

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Special Collections

4-23-2018

A little hall with a big, complicated history

Lindsey Moran

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Moran, Lindsey, "A little hall with a big, complicated history" (2018). *Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*. 16.

https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice/16

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

Ronaldo's Juventus runs over Messi's Barcelona in the final group stage game...

UMaine women's hockey sweeps, men's splits in weekend series against New Hampshire



(https://www.facebook.com/umaineathletics/)



A little hall with a big, complicated history

Home (https://mainecampus.com) / News (https://mainecampus.com/category/news/) / Campus & Community News (https://mainecampus.com/category/news/campus-community-news/) / A little hall with a big, complicated history



A view of the front of the Clarence Cook Little Hall at the University of Maine (4/19/18). Ian Ligget, Staff.





◀ 1

In the middle of the University of Maine mall sits Little Hall, named after the president of UMaine from 1922-1925 and founder of Bar Harbor's Jackson Laboratory, Clarence C. Little. The building is home to the departments of Psychology, Modern Languages and Classics, as well as the Franco-American Studies Program. Little Hall sees droves of students every year dedicated to furthering UMaine's mission (<https://umaine.edu/facultysenate/home/mission-statement/>) to improve the quality of life for people in Maine and around the world.

The building has recently become a focus of controversy beyond its strange design (which creates a second-and-a-half floor). Because, while Clarence C. Little was responsible for getting the university far more funding than it had ever seen prior to his presidency, he was an active eugenicist and eugenics promoter and an outspoken proponent of the tobacco industry. These conflicts make students wonder whether the building should still be named after Little.

Fourth-year psychology student Souban discovered the origins of Little Hall's name when a friend told her about it. "The University of Maine prides itself for providing an accepting environment for [its] students, so having a building named after Clarence C. Little seems counteractive," she wrote.

The University of Michigan (<https://president.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2018/03/CC-Little-Building-Name-Change-Request-Final.pdf>) already changed the name of its science building associated with Clarence C. Little during his time as president there, stating that "memorializing his name on a science building is problematic for two key reasons. First, Little helped contribute to and popularize a now discredited approach to population management – eugenics – that sanctioned identification and sterilization of 'unfit' individuals as well as the identification of superior and inferior races. And second, Little contributed to the development of political strategies designed to delay any serious response to the scientific findings that smoking was associated with lung cancer," a UMich name change request (<https://president.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2018/03/CC-Little-Building-Name-Change-Request-Final.pdf>) stated.

"Little held on his beliefs of eugenics throughout his entire career. The building that bears his name supports a narrative [that] the University of Maine condones his unethical behavior," Souban wrote.

The official media statement regarding Little Hall made by the University of Maine states that "the University of Maine is always open to discussion around community concerns, but at this point there has been no formal consideration of a name change."

At UMaine, Little was responsible for facilitating the building of the Memorial Gym and Field House, as well as for creating orientation programs for first-year student. UMich's decision to drop the name has sparked talked of response and consideration from UMaine.

The UMaine is not alone in this controversy. Many communities have found themselves in similar situations when faced with the question of whether or not to commemorate individuals that have championed troublesome behaviors or promoted racist, bigoted beliefs.

"In my opinion, I think the university should remove the name from the building and replace it with another name. There are many people who have done a lot for the university, so it should not be hard to find a new name," Souban wrote.

ANNUAL BEST BUDDIES FRIENDSHIP WALK HELD IN DANIEL SCOTT'S NAME ([HTTPS://MAINECAMPUS.COM/2018/04/ANNUAL-BEST-BUDDIES-FRIENDSHIP-WALK-HELD-IN-DANIEL-SCOTT'S-NAME/](https://mainecampus.com/2018/04/ANNUAL-BEST-BUDDIES-FRIENDSHIP-WALK-HELD-IN-DANIEL-SCOTT'S-NAME/))

MAINE FALLS TO URI, SWEEPS SACRED HEART ([HTTPS://MAINECAMPUS.COM/2018/04/MAINE-FALLS-TO-URI-SWEEPS-SACRED-HEART/](https://mainecampus.com/2018/04/MAINE-FALLS-TO-URI-SWEEPS-SACRED-HEART/))

RELATED POSTS



(<https://mainecampus.com/2020/12/maine-droughts-have-been-affecting-hay-availability/>)

MAINE DROUGHTS HAVE BEEN AFFECTING HAY AVAILABILITY) ([HTTPS://MAINECAMPUS.COM/2020/12/MAINE-DROUGHTS-HAVE-BEEN-AFFECTING-HAY-AVAILABILITY/](https://mainecampus.com/2020/12/maine-droughts-have-been-affecting-hay-availability/))



(<https://mainecampus.com/2020/12/english-students-partner-with-local-household-goods-bank/>)

ENGLISH STUDENTS PARTNER WITH LOCAL HOUSEHOLD GOODS BANK) ([HTTPS://MAINECAMPUS.COM/2020/12/ENGLISH-STUDENTS-PARTNER-WITH-LOCAL-HOUSEHOLD-GOODS-BANK/](https://mainecampus.com/2020/12/english-students-partner-with-local-household-goods-bank/))



Graphic by Antyna Gould
(<https://mainecampus.com/2020/12/gss-12-13/>)

GSS 12/13 ([HTTPS://MAINECAMPUS.COM/2020/12/GSS-12-13/](https://mainecampus.com/2020/12/gss-12-13/))



Photo by Antyna Gould
(<https://mainecampus.com/2020/12/anonymous-gift-given-to-the-wabanaki-center-will-fund-wabanaki-student-higher-education/>)

ANONYMOUS GIFT GIVEN TO THE... (HTTPS://MAINECAMPUS.COM/2020/12/ANONYMOUS-GIFT-GIVEN-TO-THE-WABANAKI-CENTER-WILL-FUND-WABANAKI-STUDENT-HIGHER-EDU



TRUMP EXTENS ([HTTPS://MAINECAMPUS.COM/2020/12/TRUMP-EXTENS](https://mainecampus.com/2020/12/trump-extens))



ALSO ON THE MAINECAMPUS

<p>President Ferrini-Mundy becomes ...</p> <p>a month ago · 1 comment</p> <p>On Nov. 11, the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) ...</p>	<p>Outdated and insufficient: it's time ...</p> <p>4 months ago · 3 comments</p> <p>In their viral tweet, @motherjuniper says "Let Lesbians Have Electricity ...</p>	<p>Being apolitical is nothing to admire – ...</p> <p>3 months ago · 3 comments</p> <p>In the 2016 election, 41.6% of eligible voters refrained from taking to the polls ...</p>	<p>New restaurant, Kanu, to open this fall in ...</p> <p>4 months ago · 1 comment</p> <p>Kanu, a restaurant, nightclub and entertainment destination, is set to open ...</p>	<p>Franco-American women reflect on ...</p> <p>2 months ago · 1 comment</p> <p>On Nov. 17 at 3 p.m., a group of four 4 panelists presented their views in a ...</p>	<p>Edit sem</p> <p>a mo</p> <p>As U stud</p> <p>steep</p>
--	---	---	---	--	--

The MaineCampus Comment Policy

Please read our Comment Policy before commenting.



0 Comments The MaineCampus Disqus' Privacy Policy

Login ▾

Recommend Tweet Share

Sort by Best ▾

Start the discussion



Maine Campus

5738 Memorial Union, Room 131
Orono, Maine 04469-5738

207-581-1273
info@mainecampus.com

Recent Posts

Ronaldo's Juventus runs over Messi's Barcelona in the final group stage game of the Champions League (<https://mainecampus.com/2020/12/ronaldos-juventus-runs-over-messis-barcelona-in-the-final-group-stage-game-of-the-champions-league/>)

UMaine women's hockey sweeps, men's splits in weekend series against New Hampshire (<https://mainecampus.com/2020/12/umaine-womens-hockey-sweeps-mens-splits-in-weekend-series-against-new-hampshire/>)



Categories



Select Category



© Copyright 2017-2019. Maine Campus. All Rights Reserved.

[Credits \(https://mainecampus.com/credits/\)](https://mainecampus.com/credits/) [Terms of Use \(https://mainecampus.com/tou/\)](https://mainecampus.com/tou/) [Archives \(https://mainecampus.com/archives/\)](https://mainecampus.com/archives/)

