

Baseball

Continued from Page D1

The team’s uneasiness of playing on a dairy farm inspired philosophical coach talk: “Baseball abounds with life lessons.” That afternoon, a stark example of the inequality of America’s class system stuck uncomfortably with the youngest players. Underclassmen were relegated to seats on splintered pine planks; privileged upperclassmen enjoyed milking stools, each smooth and perfectly contoured to fit an adult fanny.

In the bottom of the third inning, I missed a shoe-string catch in center outfield. The ball ricocheted off an angled slab of bedrock and landed in a cow pie. With teammates yelling at me to throw the ball to an infielder, I froze. Like a chameleon with independently mobile eyes, I aimed one eye on the bull and the other on the half-buried ball, before grabbing and tossing it. Lopsided with manure, the brown and white ball wobbled through the air like a Hoyt Wilhelm knuckler. My brother Don, playing shortstop, relayed the ball to home plate to prevent an inside-the-park homer.

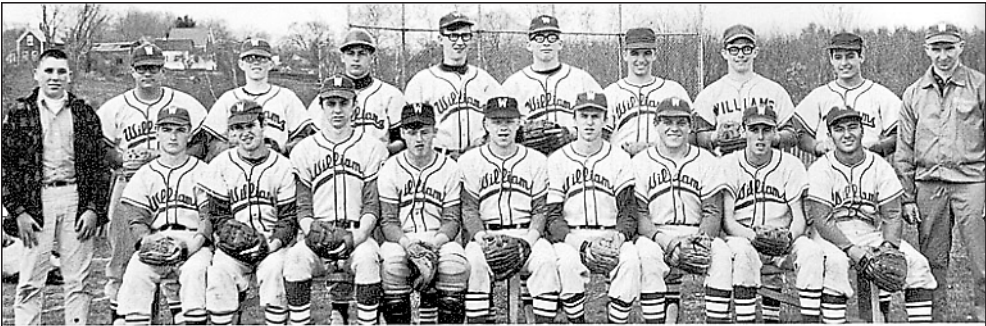
A half inning later I stepped into the batter’s box with manure on my cleats and vengeance in my heart. Tapping shoes with a bat nearly buried home plate in

dung. It was a silent way of making a big stink about the hometown umpire’s tight strike zone for my team’s pitcher and a generous one for Livermore’s.

Williams High’s 1969 pitching ace was Johnny Sawyer, a gangly Belgrade freshman with a magnetic personality. He was baseball’s equivalent of the cunning talkative spider in Mary Howitt’s famous poem “The Spider and the Fly”: “Will you walk into my par-lour?” said the spider to the fly. Johnny’s parlor was the batter’s box, and “into his dismal den” stepped naive hitters, most of whom fell prey to the southpaw’s deadly accurate slider and major league curve ball.

Sawyer led the team in strikeouts and laughs. His colorful homespun Maine humor forced stone-faced umpires to crack smiles. “Work a waalk,” he’d holler in a Down East accent made famous by Bert and I storytellers Marshall Dodge and Robert Bryan. “Their pitcha can’t hit the broadside of a baarn with pitch faulk.” During a tense game, when I was told to pinch hit, Johnny wrapped his golden left arm around me in the on-deck circle and whispered, “Take him deep and make him weep.”

After the final out, win or lose, Johnny was entertaining. When a sleek mid-1960s silver Corvette Stingray once raced past our yellow school bus causing teammates to gush, “There goes



ROW 1: C. Tibbetts, B. Page, J. Sterling, M. Plourde, N. Tuttle, G. Michaud, T. Bragg, L. Douin, R. Joseph. ROW 2: M. Coughlin, R. Vieta, R. Atwood, A. Fernald, D. Blethen, D. Hunter, R. Pierce, L. Russell, D. Joseph, Mr. Dumond.

BASEBALL

Williams . . . 9	Winthrop . . . 0	Williams . . . 3	Lisbon 4
Williams . . . 0	Hall-Dale . . . 5	Williams . . . 3	Livermore . . . 2
Williams . . . 5	Livermore . . . 2	Williams . . . 0	Madison 7
Williams . . . 5	Hall-Dale . . . 4	Williams . . . 4	Farmington . . 6
Williams . . . 8	Winthrop . . . 3		

Mountain Valley Conference Southern Division Championship

Mountain Valley Conference Championship

The 1967 Williams High School baseball team in Oakland, Maine, wore wool uniforms. The fabric was praised at the beginning of the season and cursed at the end. The season was reduced to nine games due to May snowstorms.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

my first car,” the star pitcher dampened players’ giddiness. “You don’t want that caa,” he exclaimed, “it passes everything on the road except a gas station.”

Sawyer blossomed into a standout pitcher for legendary University of Maine coach John Winkin. In 1976, he pitched in the na-

tional semifinals of the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska, after Maine’s two thrilling tourney wins. Facing Arizona State University, Sawyer dueled future Chicago White Sox star pitcher Floyd Bannister and twelve other players who would later play in the majors.

Johnny twice struck out Bob Horner, who, in 1978, was named National League Rookie Of The Year as the Atlanta Braves’ third baseman. That Maine lost the game was a minor disappointment to Johnny’s former high school teammates. Our best player and beloved teammate had

Flagship

Continued from Page D1

who were accepted to UMaine but did not enroll chose to attend another land grant university in the Northeast, according to UMaine Provost Jeffrey Hecker.

To capture more of these students, the university took the unprecedented step of matching the in-state tuition at flagship universities in the six northeastern states those prospective students were most likely to attend.

A Massachusetts student, for example, who attends UMaine would pay the in-state UMass Amherst price of \$14,356, more than half off UMaine’s out-of-state tuition rate of \$28,880. But UMaine still sees a financial boost when enough of those students enroll, since UMass Amherst’s in-state tuition rate is higher than UMaine’s in-state rate of \$10,610.

In order to qualify for the full Flagship Match program, students must have at least a 3.0 grade point average and SAT scores of 1,050 or higher. If an accepted student does not meet the criteria but is still ad-

mitted to UMaine, he or she qualifies for a smaller award of \$9,000.

“This only works because there is a difference between other states’ in-state tuition and our in-state rate,” Hecker said.

Plus, the number of students who have committed to attending UMaine has exceeded the projected 2,200 students the university expected when it built its budget for the next school year, Hecker said.

Based on the program’s early success, UMaine has considered expanding it beyond the six northeastern states to include flagships in California and Illinois, Joel Wincowski, interim vice president for enrollment management and architect of the program, told the Portland Press Herald.

In the coming years, the pressure on Maine’s universities to look beyond state lines for students will only increase as the pool of high school graduates is forecast to shrink. Maine reached its peak graduation class size of 17,000 during the 2007-08 school year. It’s expected to fall to 13,521 during the 2019-20 school year, according to the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education, and continue to decline into the next decade.

Even with a falling population of high school students, UMaine saw a 3 percent bump in Maine residents who enrolled at the university, an indication that so far, Mainers aren’t being displaced by the growing population of out-of-state students.

A growing population of students from out of state will help make education more affordable for Maine residents by making it possible to keep in-state tuition in a deep freeze, Hecker said.

“It brings in tuition dollars to keep in-state tuition low,” Hecker said. “It’s a win-win for the state of Maine.”

Good for Maine

Maine’s abundance of baby boomers coupled with a substantially smaller millennial population contributes to a grim economic forecast. Unless Maine can overcome this demographic challenge and attract more young and educated workers, it will becoming harder for businesses to grow in the state, according to the Department of Labor’s workforce outlook report.

If the Flagship Match program draws in a larger pool of students from outside the state, many could stay in the state after

graduation. College graduates often decide to live in the same state where they went to school regardless of whether it’s their home state, economists Jeffrey Groen and Melissa White concluded in a 2003 National Bureau of Economic Research working paper.

But over the past two decades, Maine and other New England states have seen college graduates leave at a higher rate than any other U.S. region, according to a 2013 report from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

A year after graduation, only 64 percent of graduates from the class of 2008 still were living in New England, compared with 83 percent for Mid-Atlantic states. Among those from outside New England, only 20 percent were living in the region after graduation. About 22 percent of UMaine graduates from outside of Maine settle in Maine after graduation, according to UMaine’s Office of Institutional Research — slightly higher than the regional average.

Most graduates who left the region did so to find better jobs, a lower cost of living or to live closer to family and their support networks, according to the Fed-

eral Reserve Bank report.

But there is a way UMaine can help the state could hang onto those graduates. Internships build stronger ties between students and local employers, allowing them to get a taste of the job opportunities that exist in Maine and build networks while in school, according to a 2009 Federal Reserve Bank of Boston report.

These connections increase the likelihood that students will stay in the state after graduation. About half of students who interned in New England in 2008 later were hired to work full time at those same businesses, according to the 2009 Federal Reserve report.

To that end, UMaine plans to launch its Flagship Internship program later this year with the aim to connect students with internship opportunities to gain real-world experience in their fields, build connections with the local business community and increase their chances of getting a full-time job after graduation.

“We really need an educated workforce, and we need to add people to the state in order to have a vibrant economy,” Hunter said.

Election

Continued from Page D1

House included tinfoil-hat accusations about a “Vast Right Wing Conspiracy,” while in the present campaign she describes her fellow Americans in the Republican Party as her enemies. She ignores the fact that, in foreign policy, she is probably more of a hawk than the GOP front-runner.

Lastly, there is that front-runner: the man, the myth, the Donald. Behind the image and rhetoric, Donald Trump doesn’t hew to a particular ideology.

That is the major accusation conservatives levy against him. He thinks wages are too high in the United States versus the rest of the world, but he wants states to raise the minimum wage. Under his administration, we

will scale back our international footprint, but our allies will know we are closer than ever. He even proposes massive tax cuts while simultaneously supporting tax increases (like fixing carried interest, which is a good idea).

As for partisanship? It is hard to call someone who wrote checks to John Kerry, Hillary Clinton and Chuck Schumer a partisan Republican. The war of words between him and others in the GOP have been more heated than those directed toward the Democrats; Reagan’s 11th Commandment is shredded confetti lining the road to Cleveland.

In a nation of 320 million people, three New Yorkers remain: an ideologically pure socialist, a pragmatic partisan Democrat and Trump. The plot twist? Behind the persona and speeches, Trump is the least partisan and ideological candidate remaining. He is all about “making deals” — exactly what Washington and Democrats have called for from the Republican Party.

So ladies and gentlemen, live, from America, it’s Election 2016. And no matter how much the ratings drop, we can’t turn it off.



Trump



Clinton

Monument

Continued from Page D1

monuments with 66.5 percent of our state belonging to the federal government (compared with 1.1 percent federally owned lands in Maine). Only instead of millworkers out of jobs, it’s those working in the coal mines or oil fields who are hurting by the drop in oil prices. The rallying cry from the opposition is predictable, jobs versus people. But it’s never that simple, and it negates the complexity of a changing world.

The question we must be asking now in communities across the United States is, how do we foster more diversified economies and create a just transition for towns once dominated by industry and now driven by tourism?

St. Clair drove us by the paper mill where the gates were closed with a tall chain link fence surrounding the mill in the process of demolition. We sat in our car in the parking lot with half a dozen other folks sitting in their cars watching the wrecking ball inflict injury upon injury upon the broken structure. Some of the former workers were standing outside, leaning against the fence with their hands tucked in the pockets of their jackets. There was a bite to the air.

“What else are we supposed to do?” one of the men said. “Better than sitting around at home drinking a beer and watching TV.”

St. Clair was sympathetic. “I think a national park would breathe some new life into the community.” He paused. “But there’s resistance. I understand that.”



BDN FILE

Lucas St. Clair shows off land owned by Elliottsville Plantation Inc., which the foundation proposes to donate to the National Park Service.

There is always resistance. In 1943, in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, shortly after a new national monument was established to expand the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park, cowboy rebels staged a stampede of cattle let loose on the federal lands as an act of civil disobedience. With yips and hollers and hats raised high, they unleashed 550 yearling cows across the sagebrush flats, trampling everything in sight. It had all the theatrics of a spaghetti western.

Fifty years later, Cliff Hansen, one of the organizers, later to become governor of the state of Wyoming and a United States senator, said before he died as a man in his 80s, “I was on the wrong side of history. ...Grand Teton National Park is one of the greatest natural heritages of Wyoming and the nation.”

Acadia National Park celebrates 100 years this month. It,

too, is a great natural asset to the state of Maine, ranked one of the top 10 most popular national parks in the country. A hundred years later, we have the opportunity to create a sister national park to the north.

What can I say about the days my husband and I spent with St. Clair in the autumn walking, hiking, and paddling Katahdin’s woods and waters?

That it is every bit as magnificent as the Grand Tetons in Wyoming.

That it is every bit as sweeping in its kaleidoscopic carpet of colors and trees as the great valleys and tundra in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

That the broad slow-moving rivers are storied with America’s industrial drive for timber.

That Orin Falls is a holy place with boulders still and still moving in a clearing of grace that makes the sculptor Henry

Moore’s work look derivative.

That Katahdin is as commanding a mountain as any I have seen in my life. Former Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas called it “a haunting memory” and described it as “a great hulk of land, a primordial creation” with “the pull of Katahdin like that of an old love ... strong.” It was here in the presence of “Katahdin” silhouetted by stars that I saw the galaxy Andromeda for the first time.

How can we not celebrate this immense embrace of the wild? I still have among my stack of national park maps, “MAINE WOODS,” issued decades ago as a magnificent prank by the folks at RESTORE. They not only showed us what was possible, but necessary. It is time to make this official.

If John D. Rockefeller Jr. and his son, Laurance, made the expansion of Grand Teton National Park possible to the full glory we experience today — then, Quimby and her son are surely their contemporary counterparts with vision and a generosity of spirit. I want to thank them.

As citizens gather to share their own visions at the hearings moderated by Sen. Angus King on Monday in both Millinocket and Orono with Director Jon Jarvis of the National Park Service as a witness, let us remember that America’s National Parks are not only our “best idea” but an “evolving idea” worthy of our imagination and support.

Terry Tempest Williams is a Utah-based writer and part-time Maine resident who recently completed a book on America’s national parks, “The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America’s National Parks.”

Michael Cianchette is former chief counsel to Gov. Paul LePage, a Navy reservist who served in Afghanistan and in-house counsel to a number of businesses in southern Maine.