

BACKTALK

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A STATEMENT OF POLICY

We of the BACKTALK feel that there is a crying need for a unified newspaper for the UMP campus community. Although at first glance it may seem that our very existence prohibits this need for unification, the actual case is that our presense on this campus will hopefully induce the other two campus papers into forming a fused organization with an agreement concerning policy to be used when reporting news. We also feel that this paper should be entirely willing to gather all of the facts when reporting news events, and not relying totally on the writer's imagination to supply the details.

While not discouraging individual comments by student reporters, it will be the official policy of this paper to make a separation between reporting, and commenting on news. There has also been a growing tendency for various student newspapers to use obscene language in their articles. We will refuse to print any article that has any unnescessary use of obscene language, and it will be our privilago to edit any articles using this type of language in excess.

Furthermore, we want to suggest that any unified newspaper of the future be willing to work with the administration and faculty in working out our mutural problems. In future weeks, we will concentrate on events taking place on both the UMP and Gorham campuses. We feel that it is time for the students of the two campuses to begin to work together and enter

into cooperation with each other. In compliance with this policy, we shall each week publish articles telling the students of various events taking place on each campus. We also plan to give brief summeries of club activities at the Gorham campus.

We will always be glad to accept all student contrabutions to this paper.

During the next few weeks, we plan to expand our reporting to include as many campus activities as possible. We will accept any announcements which any campus organization would like printed, free of charge.

We look to the day when there will be a unified student newspaper serving both Gorham and Portland; when no longer will there be friction between the respective student populations. On that day, the BACKTALK will willingly end its existance--but until then, we shall act to serve equally, report the news fairly, and will attempt to help unify the newspaper and our two campuses.

ACTIVITIES AT UMP

Friday, Feb. 13

3:15p.m. Union Champs vs Caps 5
Gym

7:30 Basketball Game Gym

Eastern Nazarene

VS.

U.M.P.

FOR UMP'S SAKE, COME!!!

AN EDITORIAL

In the past several months, there has been a strong indication of growing hostility between the Stein and the Viking. The most recent result of this has been a letter which was sent by the Editor of the Viking to the Chairman of the Student Publications Board. This letter contained recommendations which suggested that the Stein be abolished, and having the Viking recognized as the official campus newspaper. The Editor of the Viking then stated that the Viking staff would gladly go without payment for their services, due to "our deep devotion to the interests of the UMP student body."

While admittedly the Editor of the Viking made several interesting suggestions concerning the future of his paper, we still wonder whether he really has the interests of the student body in mind. In the past, the Editor of the Viking has shown a marked tendency to cast undue opinion on certain news stories. While this is perfectly legal to do in an editorial or in a student column, the distortion of news--however inadvertant it may have been--when strictly reporting the facts, would result in many student readers forming the incorrect opinion. For example, when the YAF was organized here, it was promptly labeled as being "right-wing." The question is not whether the club was right-wing or not, but rather that the reporter (Sen. Beard) immediately polarized the organization in political terms even before it was officially recognized.

We believe that while the Viking and the Stein are carrying on their war of words, the students at this campus are suffering because of it. This is one of the primary reasons for the esistance of the BACKTALK. Our purpose is to report the news fairly, and by presenting BOTH sides of an issue. While not stressing "opinion" in our news stories, we will be offering opportunities to all members of the student population to express their views through the medium of this paper. This can be done through Letters to the Editor, columns, or with editorials. We will publish them all, regardless of their political or social content. But we feel that at this point there must be a different voice on this campus. We believe that neither the Stein nor the Viking are fulfilling this role with success. Until the other two newspapers settle their differences, and get down to printing news, not denunciations of each other, we shall endeavor to supply the UMP campus with primarily campus news.

SPORTS

by
J. Grantland Plimpton

When Chancellor McNeil announced the composition of his athletic task force on Jan 29, the 19 member body had only one representative from UMP. Since one of the questions the committee would decide on, concerned the future of the athletic program at the new Portland-Gorham complex, this gross under-representation was an injustice to UMP. Many concerned citizens of the Portland area recognized this travesty and deluged the Chancellor's office with calls and letters of protest. If the power of orderly protest was ever doubted, this doubt faded into oblivion with the announcement by the Chancellor, that due to an "oversight" UMP had not received equal membership on his task force, and that he would remedy the situation immediately. He thanked the many people that had voiced their concern, and said that UMP could choose a student member and a faculty member to sit on the committee. This shows that when common people are unhappy over their plight, they can indeed protest, and if the great silent majority becomes united, the Establishment will listen. The Chancellor listened, and he remedied an injustice. We contradict him, and hope that he again is reasonable enough to change his mind if in the future the citizens feel that he is wrong.

This Friday night at 7:30, people of the New England area will witness an historic moment. Co-captain Marty Magnusson will take the floor for the last time in a UMP uniform. Come out and be a part of this heart-warming event. Be a member of the huge crowd and rise to your feet in appreciation

for what this man has given. Have his boyish grin and friendly wave etched into your memory, for this is his final fling, his last harrah. Never again will Maine's answer to Togo Palazzi, grace our presence. The mind boggles at the thought, the throat chokes with fear; what will we do without him? The crude, indecent, heartless fan might will respond WIN!! But these ingrates have no love for an institution and must quickly be dismissed. For I ask you, what is more important, winning, or be able to see such a warm human being doing what he loves best, giving enjoyment to other people. It makes no difference if most of the people enjoying them selves are on the other team. Marty is helping people to laugh, and that's what the genuine person wants dearly to do.

Thank you Marty, its been a pleasure. I just hope that this small tribute repays some of our debt to you. Carry this love always with you, and do it as gracefully as you carry all that extra weight.

FRIDAY!!!!!!

EASTERN NAZARENE

VS.

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE, PORTLAND

7:30-----GYM

IT'S FREE