

Dear GMJ 102

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

SCAN THIS LINK TO SEND IN QUESTIONS!



“One of my close boy friends and I have been hanging out a lot more recently. Going to the Bear’s Den, studying together, and just hanging out in a group have been the norm for us. There have been a couple times where we’re alone in one of our rooms and it can feel like we’re more than friends. I like him a lot, but I’m not sure if I want a boyfriend or if I want to jeopardize our friendship. What should I do?”

Don’t Want to Ruin the Friendship,

It sounds like in order to assess the status of your friendship, you are relying on a lot of nonverbal communication—which is what we’re studying in CMJ 102 this week. We think you’re smart to be paying attention to the nonverbal cues that you’re both sending and receiving, because as our text says, as much as 93% of meaning in any interaction is attributable to nonverbal communication (Fundamentals of Communication, Teresa Fisher, 2022, p. 93).

Some of the categories of nonverbal communication, according to our class, include (1) haptics (2) paralanguage, (3) kinesics, (4) proxemics, (5) artifacts, (6) chronemics, (7) physical appearance, and (8) the physical environment. Here’s what our class says about some of these categories as they might be helpful for you in deciding your next move:

- Haptics is the study of touch in nonverbal communication, and it’s pretty major when it comes to relationships, especially romantic ones. If you think you have a crush on this person (and you think they feel the same!), try introducing some haptics: try touching him on the shoulder, patting him on the back, little things like that to show that you’re interested. If he responds in kind, it could be an indication that he feels similarly.
- Another thing to think about is paralanguage, the way we speak to each other beyond just words. Paralanguage includes things such as tone, pitch, rate, volume, your pauses and silences, and dysfluencies (ums and ahs). Paralanguage can be different in groups and one-on-one. Does this boy talk to you differently when you’re alone?
- His kinesics may be very telling; look at his body language and eye habits around you. You can also ask her friends or people who’ve seen you together to see if they picked up on anything about his body language.

- You may also want to consider his proxemics, how close does he stand or sit next to you when you’re together? Use of physical space can say a lot!
- Try and take note of how fast he may be responding to texts or how punctual he is when you two hang out together.
- Pay close attention to how you interact in different physical environments: Notice what it’s like being alone in a less intimate place than a bedroom. If you are alone in an environment that is less intimate and still feel tension or a connection, that could be a good sign you are more than friends/reciprocating the feelings.
- It sounds to us like physical attractiveness might start playing less of a role in what happens next because you have gotten past first impressions. Now it’s more about how you would not only need to be physically attracted to each other, but also emotionally attracted to each other.

Finally, as important as nonverbal communication is, it can also be contradictory or hard to interpret. So you can also try some good old-fashioned, honest, direct verbal communication to say how you feel, including that preserving a friendship is more important to you than becoming a romantic pair. Write back to us if you’d like more information on the challenges and value of vulnerability in interpersonal communication like this. And good luck!

Sagittarius: Nov. 22 to Dec. 21

Hi, Sag! This week is a wonderful opportunity to write and journal if you feel called. It is recommended to document your current ideas and come back to them around the new year. It’s possible that whatever dream you have now may completely change by next year. It may be interesting to document your process of achieving goals. If writing doesn’t satisfy you, you may try a vision board or drawing.

Capricorn: Dec. 22 to Jan. 19

Hi! Oh, Capricorn, this is a season for you to come to terms with an area of life that needs to end. Endings are opportunities for new growth and new experiences. If you need to grieve an ending, please do. Some Capricorn’s may be ready for the ending and some may resist. Either way, the ending must occur so there is space for something new. Astrologically, this is a positive transit that has the potential to bring lots of joy to unfold by mid 2026. This week, allow any new ideas to guide you to a new opportunity. It may not happen right away but with baby steps a new goal will be achieved.

Aquarius: Jan. 20 to Feb. 18

Hi, Aquarius, the water bearer! This week your ruling planet of Uranus will be opposed to transiting Mars. What does this mean? This means you may have an idea or goal you want to achieve, but the goal may feel out of reach. If something feels out of reach, it is advised to take note of any obstacles in your way. How may you overcome these obstacles? Nothing will stop an Aquarius with an idea, so use this transit as a way to reach your goals by troubleshooting anything slowing you down. Remember: rest is restoration. Before you tackle an obstacle, take time to slow down and plan your next action steps. This is the season to play the long game.

Pisces: Feb. 19 to March 20

“Hi, Pisces! How are you? This week, your homework is to take 10–20 minutes to daydream or create! You have a big opportunity to dream up something huge. Let yourself be bored this week, as boredom leads to creation. This is a week where Neptune, your ruling planet, wants to show you something magical! You may miss it if you’re too busy.

Horoscopes: 11/3–11/9

BY JESSICA A. WOLFE

Aries: March 21 to April 19

Aries, if you didn’t know, is a zodiac sign that represents fire. Each sign has an element of water, fire, earth or air. This week, the fire that lives inside you may spark with an idea like never before. This week, Mars, your ruling planet, dances with transiting Uranus and Pluto in ways that may deliver an exciting epiphany that may surprise you. You have the free will to accept this new idea or push it off.

Taurus: April 20 to May 20

Hello, Taurus! This week we have a full moon in Taurus on Wednesday. Full moons illuminate something in our lives just as the full moon illuminates the dark sky. Full moon energy lasts two days prior and two days after the moon is exact. This week, observe what shows up in your life as full moons are known to show us something worth looking at.

Gemini: May 21 to June 20

Oh, Gemini, friend! This week, Mercury, your ruling sign, goes into gatorade... I mean retrograde. Eeek. In the past few years, the term retrograde has turned into this scary thing, but please do not worry. Yes, when Mercury goes into retrograde, there is a higher chance of dropping your phone in the toilet, getting a flat tire, losing your wallet, etc, but there is a reason for this. When a planet goes retrograde we are meant to slow down. If you choose to move at a faster pace during a retrograde, you may have tiny mishaps. It is suggested that you take advantage of this and move at a slower pace. Retrograde is a time to catch up on all our tasks that need to be done so we don’t have those mishaps. Use this time to clean out your email inbox, order that new tire if you need one, don’t take your phone to the bathroom, etc. When you flow with the planets, that’s when the magic happens.

Cancer: June 21 to July 21

Hello! Hi, Cancer! This week it is encouraged you take one day to reflect on your family life and values. Are you on the path you desire to be on? If not, how can you pivot in order to accomplish everything you desire? Have your goals in life changed? If they have, that’s okay! Change is a part of growth. You are connected to the moon, Cancer. We have a full moon on Wed. Nov. 5. This full moon may show you something about yourself if you pay attention.

Weekly Theme: This week, allow yourself to dream your wildest dream, then observe what comes to light with Wednesday’s Full Moon.

Leo: July 23 to Aug. 22

Hello, Leo! How are you? What are you working on in your life? As a Leo you are ruled by the sun. The sun loves growing and nurturing things! What or who are you nurturing in life? If you aren’t actively nurturing something positive you may inadvertently be nurturing something that could negatively impact your life. Take note of what you consume, like social media, music, food, friends, etc. Are these things helping you or slowing down your growth?

Virgo: Aug. 23 to Sept. 22

Hi, sweet Virgo! Virgo, like Gemini, you are ruled by the planet Mercury. Mercury goes retrograde this week. This may cause your mind to think about the future. For the next few weeks, it is encouraged that you dial your energy into completing any task that needs to be done. Check off your to-do list, which is one of Virgo’s favorite things.

Libra: Sept. 23 to Oct. 22

Hi, Libra! This week, you may be tempted to buy something for yourself. This is because we have a Taurus full moon on Wednesday, Nov. 5. Taurus, like Libra, is ruled by Venus. Venus loves nice things and beauty which explains why Taurus and Libra both enjoy a good splurge now and then. You have the free will to decide to splurge or not. It is suggested you not splurge, impulsively. Maybe wait 24 hours before splurging or making big decisions to see if the desire lasts or passes.

Scorpio: Oct. 23 to Nov. 21

Oh, Scorpio, my friend. This week, it is highly encouraged to spend time meditating. This is because this week your ruling planets, Mars and Pluto, are dancing with Neptune and Uranus. This week, you may receive an inner knowingness about your life, your past and/or your future. This knowingness is meant to support your journey and not meant to be ignored. Whatever pops up this week may dissipate but come around again in six months.

The Maine Campus

Published Weekly by the Students of the University of Maine

SHOULD I RUIN THE FRIENDSHIP?
READ PAGE 8

Vol. 150

ORONO, MAINE, November 3, 2025

No. 6

75 Maine legislators sign UMGWU fair contract letter

BY ELORA GRISWOLD

On Oct. 29, members of the University of Maine Graduate Workers Union (UMGWU) were joined by Maine Sen. Mike Tipping and House Rep. Sean Faircloth to deliver a letter to University of Maine System (UMS) Chancellor Dannel Malloy and the UMS Board of Trustees (BoT), chaired by Trish Riley. The letter, signed by 75 Maine state legislators including a majority of the State Senate, calls on the system to reach a resolution to contract negotiations that adequately addresses the needs of graduate workers. The UMGWU has been bargaining for its first contract with the UMS for more than 700 days.

A copy of the letter was shared with the Maine Campus, which is addressed from the 132nd Maine Legislature to Chancellor Malloy and Riley of the UMS BoT.

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The University of Maine needs a medical school

BY ROBERT SLED

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been reports of labor shortages across the nation. However, Maine’s healthcare industry has taken a significant majority of that hit.

According to the Maine Policy Institute, “In the five years preceding the pandemic, Maine lost half of its licensed psychiatrists.” In a time when Maine’s population is increasingly older and vulnerable, it’s the healthcare industry that is packing their bags. The Cicero Institute also reports that Maine offers just 35 primary care residency positions annually, and 45.2% of those residents end up practicing outside the state.

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On Saturday, June 14, 2025, protesters marched together in opposition of the Trump administration in a nationwide “No King’s Day” protest. Orono, Maine. PHOTO BY TYLER BRIDGES

June KOBE RAID through the eyes of a former employee. ICE arrests in Maine

BY OBIE CASPERSON

On June 26, two unmarked vans pulled into the nearby Walmart parking lot in Bangor. Next door, the Kobe Ninja House had just opened its doors. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in bulletproof vests made

their way into the establishment, where they cut the phone lines, held employees inside and ultimately arrested three immigrants. Nearly four months after this raid, Kobe reopened, with

one former employee coming forward to share what was not released to the public. “None of us ever thought that they would come into the restaurant,” said Brooke Cooper, a former Kobe employee.

[CONTINUES PAGE 4](#)

Black Bears scare off Terriers in Halloween weekend SERIES SWEEP

BY MADIE MACAULAY



UMaine Freshman, Justin Poirier skates alone in front of Boston University’s defense on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025 in UMaine’s home arena the Alfond. PHOTO BY NOAH FUTRIS

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SNAP pauses. UMaine responds with funding

BY ABIGAIL BEAUCAIRE

On Oct. 21, the U.S. Department of Agriculture notified Maine and other states that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are not available starting November if the federal government shutdown continues. With Thanksgiving right around the corner and food insecurities already being high throughout the state, many Mainers are looking to see how local organizations and institutions like the University of Maine can be of help during this time.

News Center Maine recently reported on Oct. 28 that Maine was one of the 26 states that sued the Trump Administration over its decision to withhold food assistance from 42 million Americans in November. It was reported that Gov. Mills will be pumping \$1.25 million into Maine food pantries and anti-hunger programs across the state. The funds are intended to help organizations meet increased demand as families brace for a month without SNAP assistance. Local pantries, including the Black Bear Exchange (BBE) and Caring Community Cupboard, are among those organizations expected to feel the impact of this support.

Lisa Morin, who works as the UMaine’s coordinator of Bodwell Center for Service and Volunteerism, gave some insight on how widespread the impact of a SNAP funding pause will be on campus.

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PRODUCTION BY BENJI KÜBLER



Police Beat

BY ELORA GRISWOLD

10/21:
At 4 p.m., an anonymous information complaint was submitted through Campus Eyes. A student alleged that a group of students were selling their own prescription medications on campus. Because the report did not include specific names or locations, UMPD was unable to investigate further.

10/22:
At 5 p.m., a call categorized by UMPD as a “family fight” came from Aroostook Hall after reports of a loud verbal altercation between a male and female student. UMPD made contact with the students and de-escalated the situation, which officers noted was non-physical. Both students were referred to the Title IX office and the case is closed.

At 7 p.m., a property damage crash occurred at the Phi Gamma Delta house on College Avenue. A parked vehicle was struck by a red SUV whose driver fled the scene without leaving contact information. No injuries were reported and UMPD is still working to identify the vehicle.

10/23:
At 11 a.m., a criminal mischief report was filed at Oxford Hall after a resident reported a washing machine door hanging off its hinges. After reviewing security footage, UMPD determined the damage was accidental, as the door fell off while a student was using the machine. Facilities were notified to make repairs.

At 1 p.m., a criminal mischief report was filed from Hancock Hall after a student shared that someone had sprayed his bike with a green aerosol glitter product while it was secured to a rack outside the building. UMPD was unable to identify a suspect due to a lack of camera footage in the area. The case is closed.

tAt 8 p.m., a criminal mischief report was filed from the Somerset Hall parking lot after a student shared that his parked vehicle had been vandalized. UMPD said slices of cheese and various sauces had been spread across the windshield. With no camera footage available to identify a suspect, the case is closed.

FOLLOW THE
INSTAGRAM

10/25:
At 11 a.m., an information complaint was filed from the Belgrade parking lot after officers noticed a group of students tailgating. UMPD made contact with the group and told them tailgating is only allowed in certain areas such as the Wells, Corbett or Dunn lots and requires a paid permit. The students were cooperative and the case is closed.

At 1 p.m., UMPD responded to an alcohol offense at the Wells Central Pub after a staff member saw a group of students pouring alcohol into a container to take with them. Staff continued to monitor the group, who drank the contents of the cup before leaving. Since no alcohol left the pub and the students were of legal drinking age, the case is closed.

At 8 p.m., an information complaint was filed from Androscoggin Hall after a caller reported a possible trespasser in the building. UMPD made contact with the individual and confirmed they were a student. No trespass notices were on file and officers found no reason the student should not be in the hall. The caller declined to clarify why they reported the student. The case is closed.

10/27:
At 9 a.m., an information complaint was filed on the University Bike Paths in the DeMeritt University Forest after a caller reported seeing a tent near the trail. UMPD responded and found personal items inside the tent but no one was present. Officers left a business card with a phone number and note asking the occupant to call.



YikYak Beat

BY QUINN D'ALESSIO



10/27:
One student said “I honest to god just got myself lost in the union.” The one comment said “I’ll come find you.” If you’re ever lost, stop by the newsroom (unofficial invite). I have the privilege of trying to figure out what the h’ll people are even talking about. For example, “had the pleasure of meeting backscratcher kid.” Hit me up if you know who he is. I have some questions.

“The day is finally here. Who wants to help me beat my laptop with a stick until it explodes.” If it was not for journalistic integrity, I would have gotten involved. Our first YikYakception happened a few weeks ago, and this week we are running it back. “The Maine Campus newspaper is seeking student opinions on the Question 2 referendum. Why are you voting yes or No this November? Send me a message to be included!” I love to see my coworkers in the ol’ stomping grounds.

“I think life would be better if I had a swingset.” One reply helpfully noted that “there’s one outside union babe it nice.” I cannot wait to throw up.

The lack of representation on questionnaires is disgusting. Not everyone fits within the binary. For example, “When they ask me my dream job but nepo baby isn’t an option?” Like seriously?

“Hate that this isn’t the 19th century any more so I can’t beat the brakes off people walking three wide on long road. I’m not stepping into traffic so you can stay in formation.” Shout out all the fast walkers, we live a rough life.

10/28:
A picture of a skunk had the caption “Did someone lose their dog outside York?” One caption read “That’s clearly an anteater.” Maybe UMaine’s acceptance rate is too high.

“This just in TKE has a gay closet where they take turns kissing each other.” Sorry but the closet is glass. Anyway, is this like an invite only thing?

10/29:
“RAPTURE AT TJ MAXX TMR AT 4:57 AM be there or else!!” I do not know what SpongeBob has to do with this but the picture of him attached to this post really ties things together.

When I was talking about having no idea what anyone is talking about on this app I was inspired by the user ‘wickeddreams’ who captured the feeling perfectly with the post, “Stumbling across random niche discourse from communities you’re not involved in,” over a picture of a very intrigued-looking individual. Shout out to the backscratcher man.

10/30:
On this day our friend ‘touchmytitos’ was put in timeout by YikYak for posting “Ok, on a real note though. Israel killed over 100 people last night 35 of which were children under the age of 13 and no major media network is talking about it.” We may not be a major news network but we surely do not stand for silencing an important message like this.

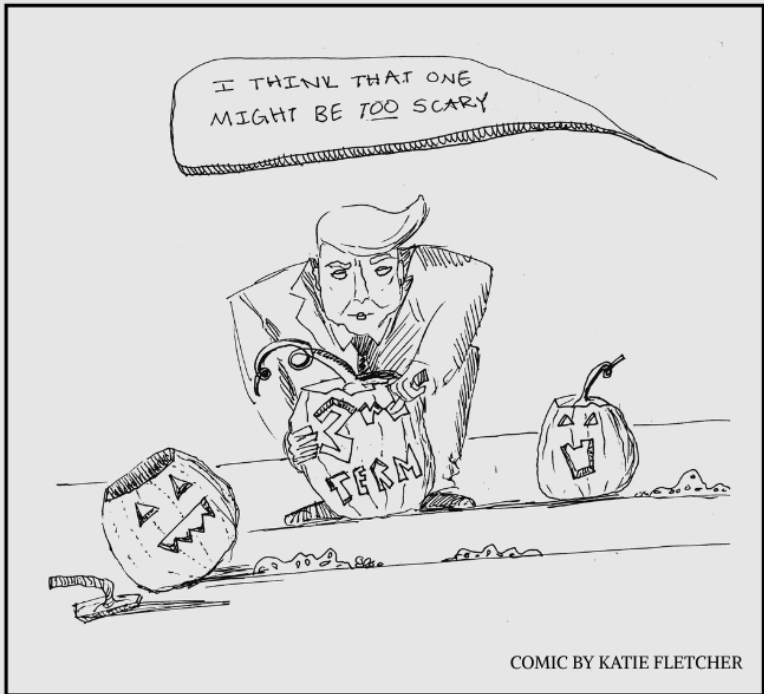
11/1:
What is interesting is that the energy of the posts on this day was very low. Some might say it’s because of how tiring trick-or-treating is. Others might argue it’s because everyone stayed up until one billion o’ clock. Whatever the reason, it was nice to know I was not alone.

“Has the wind blown anyone away yet.” One user replied, “Yeah I had to start wearing ankle weights.” If wind has no haters then I am dead. There is a point in your college career where going out feels like a job, and Halloweekend is unpaid overtime. “NO WAYYYYYY im doing ts again tn...,” said one user the morning after Halloween.

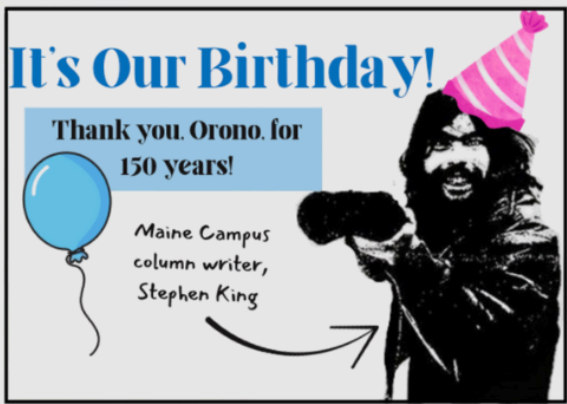
Speaking of a rough morning, “how it feels waiting in agony for the Advil to kick in.”

And again off topic, “what ever happened to the umaine pisser?” To which one user replied “kidney stones </3.” Again, hit me up if you have any leads on this.

And finally, to the essential workers who made this weekend possible, “Remember to thank UVAC if you see them out and about tonight, they’ve probably already been puked on.”



COMIC BY KATIE FLETCHER



COMIC BY TILIA BARATTA

Campus Crossword

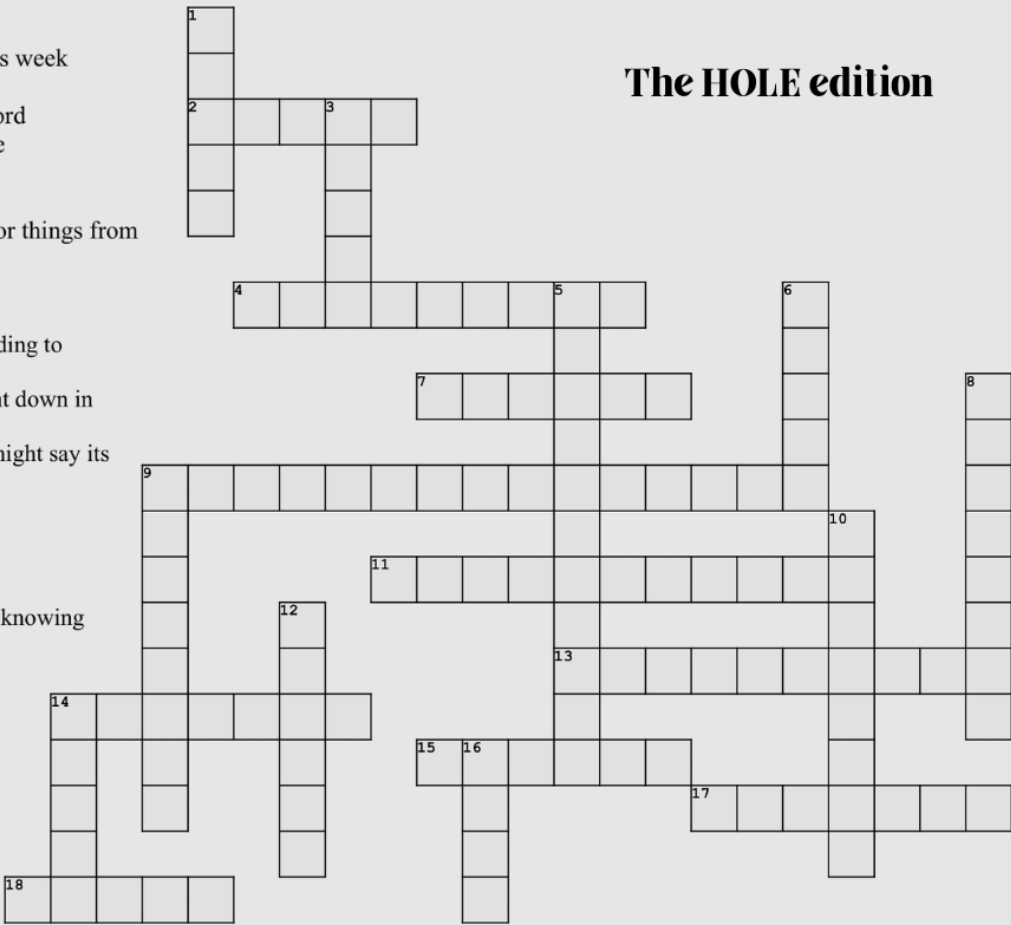
BY QUINN D'ALESSIO

The HOLE edition

- Across**
- A costume consisting of a sheet with holes
 - The one with the long nose, made of wood
 - Has three rings for your stationary's holes
 - Why you're an hour early to everything this week
 - A fear of holes
 - A seasoning, also an all encompassing word
 - What mountain climbers get on their nose
 - Yellow and absorbent, with holes
 - The one with the red nose
 - Hot chocolate, cheese, and an adjective for things from Switzerland
- Down**
- Boiled, with a hole
 - How many holes the human body has, according to topology
 - Where you'd end up if you dug a hole straight down in Maine
 - Some might say it's white and gold. Haters might say its black and blue
 - A game with pegs and holes
 - Fried, with a hole
 - Where you go to powder your nose
 - Where you go to get a new nose
 - Does it have one or two holes? It sucks not knowing
 - A bad film has a lot of holes in this



Scan here for answers
to the Crossword



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Put that Halloween costume back on the shelf

BY JORDAN THOMPSON

OPINION: This Halloween, I've seen people in all kinds of fun costumes and festive outfits around campus on my commute between buildings. I'm looking forward to wearing my Ga-linda costume from "Wicked" as well. However, every Halloween, discourse around acceptable costumes begin to resurface in various circles.

While Halloween is about enjoying dressing up as your favorite characters, some costumes should not be considered or even displayed on shelves in stores because certain costumes can be offensive or insensitive.

Halloween costumes should never be someone else's culture.

Indigenous Americans are frequently the target of this type of caricature. Many of us have likely seen instances of this in the past. Some of these costumes manage to avoid criticism by being based on existing characters — the first thing that comes to mind is Pocahontas. A quick search reveals numerous offensive examples of name changes for marketing purposes such as "Dreamcatcher Woman" and "Indian Princess." These blatant acts of cultural appropriation are disrespectful and make a mockery of a culture and its traditional clothing.

Another example is a meme that has been circulating this year featuring a picture of a hat accessory designed to look like a conical rice hat being sold at Spirit Halloween. The label simply says 'hat.' This appears to be a recognition from a corporate and marketing standpoint that the hat is culturally insensitive.

The University of Maine needs a medical school

BY ROBERT SLED

Regarding the totality of the circumstances, it is projected that the state of Maine will be short 120 primary care providers by the year 2030. This is due to significant factors such as population growth, the aging population and a rise in the number of insured individuals, which is partly due to the Affordable Care Act.

The Maine State Legislature directed the University of Maine System (UMS) to conduct studies assessing the feasibility of creating Maine's first public medical school in Penobscot County, likely in affiliation with UMaine's flagship campus.

According to UMS, "Following a competitive request that generated multiple proposals, UMS has selected Tripp Umbach to assist with the study. The firm has worked with most U.S. medical schools over the past 30 years including in Maine, and conducted some 50 medical school feasibility studies, including in rural states such as Idaho and Montana."

If you are unable to accurately label an item, then it is best not to sell it.

I have also noticed at Spirit Halloween, items such as Rasta Hats with dreads attached to them, imitating a black hairstyle that will most likely be worn by a white person. This kind of cultural insensitivity shouldn't be tolerated because this can also lead to blackface, a serious issue during Halloween that deserves its own separate article. There is also a category of costume I like to call a shock value costume. These may not necessarily depict a specific stereotype, but they are designed to provoke a reaction of shock or offense.

I have come across an Anne Frank costume, where 'appeal' lies in the shock it elicits. It doesn't require much thought to understand why that is ethically inappropriate.

ILLUSTRATION BY
TILIA BARATTA



Those who wear the costume are aware of its ethical implication and how it relies on the shock and discomfort to make an impact. The intention is to surprise others while preventing prolonged consideration of the outfit's insensitivity because it would create discomfort for everyone involved. These costumes are currently available for purchase in stores and are also being created through DIY methods.

I would expect that by now, it would be understood that these behaviors are unacceptable and inappropriate, but unfortunately, this problem continues to exist. This Halloween and in the future, I encourage everyone to consider cultural appropriation when selecting their costumes.

Avoid being the person whose reputation is tarnished in the future when old photos from this year's Halloween celebration resurface. Choose not to wear offensive costumes by refraining from purchasing them in stores or creating them yourself.

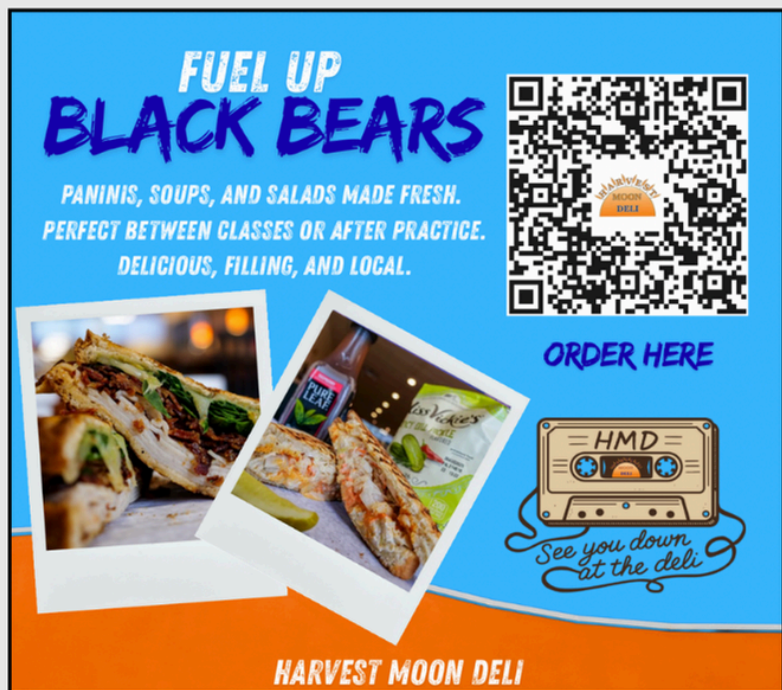
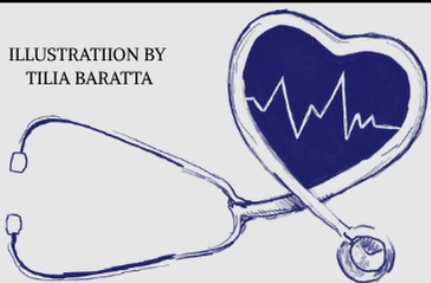


ILLUSTRATION BY
TILIA BARATTA



Tripp Umbach, founded in 1990, has completed national studies since 1995 for all 130 medical schools and 400 teaching hospitals for the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). It's safe to say that we're in good hands. UMS chose Tripp Umbach due to the consulting firm's experience with innovative graduate medical education models such as multi-state programs, health system-affiliated medical schools and state pathway initiatives that are in partnership with established out-of-state medical schools. This is a promising step into bettering Maine's healthcare industry. There have also been notable fiscal contributions to support efforts to revitalize the state's healthcare sector, as well.

According to Sen. Collins's website,

"U.S. Senator Susan Collins, Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced that she advanced \$52,350,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending for the University of Maine (UMaine) System in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) and Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administration Appropriations bills." The bill, recently approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee, is now pending review by the full Senate and House of Representatives. Of this \$52,350,000 in funds, \$45,000,000 has been requested to help support the construction of a health and life sciences complex at UMaine. Once completed, the project will serve as the hub for all health and life science education and research at the university. It represents a major first step towards establishing a medical school at UMaine. More importantly, it signals a revitalization of Maine's healthcare industry and sends a clear message: The health of the people of Maine matters.

SNAP pauses. UMaine responds with funding

BY ABIGAIL BEAUCAIRE

"Only a portion of our students are able to receive SNAP benefits. Typically this most dramatically affects our non-traditional students and graduate students, but we do have traditional-age undergrads that can be affected as well," said Morin. "SNAP benefits are essential to the community in many ways. It allows folks to choose and purchase the food that best suits their needs and the needs of their family members."

Morin gave some additional information for students navigating food insecurity during the federal shutdown.

"For anyone within the University of Maine community (students and staff/faculty) the Black Bear Exchange is their local pantry. We are a Good Shepherd Food Pantry, as are many in the community. Folks will not be able to obtain services from other local pantries if they are part of the UMaine community," said Morin.

75 Maine legislators sign UMGWU fair contract letter

BY ELORA GRISWOLD

"It has come to our attention that this processing of bargaining for a contract has taken an unreasonable amount of time, being well over 600 days. We see no reason that this negotiation should still be ongoing," states the letter from legislators.

Derek DeMello, who is a UMGWU member and PhD student in history, described the experience of dropping off the letter at Chancellor Malloy's office with Sen. Tipping and Rep. Faircloth.

"We delivered the letter to Malloy, he was not in [office] today. So, we left it with his secretary. Then we went to the Board of Trustees representative or secretary, and we left the message with her," said DeMello. "Mike Tipping came to campus and he joined us, and then after we spoke with the Board of Trustees secretary, he spoke with her for a short time," he added.

DeMello then shared the significance of state legislators' support for the union's ongoing efforts, describing it as an impactful show of solidarity at a critical point in a bargaining process that has stretched out over 23 months.

"We had the majority of the Senate sign on and then a significant portion of the House sign on. That's notable because the State Legislature is what appropriates the funds for UMaine — so they kind of control the power of the purse," said DeMello.

Included in an Oct. 28 press release sent out by Bergen Kenny, who is a UMGWU member, Sen. Tipping provided a statement elaborating on why so many Maine legislators signed on to the letter demanding a resolution to ongoing contract negotiations.

Morin also clarified how the Black Bear Exchange will receive funding from money distributed for statewide anti-hunger programs. In addition to supplies the BBE can provide, Andrea Gifford, who works as the Dean of Students, sent a school-wide email out on Oct. 30 detailing other food assistance resources available to students at UMaine.

“Through the UMS/Sodexo Swipe Out Hunger program, unused meal swipes are made available to students experiencing food insecurity. Students can request free meals through Swipe Out Hunger at UMaine or Swipe Out Hunger at UMaine Machias, ”



"The teaching and research work needed to fulfill the UMS mission does not happen without graduate workers. My colleagues and I understand that neither the high-quality education of thousands of undergraduate students, nor the world-class research that has made UMaine a top tier research university, would be possible without their labor," said Tipping. "For our universities to remain competitive, UMS must agree to pay and benefits that meet the standards of other public research universities in New England."

Other UMGWU members present while the letter was delivered, including Marine Sciences teaching assistant and PhD student Alexis Merk, were asked if they believe this letter will inspire UMS to action despite a history of inaction addressing concerns raised by the union, which include but are not limited to ongoing issues involving inconsistent pay, substandard health benefits and inadequate paid time off.

“We’re showing them we’re continuing this fight and it’s not only graduate workers that care. It’s the entire state of Maine and our legislators that know it’s important that we get this contract now and we get a contract that is good for graduate workers, ”

said Merk.

When asked for specific examples of requests made in contract negotiations that have gone unmet, Merk cited the failure of UMS to "match peer institutions" — meaning that UMS would provide pay and benefits comparable to other universities in the region.

"We need to be matching our peer institutions — like the University of New Hampshire [and] the University of Vermont. Right now we're bargaining mostly over economics, like compensation and health care. We are asking to be matched with our peer institutions," said Merk.

She also shared that "both campuses also have limited emergency funds available for students facing urgent needs" and that students should contact her office at agifford@maine.edu or call at (207) 581-4031 for assistance.

As Maine navigates the ongoing shutdown, local and campus efforts continue to provide a safety net for those impacted by the loss of SNAP benefits. For many, programs like the BBE and other community pantries are helping ensure that no one goes hungry, even in uncertain times.



ILLUSTRATION BY
TILIA BARATTA

In the letter to the UMS BoT and Chancellor Malloy, involved Senators and Representatives also elaborated on the importance of matching peer institutions in New England.

"These workers deserve the protections and improvements to working conditions that are standard for peer institutions across New England. The University of Maine System produces research that is important and essential to the health and safety of our Maine constituents, as well as providing a tremendous benefit to Maine economically. This research would not be possible with the labor that graduate workers produce," states the letter from legislators.

Elijah Bradshaw, a graduate worker in the School of Biology and Ecology and member of the UMGWU-UAW bargaining committee, also spoke on how UMS has failed to match economic securities guaranteed to other graduate workers at peer institutions.

"They [the UMS system] have insisted on minimal changes to our pay and benefits, meaning we will continue to lag behind other peer universities like University of Vermont and University of New Hampshire. They seem out of touch with the fact that an investment in graduate workers is an investment in our public universities and is an investment in Maine. The time for a fair contract is now," said Bradshaw.

For those interested in staying updated, all proposals and UMGWU updates are publicly available on the union's website. Community members can also stay involved by watching for updates on the UMGWU's Instagram page. All graduate workers are also welcome to attend their weekly meetings, which occur every Tuesday from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Multicultural Student Center (Room 314) of the Memorial Union.

KOBE RAID

CONTINUED
FROM COVER

BY OBIE CASPERSON

“Cooper, a junior at the University of Maine, opened her work group chat the morning of June 26 to see messages about ICE being inside the steakhouse. Cooper drove to Kobe to see the commotion. This is when she saw unmarked vans with some agents still inside.

Cooper recollected her experience when another employee had warned her not to go into the restaurant.

“Once you walk in, they will not let you out... [The ICE agents] were basically holding them hostage in Kobe for hours. It was like two or three hours before they finally got let out.”

When employees outside tried to call the restaurant to find what was going on, the line would not go through.

“They cut the phone line. So when you would call, it would go straight to voicemail,” said Cooper.

Cooper said this is not the only time people were taken from the establishment. She talked about a previous raid the spring before that closed Kobe temporarily.

“They took people, but they’ve taken people from Kobe before. People just didn’t know it. Like, they didn’t come to Kobe, but there was a whole other raid that happened.”

As President Trump’s efforts to increase the deportation of noncitizens proliferate, Kobe is not the only business that has been affected. During the administration’s first seven months, ICE agents reported 40 workplace enforcement actions, causing 1100 arrests. From August 2025, there were 32,364 people booked into ICE detention. 140 of those arrests were in Maine.

LD 1971 and LD 1259 were introduced earlier this year to combat ICE’s impact in Maine. LD 1971, “An Act to Protect Workers in This State by Clarifying the Relationship of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Federal Immigration Authorities,” was introduced in May.

While this bill passed in both the House and Senate, when it was given to Gov. Janet Mills, she did not sign it. This means it is currently waiting for the next legislative session. LD 1259 is also waiting for the next legislative session. This bill would prohibit state and local law enforcement agencies from entering into contracts with ICE.

Lucas Bent, a University of Maine graduate and co-founder of GreenDex, wrote a letter in support of both of these bills and spoke with the Maine Campus about the status of ICE impact in Maine.

“I wasn’t surprised to see that it [LD 1259] didn’t pass the legislature and I was quite happy to see that LD 1971 did. However, I’m unsurprised but very disappointed that Janet Mills declined to sign the bill, which, as I understand, is the current state of that bill. Sitting on her desk,” said Bent.

The presence of ICE has caused uncertainty for international students and employees, leaving many unsure about how to voice their concerns. Gabriel Veilleux, a member of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), expressed worry for international students’



freedom of expression. While the organization’s numbers grow, they see little involvement from non-citizens.

“It really feels like international students are afraid of getting involved [with SDS] at this stage, just due to the ramifications. Especially with what we saw happen to Mahmoud Khalil, where he was torn away from his pregnant wife right in front of her. So, I think a lot of people are scared that that’s going to be them,” said Veilleux.

Khalil, an activist and Columbia graduate, was arrested for allegedly omitting green card information, but the ongoing civil case argues that his order of deportation had to do with his advocacy for Palestinian freedom. Bent also shared concerns for the state of free speech in the U.S., pointing to current ICE activity infringing on 1st Amendment rights.

Pure Hip-Hop

BY AIDEN LIVIGNI

In 1991 the Rennie Harris Puremovement American Street Dance Theater was founded, creating simultaneously the first ever hip-hop company.

“Rennie created this company through after school programs and community outreach,” said longtime associate dancer and important hip-hop influence in his own right Rodney Hill when asked to recall the beginnings of Puremovement.

Rennie Harris took something that was traditionally done in family or communal spaces and put it on stage for a wider audience to appreciate. He not only used the hip-hop vocabulary, but he told the stories of the people of hip-hop.

Being the first in anything is an uphill battle, but being the first to bring a Black art form to a traditionally White performance venue is groundbreaking. Harris is quoted referring to the company as, “an international Hip-hop and Street dance ambassador.”

“You’re representing a culture— the culture of hip-hop. You were nominated or you were chosen to travel, to represent what you’ve been doing. It’s like being an ambassador of your own country— it’s up there,” Hill said, adding that if anyone deserved to be called an ambassador in this way, it was Harris himself. Those who he reached through his grass-roots beginnings of Puremovement supported him and voted for his success with their time and commitment, making the group emerge as something greater than any one individual.

An unmarked van belonging to ICE agents was seen on the morning of June 26 in the Walmart parking lot. PHOTO COURTESY OF BROOKE COOPER

“I personally know people who feel fearful of speaking out or even of liking posts on social media because of accounts that they’ve heard recently of people being essentially punished or deported to countries they’ve never been to, simply because of their speech,” said Bent. Mistrust towards ICE is not limited to free speech concerns but expands to local enforcement. Wells, Maine, recently ended their contract with ICE, originally made possible through 287(g) agreements, with the Chief of Police stating the “lines have been blurred” between policing and politics. Aggressive tactics, appearance-based targeting and wrongful detentions have all contributed to a negative public opinion. According to a Pew Research Center survey conducted in June 2025, 54% of Americans disapprove of workplace raids.

“It [ICE] strikes fear into the hearts of people who weren’t born here, regardless of reason, and that it seems to me that that’s the intention for the ICE raids and everything else that’s been happening,” said Bent.

The fallout of the raid at Kobe’s was clouded in uncertainty. No one’s job was promised and Cooper says management did not know what to do or when they would be able to reopen. Originally, Kobe planned to reopen after July 4. The date got further away, with it ultimately being pushed to Oct. 3. Cooper and the other employees filtered into other jobs as ongoing cases brew under the surface of day-to-day operations.



ILLUSTRATION BY
TILIA BARATTA

“He brought me in for my own expertise at the time because I danced a lot in the 90s, you know, I would do a lot of the hip-hop social party dances. If anybody know anything about hip-hop, they’ll tell you it’s about social dance,” Hill explained how Harris would bring people from diverse backgrounds— social and artistic— in order to add unique elements to the performances of Puremovement. Hill went on to say how other alumni members had been beat-boxers, actors, gymnasts and studio dancers, all brought together by Harris to combine their different artistic skills to create something distinct.

On Nov. 7, the Puremovement American Street Dance Theater will be bringing “Nuttin’ but a Word” to campus. The company will perform in the Collins Center for the Arts, giving a pre-show talk at 6 p.m. and beginning the performance at 7 p.m.



Bears Scare off Terriers on Halloween

BY MADIE MACAULAY

continuing his standout freshman season, struck again just three minutes later for his second goal of the night.

With the regulation unable to separate the two teams, the game moved to overtime. Poirier threaded a perfect pass to Holt, who buried his first goal of the season to seal Maine’s biggest win of the year. The Alfond erupted as the Black Bears poured over the boards to celebrate the upset over one of college hockey’s powerhouses.

Tensions flared in the final seconds when BU’s Sacha Boisvert was assessed a 10-minute misconduct and unsportsmanlike conduct penalty after firing the puck and striking third-year goaltender Albin Boija. Boija was sharp throughout the night, finishing with 24 saves to move to 4-1-1 on the season.



Boston University’s goalie, Max Lacroix stays ready, waiting for UMaine to make a play on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025. PHOTO BY NOAH FUTRIS

Win Over UNH Sends UMaine Women’s Soccer To Playoffs

BY AMANDA CLAUZEL

The University of Maine women’s soccer team fought in the last regular season game to get a 2-1 win over New Hampshire in a classic border battle in a Thursday night lights game on Oct. 30 at the New Balance Soccer Complex. This win sends the Black Bears to fourth place, earning a home advantage in the America East Championship quarterfinal on Sunday, Nov. 2 at 12 p.m. against the Wildcats once again. Maine finishes the season at a record of 4-7-3 overall and 3-3-2 in conference.

Prior to the Buffalo Wild Wings Border Battle, a ceremony was held to honor soccer legend Abby Kraemer’s jersey retirement. The team wore #12 warm up shirts and her jersey was unveiled under the scoreboard in recognition of all she accomplished for the program.

Going into the match, Maine knew that this was a must-win game in order to contest in the America East playoffs, which added to the drama of this rivalry matchup. Almost every UMaine athletic team came to support, with a copy of the ‘Naked Five’ from the softball team (the covered 5), which added to the atmosphere and encouraged the Bears to play even harder. Once the whistle blew at 7 p.m,



ILLUSTRATION BY
TILIA BARATTA

you could already feel the tension between the two teams through the passion being shown from each player. The Black Bears showed how badly they wanted the three points early on from winning 50/50 balls and shutting down their offense.

Maine outshot BU 35-28 and held the Terriers to one goal on four power-play chances while going 0-for-5 on their own opportunities. Poirier led the offense with two goals and one assist, his second three-point performance of the year and six Black Bears recorded multi-point games in the win.

Friday’s victory moved Maine to 4-2-1 (1-0-0 Hockey East) and served as a statement that the Black Bears belong among the nation’s elite. The team looks to carry that momentum into Saturday night’s rematch with the Terriers before hitting the road for a two-game series against the University of Massachusetts Amherst next weekend.

The sold-out crowd at Alfond proved why Maine remains one of college hockey’s most intimidating home rinks. Every goal was met with a wave of sound that echoed through the

arena and kept the Black Bears energized until the final buzzer. For a young Maine team still building its identity, Friday night was proof that the future is bright in Orono.

FOLLOW THE
INSTAGRAM



34 minutes into the game, Maine took the lead after an own goal from a UNH defender who attempted to clear the ball from first-year forward Britta Deny’s cross on the right side, but landed it in the back of their net. The Black Bears took the lead going into the second half. During the first ten minutes of the second half, the Wildcats came out desperately wanting a goal and were all over Maine’s half. As the play continued, Maine found their groove and calmed the play down, securing possession for most of the half. 64 minutes in, fourth-year forward and captain Julie Lossius struck the ball outside the center of the 18-yard box and rattled the crossbar.

Third-year midfielder Luise Reinwald followed up the rebound and easily placed the ball in the net within the 6-yard box for her first goal of the season.

It seemed the Blackbears could get away with a clean sheet until fourth-year forward Abbi Maier dribbled past two of Maine’s defenders in the box, but was fouled from behind and got a penalty which she executed in the 74th minute. The next 16 minutes kept everyone on their feet as it was back and forth, but Maine was able to secure a win and a spot in the playoffs.