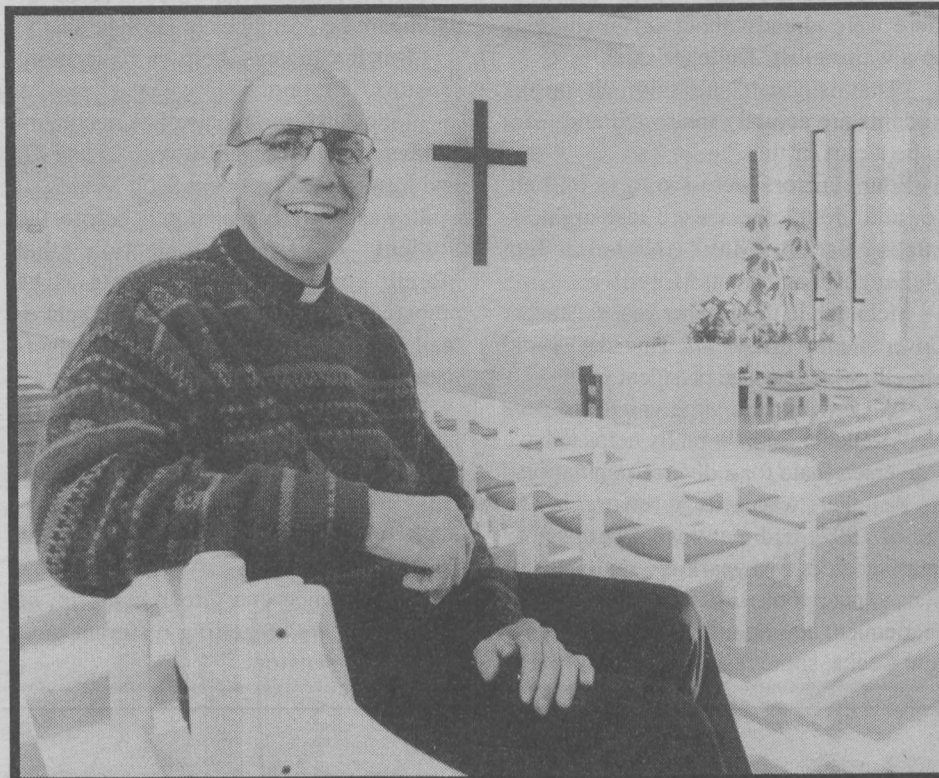
But Koury would return to school in a different function when he became chaplain to St. Joseph's College in Standish, Maine.

Four years ago, Koury came to Maine as pastor of the Newman Center. After years as a teacher, and as a student himself, Koury was now a minister to students and faculty.

Having spent so many years in higher education, Koury said he often helps students in his parish when they come to him with the typical college student problems.

"They'll come and talk about having to change their majors or why they are even here," he said. "They may also want to talk about a class that has challenged their faith."

Koury said students will also come to him to discuss their relationships or other aspects of their personal lives.



The Rev. Joe Koury is pastor of both the Newman Center and St. Mary's in Orono. (Caleb Raynor photo.)

"A lot of people don't understand young adults and their issues," he said. "I think it's a wonderful time in their lives."

Koury has another community that he serves outside of the university. After being at the Newman Center for only two years, he became pastor of St. Mary's, the church of many Orono natives.

Sister Mary Sweeney is the campus minister for the Newman Center. She said St. Mary's is more a traditional church, serving a geographic area rather than the university community.

Roger and Mary Taylor have been residents of Orono and parishioners at the Newman Center since 1946. They said there is quite a difference between the two parishes.

"You've got two completely different parishes," Roger said. "St. Mary's is an

old, established church in town with older parishioners who are set in their ideas."

The Newman Center is geared more toward the university. The parish is named after Cardinal John Newman, who wrote a treatise on higher education. Koury said most Catholic communities at public universities are named after him.

Sweeney said Koury's responsibility over the two parishes is a gift because it helps bring the two communities together. She said there is often only one service for the two communities on holidays.

"I think that's part of the plus of having the same person at both places," Sweeney said. "If they go to either place, he's still their same pastor."

Koury seems to have bridged any gaps between the communities.

"It was a hard thing to do," Taylor said. "He had some controversy between the two groups trying to settle meeting hours and so forth. He seems to have handled things quite well."

Taking care of two parishes has become routine for many priests in Maine. The Portland diocese faces a shortage of priests.

"He's been here during quite a difficult time for all of these priests," Taylor said.

"They have to double up on their parishes."

Koury admits that taking care of two parishes leaves him little free time, but he finds time for some hobbies.

Koury lives in the rectory attached to the Newman Center. The walls of his office and hallway are decorated with framed color photographs of landscapes. One of Koury's hobbies, when he has free time, is outdoor photography.

Koury's background is different from the typically homogeneous Maine community he serves. He grew up in Rhode Island. His parents were immigrants from Damascus, Syria.

Koury is also well-traveled. He spent two weeks of last summer visiting relatives in Syria. He has been to Australia and Europe and has been to 48 states in the union.

Koury said he experienced quite a mix of cultures when he was at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. He was there studying Arabic while living in a French community.

"I enjoy seeing new places and different cultures," he said.

Koury said he will remain at Maine for at least two more years. Assignments for parish priests usually last for six years and can be extended for a few more years after that.

"It's a mixture of where there's a need and where I'm interested in going," he said.

"Given my background, this has worked out well for me here."

ROC

from page 1

president of ROC since February.

Chiasson briefly spoke on why she is ready to work on issues or problems they may face in the coming year.

"I knew from the first minute I loved the university campus," she said. "But with everything you love, there's always room for improvement."

In his farewell address, Duke explained in detail his relatively quick rise to presidency and wished the same success to longtime friend and colleague Burke.

The pair met in high school about seven years ago. Burke had convinced Duke's parents to have him apply to Maine, where both of their political activities flourished — his more quickly than usual.

He was the ROC representative of

Aroostook Hall in fall of 1997. Within a week, the ROC vice president resigned, and Duke was chosen to fill the spot. Then, after a controversial election last February, Presidential-elect Ryan Eslinger abruptly resigned his new position on election night. Duke was chosen as the best person to replace him.

Duke ran through some things ROC had accomplished in the past years while he was president. The campus TV station added three channels, and two of the probably most successful concerts in recent history, the Wallflowers and Adam Sandler, filled campus arenas.

Burke has a great vision for what's ahead, Duke said. He believed Chiasson was on one of the best residence hall governing boards last year, so he knew she'd be great as the new vice president.

Sex matters?

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The Maine Campus

UMaine's thrice-weekly newspaper

What book do you think we should be reading in the first year of the new millennium?

Call for CLASS

The Academic Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate is soliciting nominations from faculty, students, and

1. The book should be of sufficient intellectual rigor and cultural interest to engage an audience of university faculty and students, yet broad enough to appeal to a diverse academic community.
2. All nominations should be accompanied by a copy of the book (which will be returned to you) and a one page statement outlining the arguments in favor of its selection.
3. The book should be available in paperback and reasonable cost.



Please send nominations to James Horan, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, Department of Public

The deadline for nominations is Friday, February 26, 1999

• Student Government

After 2 years, no more vacant GSS seats

By Stanley Dankoski
Maine Campus staff

All 37 seats of the University of Maine's General Student Senate will be filled by the senate's first meeting after spring break, an event that hasn't happened since the fall semester of 1997, said the new senate president.

Most of the empty seats would have been filled at last night's meeting, but two other seats opened up since the beginning of this week.

Sen. Chris Henninger resigned his position as senator earlier yesterday. He will instead stay as the Interfraternity Council representative.

Sen. Jacquelyn Chiasson's York Hall seat opened after she was sworn in as the new vice president of Residents on Campus Monday night.

Kelleher's York Hall seat has been open since he became president of the senate.

As of before last night's meeting, there were already about seven students on a waiting list, Kelleher said.

"That is great," he said. "It means students are actually interested and want to be a part of this."

Four senators were sworn in on Feb. 16, and four others were last night — James Carter, Malik Nichols, Lyn McLaughlin and Scott Morelli.

McLaughlin finished her year as Student Government president last Thursday, as did Morelli, who was vice president.

"We now have a large variety of people," Kelleher said. "It really helps to have a diverse senate for a diverse population."

Kelleher, who was a senator in the fall of 1997, said many who were sworn in as senators two years ago realized student senate took time away from their academics, among other reasons. After a few weeks, some resigned or simply left.

Having fewer senators did not necessarily impair the operations of GSS, he said.

"But it can only help to have more senators," he said.

In the past year, the average maximum number of senators was between 25 and 27, said former GSS President Scott Morelli.

It wasn't until the month before the Student Government election that Morelli pushed for a full senate as he prepared to leave his position. He sent e-mail to FirstClass folders and had advertisements in *The Maine Campus*.

"It was a combo of a couple different factors," he said. "Wes [Petteway] contributed a lot. By running for Student Government president, he got more people he knew involved. It's like when the fraternities became part of GSS a few years ago: once one Greek came in, so did others. We're getting different genres of new senators."

Morelli said he wasn't surprised the seats were filled as quickly as they did.

"We've got a lot of issues going on now," he said, mentioning the retirement community and the incessant problem with parking spaces. "They got people interested and involved."

Morelli said the new senators came in at a good time — at mid-year, when students are settled into school life and know the issues at hand.

"I can tell already some people are coming in with agendas, and that's good," Kelleher said. "I think this time we'll have senators who really want to get involved and will stay."

"The most important thing for Student Government is for it to have a full student senate because that's 37 different voices and views," Morelli said.

"It will be good to get a fresh start with new people," Kelleher said.

Greeks

from page 1

tions at UMaine.

The bill, which is sponsored by Rep. Chris O'Neil, D-Saco, has the Greek community up in arms, struggling to promote a positive image for itself and prove it is an asset to the university.

For example, of the \$15,000 raised by student organizations through philanthropic activities last year, \$14,500 were raised by the Greeks, according to Michael Johnson, special events and Greek Life coordinator.

"We're raising the most money, we're the most organized," he said. "We attain and hold many of the highest leadership positions on campus."

Greek Life consultant Stephanie Bailey said women in sororities have also improved the all-women's grade point average for four semesters in a row.

Dana said the Greeks have been rallying, talking and organizing in preparation for Thursday's hearing. Today, members of the Greek community are meeting with O'Neil to discuss the bill, and Thursday they will travel to Augusta

to read prepared statements at the hearing.

O'Neil said he has taken every precaution to ensure that Greeks have every opportunity to respond to this legislation.

"I'm coming up there to find out how [the Greeks] feel," he said. "I know there are good things they do, and I'm trying to do this without it being a witch hunt."

O'Neil said he is "Saco's legislator," however, and when a group of constituents led by Susan Gold came to him with concerns over Greeks at UMaine, he felt obligated to sponsor the bill.

"If constituents can show me they're prepared, have valid arguments, and will show up at a legislative hearing, I have to give them their day in court," O'Neil said.

Gold said the presence of fraternities and sororities discourages talented students from applying to UMaine. She also said Greeks make UMaine less prestigious.

"When [President] Hoff took over he said he wanted to attract excellence, and as a taxpayer and alumna of the

University of Maine System I wanted to see that happen," she said. "But fraternities and sororities distract from getting bright students on campus. I don't want to see that excellence jeopardized."

Because taxpayers financially support UMaine in part, Gold said the university is sending the message to potential students that what Greeks do is OK.

Gold has gathered evidence from various studies, including President Hoff's report, indicating Greeks are associated with alcohol and sexual abuse, for example.

Johnson said these are the stereotypes Greeks fight all the time.

"[Gold] has the impression that Greeks are bad, that they fulfill all the stereotypes, and that there is no reason taxpayers' money should support those who are inherently corrupt," he said.

"We're trying to prove we're not like that," he said. "She has her point and it all comes down to education."

Dana said Greeks do not get any special services, financially, that other organizations do not also get.

"We don't have a specific pot of money for them," he said. "They have student support services but all groups do. Nothing comes to them free."

Johnson said cutting off funding to fraternities and sororities would be discrimination and violations of the First and 14th Amendments.

"It's ridiculous if passed, because we're like any other students on campus," he said.

Gold said the opposite is true: Greek organizations are different than other student organizations.

"Greeks have their own houses that set them apart from other students," she said. "It sets up this whole cycle of an exclusive society when other clubs are open to everyone."

A similar bill was drafted last year by the same group of constituents, but it didn't meet the criteria for emergency legislation, O'Neil said.

O'Neil said he isn't sure whether the legislature is the appropriate vehicle, but it's one way to get people talking about Greek organizations.

RICHARD DAWKINS

A DARWINIAN EVENING

Thursday, February 25, 1999 — 7:00 p.m., Doors Open at 6

Reception and Book Signing Follow Lecture

At the **Maine Center for the Arts,**

University of Maine

100 Murray Hall

Canceled

Newton discovered the cell, and suggested that life is a machine.

Are human beings so complex that, like a watch, they must have been designed? Thomas Huxley found this self evident.

Are organisms machines built to propagate 'selfish genes'?

Dawkins Explains...

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Lecture Canceled

A public lecture by Richard Dawkins of Oxford University scheduled for Feb. 25 at the University of Maine has been canceled. According to the New York agency which was making arrangements for Dawkins' North American tour, the author is staying in England to care for a sick family member.

Dawkins' presentation, titled "A Darwinian Evening," may be rescheduled later this spring. Dawkins is a prize winning author of "The Selfish Gene" and most recently, "Unweaving the Rainbow." Sponsors of Dawkins' lecture at the Ohio State University last year called it "the intellectual high point of the year."

His UMaine appearance was arranged by the Evolution Journal Club, a student group within the College of Natural Sciences, Agriculture and Forestry at UMaine.

• State News

Drive to ban 'partial-birth' abortion moves forward

PORTLAND (AP) — Critics of a proposed ban on a certain late-term abortions are gearing up for a fight now that enough signatures have been certified to send the issue to lawmakers and ultimately state voters.

"I believe that once the people of Maine have an opportunity to really examine this issue, they will defeat it at the polls in 1999," Laura Fortman, executive director of the Maine Women's Lobby, said Monday.

Secretary of State Dan Gwadosky said the petition drive to end so-called partial-birth abortions was successful, moving the debate back into the State House.

Gwadosky said 91,113 signatures were submitted and 8,741 were found invalid. Petitioners had to collect enough signatures to represent 10 percent of the total number of votes cast in the last gubernato-

rial election, or 42,101 signatures.

The proposal will first go to the Legislature, which could pass it or send it to voters in November.

The question reads, "Do you want to ban a specific abortion procedure to be defined in law, except in cases where the life of the mother is in danger?" As proposed by referendum sponsors, a doctor "may not knowingly perform a partial-birth abortion and thereby kill a human fetus."

Doctors could lose their licenses or serve jail time for breaking the law if it passes.

Planned Parenthood and women's advocates say the proposal is deceptive. They say that because there is no such medical term as "partial-birth abortion," other procedures could be grouped under the law. And the wording would create a legal uncertainty that could keep doctors from performing abortions of any kind,

they say, which also would make it unconstitutional.

They said courts in other states have found similar legislation to violate a woman's constitutionally guaranteed right to choose abortion.

"Clearly, the law is intended to have a chilling effect on doctors. We're going to fight it tooth and nail," said George Hill, executive director of the Family Planning Association of Maine.

But Mike Heath, executive director of the Christian Civic League of Maine, said the language specifies one procedure.

"Our intent has never been to go beyond it," he said.

Dr. Dora Mills, Maine's health officer, said current law allows doctors to consider the health of the mother, a distinction from the proposed law that would require doctors to prove a patient's life was in

danger.

"If it's my daughter or my sister, I want them to start making decisions before I start seeing my daughter or my sister is going to die otherwise," she said.

Heath said the language would allow for doctors to intervene in life threatening situations before it is too late.

"That language has been clearly understood, at least to me, that the intervention would be allowed to happen at an appropriate time, not when the mother is about to die," he said.

A similar bill was approved by the House of Representatives two years ago but it was defeated by the Senate.

But even if the proposal were to get through the Legislature, it would face opposition and possible veto by Gov. Angus King, who says late-term abortions are already illegal in Maine.

• National News

Texan could get death penalty for dragging murder

JASPER, Texas (AP) — A white supremacist was convicted of murder Tuesday and could get the death penalty for chaining a black man to a pickup truck and dragging him until his body was torn to pieces in a crime that shocked the nation with its savagery.

The jury of 11 whites and one black took less than 2 1/2 hours to reach a verdict against John William King in the slaying last June of James Byrd Jr. Courtroom spectators applauded and the victim's relatives broke into tears.

The jury then heard evidence on whether the 24-year-old laborer should get the death penalty or life in prison for one of

the grisliest racial crimes in the United States since the civil rights era. The penalty phase was expected to continue Wednesday morning.

His son, Ross Byrd, said: "All I know is that there's one down and two to go."

King was the first of three white men to go on trial in the slaying, which prosecutors said he carried out because he wanted "something dramatic" to gain credibility for a racist group he was organizing.

King leaned forward when the verdict was read, shielding himself from cameras, then sat back in his chair with his fingers on his chin.

One of his lawyers said King was not surprised by the verdict and considered himself the victim of a conspiracy.

"I hope he receives life without parole," the Rev. Jesse Jackson said from New York. "If these three men saw killing as a solution in their sick state, then we in our sober and sane state must know killing is not a solution."

NAACP President Kweisi Mfume said the case "clearly shouts across the world for the urgent need of this Congress to move quickly to strengthen and to pass anti-hate legislation."

President Clinton said nationwide expressions of outrage over Byrd's death

"demonstrate that an act of evil like this is not what our country is all about." He added: "Our work for racial reconciliation and an end to all crimes of hatred in this country will go on."

Byrd's head and arm were found torn off after he was pulled nearly three miles while tied by his ankles with a 24 1/2-foot logging chain.

The murder thrust Jasper into a national spotlight that many in the half-black timber town of 8,000 contended was unfair. Members of the Ku Klux Klan and New Black Panthers descended on Jasper, about 100 miles northeast of Houston, to demonstrate.

Grant

from page 1

university to build up its infrastructure, putting UMaine in a position to compete for this merit-based grant, Lad said. The program also received support and encouragement from Defense Secretary William S. Cohen and Sens. Snowe and Susan Collins.

Freeman said the work done at UMaine and SRD should open up the possibility of being awarded future funding.

The grant will help in developing "very small, compact sensors which detect chemical and biological agents," Lad said.

Lad stressed that no one on campus should worry about the presence of these agents.

"We're testing them with nontoxic molecules to develop the technology and, once mature, they will be tested at military facilities against real agents," Lad said.

The current technology in the field employs large detectors, which can take hours to detect the presence of agents. The sensors being developed at UMaine and SRD will be handheld and provide immediate detection, Lad said.

Once the university performs fundamental research, SRD will create the project.

"We're the ones that translate theory into practice," Freeman said.

The project will involve people from many different departments at the university, such as physics, chemistry and

electrical engineering, Lad said.

"You're not just getting knowledge in one field," said Rachel Morehouse, a sophomore electrical engineering major who works at LASST. "I've learned so much about chemistry, about physics. You can apply the concepts you've learned in class to the lab."

Morehouse is working with an automated gas delivery system to test the film used in the sensors.

Morehouse said the biggest benefit of the grant will be the opportunity for students to gain expertise from people hired by the grant funding.

While not all students working at LASST will be directly involved with the project, many will still feel the effects of the grant funding.

Luke Doucette, a junior physics major who works in the surface science area of the lab, said the ripple effect will allow him to take advantage of using new equipment.

"It's an excellent opportunity to be working with state-of-the-art equipment," Doucette said. "I feel lucky to be working there."

While Lad noted the people involved still face a lot of developmental work in the next two years, all parties appeared enthusiastic about the mission ahead.

"This is a major expansion of our company's capabilities," Freeman said. "We're able to now take some of the initial detector work we've done and have a product to use in the real world."

New Dorms

from page 1

halls will endure renovation this summer.

"Residence halls in the Stewart quad will experience renovations as will Stewart commons," Anderson said. "They will be in better condition than they are."

Sen. Jon Duke asked whether there would be enough parking options for the new dorms.

"Unfortunately, there isn't an easy short-term solution to the problem," Anderson said. "The long-term solution to the problem would be adding new parking next to the lot by York Village."

"The parking solution is going to get worse before it gets better," he said.

In other business, Sen. Scott Morelli spoke about a recent Traffic and Safety committee meeting.

Although they voted down Morelli's proposal for open parking, the committee did agree on lowering the decal price.


"You might be looking at a \$10 decal next year," he said.

Sen. Chris Barstow is going to have a petition drive to show there is student support for the Recreation Center.

"The main concern of the administration is how to fund the center," Barstow said. "With the petitions would show that there is student support for it."

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EDITORIAL

Education future is now

Maine leaders in public school education are finally calling the shots as they see them: Gov. King likes to talk about education, but he's all talk and not enough action. Recently, the Maine Education Association and numerous superintendents across the state have openly criticized King for not giving schools enough money.

Lately, taxpayers have shouldered the brunt of public school funding through property taxes. According to an article in the Maine Sunday Telegram, property-tax payers, not the state, are responsible for 70 percent of the increase in education spending. At one time the state paid 51.5 percent of the education budget; now, it only pays 44 percent. A law passed in the 1980s says the state should pay no less than 55 percent of the education budget each year.

Educators argue many communities can no longer support increases in property taxes. Already a distinction has been drawn between school systems in more wealthy regions of Maine, where higher property taxes can be paid, and school systems in poorer regions of Maine, where higher property taxes cannot be paid.

The state is responsible for providing equal education for all regions of Maine, and it is failing to pull its weight. King claims the state can't give any more of its money to education. He argues the taxpayers of Maine, like the taxpayers of many Maine towns, cannot afford an increase in education funding either. Not the kind of increase educators want, anyway. King has proposed a \$28 million increase in education spending over the next two years, while school leaders want \$150 million to \$170 million over the next three years.

Does it make sense, however, for King to make a half-cent cut in the sales tax when the education system is so embattled due to lack of funding for so many years? For once, Maine's economy is in relatively good shape. There are surpluses. Tax breaks, as diminutive as they are, are planned. Money should be spent instead where it hasn't been spent in years. What better place to invest than in schools, where the future of the state lies? This way we have a chance of keeping the good times rolling.

Petition wording murky

Voters next November may be deciding if the state of Maine will ban a late-term abortion known as "partial-birth abortion." This is the result of a petition drive to get the issue on the ballot as another "citizen's initiative."

The question reads, "Do you want to ban a specific abortion procedure to be defined in law, except in cases where the life of the mother is in danger?"

The wording of this petition is too vague. The organizers should have spelled out exactly what they wanted so Maine voters can vote their consciences on this issue.

The only way that procedure is defined now is as a "partial-birth abortion." Critics say the vague wording may keep doctors from performing abortions when they may risk breaking a law. If a doctor could face a loss of license or imprisonment for violating this law, the procedure should be clearly defined. Voters deserve that same clarity.

The partial-birth abortion petition is only one example of a larger problem. These citizen referendums are divisive to the state. When voter turnout is low, they allow vocal people of a minority opinion to impact Maine law. In February 1998, a little more than 145,000 voters, a measly 30 percent voter turnout, repealed Maine's gay-rights law by a narrow margin. Next November, the voters will probably have to decide on both the partial-birth abortion question and a proposal to legalize marijuana for medical purposes.

It only takes 42,000 signatures, 10 percent of the voters from the last gubernatorial election, to get one of these issues before the Maine Legislature. If it does not pass the Legislature, it may go on the ballot as a referendum question.

The state should either raise the number of signatures it takes to get an issue on the ballot, or more Mainers should vote in order to make it harder to get 10 percent. That way, only issues of great importance will be up to voters, while elected officials can handle the smaller issues and deliberate over the more divisive ones.

The Maine Campus

The University of Maine Newspaper Since 1875

Volume 116

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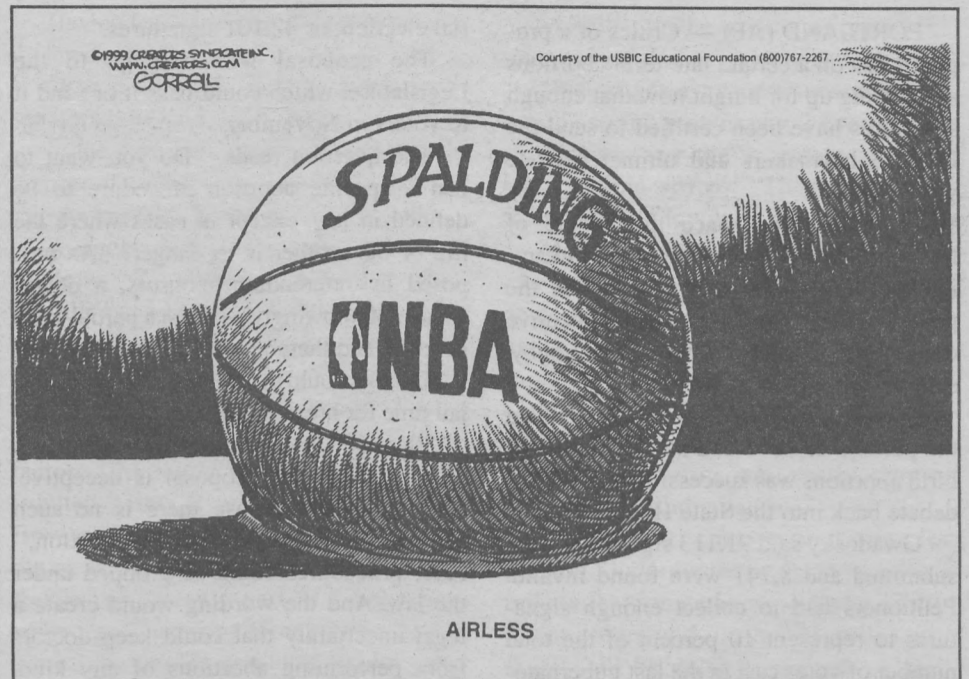
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• Letters to the Editor

• Thanks for help

To the editor:

On Feb. 6, several of your students attended a protest rally for Indian political prisoner Leonard Peltier in Portland. Seventy-five people showed up, despite cold weather, to collect 300 petition signatures and disseminate 350 Leonard Peltier leaflets. I would like to thank these students for their efforts in hopefully securing the release of Leonard Peltier. In the spirit of Peltier we are strong!

David Spirit Bear
Walton
American Indian
Movement
Limington

• Rewards good

To the editor:

I can understand how Josh Nason may be upset about the inequity [between student-athletes and other students]. However, the answer is not to take away. The answer is to praise the

others who also deserve it. One importance of this event [the annual Scholar-Athlete Recognition Awards, presented Sunday, Feb. 14] is that it takes the emphasis off the sport and places it on academics. In a time when academia is shunning the academic portion of college just to get athletes, I am proud that this university is rewarding those who focus enough on their school work to excel. This award shows athletes that school is more important than sports (which is also emphasized by every coach I have ever had).

As an athlete who did not receive a scholarship and had to work 20 hours a week to stay alive and still achieved a 3.8 undergraduate GPA, I felt proud receiving the award and felt that I had earned it. The athletes are being honored by one of their governing bodies (Athletic Advisory Board) for an excellent performance in schools. Other areas should honor their students for their excellent work. Each college honors its students. Maybe the commons

should honor their student-workers. I would have appreciated that. The answer, however, is not to take away the awards from those that deserve them.

This would be like saying that because men and women are not given equal rights in this country, we should take away the extra rights that men have so that the sexes are equal. It just doesn't work. The answer is to honor those others that deserve to be honored. In finishing, I would like to congratulate all students at this university that excel in their studies. Keep up the good work.

Tracy Comeau
Milford

• Cocoa madness

To the editor:

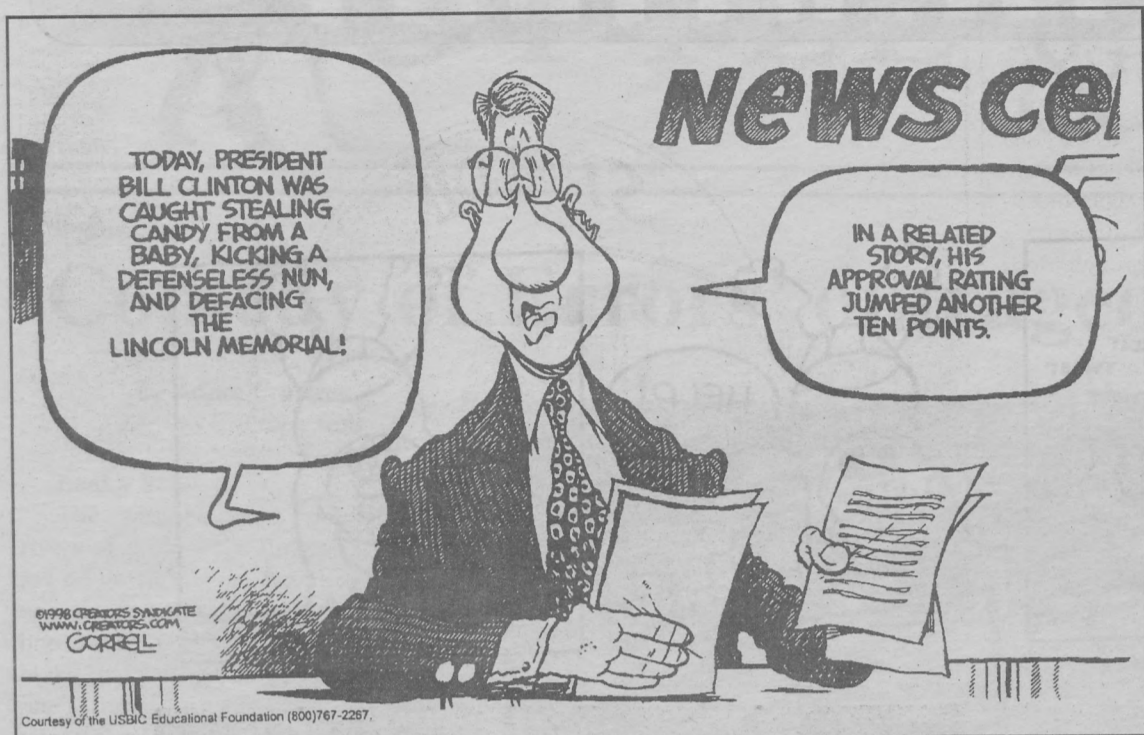
Come and drink our cocoa from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday in front of the Union. Be there and get some for free. Sponsored by Tri Delta's Random Acts of Kindness Committee.

Laurie Dionne
Stillwater

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editorial pages of *The Maine Campus* are for the free exchange of ideas among members of the university community. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 250 words. Guest columns should be approximately 600 words. They may be mailed to or dropped off in person on the fourth floor of Chadbourne Hall, or e-mailed to ToTheEditor@umit.maine.edu. All submissions must include full name, address and phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published without a compelling reason.

OP/ED



• The lost thought

What about merit?

It's question six on the University of Maine System application for undergraduate admission. [Optional] Please indicate if you are one of the following: American Indian or Alaskan native. Asian or Pacific Islander. Black [non-

dream school you previously only fantasized of attending. I vehemently argue this subject with my sister, a Spanish major at a New York institution, and I honestly think my relationship with her has been strained because of it.

By Bill Stewart



Hispanic]. Hispanic. White [non-Hispanic]. The statement on the application is sandwiched in between your date of birth and what your housing plans would be, either residence hall or off-campus.

In fact, the application asks what racial category you belong in before it asks what campus you plan to apply to.

Question 15: Optional information: Please share with us any additional information about you or your family which will be helpful as we evaluate your application.

Pretty open-ended, huh? Well, I like lobsters and a variety of other seafood delicacies, my father is a Florida State Seminole and, um, oh yeah, I'm not black. No one in my family is. I'm not Hispanic either, nor am I a Pacific Islander. And if you haven't guessed it yet, I'm not an American Indian, nor am I a native of Alaska, although I heard it's a beautiful place to live.

After going over the undergraduate application for verification reasons alone, I left puzzled, wondering why we are faced with these questions in the first place. Does it matter if I'm black or white when applying to college? Of course some would say you don't have to answer the question. But why is it even there?

What's the point of putting these questions on an application? Why? Whether it be a job application or one for school, does it matter what the color of your skin is for these matters?

Sadly, and perhaps more than ever, now it does.

In our progressive society draped in Darwinian practices, there is a dramatic shift in the criteria used for acceptance in the economical, educational and political world.

Maybe it's the job you always wanted or perhaps it's that acceptance letter to the

However, it's something that burns passionately inside of us. It's a world engulfed with inequality where socioeconomic structures are designed to facilitate the success of the white man. Hmm, I'll say, what about merit?

And that is one of the problems our society is facing today. I agree that inequalities exist not only in our society at large but even here at this university, but I also know that educational and professional acceptance based on merit is no longer a factor.

We live and work in a society where the color of your skin is more significant and important to a job application than your previous experience or background in a related field. What do you think – regardless of your race – when you see a job advertisement where the last sentence reads: Black women encouraged to apply. Or, women encouraged to apply.

Isn't anything based on merit nowadays? And if you think this is nothing more than a disgruntled white man upset at the system, then you should take a closer look at the issue.

Let's say you're a minority, for lack of a better word, and are hired by a prestigious company or business, wouldn't you want it to be because you were the best possible person for the job?

Wouldn't you sleep better at night knowing that you got the job because your work background proved you deserved it?

Personally, I would feel more secure and confident about myself knowing I was accepted to a school or business because of my qualifications.

But this isn't the case anymore. And now, no one gains.

Bill Stewart is a senior journalism major and is the sports editor for The Maine Campus.

• All that glitters

Calls to write go unanswered

Time and time again, through these pages, there is a call for writing. On FirstClass, that same call is there, a plea almost, to share experiences and creativity with other members of the campus community. Tacked and taped to our wall is this call, urging us that what we say matters and is worthwhile for others to see, to learn from.

Yet the response from these calls is unbelievably small. For the amount of intelligence out there, there is such a small number who present it publicly. What is even more unbelievable is that people who have great ideas, insightful knowledge and a funky use of language do not want to write. This blows my mind. "I'm not a writer," they tend to say as they walk away with a notebook full of work.

Writing forces you to come to the forefront and take responsibility for your words. And that is not easy because sometimes you have no idea what you are saying. The words spurt out, sometimes they flow and you know what you are doing, but you really never know until you read it and realize what you wrote. And then it overwhelms you, not because you are pretentious and egotistical, but because they are a solid stamp of your thoughts. And while sometimes these thoughts may be trivialized by the very words that frame them, sometimes it ends up being a very beautiful thing that inspires you to continue.

So, you continue and you find people are reading what you write and you are dying to know what you sound like, what your voice sounds like; are you obnoxious, are you smarmy, are you spiritual, are you cynical –

what? But you can't ask, because if you ask then you give your secret away – your secret being that you don't know yourself, you only learn little by little as the information seeps out of your head and onto paper.

This process is a

By Elisabeth Gold



great thing, and rereading words that have found their way to solid form is earth-shattering. Your thoughts become real and your reality is in front of you – you can no longer ignore those words screaming to get out. Your physical sense of self must take on the mental state and accept and celebrate what is going on.

This, though, is not easy. Sometimes words get flustered and blocked and your ideas are stunted. Other times, they flow so easily in your head until you pick up the pencil or turn on the computer – then the light goes out. Writing for different exchanges may help, whether you become inspired and decide to write for the dignified *Maine Campus* and share something from your bag of tricks with the university community through our old-school gray-and-white newsprint or pick up the latest issue of the *Village Idiot* and

decide you want to experiment with tasty typography and provocative prose, integrating it all in with wintermint text. Or you may want to help us feisty gals over at the women's association who are fighting the root of

all evil in our latest brouhaha "The Loop." And what about the new GLBT handout, which is coming out during a fall semester near you to help organ-

ize and network the local gay community? And for all you peace frogs out there, check out the activists' work through the MPAC newsletter. And don't ever forget the staples of the literary loop – the *Stolen Island Review* and the *Maine Review*, who keep those mouths moving with pages and pages of short stories and poetry.

Whatever your pleasure, there could be an outlet for you. From all the words being exchanged through our FirstClass culture, there has got to be some meant for publishing. Discussions, personal stories, essays, graphics, questions, answers – come on, say it and say it loud, write it down and then be proud because you did your body good.

Elisabeth Gold is a senior sociology major and is the style editor for The Maine Campus.

Your opinion matters

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ENTERTAINMENT

Mr. GNU



The Short Bus ©1999 BY Stephen Winslow



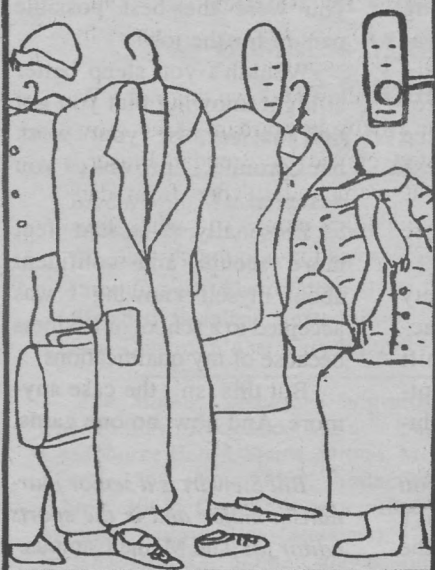
Leold www.leold.com
by Roger and Salem Salloom © 1997

I want to be a great leader of people, but I'll start small. First at the bus station using non-verbal communication I'll try to line them up and march them onto the bus.

I'm a magnet for people without a purpose. We find each other the way brutes find a certain street corner together.

If I can't get them on the bus, at least, I'll make them anxious. I'm pretty sure I can do that. I'm a natural with neurotics as well.

Eventually, I can have a whole regiment of neurotic people who otherwise have no purpose in life but are very good about getting on buses.



New York Times Daily Crossword

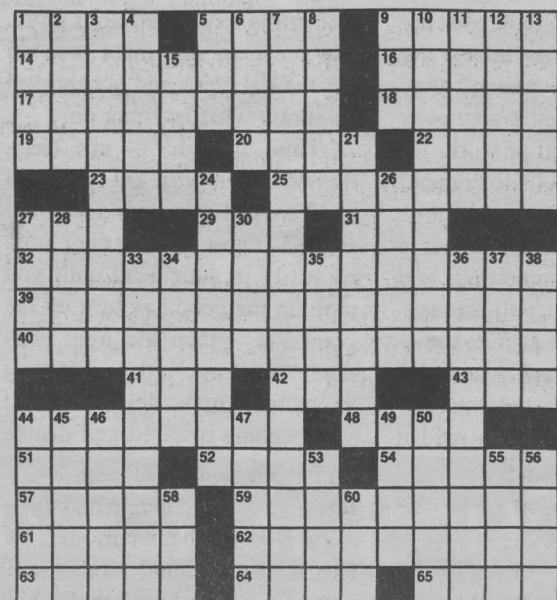
Edited By Will Shortz

No. 0703

- ACROSS**
- 1 Close to closed
 - 5 Bandy
 - 9 Set store by
 - 14 Part of a gimlet
 - 16 Work orders?
 - 17 Bygone wedding vow
 - 18 Mere
 - 19 "___ at End House" (Christie mystery)
 - 20 Go by the board?
 - 22 Molding type
 - 23 Mothballed
 - 25 Corn sugar
 - 27 Former auto mfr.
 - 29 Formal need
 - 31 Churl
 - 32 It may follow a cease-fire
 - 39 Outdoor decorations
 - 40 Star's family, perhaps
 - 41 Together
 - 42 That, in Oaxaca
 - 43 British verb ending
 - 44 Shower unit?
 - 48 Kind of hall
 - 51 "___ Desire" (1953 Barbara Stanwyck movie)
 - 52 Pothers
 - 54 Big drawer?
 - 57 Hit the bottle
 - 59 Smoothed
 - 61 Architectural afterthought
- DOWN**
- 1 Out of balance
 - 2 See eye to eye
 - 3 Things of national interest
 - 4 Took from the top
 - 5 Go a-courting?
 - 6 Flag waver?
 - 7 Adjusters' concerns
 - 8 Bone to pick
 - 9 Tony Blair and others, for short
 - 10 Black boxes
 - 11 Cricket stage
 - 12 Becomes inattentive, with "out"
 - 13 French name that sounds like two letters
 - 15 Tumbler of rhyme
 - 21 Has a flair for
 - 24 "You get the idea..."
 - 26 Somewhat sour
 - 27 How bottles of soft drink may be priced?
 - 28 Scottish blackbird
 - 62 Some circus performers
 - 63 Needle
 - 64 Basil, e.g.
 - 65 First name in architecture

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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



Puzzle by Martin Ashwood-Smith

- 30 College founded in 1940
- 33 Treats as holy
- 34 Fiddle with
- 35 Wray and others
- 36 Bottom line, so to speak
- 37 Civic boundaries?
- 38 Salinger dedicatee
- 44 Nearest capital to Gibraltar
- 45 Helpless?
- 46 Massey of "Balalaika"
- 47 Keats, e.g.
- 49 Indication
- 50 Military formation
- 53 Short-billed rail
- 55 Square dance official
- 56 ___ cost
- 58 Devon river
- 60 "Fear not, ___ be dismayed": II Chronicles

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STYLE & ARTS



• MCA

‘Comedy of Errors’ outrageous and entertaining

By Adam Crowley
Maine Campus staff

Lookie here:

The witches were smirking and rivers of drool were floating chunks of joy on down into the bubbling crude. If one decided to gaze into that goo, well, one would have seen something apt to make one's funny bone rip itself from one's frame and set upon one with a frightful vengeance. Behold the thrice-doctored Dr. John Q. Wannabody as he attempts to tell his maid, Emma, why she is laughing so after going to the show, "The Comedy of Errors."

"It appears that our institutions have a habit of expanding, stretching and ballooning out into grotesque forms. The results would make even the most uninteresting toad smile, snip his noose, throw away his pills and continue onwards into life. Stop laughing like that! You get your shoes off the ceiling fan, and I'll get us something to drink and then we will talk a little bit about this show. Quit grinning at me like that! Jeez, you give me the creeps sometimes."

"Listen, Emma, a story: The Bard once wrote a play entitled 'The Comedy of Errors'. Following? And soon after, geologically speaking, he died. Now stop clapping! The show's over. We're home now! Now this show was, um, it was...



Aquila Theatre Company of London presents "The Comedy of Errors" by Shakespeare. (Courtesy photo.)

Um. Well, slap my knee, this was man-mountain Shakespeare! And since you can't get it on your own stupid own, I'm gonna help you. Stop giggling, dammit! It's distracting. Look. Listen.

"Colors, twists on the primary that were audible over the roar of an atomic symphony, assailed the eye and...um... The show was funny, yeah. Now, once or

twice I couldn't hear the words because...I'm a little deaf as of late and the action...um...the belly dancers distracted me. But the play was deep and grand! I know that! I was laughing and I couldn't stop. Like you. Just like you. <Sigh>. Here's your drink. Finish it and I'll try to tell you why you can't stop laughing.

"This show did not work, did not make me scream and turn you into a gibbering mush-head because Aquila decided to 'dumb down' the script, because it went for the obvious fart or erection joke in an attempt to pander to the boot lickers in the crowd. I'd have none of that. I'd have noticed that. It worked because... um... It worked because... um... I don't have a clue. It defied dissection, overblown spectacle that it was. But you saw that show! You know that. Oh, I'm just talking out my ass now. This is all your fault! It was an outrageous, entertaining spectacle. And that, my friend, is precisely why you are still laughing and the kids are getting scared and babysitter is still sitting in the car out in the garage waiting to go home, and its cold out there and she's wishing that she never took this job. That's it. We just don't know, OK. I need a drink now, too."

Enough!

And the witches stopped laughing, stopped mixing their noxious stew, and sucked up their slime. The bubbling of the brew resumed. Somewhere out in the swamp, Macbeth is crying on Hamlet's shoulder and Cassius is stabbing himself in the guts again and again and again. But here, just now, not very long ago geologically speaking, we laughed. And it's important that we don't forget that.

Have a good break!

• Film

Festival celebrates northern life

By Josh Pouwels
Special to the Campus

Every fall, thousands of people travel from all over the world to attend the Banff Mountain Film Festival in Alberta, Canada.

This international mountain film festival shows films from the amateur to the highly professional with a common theme, the mountains of the world.

Every year, the highlights of the festival are shown in hundreds of cities worldwide. This year, the festival played locally for three nights. There was an abbreviated version of the festival on Friday at the Bangor Opera House, and then on Saturday and Sunday the Grand Auditorium in Ellsworth showed the festival in its entirety.

The festival was broken up into two parts. The cultural films were shown on Saturday; these concentrated on mountain culture. On Sunday, the films were sports-related.

Saturday's program included an in-depth look at the Andes Mountain range first through the eyes of a local laborer mining salt on the salt flats at the base of the Andes Mountains, then through the eyes of a National Geographic field researcher who was looking for the frozen remains of a lost civilization, then through the eyes of a disabled villager who was climbing as a kind of penitence in prayer for the recovery of his legs.

The most memorable film of the night was collaboration between the BBC and National Geographic. The film followed a year in the life of a polar bear and her two cubs. The film followed the female bear through her pregnancy and showed the newborn bear cubs in their subzero den in northern Canada.

To describe the film doesn't do it justice. The close-up shots of the bear swimming gracefully underwater, the shots of seals inside their holes underneath just before the 1,500-pound bear broke through the ice, and the shots of the bear in desperation after months without food were truly unique.

This was not the nature program that my father used to fall asleep to. This was edge-of-your-seat riveting action. The audience laughed as they watched the 40-pound bear cubs trying to imitate their 1,500-pound mother who used her front paws to break through the ice. The bear cubs bounced on the ice with little result except to tumble to the ground.

The last film of Saturday evening was "Grandpa's in the Tuff Shed." This tongue-in-cheek documentary, partially funded by Michael Moore ("Roger and Me"), follows the story of Trygve Bauge, an eccentric Norwegian living near Nederland, Colorado. Trygve, believing in cryogenics has his grandfather's body frozen in his tool shed. The story, which starts out strange, just gets stranger.

See BANFF on page 10

• The Movie Hunter

A little 'Back to the Future' in 'Blast'

By Hunter Tzovarras
Maine Campus staff

There's a better movie trapped somewhere behind all the formalism and clichés "Blast From the Past" ultimately throws our way.

And there are times when that better movie peeks its head out, like when Christopher Walken's character warily emerges from a fall-out shelter for the first time in 35 years. He pops up on a grim, decadent Los Angeles street, quickly to conclude that all civilization has been lost, and happily scurries back to the sanctum of his underground haven, where his family waits.

The scene is funny and quirky and reminded me some of "Back To the Future" in reverse. Here we have someone with a '50s mentality being plunged into the late '90s. And, boy, how different things are now!

The spot where his house use to be is now a porno shop, and a creepy bar owner mistakes him for some sort of divine being after his elevator (the fall-out shelter's under the bar) burst through the floorboards. But let's not go too far.

While "Blast From the Past" has its moments, it's really impossible, even ridiculous, to include it in the same company as "Back To the Future." The latter is miles above the former.

The film is best at the start. After hear-

ing about the Cuban Missile Crisis, Calvin Weber (Walken) and his pregnant wife (Sissy Spacek), retreat to their elaborate fall-out shelter, with enough supplies to stock a Wal-mart. As bad luck would have it, a plane crashes on top of them. The doors seal shut for the next 35 years, while the Webers survive World War III has begun.

These early scenes are so good, thanks a lot to Walken and his zany performance. He's really funny. And for once, he's not the crazed sociopath who'll shake your hand as soon as he'll kill you. Instead, he plays an eccentric and genius scientist from Cal Tech. He's nuke paranoid, loses it over "I Love Lucy," and takes his Dr. Pepper hot and in a mug.

While they're down there, the Webers have a baby boy, Adam - the grown up version played by Brendan Fraser. He's taught math and science from dad and dancing from mom. And when the time finally comes to go to the surface, his one wish is to meet a nice, non-mutant girl. After all, it's been 35 years.

Sure, Fraser doesn't quite pass for 35, but it's all neatly explained away with a little joke.

Adam finds his way to the surface and his awkward attempts to mesh with modern-day life ensue. There's a number of

See BLAST on page 11

• Hadley's Kitchen

Enjoy a burger and say 'Hi' to Elvis at Nicky's

By Hadley Lewis
Maine Campus staff

Nicky's Cruisin' Diner on Union Street in Bangor is a neighborhood institution with a long history. It started as Grant's Ice Cream Parlor in the mid-'60s. The current owner, Howie Day, started working there at the age of 16. Nicky's is a boon for the community because it's been around for a long time, says the 44-year-old businessman. "It's got roots," Day insists.

George Brontas, who currently runs Captain Nick's Seafood Restaurant down the road, started the diner. Back then, food was served on paper plates and the menu was very small. Brontas added fried clams and seafood and haddock, now Nicky's biggest sellers.

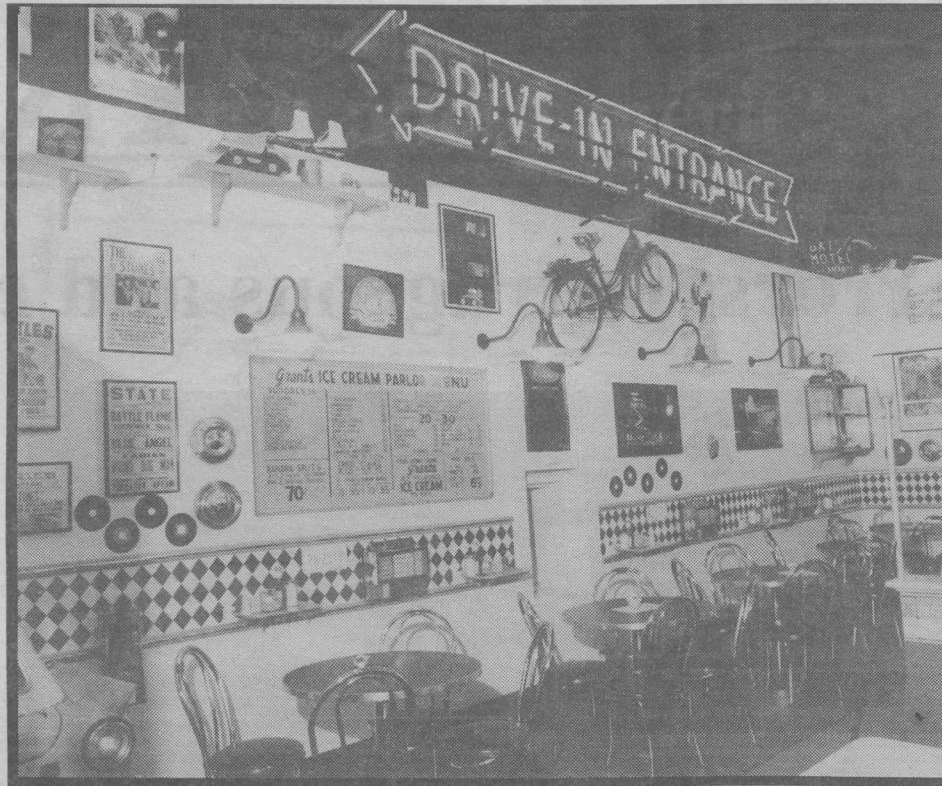
"The menu just evolved," Day says. "We're trying to lighten up and get healthy."

A few years ago, Day added a selection of stir-fries to the menu, and the salad choices are increasing. But, if it is old-fashioned greasy diner food you are looking for rest assured the cracker-meal-coated onion rings and the thick burgers will never disappear.

Another tradition at Nicky's is the festive back dining room. Oldies are playing and the walls are hung with hubcaps, eight-tracks and pictures of celebrities like Marilyn Monroe and James Dean. A velvet portrait of Elvis watches customers eat, and two pinball machines are strapped to the ceiling above the entrance to the room.

People eat in booths papered with license plate wallpaper, munching minitacos and chop suey among loads of diner memorabilia.

Also hanging in the doorway of the theme dining room is a sign that brings Nicky's Maine focus to the forefront. "Wanted- Good woman..." it reads,



Nicky's Cruisin' Diner is a neighborhood institution in Bangor. (Caleb Raynor photo.)

"Must have boat and motor. Please send picture of boat and motor."

The biggest change at Nicky's in the last 30 years has been its size. The original restaurant used to seat about 70 people. Now there are 144 seats.

When the building was owned by Grant's, large ice cream makers filled the back dining room. The storeroom, about the size of the entire Bear's Den, had tiny doors near the ceiling where a conveyor belt used to come through and deposit cartons of ice cream. Day and Brontas renovated the building and turned the large walk-in freezer into a storeroom and prep kitchen.

Most of the cooking at Nicky's is done out front, in plain view of the customers. The cooks move back and forth in a tiny space, flipping burgers and put-

ting together plates much the same way they did 30 years ago.

"We've tried to preserve the feel of the place," Day said.

One of the obvious holdovers from the diner's original days is the fact that cooks at Nicky's still use an ice cream scoop and a soup can to make burgers. The meat is measured with the scoop and the soup can is used to smash the meat into patties.

Nicky's appeal is its simplicity. "Today in the business everyone is trying to do everything. We just try to stick with the diner thing," Day says. And, even though the menu has been slimmed down, it still has many of the same things it did years ago.

Karen Cary of Bangor comes almost every morning for one of Nicky's signa-

ture muffins. The muffins are homemade and "they make almost every kind you can think of," Cary says. The list is endless - strawberry, blueberry, coffee cake, pineapple and even grape-nut muffins.

"We like to experiment," says 10-year employee and cook Leonard Mayhew. Cary likes the coffee cake muffins best and chides Mayhew for not making them more often.

"I like to come in here and push him around a bit," says Cary. "I come in here all the time, so I've got to know them all," she grins.

Cary's only gripe about Nicky's is that they raised their prices about six months ago. "The food is good. I just don't pay the price anymore," she says. But, she'll still shell out the money for a morning muffin.

The prices are still within student range however. For less than \$10, you can get an entrée, drink and possibly even a small appetizer.

And the meals are big. The beef stir-fry was more than big enough for one and consisted of julienned carrots, straw mushrooms, broccoli florets and even water chestnuts. It was served on a bed of rice pilaf and was sprinkled with thick chunks of marinated beef. The large order of onion rings was crunchy but the unique coating (cracker meal and flour) didn't soak up the grease as badly as most onion ring batters do.

Burgers are cheap here, about \$3.75 for a cheeseburger, and it comes with lettuce, tomatoes and onion and is large enough to fill up even a very hungry stomach. Nicky's even has daily specials like meat-loaf and chop suey, and they are all served with a zing side of classic coleslaw.

When you come to Nicky's don't expect gourmet. They don't do nouveau cuisine or health food. They do diner food. But they do it well. The greasy, hearty, tasty food is all it is supposed to be. And don't forget to say hello to Elvis after you eat.

Banff

from page 9

Sunday's films were about mountain sports. From ice climbing and rock climbing to extreme mountain kayaking.

The most visually stimulating film of Sunday's program followed a group of ice climbers to some of the most challenging climbing in the world. The film "Ice in Iceland" showed the stark beauty of Iceland. The film gave a human element to the intense climbing adventure by showing the exercise routines of the climbers, which included one-armed pull-ups.

The second highlight of Sunday was a film about climbing in Vietnam. Two experienced climbers, including well-known author Greg Child, climb straight out of the water to hundreds of feet as the Vietnamese boat people watch in amazement.

The Banff Mountain Film Festival gave the audience the opportunity to visit places that few people ever get to see. The festival inevitably helped the audience become eager to get out and enjoy the

Thursday

Ladies Night

40% Off Mexican Menu

Margarita's Sassy

Sangria \$3 glass

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Wednesday

Student I.D. Night

2 for 1 Mexican Entrees

Original and

Strawberry

Margarita's

\$2.00



Wednesday Feb 24

NO COVER

\$2 Margs

Thursday Feb. 25

DJ Dance

Party

\$2 Cover

Friday Feb 26

Live Music with Velvis

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to depression is your
awareness of it.

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UNTREATED
DEPRESSION

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(Andrew Bailey photo.)

Blast

from page 9

scenes where his quaint style and mannerisms clash with the modern world. He goes to a supermarket and a dance club and drives a car — all for the first time.

And, surprise, he meets a girl, Eve, (Alicia Silverstone.) She doesn't like him at first, but we can tell she really does, long before she can figure it out for herself. So basically it's just a matter of running time that's keeping these two apart. After all, you can't have them get together right away, because then there won't be any movie left.

The story really lost me in the third act. The relationship between Fraser and Silverstone is shamelessly trite. There's even a slow motion scene, with soaring music, as the two are reunited and she runs into his open arms. This will be something new to anyone who's never

seen a movie before.

The script could've definitely used a few more trips through the typewriter to bang out some of these dents. Especially at the end, where the film gets way too serious on itself. The film makers had it right at the start: Keep the material funny and lightly satirical. But by the end, the film tries to make points that are too thoughtful for such a lark, and they have no significance.

The better film would have known you can't have it both ways and would've stayed away from these pitfalls and would've been more original with its romance and would've stuck more with what was working so well at the start. Well, maybe, in the remake.

Rating: ★★



People of all races celebrate the Chinese New Year in Washington, D.C. on Sunday. (Andrew Bailey photo.)

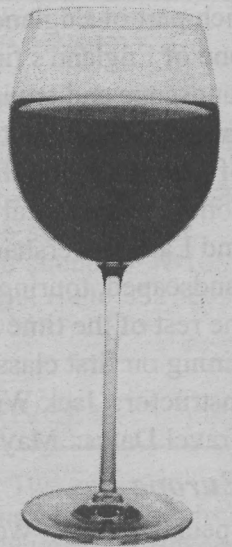
And the winners are ...

Quiz Answers!! Ya know you've been dying to hear the results...we got a great response (okay maybe just two) but still knowing that you are out there makes us at the Maine Campus smile. The winners are Ryan Fitzgibbons and Dan DelRossi. Come in anytime to claim your prize—a snatch out of the CD cabinet and a review to match will surely make you happy. And if you're happy, then golly gee, we're all happy! The results are: "Buddy," "Dunston Checks In," "There's Something About Mary," "Donnie Brasco," "Anaconda," "Get on the Bus" and "The People vs. Larry Flynt."

"You can only taste with your own tongue. ..."

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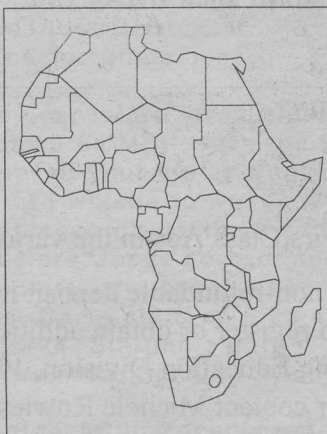


Come breathe some fresh air into the campus community and share your experiences writing for the Style and Arts section of *The Maine Campus*.

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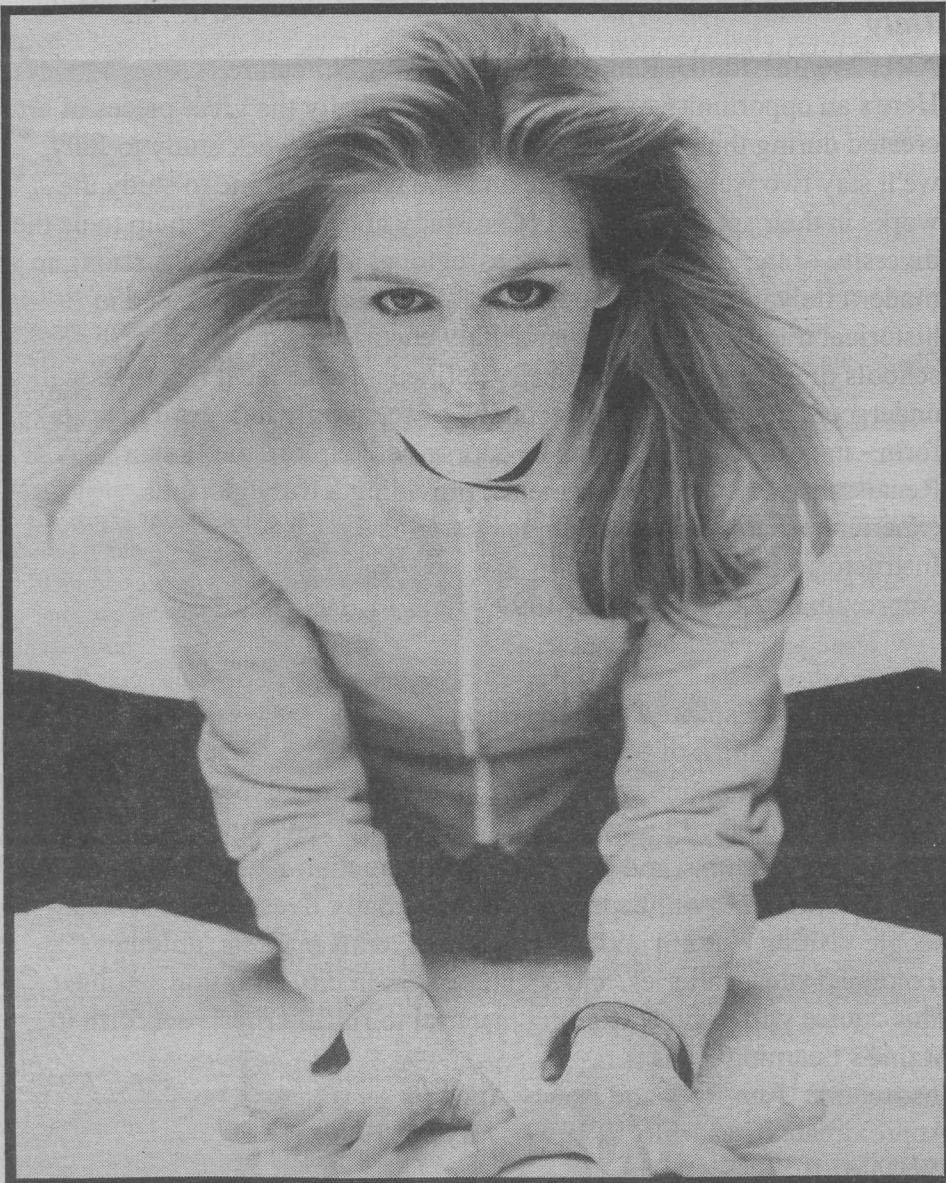
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN WRITING.

Celebrate Black History Month



York Commons will be serving African American and continental African cuisine for Thursday dinners on February 11, 18, & 25.

at York Commons



Alicia Silverstone plays Brendan Fraser's girlfriend in 'Blast from the Past'. (Courtesy photo.)



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Quebec

FRE 297 May Term in Quebec

If you want to learn a language, the best way is to be immersed in it. You will have the opportunity to be immersed in French on a Travel Study course to Quebec City during May Term, a 15-day total immersion program equivalent to three academic weeks and worth three academic credits. The goals of this course are to encourage students to use French actively as a natural part of daily life and to develop heightened appreciation for Québec culture, society and history. In general, mornings are devoted to guided conversations and/or lectures. Afternoons are given to tours, lectures on various aspects of Québec's history and culture and to writing. Evenings are free, but the staff will make recommendations with regard to local cultural activities and will accompany groups to the cinema, theatre, a concert, a public lecture and the like.

Instructor: Jane Smith

Dates: May 10, 1999 - May 23, 1999

England

Medieval Castles, Cathedrals, and Abbeys

The World of **Wuthering Heights**

Tour and walk the hills and dales of Bronte's **Wuthering Heights**.

Explore the castles, abbeys, manors, and stately homes of a history rich part of England. Visit York, a medieval walled city, home to one of England's finest cathedrals. Study the relationship of the landscape and environment in the company of a professional landscape architect, one of the tour leaders. Learn about the history of the area--from the Romans to the Vikings to the Medieval--in the company of a local historian and antiquarian. Share a meal with Lord and Lady Feversham, owners of a 12,000 acre estate, magnificently landscaped, touring both their hundred plus room home and estate; for the rest of the time stay at a lodge on the edge of North Yorkshire moors, dining on first class food.

Instructor: Jack Wilson

Travel Dates: May 11, 1999 - May 25, 1999

Europe

Special Topics: Women in Europe

Why you want to take this course:

You are interested in women's issue and curious about other cultures. You want to know more than you can read in books. You want a cutting-edge, international component in your education. You like to make intellectual and social connections. You want to know more about work and family issues, violence against women, and gender equity. You want to see for yourself how women in Europe address these issues, shape policy, and transform their lives. You want to meet these women in person.

Instructor: Renate Klein

Travel dates: May 10, 1999 - May 29, 1999

Jamaica

FSN 396 Study Tour of Jamaica

Nutrition and Public Health in the Caribbean

Tours will be to selected community, food and agricultural facilities/programs; hospitals; and other selected public and private agencies in Jamaica. Learn the nutrition and public health challenges for the Caribbean through dynamic presentations at the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute, University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica. Understand Caribbean economic history and the relationship between economics and nutrition and public health initiatives in the Caribbean. Consider "World view" from a Third World perspective. Experience how local and state agencies try to solve both under nutrition and over nutrition health consequences and other public health problems. Experience immersion in another English-speaking culture. Gain new insights of a popular "island paradise!"

Instructor: Richard A. Cook (Orono) & Cristanna M. Cook (Husson)

Travel dates: May 10, 1999 - May 29, 1999

Italy

ARH 255/361 Italian Renaissance Art and Architecture

Here's an opportunity to see and know personally the great pieces of art created during the Renaissance period. In a three week study to Italy, we'll stay two weeks in Florence and one week in Rome to study the works in their specific settings. Our study abroad will open up to us the diversity of the era, for as we'll see, regional identity remains strong in modern Italy, principally though local voices deeply ensconced in historical traditions. Renaissance Italy encompassed very diverse schools of art, each geographically defined. These local identities will underscore how different conceptions of seemingly universal ideas take form - in physical presence. The course will explore the Italian Renaissance in its myriad elements, providing a truly glorious experience that will last a lifetime.

Instructor: Michael Grillo

Approximate dates: May 22, 1999 - June 13, 1999

Mexico

EDW 462/472 Espiritu De Mexico:

Capturing the Spirit of Mexico Through the Arts.

Travel study to Mexico will provide an electrifying experience for those eager to expand their knowledge for curriculum development, enhance experiential learning, and gain in-depth interaction with Mexican culture and arts. Students will be immersed in the daily lives of the Mexican people visiting cultural and historical sites, craft markets, unique ecological sites, galleries, and social centers in city and rural settings. This course will provide exciting material to fulfill criteria set forth in Maine's Learning Results.

Instructors: Ann Ross and Nancy Anchors

Approximate dates: July 7, 1999 - July 15, 1999

(SUMMER SESSION)

See the FirstClass Ads in the various departments for more information.

A non-refundable deposit is required at time of registration.

To register or obtain additional information, please contact:

Continuing Education Division, 122 Chadbourne Hall, Orono, ME 04469

Or contact Michele Rowles at 581-3142, or via FirstClass.

We reserve the right to make changes when necessary.

Rec Sports update

There are several new champions on campus from the latest intramural contests. Results and reminders about upcoming activities are below.

Remember to get your application in for men and women's intramural volleyball. The deadline to enter a team is today. This will be power volleyball rules for the "A" league with these games being refereed. The "B" league will play recreational rules with no officials.

Six individuals will compete at one time. A minimum of four are needed to start a game. Games will begin on approximately March 16.

March 26 will be the date of the Rec Sports Fun Night. Mark your calendar now and watch for more information right after break.

A lot of championships were recently decided in intramural basketball. Over the Hill won the independent "A" division championship, defeating Fast Break Freshmen, 75-62.

In the dormitory "A" division, Pornstars (Penobscot) outscored Extreme Game (Gannett), who had been previously undefeated, 75-66. York Magic beat Aroostook 4th 69-53 to take the dormitory "B" championship.

In the independent "C" division, Zero Game won against Spatial Cadets, 52-49.

In the fraternity "A" division, PGD took on PEK and won in overtime, 56-55. PGD ends the season undefeated. PKA beat PEK 36-27 in the fraternity "B" division.

In coed indoor soccer, the division "A" championship went to Odd Balls, who defeated Mighty Ducks, 10-8. Floor hockey and coed indoor division "B" soccer playoffs will continue after break.

The women's volleyball club went one for four this weekend, winning their match against the Junior Olympic Volleyball Team (Highlanders).

• Track and Field

Bears produce champions

By Jay Baltes
Maine Campus staff

The University of Maine track and field teams traveled to the America East championships in Delaware last weekend where the Black Bears came away with three conference champions.

On the men's side, senior sprinter Josh Mishou, who holds the Maine record in the 200-meter dash, won his second consecutive conference title in the event with a time of 22.38.

Teammate Phil McGeoghan captured the high jump with a leap of 6'9." As a team, Maine finished fifth out of seven teams on 62.5 points while host Delaware came away with the win on 143 points.

On the women's side, middle distance ace Maggie Vandenberg bested the field once again in the 400 with a time of 58.35. Vandenberg, who won the conference title in outdoor last spring will now look to three-peat in the event this spring.

The women tied for fifth with Delaware at 35 points while Boston University took the meet with 181.

Despite the low finishes of the teams, which Ballinger attributes to a lack of depth, the Black Bears had several top 10 finishes that foreshadow good things to come in the outdoor season.

"I thought that with the people we had competing, the women did a great job," said Ballinger after noting that captains Nichole Motil and Maegan Lemoges along with Vanessa McGowan, all of whom likely would have placed high in the meet, were out with injuries.

For the men, middle distance masters Joe Moody and Ben Ray had good showings, with Moody taking third in the 800 meter and Ray taking runner-up in the 1,000 and third in the mile race.

Sprinters Royston English and Mishou came in sixth and eighth in the

60-meter dash respectively, while Chris Gamache took third in the 500. Cross country captain Michael Collins finished eighth in the 3,000 meter.

In the field events, McGeoghan followed his winning high jump with a personal-best distance of 47' 4.5" in the triple jump giving him third in the event, while fellow jumper Derek Davis took third in the high jump.

Jeff White finished seventh in the pole vault, David Hall grabbed ninth in the long jump and thrower Derek Michaud placed eighth and ninth in the shot put and weight throw, respectively. The 1,600-meter relay team composed of Mishou, Moody, Gamache and Chad Plummer took fourth.

For the women, junior captain Katie D'Entremont placed third in both the shot put and weight throw. Picking up fourth-place finishes were Liz Holmes in the 400 meter, Karen Noyes in the 500 meter and Nicole Binette in the 60-meter hurdles.

In the distance events Nichol Stevens placed sixth in the 3,000 meter, Jaclyn Maurer took tenth in the mile and Michelle Tolosky was ninth in the 5,000.

Sadie Shaffer and Libby Moores both took seventh-place finishes in the high jump and pole vault respectively, while the relay team of Vandenberg, Noyes, Holmes and Lori Hannan placed third.

"Considering what we've dealt with illness- and injury-wise, there's a lot to be happy about," Ballinger said. "The pieces are coming together for an exciting outdoor season."

The outdoor season will begin March 20 when the teams travel to Navy in Maryland, but for the meantime there is still some unfinished business under the roof.

Next weekend Moody, Ray, English, Mishou, Gamache, McGeoghan and Davis will represent Maine at the New England Championships at Boston University while the women will send D'Entremont and Moores to the ECAC championships.

• Cross country

Stevens nears finish line

By Matt LeBlanc
Special to the Campus

With the end of the 1999 cross country season looming before her, senior distance runner Nichol Stevens has had some time to reflect on her University of Maine Black Bear career.

Stevens, a resident of Old Town, is the captain of the squad and an established mainstay with the Black Bears for the last four years.

Well, almost. At the beginning of last season Stevens suffered from a stress

fracture in the lower part of her leg that hindered her junior year.

"She was down in Florida for the summer. She was training on a lot of concrete roads. The trails are a little more forgiving and shock-absorbent," said Mark Lech, who is in his first year as the women's cross country coach.

And her commitment to recovery and leadership efforts both on and off the trails have elicited solid praise from all members of the coaching staff.

"She's got a great work ethic," said Jim Ballinger, Maine's track and field coach. "She has a real good attitude as far as dealing with other people. She's certainly been an asset to our program."

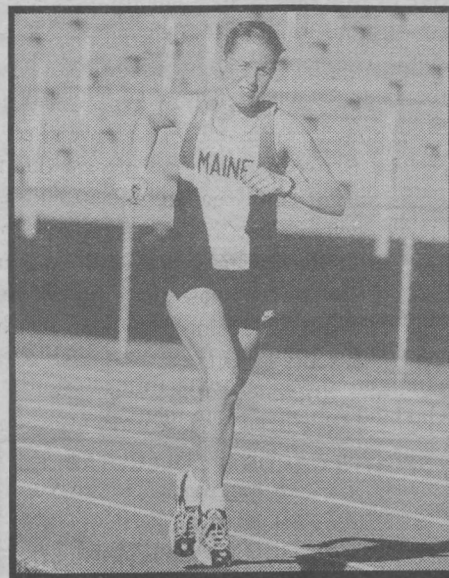
And she's brought her share of medals home as well. As a sophomore, Stevens was one of the top finishers in each of the meets in which she ran. She also earned All-New England honors in the 3,000 and 5,000 meters indoors and outdoors.

While at Old Town High School, she ran under coach Rod White where she earned Most Valuable Performer accolades in her junior and senior years.

Although she may not enjoy a lack of running or competition, Stevens may hang her shoes up following this season in order to pursue a career in nursing.

"I still have one more year of eligibility left if I want it," Stevens said.

The NCAA granted her an extra year of eligibility because she missed last season.



Black Bear Nichol Stevens. (Courtesy photo.)

UMaine Sports:
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The Maine Campus

UMaine's thrice-weekly newspaper

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Records

from page 16

that of sophomore Dana Barrows. He placed fifth in the 200 freestyle on Saturday and fourth in the 200 fly on Sunday.

Christien Talbot had his best fly and Danson Horton had his best 200 free. With the strong performances of all the men, including those not mentioned, they really helped hold their position of sixth place in the competition.

"We had a good meet," Babin said. "Things went really well. There are so many outstanding performances and the coaching staff is extremely happy. We just look forward to going even faster next year."

The women ended up finishing seventh, which was a little frustrating for most. The women were fighting with Towson for the sixth place spot and it all came down to the final event, the 400-freestyle relay, in which Maine placed seventh and Towson placed fifth.

"The boys are right where we had expected," Babin said. "The girls had a chance of being one place higher but they didn't quite come through. They still did an amazing job though."

"There's very little to be disappointed about," Wren exclaimed after the end of the entire weekend. "I tend to feel like every move in the last month is really important and I didn't feel like I had control over the team because of scattered class schedules and focus wise. But we came together in general and did so well, I was really surprised. I guess I need to not worry so much."

"We out-swam half the conference. The men don't have the strength that the other teams do, but the men scored in every event. They did great."

As the final seconds ticked away during the last event of the weekend, teammates were hugging teammates, crying, smiling, laughing or just standing, observing all that was surrounding them.

The seniors who won't be here next season were left savoring the moment.

"It's a weird feeling," Herrick said. "I'm a little relieved that the meet is over, but sad because it's something I've been doing for my whole life and it's over. The season is done."

As teams began collecting their belongings, hugging teammates one last time, the noise that had been so overwhelming the entire weekend had come to a dull buzzing in your ears.

It was over.

So, what is next?

"We're headed to New Jersey for the ECAC competition," Wren said. "Those that qualified ahead of time are flying down on Thursday and those that qualified this weekend are driving down on Wednesday to meet those that will be flying in."

"This competition isn't as important but it's a much higher level of competition."

"It's hard to turn around from this emotion and do as well at ECAC as here. But we'll see."

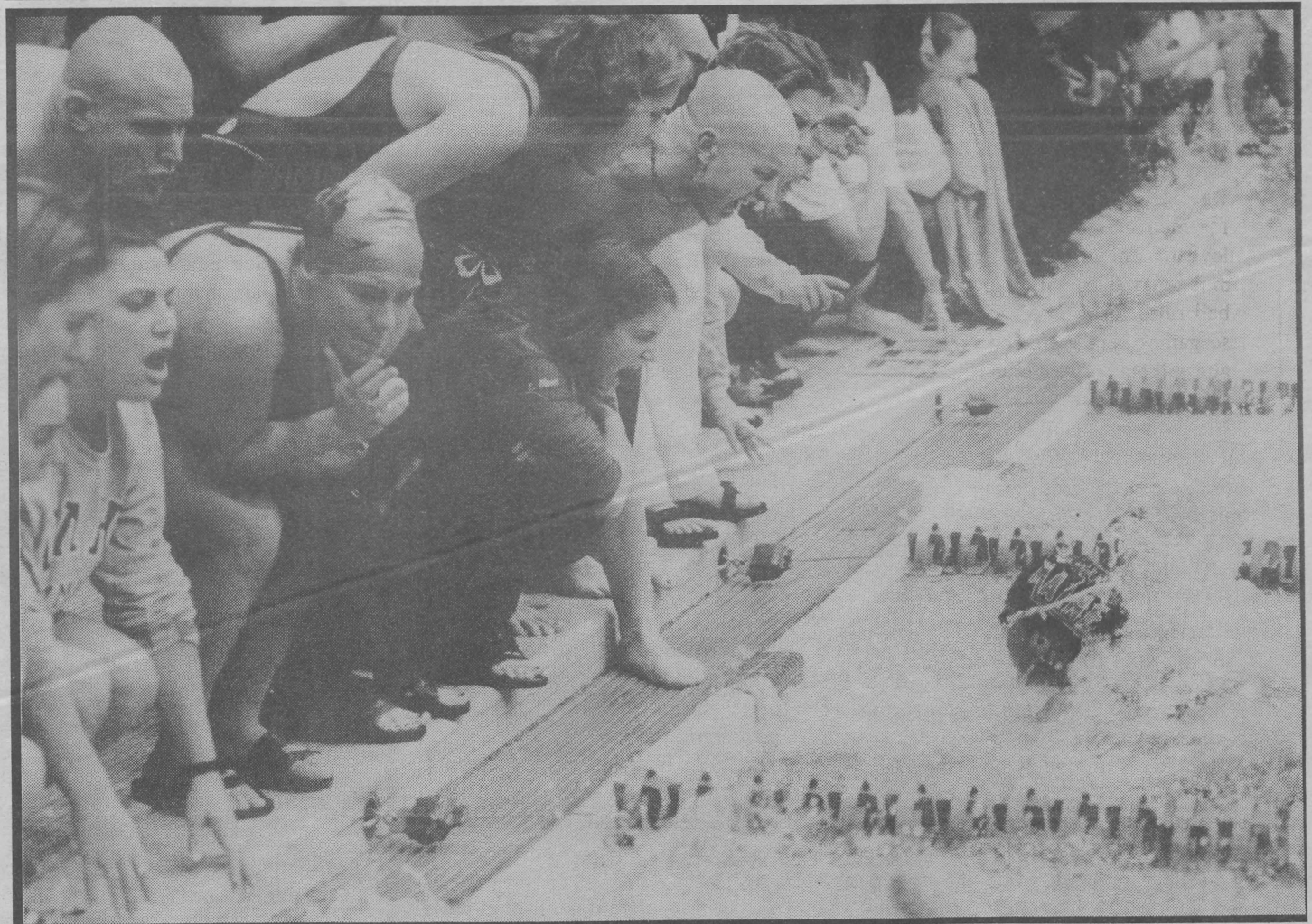
Open your mind

You may learn something about yourself.

The Maine Campus
UMaine's thrice-weekly newspaper

Swimming

form page 16



Members of the UMaine swim team urge Susie Herrick on during the America East championships. (Jason Canniff photo.)

ers set up for their specified area, giving them the advantage to stomp with their swimmers' strength and create a great "thoomp" noise that echoed around the pool.

Along with their great vocals, the Black Bears chanted "Go Maine" and jumped up and down, faces read and veins popping out of their necks.

The Black Bears were decorated with style also. Not only did they have their coordinating team warm-ups on, but they also had matching blue and white hats on, each equipped with a pompom. They also hung a banner that had each swimmer and diver named in large letters.

But it wasn't the banners or their attire that did anything. It was all about who could be the loudest.

People screamed. People danced. People banged things against things.

The only time the pool area was even

remotely quiet was when Mr. Referee asked for silence, and he had to do that a few times before there was almost complete silence.

Diving was another time that there needed to be silence. It was hard, but it was accomplished.

During events, each lane was occupied by teammates of the swimmer racing. It was so crowded I completely expected someone to end up in the lane with their teammate.

The emotion that was needed to build the energy around this past weekend was more exhausting than that of competing. Each swimmer and each diver contributed to the chaos that surrounded everyone.

With the final moments of the competition, the noise level rose about another three notches as each team cheered for its placement in the conference.

With the announcement of the Delaware men placing first, everyone was

thrown into the pool, coach and all.

Even though it was the ending to a phenomenal weekend, and yes, there were tears, it was pure joy and excitement.

Teams were still cheering as they left the pool area and headed out to their buses that would take them to their hotels.

The Black Bears hugged one another and sort of looked around, remembering what had just happened, wishing that it wasn't over but happy that it was.

And I stood there, watching everyone, noticing the tears and the anguish and the joy and the excitement.

My ears were still ringing from the out-of-control noise level, and the quiet just didn't seem right.

After a weekend like the one the men's and women's swimming and diving teams had, silence is definitely something that needs to wait.

• Women's hockey

Filighera: 'I thought we would be closer'

By Dave Bailey
Maine Campus staff

For Rick Filighera, watching his Maine women's hockey team's encounter with Brown this weekend was like watching a bad re-run on the TV Land channel.

Maine (12-15-1, 6-15-1) was shut out by Brown by scores of 10-0 (Friday) and 7-0 (Saturday), giving the second-year coach flashbacks of Maine's 6-1 and 13-0 losses at New Hampshire back in November.

"Between these two games, our first game of the season [a 6-0 loss to Princeton], and the UNH series - those were the only three weekends I thought we were just outclassed," Filighera said.

Despite the similarities of the one-sided scores, Filighera was able to find some differences in the two routs.

"We played with a little more confidence in these games than we did with UNH," Filighera said. "We were in awe of UNH. I don't think the players were in awe of Brown. I think they are starting to get used to playing at this level."

Filighera admitted that he thought the final scores would be closer on paper than

what actually happened on the ice.

"I thought we would be closer," he said. "We had to play really hard on Friday to try and stay in the hockey game and it still didn't happen."

"The scores were pretty indicative of the games."

Filighera felt that opposing teams get themselves up for Maine more than they might with other teams, since no one wants

to fall to a first-year squad like Maine.

See WOMEN'S HOCKEY on page 13

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Black Bear Sports



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1999

• Swimming/Diving

Herrick highlights weekend event

By Heather Day
Maine Campus staff

Things happen for a reason.

And this past weekend at the America East finals, the men's and women's swimming and diving teams realized that the seniors ruled the pool.

Not only was it the last time the seniors would be swimming in the pool that they had called their second home for the last four years, but it was the last time they would be swimming together with their team.

And there is absolutely no better way to end a season, and your swimming career, than by setting two school records.

Just ask Susie Herrick.

Saturday at 6:30 p.m., the finals began with the 200-medley relay, with Maine women in lane eight. It was the first event of the evening, and Shannon Smith, Jessica Nickels, Katie Mann and Herrick were focused on one thing and one thing only.

To break the school record.

The entire season, the one goal that all four of these girls had that mirrored one another was to break their 200-medley relay time.

Saturday night, they did it, and did it with style.

"Herrick did incredible," Maine coach Jeff Wren said. "Her swim in that relay was what allowed the others, and herself, to make that record."

As the final seconds ticked and Herrick was swimming the last few yards of the relay, her teammates were cheering while looking up at the board to see the time.

Herrick touched the wall, surfaced, pulled her goggles up off her eyes and turned around quickly to look at the final time.

1:50.98.

Nickels, Smith, Mann, and Herrick tackled one another in a mass hug and were soon joined by Wren and others.

They had accomplished their goal.

"It was also a birthday present for Shannon, but to say goodbye in that style, it was just amazing," Nickels said, still beaming.

"I was shocked," Herrick stated. "I was the last one to swim, the anchor, so I had no idea. We've been perfecting our 200 medley all season and we really had a lot of confidence in ourselves."

The foursome placed third with their record-breaking swim.

About an hour later, Herrick broke her own school record in the 100 fly with a time of 58.79.

"I was shocked again," Herrick said. "I haven't been those times since I was a freshman. It was great."

Herrick's performance earned her some more medals to add to her collection.

"Susie's been behind her norm, but she came back during the finals," Wren said. "She did stuff this weekend that she has never done before."

Come from behind

Let's talk about senior Joe Dinan. Not only did he swim every event with incredible strength and focus, but he had an amazing comeback in the 1650 freestyle.

Trailing a competitor in the lane next to him nearing the last 100 yards of the event, Dinan kicked it into overdrive and beat him.

"He swam what he was capable of swimming," Wren said. "He had to come back in an extremely fast event and he did it with his best time and his best event of the weekend."

"Dinan and Herrick both gave it their all," coach Mark Babin said.

The twins of the team also contributed to the senior rule. Shannon Smith helped break the team record for the 200-medley relay and Trina Smith showed strength in the 200 backstroke. Trina placed fourth, almost breaking another record with her time of 2:09.61 in the back, while Shannon placed eighth.

"They both went faster than I thought they would go," Wren said.

Becca Newell had a season best time in the 200 backstroke with a time of 2:19.62. She took four seconds off her previous time, which made her exit her swimming career with a smile on her face.

"I'm just so proud of my team," Newell stated, still smiling. "This is the closest I've ever been with my teammates and I'm going to miss them all. But we're leaving our team to a great bunch of girls."

And one of those great girls happens to be freshman Griffin O'Connor. She placed third in Saturday's finals in the 400 IM, swimming a time of 4:41.89, even doing so with a pulled calf muscle. She also placed seventh in the 200 breast stroke on Sunday.

Another outstanding performance was

See RECORDS on page 15



Black Bear swimmer Susie Herrick goes for it all in the 200 fly during Saturday's final. (Jason Cannff photo.)

• Swimming/Diving

Atmosphere energizes crowd

By Heather Day
Maine Campus staff

Almost 300 athletes jammed into Wallace Pool? If you weren't able to experience the America East finals that occurred this past weekend at Wallace Pool, let me give you a little insight as to what you missed.

Piling eight completely crazed teams into Wallace Pool made everything eight times louder and eight times more unpredictable.

The energy and emotion level was that of any college student during finals week completely high on caffeine and sugar.

I have yet to attend a Maine men's hockey game and experience the tumu-

lous level of energy and emotion being exercised as I witnessed watching those eight teams cheering one another on.

Each team agonized, instigated and played off every other team, creating complete chaos, like that of being part of the student section at a Duke basketball game.

It was absolutely crazy.

"Everyone is right on top of each other. It's close quarters, and it makes a very enjoyable meet," Maine coach Jeff Wren said.

Each team had its own ritual before the start of the finals, each team trying to be louder than the one before it.

Loud was the key term.

The Black Bears had a section of bleach-

See SWIMMING on page 15

INSIDE SPORTS

Pizza boxed up.

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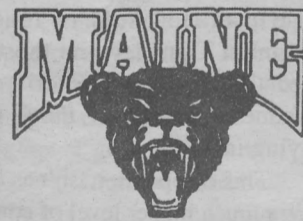
Oooh ... Ahhhh. REC!

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Another race card.

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STAT OF THE WEEK



The University of Maine men's basketball team wrapped up its regular season last weekend, completing the second-largest turnaround in America East history. The Black Bears, who went 13-5 in conference play this year, improved nine games from last year's 4-14 squad.