

Dear GMJ 102

FROM THE MAINE CAMPUS & THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND JOURNALISM'S GMJ 102 CLASS

“My boyfriend is Republican and I am a Democrat, help! We love each other very much, we live together and everything. He is extremely kind and tender. He always opens the door for me, does the dishes because I hate them, even puts socks on for me just to be sweet and take care of me. Okay he does the whole nine yards in treating me right, it's treatment with other things that I am struggling with. He has been in the military, so he is a huge patriot, but with that comes some extra love for our current president who I do not share the sentiment with. He is a bit judgmental with people who are overweight or transgender. Being gay doesn't bother him however and he claims no matter the weight I put on it doesn't change how he feels but is he sure? I worry about the translation in the future and how deep those judgmental views are. He's so caring with me which is why it confuses me how can he look at others outside of a social norm with such distaste. I don't know how to respect his views and not try to change him but to also not cause a difficult discussion every time a new piece of news comes up.



Politics in the Relationship,

The theory that we studied in our class that we think might be most helpful in understanding your relationship is the Communication Theory of Identity (CTI). This theory says that we can understand different aspects of our identities (in your case, your boyfriend's and your political identities) by analyzing them with four frames:

- 1. your personal frame (how you describe your political identity and think about yourself as a whole person),
- 2. your enacted frame (how you perform your political identity: bumper stickers, discuss topics, vote)
- 3. your relational frame (how you understand your political identity in relation to others, like parents, friends, or your boyfriend)
- 4. your communal frame (how you understand your political identity based on big, powerful social messages, the media, and political leaders)



SCAN THIS LINK TO SEND IN QUESTIONS!



When these frames are consistent, that makes it easy to understand our sense of self and our interpersonal relationships. But when these frames are inconsistent with each other, that's called an identity gap, which can make our relationships with ourselves and others more challenging. It sounds to us like both of you are experiencing identity gaps. You describe yourself as politically progressive (your personal frame), but you are in a close relationship with someone who describes himself differently, which can conflict with your enacted and relational frames. Our point is, we agree that identity gaps are tricky, and we empathize with you. If you feel like your identity gaps aren't too unsettling, and you really value this relationship, then the relationship is probably worth preserving. If you feel too misaligned in your identity and not like you are living your values by being with someone who doesn't share them, then that's understandable, too. Ultimately, we are big fans of very kind communication, so regardless of what ideas people hold, as long as they are genuinely compassionate and respectful to everyone, they deserve compassion and respect--and in the case of your relationship, love.

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CAMPUS ANECDOTES

2 SENTENCE HORROR STORIES



ILLUSTRATION BY TILIA BARATTA

The Maine Campus

Published Weekly by the Students of the University of Maine

INTER-POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP. CAN IT WORK? READ PAGE 8

Vol. 150

ORONO, MAINE, OCTOBER 27, 2025

No. 5

Save Absentee Voting: NO on One

BY KATHRYN BUSKO

OPINION: Of course we need safe and secure elections, but the current system in place is effective. There is no evidence of widespread voter fraud in Maine. Question 1 threatens the people's voice by imposing unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles, with college students being one of the groups that could be disproportionately impacted.

As college students, we are often living away from home. Absentee voting is convenient, and sometimes the only feasible way to vote in our hometowns. Question 1 would put several restrictions on absentee voting. Among others, the new law would eliminate two days of absentee voting, prohibit requests for absentee ballots by phone or family members and ban prepaid postage on absentee ballot return envelopes.

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New report links Wabanaki sovereignty impact to Maine's future

BY ABIGAIL BEAUCAIRE

On Oct. 14, the Maine Center for Economic Policy (MECEP) released a new report titled "Sovereignty Starts Here: Land, Economy, and Tribal Rights in Maine." The report explores how generations of land loss and restrictions on tribal sovereignty have shaped the economic and social conditions of the Wabanaki nations. It argues that strengthening tribal self-governance would help address historical injustices while creating shared economic benefits for communities across the state.

Published during Indigenous Peoples' Month, the report has sparked renewed conversation about Maine's relationship with the Wabanaki nations and the role of land in building a more equitable future.

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Franco-American Center, Orono, Maine. Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025. PHOTO BY TYLER BRIDGES

HISTORIC building to be demolished. Franco-American Centre forced to relocate

BY SOFIA LANGLOIS

“For the University of Maine to do such a rash thing, we think is disrespectful to all of the staff, the people who put in blood, sweat and tears to build this institution and it being destroyed for parking, ”

said Alex Emery, president of the Franco-American Resource Opportunity Program (FAROG)

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“That's a terrible precedent, ”

HOMEcoming TRIUMPH: Football stomps out Elon in 35 - 14 victory.

BY ALEX RICHARD



UMaine quarterback Carter Peavy looks for an open receiver as players clash behind on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025. PHOTO BY OWEN BULMER

READ PAGE 4

Moving through our desired paths

BY AIDEN LIVINGI

The little dirt off-shoot of the pavement, soft ground underfoot replacing hard rock. Getting to your class a little faster, wandering a little more. It is likely that everyone reading this has, at some point, walked on a desire path. It could be as conscious as an incorporated part of your schedule in order to get between classes on time or so unconscious that you have never realized what they are.

A desire path is an unplanned small trail formed by erosion caused by human or animal traffic. And they are all around us on such a green, grassy campus. “I don't think intentionality has much to do with it,” said Jeffrey Benjamin, a professor of contemporary anthropology at the university,

“They seem like the most natural thing in the world. They seem as natural as the paths that caribou or deer might create, ”

Benjamin commented on how many of the paths we create are those that are formed as the path of least resistance. Because of this fact, many of our now-established pathways in New England were actually started by our animal ancestors.

“One of the roads I find interesting on campus is Munson Road; it doesn't need to do that little curve, but it's what you might do if you were walking,” Benjamin noted, adding how the University's agricultural history may have something to do with this.

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PRODUCTION BY BENJI KÜBLER



Police Beat

BY ELORA GRISWOLD

10/13:

At 3 a.m., a noise complaint was filed through Campus Eyes, which is the University of Maine Police Department's (UMPD) anonymous student tip line. The complaint alleged that a resident on the fourth floor of York Hall was blasting loud music from their dorm room. UMPD noted that similar complaints have been filed at the same time for several weeks in a row. However, responding officers did not hear loud music when they checked the area and the case was closed.

At 11 a.m., a criminal mischief complaint was filed from Williams Hall after a student reported that lewd graffiti about female genitalia had been written across the door in a bathroom stall. UMPD noted the same vandalism has been reported several times and that facilities have been notified and are in the process of removing it.

10/15:

At 8 p.m., a suspicious complaint was filed from the Class of 1944 Hall within the Collins Center for the Arts after a caller reported that an older male was roaming around a room in the hall. UMPD searched the room but was unable to locate the man described. Officers told the caller to reach out again if the man returned. No further complaints were reported.

10/16:

At 8 p.m., a drug offense was responded to at Androscoggin Hall after a caller noted the smell of marijuana inside. Officers searched the building, but no smell was detected. The case was marked closed and no further similar complaints were reported.

At 10 p.m., a noise complaint was called in at Somerset Hall after a student reported loud music and screaming coming from a dorm room. Officers made contact with the students in the room, who said they were hanging out and joking around. No alcohol was involved, but due to the excessive nature of the noise the group was submitted to student conduct.

10/17:

At 2 p.m., a theft complaint was filed at the Memorial Union after a faculty member reported their laptop missing from their bag. However, before officers could respond and search the area, the faculty member called back to report they had found the laptop in

the information desk on the second floor. The case was marked closed.

At 4 p.m., a disorderly conduct report was filed from Cumberland Hall after a student was approached by a non-student affiliated with a religious organization and reported feeling uncomfortable. UMPD searched the area but was unable to locate anyone matching the description. Officers monitored the area for several hours but made no contact. The case was marked closed.

10/18:

At 1 a.m., a traffic offense occurred on College Avenue after a student was pulled over and issued a summons for operating under the influence (OUI). UMPD reported that the student was cooperative during the stop and was released at the scene. The student was submitted to conduct.

At 3 a.m., an alcohol offense was responded to at Cumberland Hall following reports that a male student was drinking in the hallway. Responding officers made contact with the student, who was identified as being underaged. The beverage was confiscated and the student was submitted to conduct.

At 8 a.m., a criminal mischief report was filed from Penobscot Hall after a student resident reported that an exit sign had been broken. Responding officers noted the damage but were unable to locate any suspects due to a lack of security cameras in the area. The case remains open due to the volume of reoccurring similar reports.

At 9 a.m., a criminal mischief report was filed by the UMaine Turning Point USA president after he shared that flyers distributed across various spots on campus had gone missing or been torn. UMPD was unable to locate any suspects due to a lack of camera footage and suggested that he place the posters in areas where cameras owned by UMPD are located. The case remains open.

At 11 p.m., a drug offense was reported from York Hall after a student called in about the smell of marijuana coming from a dorm room. Officers made contact with the resident and determined that they were not under the influence, concluding that the odor was residual from an earlier time. The case was closed with no further related reports.

YikYak Beat

BY QUINN D'ALESSIO



10/20:

One anonymous user posted a screenshot of the Maine Campus article titled 'Students weigh in on slur use in Maine.' The caption read "why is it written like that [crying emojis]," referring to the picture of a slideshow with the sole writing being 'slurs.' You have to love some YikYak-ception.

The best part of it all is that one user accused the Maine Campus of using AI pictures. Luckily, touchmytitos came to the rescue; "The way that you can't tell the difference between iso grain and ai means that you really shouldn't be discussing whether or not something is ai btw." The original commenter was not happy with being called out, calling touchmytitos a "f*cking clown," to which they replied "Lmao someone's a little upset." I surely did not expect such discourse when I posted the article.

The most relatable post award goes to "Starting to understand why mad scientist is a common trope. I am receiving brain damage. I have entered a new and exciting mental state. I am going to eat chalk." Some of you may have attended the No Kings protest in Bangor last Saturday. This seemed to rub some people the wrong way, with one user posting "All this talk about the 'no kings protest' but I HAVE A KING AND ITS PUNXSATAWNEY PHIL." If you dug through the comments you would have found that york.groundhog commented "Real." Seems a little biased to me but who am I to judge?

Something was in the air on Monday as the posts kept getting better and better. "I cut my bangs too short and now I look like a grad student." Speaking of hair, "To all the balding engineering students out there some head and rogain works wonders." The one and only reply read "also showering." Reminder, the Maine Campus does not endorse these messages. However, I think you can read between the lines.

10/22:

One user boldly posted a screenshot of their bank balance, which had a grand total of twenty-six dollars and 3 cents across checking and savings. The caption read "i WILL be participating in economic blackout week." Another user commented "The economic blackout is participating in you [skull emoji]." Jokes on them I'm getting paid about the same amount just to write this article. Maybe I'd donate it to their cause if I wasn't also broke as h*ll.

Speaking of money, "I splurged and got myself the lunchable with the caprisun!" Sometimes you have to treat yourself. "When the kiwibots have the heart eyes it means it's in heat and needs to breed." I will not be including the comments.

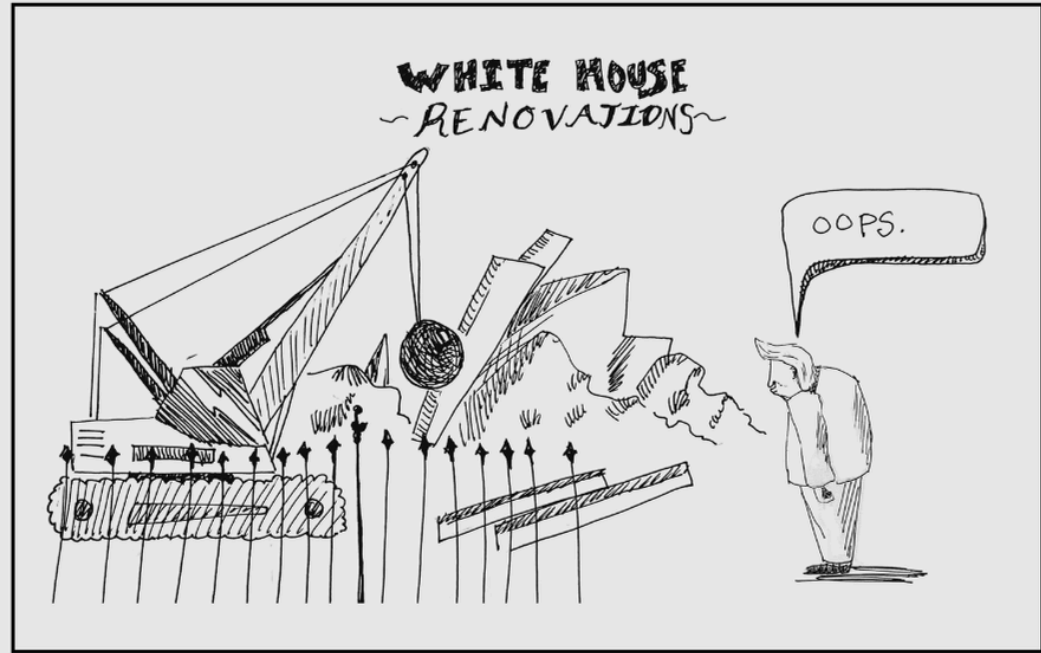
"UMaine announces it will be demolishing every building on campus to make one big parking lot for the Alfond." There will probably still be no free spaces. "Going to Walmart just to feel something." Great idea if you're trying to feel anxiety and hatred. Everyone knows the great debate of fonts, to which there is only one right answer. The user wickeddreams wrote "im an arial hater, times new roman all the way baby." The top comment read "i like the ao3 font." Sleeper comment of the week.

"Does anyone know if we have to wear a coat or just a light sweater today." Don't get me started on this one.

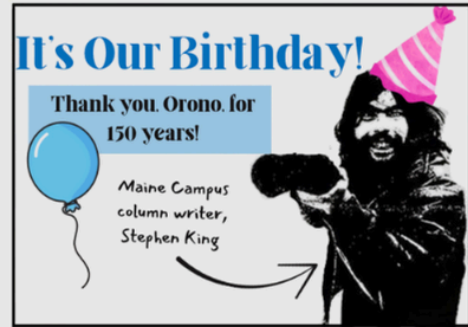
10/25:

"Picture the Law & Order logo. Now picture the text saying 'Raw & Older'. The wonderful and inspiring caption read "some of these dads got me going feral bro who wants me to be your stepmom." Don't picture any further. "The lion thinks he might be bisexual." Crazy work posting this canon event on YikYak. "Halloween costumes is about to be a monochrome beige outfit and 3 white paper circles in a line so I can be a twink-ie." Shout out all the UMaine twinks. Really holding together society.

Tune in to



COMIC BY KATIE FLETCHER



FERMENTATION FRIDAY

Food and Media Lab
UMaine Hitchner Hall Kitchen, room 160
Friday, noon to 2 pm.

November 7 - Cozy Drinks & Cookies

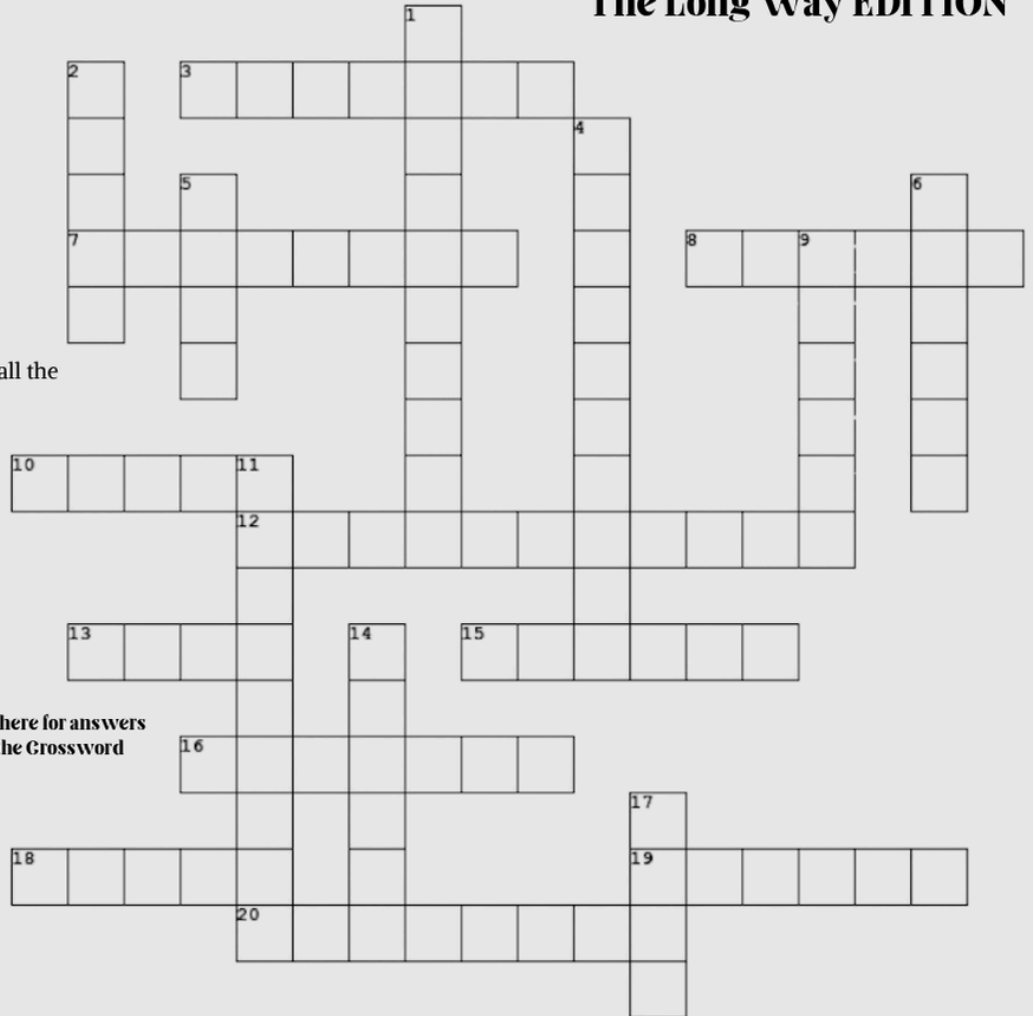
Campus Crossword

BY QUINN D'ALESSIO

The Long Way EDITION



Scan here for answers to the Crossword



COMMUNITY POWER OPEN MIC NIGHT

Share music, art, poetry, short stories, or any form of expression related to community power (5 min. max slots).

Optional - submit your work for publication in a community zine following this event!

Monday, November 3rd
6 pm - 8 pm
Wilson Center
67 College Ave in Orono

Free food + art supplies to doodle with + good vibes provided.

Contact: blackbearmutualaid@gmail.com

Scan the QR code to register.



Save Absentee Voting: NO on One

BY KATHRYN BUSKO

CONTINUED FROM COVER

As of right now, we can request an absentee ballot up to the Thursday before the election. Question 1 would change this rule so we can't request an absentee ballot after the close of business on the seventh day before an election. For the upcoming election, that would be tomorrow.

Question 1 would also prohibit requests for absentee ballots through family members. In our first year of college, many of us are first-time voters. It can be really helpful to have someone give us a little push into exercising this right for the first time. In a time of life that is full of firsts, voting may feel like a low priority, yet it's the start of a habit of good civic engagement that we maintain our whole lives.

Question 1 would also ban prepaid postage on absentee ballot return envelopes, meaning individual towns would no longer be allowed to decide for themselves whether to fund this "initiative. Prepaid postage is used in other states and would make voting easier for students who might not have stamps around or use the postal service very often. Who does it help to ban it outright?

ILLUSTRATION
BY TILIA BARATTA

Those are just a few among 27 different proposed changes to Maine election law. So, to the people who say this question is just about Voter ID, it's not. But let's talk about those requirements, too. The identification requirements proposed by Question 1 are very strict. According to the League of Women Voters, they would be among the strictest in the country. Unless you have one of three forms of military identification, your choices are a Maine driver's license, a U.S. passport or a non-driver identification card. As students, we likely use our MaineCard as our primary ID. But a student ID is not included under Question 1's options. While driver's licenses are convenient for those who drive, not everyone does. As for passports, only about half of Americans have one. It is true that if this question is approved, it would be possible to get a no-cost non-driver identification card from the Secretary of State's office. But how many college students, who don't drive, are going to find transportation to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to get a non-driver ID?

Proponents of Question 1 argue that it is already common to show ID in other facets of daily life, but our right to board a plane or cash a check is not enshrined in the Constitution. Our right to vote is. Anything that is going to make that harder should be viewed with a healthy dose of skepticism. If we were to pass Question 1, we'd better have a good reason.

But good reasons seem to be lacking. According to Voter ID for Maine Campaign Manager Alex Titcomb, this legislation is future-looking, not addressing an urgent problem. Why should we accept restrictive changes to election law to address a problem that, by the admission of the people championing those changes, doesn't exist?

It's easy to feel like your singular vote doesn't matter. The more mind-numbing, tear-inducing bureaucratic hurdles there are, the less it will feel like it's worth the trouble. But what happens when enough people come to that same conclusion? Quite simply, the more difficult voting becomes, the less the outcome will reflect the will of the people.

Even if you are personally willing and able to take these extra steps to vote, how many of your classmates would do the same?

Far from a "common sense" reform, Question 1 is threatening the very thing it claims to preserve — elections that reflect voter wishes.

Vote no on Question 1.

Blue lights need to stay

BY ALEXA ROSE PEROCILLO

EDITORIAL: Vice President of the University of Maine's Student Government (UMSG), Cynthia Shelmerdine, announced in a recent executive report that the blue lights currently located around campus will soon be phased out in favor of the Black Bear Safe app.

Replacing this system with an app compromises the safety of students on campus.

Students routinely hear about the importance of memorizing UMPD's phone number and downloading the Black Bear Safe app. I hear this advice yearly from my Resident Assistants (RAs) during our floor meeting at the beginning of the semester. By now, it's a rite of passage to becoming a smart and safe Black Bear.

While the Black Bear Safe app connects you to emergency services with just a tap of a finger, what will you do when your phone dies and there are no help callboxes in sight? Knowing that there is an alternative safety measure in place could make all the difference in those critical situations, and that is the blue light poles. According to the UMaine Police Department (UMPD), "These callboxes can be used for any kind of assistance, as well as to report any incident, including: crimes, suspicious persons, lost, found or stolen property, car trouble, medical problems, fire or a request for a personal escort."



UMaine's "Blue Light" is seen. A system made to promote safety around campus that is currently being phased out. Sunday, Oct 26, 2025. Orono, Maine. PHOTO BY TYLER BRIDGES

All callboxes are easily identifiable by a bright blue light located on top of the pole. This strobe light flashes when the call button is pressed, serving as a clear visual signal that help has been requested. All 32 outdoor and eight indoor callboxes are connected directly to the UMPD's Communications Center.

Without a working phone or charger, the blue-light safety poles can be a vital resource, especially for those who are alone with no way to borrow someone else's phone. This system serves as a safety measure that students can rely on when our phones are unable to provide the assistance we require. UMaine students should advocate for an integrated safety system that keeps both callboxes and the Black Bear Safe app. The app should support other safety initiatives, not replace them.

These blue lights also improve campus safety by illuminating a significant amount of poorly lit areas on campus.

These blue lights also improve campus safety by illuminating a significant amount of poorly lit areas on campus.

For instance, there are no lampposts from Jenness Hall to the Foster Center for Innovation, except for one that is just for show since it no longer works. The blue light safety pole near the center is the only source of light on that side of Long Road. This light can be helpful for students who commute by foot, particularly during late hours or harsh weather conditions.

UMaine's choice to discontinue the blue light system in favor of the Black Bear Safe app is eliminating an important safety measure for students. Beyond serving as a direct link to emergency services, it brightens dark areas on campus, aiding students who need to cross streets safely. We should have the ability to decide which option is most suitable for a given situation and have access to this choice when all else fails.

HISTORIC building to be demolished. Franco-American Centre forced to relocate

CONTINUED FROM COVER

ILLUSTRATION
BY TILIA BARATTA

BY SOFIA LANGLOIS

Student advocacy brought Franco-American programs to the University of Maine back in the '70s. Now, students are advocating to save Crossland Hall — home to the Franco-American Centre — from demolition.

It's like a second home on campus,

said Alex Emery, president of the Franco-American Resource Opportunity Program (FAROG).

Crossland Hall remains the oldest building on campus and it is due for removal in the coming months to add a new parking lot by the sports complexes. It once housed UMaine's second president, Merritt Caldwell Fernald. This farm house, built back in 1833, existed on campus for decades prior to the university's founding.

"For the University of Maine to do such a rash thing, we think is disrespectful to all of the staff, the people who put in blood, sweat and tears to build this institution and it being destroyed for parking," said Emery. "That's a terrible precedent."

Over winter break, the Franco-American Centre is to move across campus to Libby Hall. However, this migration will not be permanent, with a second move to the Environmental Science Laboratory (ESL) after 18 months.

A total of \$50,000 is set aside to renovate Libby Hall and \$500,000 is set aside to renovate the ESL in preparation for the 2027 move. According to Franco-American Centre Director Susan Pinette, staff were told they have a say in the renovation process at ESL.

An email sent to students by Interim Dean of Students Andrea Gifford on Oct. 6 mentioned that Crossland Hall is \$10 million behind in maintenance, meaning that the most cost-effective option would be to move all Franco-American programs elsewhere.

One of the benefits listed for this change was enhanced program space, noting that the new "central" location for the organization can support "teaching, archives, events and partnerships." Those not in favor of the decision question if ESL has the capacity to host the Centre, whose services are rooted in a welcoming home environment, as opposed to an academic setting with classrooms.

New report links Wabanaki sovereignty impact to Maine's future

BY ABIGAIL BEAUCAIRE

MECEP researchers emphasize that economic justice and sovereignty are deeply connected — when Wabanaki communities are able to thrive, Maine's broader economy and society benefit as well.

In a recent Instagram post, the Wabanaki Alliance expressed strong support for the report's publication.

"The Wabanaki Alliance is proud to uplift this report as it outlines how sovereignty for the Wabanaki nations benefits us all here in what we now call Maine," the group wrote.

"James Myall, author of the MECEP report, said his main message to University of Maine students and Mainers alike is that sovereignty benefits everyone. "This will help all of us," Myall said.

Lisa Michaud coordinates community events in the Centre, puts together its "La Forum" publication and advises the FAROG, which is run by students.

According to Michaud, programming may be impacted by the location change because some community members already have difficulty getting to Crossland Hall, which is near the entrance of College Avenue. She added that parking availability has been promised in what is currently a blue and black lot.

While faculty members were informed of the move last spring, FAROG members like Emery did not find out until July. The majority of students received the news in an email sent this month.

Lincoln Tiner, a graduate student in history, became involved with the Franco-American Centre by chance. While living on French Island in Old Town, he checked on a stray cat in a nearby abandoned house. Inside, he happened upon photo albums of a French family along with other valuables and historic writing.

Tiner brought his findings to the Franco-American Centre. Thanks to its genealogical abilities, they were able to find a descendent of the local family who left those items. The descendant was grateful to have those items in her possession and felt emotional retrieving them.

Tiner said that no amount of money can replicate the community cultivated within Crossland Hall. Furthermore, he believes the renovations to ESL are financially irresponsible, as gutting a building that has already been updated for a specific purpose is not the most sustainable practice. He thinks that buildings have been recklessly removed before, including fraternity houses and that cultural groups are often moved around on campus.



Sign reads "Penobscot nation" with a right-pointing arrow guiding people into the Penobscot Reservation. PHOTO BY ELORA GRISWOLD

Maine just got away with all of that profit and kept all of the land,

said MECEP's Karin Leuth. "It's fundamentally unfair, and both Maine and Congress should be doing more to make amends." MECEP urges Mainers to move from acknowledgment to meaningful change. A "Lunch and Learn" webinar about the report will be held via Zoom on November 5 at noon, with more information available on the MECEP website.

CONTINUED FROM COVER

On Saturday, Oct. 25, the University of Maine football team came back from an early deficit to defeat Elon University 35-14 extending their winning streak to four games straight. With it being Homecoming weekend, Alfond Sports Stadium was packed with current students and alumni to watch the Black Bears play one of their last home games of the season.

Elon got the football to open the game and were unable to put points on the board, thanks to the UMaine defense. After stringing together a good early drive, first-year quarterback Landen Clark took a long shot to the endzone and was picked off by second-year defensive back Devin Vaught, his third interception of the year.

Maine's first possession stalled out after five plays, giving Elon's offense the ball back. Third-year running back Jimmyll Williams broke multiple tackles on the way to the endzone, scoring the first touchdown of the game and giving Elon the lead. Both teams were held out of the endzone for the remainder of the first quarter.

After a slow start, the Black Bears bounced back with a long and gruelling drive that led to points to open the second quarter. Grad quarterback Carter Peevy connected with five different receivers on the nearly nine minute drive. Peevy capped it off by finding second-year tight end Jake Kucera wide open in the flat for his touchdown of the season to tie the game.

Scott's Overtime Winner Lifts Maine Past Colgate. Splitting the Weekend Series

BY MADIE MACAULAY

The University of Maine men's ice hockey team split its weekend Homecoming series against Colgate at Alfond Arena, falling 3-2 on Friday before bouncing back with a 3-2 overtime win on Saturday.

On Friday, Oct. 24, the Black Bears opened the weekend with strong energy, but came up just short, despite a competitive performance. Colgate struck first, three minutes into the game, with a power-play goal from second-year forward Jack Brandt, after Maine's third-year forward Max Scott was called for tripping. The Black Bears responded midway through the frame when second-year forward Oskar Komarov tied the score, and moments later, first-year forward Justin Poirier converted on the man advantage to give Maine a 2-1 lead heading into the second period.

The first period was physical, featuring four Maine penalties: Scott for tripping, third-year forward Sully Scholle for handling the puck and second-year forward Simon Motew for cross-checking, along with one from Colgate's first-year forward Tyson Doucette for tripping. Both penalty-kill units were tested early, setting the tone for a tight matchup.

Early in the second period, Colgate's fourth-year forward Robby Newton capitalized to tie the game at 2-2.

Big win for the Black Bears !

BY ALEX RICHARD

The UMaine defence continued their strong showing and forced another Elon punt. Peevy found fourth-year wide receiver Gianni Rossitto on a beautiful long touchdown right over the outstretched arms of two defenders to give Maine their first lead of the game. Elon had an opportunity to get points before halftime, which was quickly ended with a third-down sack by third-year defensive lineman Chris Bacon. UMaine entered halftime up 14-7.

The third quarter was more domination from UMaine's defense, showing why they have the moniker of 'Black Hole.' On the first play of Elon's drive, first-year defensive back Jake Kucera delivered a hit that jarred the ball out of the Elon running back's hands. Grad linebacker Christian Thomas was the first on the ground, securing the turnover. Peevy scored later in the quarter with a rush up the middle, while Elon was shut out all 15 minutes of play.

Early in the final period, fifth-year wide receiver Scott Woods had the most electric play of the game that had the fans in Alfond buzzing.



UMaine forward Oskar Komarov warms up before the game on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025. PHOTO BY OWEN BULMER

Maine's second-year forward Thomas Pichette took an interference call shortly after, but the Black Bears held firm on the penalty kill. A too-many-men call against Colgate briefly gave Maine momentum, though it was cut short by a high-sticking penalty to Poirier. With just under five minutes remaining in the period, second-year forward Max Nagel found the net for Colgate with what would become the game-winner.

Maine outshot Colgate in the third and pushed hard to equalize, but the Raiders' defense held strong to close out the 3-2 victory.

The following night, on Saturday, Oct. 25, Maine battled back from an early two-goal deficit to defeat Colgate 3-2 in overtime. The win secured a weekend split and marked the first goal as a Black Bear for Scott, a transfer from Brown University.

Colgate again jumped out to a quick lead in the opening frame, as Brandt scored twice, first on the power play at 10:15 and again five minutes later at even strength, giving the Raiders a 2-0 advantage after one.

Woods was set to return a punt to secure good field position for Maine's next drive, but instead he found an open lane and took off. He outran multiple defenders and broke tackles on the way to an incredible 85-yard punt return touchdown to give the Black Bears a 28-7 lead. Elon finally reached the endzone after being held scoreless for two straight quarters. Clark found second-year wide receiver Isaiah Fuhrmann in the corner of the endzone for the score. First-year running back Rashawn Marshall put the finishing touches on the day with his second rushing touchdown of the season, slicing through Elon's defense right up the gut for 61-yards.

Peevy finished the game with 260 passing yards, his third highest mark of the season. Marshall had 141 rushing yards on just 15 carries, now the second game in a row that he has eclipsed 140 on the ground. The Black Bear defence generated five sacks: a season high. UMaine will look to continue their winning streak as they welcome the visiting Stony Brook Seawolves on Nov. 1.

Maine answered early in the second. Just over a minute into the period, fourth-year forward Thomas Freel scored on the power play off assists from fourth-year defence Brandon Holt and Poirier, cutting the deficit to 2-1.

The Black Bears carried that momentum into the third. Poirier, continuing his strong start to the season, tied the game 2-2 just two minutes in with help from first-year defense Lukas Peterson.

Goaltender third-year Albin Boija stood tall through a tense final frame, making key saves to send the game into overtime.

In overtime, Scott made his mark, burying the overtime winner for his first goal as a Black Bear. The transfer forward's game-winner capped off Maine's comeback and sent the Alfond crowd into celebration.

The game featured its fair share of penalties, including multiple matching minors in the second period as both teams battled physically. Third-year forward Anthony Calafiore, Holt, first-year defense Jeremy Langlois, first-year forward Jaden Lipinski and first-year forward Nick Peluso each served time, while Colgate saw calls on Brandt, Doucette, first-year defense Luke Malboeuf, fourth-year forward Daniel Panetta and third-year forward Ryan Sullivan.

Splitting the weekend, ending with the win, Maine improves to 2-2-1 on the season and will look to build on the momentum as they continue their homestand next weekend against Boston University.

Moving through our desired paths

CONTINUED FROM COVER

BY AIDEN LIVIGNI

“The best gift I had when I got here was that my car broke down, so I had to walk into Orono everyday to get groceries. It forced me to see campus,” Benjamin is new to the University of Maine and much of his introduction to campus has been on foot. There is something to be said that if walking forces one to really see something, then taking a different path forces one to see in a new way.

“There's a lot of very good reasons to have a beautiful campus. It's uplifting, I find I have better thoughts when I am walking through nature, I get inspiration. I think we need all these things— like desire paths— or paths through the woods that can take us away from the hustle and bustle, you know, the business— the frenetic activity of the everyday, ”

Benjamin spoke for many of us, especially with that last point. We associate walking in the woods with meditation, calmness, and introspection. These things can be hard to achieve on the busiest pathways on campus— what Benjamin called the “superhighways” of the university.

We already understand that many of the paths we use are started by nonhuman animals, but there is



A desire path forms as students cut over a hill on the side of the Memorial Union, heading towards Fogler Library. Orono, Maine. PHOTO BY NOAH FUTRIS

Visually, this movie is also superb. All the fights are shot from unique angles, whether it is through the side of the ropes — the way a fan might see it — or a more traditional shot, it captures what watching a fight is like.

in the media after glowing film festival reviews. All of the noise did this film a disservice, as many, including myself, were expecting a best picture nominee, and it just couldn't live up to that.

Despite its box office shortcomings and not reaching the high expectations that it had, “The Smashing Machine” had many bright spots. As I previously mentioned, Johnson is phenomenal in this movie. He showed me acting skills that I wasn't aware the retired wrestler had.

In so many of his films, Johnson is just playing the character of himself no matter the assigned role. Or at least, the persona he created in the WWE, as The Rock. But in this film he really becomes the character, Mark Kerr. He is vulnerable and able to hold this tension throughout the whole movie to where you think he is going to snap, but he never does. It was just a full display of what Johnson had in his tool-kit and it was deeper than I thought.

Another bright spot of this movie is the production. The costume design and makeup are incredible. Johnson looks spot on when compared to the actual person. The sound design in this movie is so gritty and real.

ou feel every punch and hear every step that takes place in the ring.

Finally, Blunt gives a brilliant performance. She plays the girlfriend of the main protagonist, who is also struggling with mental health issues. The character she is depicting is traditionally a shallow, one-dimensional, nagging wife type, usually written by misogynistic old men. Blunt, however, gives the character depth thanks to her prowess as an actress. Her character is flawed, but like with most great actors, very believable.

However, there are some valid critiques of this movie. For one, it is very slow paced. There is not a lot that transpires in this film and definitely is more concerned with being a more slice of life piece. So, if that type of story is not for you, I would not recommend watching this one. It also doesn't really change much from the original documentary it was based on — raising the question of why it needed to be created in the first place.

This movie's biggest problem, while this might be exacerbated by the hype of the media, is that it lacks that special factor. This movie is good, but there is nothing in it that is spectacular. When I had a brief conversation with Paris, he had a quote that summed it up beautifully; “I saw the movie, and while I don't think it lived up to my expectations, it was still very enjoyable.”

Was “The Smashing Machine” a success?

BY JOE LAZARO

The question of whether or not “The Smashing Machine” is successful, is more complicated than a simple yes or no. The answer to that question would change drastically depending on who you asked. The actors, studio and fans would all give you different responses.

“The Smashing Machine” is the latest A24 movie, starring Dwayne Johnson and Emily Blunt. It depicts the true story of a famous MMA fighter as he battles through addiction and tries to reach new highs in his career.

After opening weekend, reports came out that the domestic box office earned a total of six million dollars. This news came as a shock, as the film was expected to perform much better. The A24 studio was devastated to hear this news, and as of right now, the film is Johnson's biggest box office flop.

According to Nathan Paris, the general manager of the Black Bear Cinemas, “Opening weekend was the strongest for it, but unfortunately it did not sell out.” It also failed to sell out on University of Maine Wednesdays, when tickets are free for students.

But despite the box office troubles, Johnson has expressed numerous times that he is very happy with how the movie came out and he is thankful to all the fans who came out to see it. I understand why he feels this way, as I believe this is the best performance of Johnson's career.

My opinion on this movie is not contradictory to the general audience — I thought it was good and worth the watch, but at the same time it still felt like a let down. This movie was so hyped up