“Transforming USM” with a new degree

Wright said he looks forward to the benefits to students and the Maine economy that he thinks will come from this degree. “I think this is an exciting development for students,” Wright said. “These are really good paying jobs.”

Since its approval, twelve students have signed up for the fall 2006 mechanical engineering program. Wright’s projections estimate about twenty students will enroll by the time courses begin next fall. Once fifty students have declared as mechanical engineering majors, the School of Applied Science, Engineering and Technology will hire a new faculty member, followed by an additional hire when the program has eighty students. According to Pattenaude, the cost of the new faculty will be paid by the increased enrollment.

“It’s about having all of the programs that a great University has,” said Pattenaude. “I am very proud of the Dean and the faculty who worked hard to put it together in a very thoughtful and efficient way. They are to be congratulated.”

Although this was not a part of the presentation, Colonel Mark Leahey, a Lewiston native who went to Bates College and joined the New Hampshire National Guard, was a disciplinary officer in Nasiyriyah who dealt with security issues on the base, such as electrical fires due to misuse of outlets, soldiers refusing to wear seatbelts, and cats on base. A cat could cause and spread disease, so if found, Leahey was in charge of killing it.

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Letters to the editor

Senator Gorham on her resignation

I have been torn for weeks about making a decision to resign from my Senate seat, and as of today (2/3/06) I will be resigning my Senate Seat. Being a non traditional student, as well as parent and Portland resident, I feel my constituency is underrepresented on this Senate, but those same aspects of my life make it impossible for me to continue in my role as your Senator. I have worked hard to help ensure that students have a voice and their concerns addressed: true sustainably on campus including recycling, energy use and the University of Southern Maine implementing our passed referendum to use Biodeisel in our buses; student ID numbers and growing concerns with lack of privacy and security; Aramark providing nutritious, affordable, locally grown food; the ever growing budget crunch on USM, which speaks to this state’s lack of planning for our future. With the lack of time most students have to advocate for themselves and the lack of support, I feel my energies will be better spent in other endeavors. I have felt it our duty as senators to be able to give students a voice to the administration of this University. I feel the greater majority of our concerns have gone unresolved, they will just “wait out.” The Student Senate needs to continue in giving a loud voice for students to the administration here at USM, as well as getting students involved and active. I have enjoyed this experience with all of you and have learned skills that I will continue to be a voice here at USM, but in other capacities. Keep up the good work you have embarked on and be progressive in keeping the institution on course for this great University.

Sincerely,

Janine Gorham
Mother/Student/Activist

Lavie on TABOR

I want to write this letter on the topic of the cost of higher education. While I would agree that government attacks financial aid often, I think we need to look at what people are paying in addition to their tuition. The University student movement should look at two issues that are related to Maine. We need to look at where our priorities rest. Is it putting 2,500 people on healthcare program that has failed? Or graduating more students to get them ready for the job market?

1.) The Rising Costs of Healthcare: It is clear and very true that in Maine we pay the highest healthcare premiums than any other state in the nation. For our neighborhood friends in New Hampshire, Healthcare is $9,000 cheaper than it is in Maine.

Why are students drawn to New Hampshire? That’s one reason. Dirigo Health hasn’t helped the majority of Mainer but has put an undue burden on families forcing them to have to decide between paying for heating oil or paying for healthcare.

2.) Taxes: Folks, in this state it seems that we are taxed when ever we walk down the street. We pay a tax on our pets, our cars, our houses, and yes, businesses even pay a tax on their equipment every year. The largest of these taxes is the most certainly the property tax. While LD 1 was supposed to solve the property tax problem in Maine and the state was supposed to pick up 55% of the cost of education, it hasn’t worked. The state is now only picking up the cost of local education of 50%. If you voted that in I would be upset. What we need is meaningful tax relief.

It is common sense to think of issues like the Tax Payer Bill of Rights as being a good thing. TABOR will stop the increasing of government spending and bring money back to your pocket. In a sense, TABOR will give you more of a voice when it comes to taxes and government spending. It will see more money coming into the pockets of the people. I support TABOR because it makes sense. It doesn’t cut programs but it also doesn’t allow the government to increase spending more than the population of the state.

I hope you all as students and other student leaders will take these things into account when advocating for students.

We need to look at the large picture and find out just where we are being hurt when it comes to fiscal policy in Maine. As a student I support working with you to help students, to be able to afford education, and get more money into their pockets.

Jason M. Lavoie
Political Science Major

Boskie and a 21 century USM

What does a 21st century USM look like? Our University can develop into an institution that meets the needs of students, faculty and staff by utilizing technology to our advantage. To meet our needs, the University needs to adapt and grow in the electronic world and provide for easy access to information for students, faculty, staff and the general public. My marketing class has taught me that businesses must work to meet the needs of its consumers in order to be successful; we need students and faculty working together to establish a university that better serves the students.

Imagine if class syllabi were readily accessible by registration for classes; consequently, students would know exactly what is to be expected of them in each class when planning for their next semester. These syllabi could be considered a sort of contract between the Professor and their students, establishing clear expectations and guidelines for both, before and during the semester. With the advent of Blackboard and electronic reserve, most class information should be available electronically, including course packs and handouts, for easier access by students.

Would it not be helpful to students that as we were choosing our classes, we also had a well developed database of other students comments on classes and professors? As our time is so valuable and our resources limited we should have a way to exchange information about professors and classes, so we can pick the best fit for us. In the same sense, why doesn’t USM have an online textbook exchange program? Students at other universities save hundreds of dollars a year by using existing programs; USM can do the same, and the Student Government needs to sponsor such a program.

There is a need to create dialogue between faculty, administration and students in order to accomplish these goals. These conversations should exist to serve the entire student body. I believe that students must meet the needs of the students.

To accomplish these objectives, there is a need for strong student leadership on these issues. I have the experience, leadership and knowledge to see that this University better serves our university’s next student leader. Please consider supporting me as your next Student Body President.

Andrew Boskie
4th Year Student
andrew.boskie@usm.maine.edu

News Editor Richard Smart can be contacted at freepress@usm.maine.edu

This Week in History

February 14, 1929:
The Valentine’s Day Massacre

On Valentine’s Day in Chicago, 1929, seven members of George “Bugs” Moran’s Gang, the Northsiders, were shot and killed in a warehouse on South and Clark. The killers were members of Al Capone’s south-side gang, who were aiming to kill Moran that morning.

Jack “Machine Gun” McGurn, one of Capone’s henchmen, set the rival gang leader up by luring him to the garage on the pretense of a routine whiskey deal. But Burke and his men, two of whom were dressed as policemen, came too soon and were seen by Moran on his way to the warehouse. Moran fled the scene upon spotting the police car, leaving seven of his gang members there to be killed.

They allowed themselves to be lined up against the wall and disarmed, thinking it was a normal police raid. Six died instantly from their wounds, but the last one stayed alive for a bit less than an hour. When the real police showed up and asked him who shot him, he said, “Nobody shot me.”

While Capone’s guilt was fairly certain, he had a convenient alibi of being on vacation in Florida. But the shocking events led the police and the government to pursue the criminal and finally he was convicted on charges of tax evasion in 1931.

The warehouse has since been torn down, but the bricks of the infamous wall were auctioned off and rebuilt in the men’s room of a ’20s-themed bar in Vancouver.
Thinking Matters, solar powered boats and teaching

Administrator turned professor plugs for the upcoming conference and talks about teaching at USM

LINDSAY CARLSON  STAFF WRITER

Chattanooga, Tenn., native Julie Ellis is currently the faculty co-director of Thinking Matters, a conference for both students and faculty. She is also a professor in the Engineering Department here at USM. She recently re-joined the ranks of faculty after a tour in the administration.

What made you choose electrical engineering as your field of study? Originally I was interested in studying music, but I didn’t find any scholarships to go to college and study that. There were scholarships for people, especially women, to go study engineering. So it’s my favorite because I teach it from the get-go. It’s a good thing trying to cultivate in the students thinking and that’s what we’re always fascinated to see the ideas that people come up with. My passion in engineering is hands on things in there. It’s always good fun. There’s always an interesting mix of students. We do a lot of projects and a lot of hands on things in there. It’s always fascinating to see the ideas that people come up with. My passion in engineering is how engineering is used to solve a problem; that usually means some really creative, interesting thinking and that’s what we’re trying to cultivate in the students from the get-go. It’s a good thing it’s my favorite because I teach it a lot. It’s the one class I taught while I was an administrator.

Do you have any favorite memories from your time here at USM? Something from our days of the solar-electric boat team. For four years we had world class competition of a solar-powered electric boat. We competed in Milwaukee four summers in a row. We took our six meter boat to Japan and we competed in an all-Japan regatta. I couldn’t choose a single memory from that time, but it was just so exciting to see USM in international competition. I’d like to see us do stuff like that again.

What brought you to Maine? I came to New England after I finished my master’s degree to work in the computer industry around Boston and they sent me to get my Ph.D. When that industry was collapsing in the late ‘80s, I started looking for an academic job. USM had a brand new engineering department and Maine has always seemed very exotic to me.

What’s class do you like to teach? Intro to Engineering is a lot of fun. There’s always an interesting mix of students. We do a lot of projects and a lot of hands on things in there. It’s always fascinating to see the ideas that people come up with. My passion in engineering is how engineering is used to solve a problem; that usually means some really creative, interesting thinking and that’s what we’re trying to cultivate in the students from the get-go. It’s a good thing it’s my favorite because I teach it a lot. It’s the one class I taught while I was an administrator.

What would you say is your greatest accomplishment? Seeing my children launch. Sarah, that’s my daughter, will graduate from USM May 13. Both my kids attended classes at USM. Seeing them launch as interesting, active humans into the world is just a huge deal. My enthusiasm for seeing young [people] start and launch is what makes being in the university world fun for me. So seeing your own kids do it is just that much better.

The Thinking Matters Conference is coming up. What is this conference all about? It’s the University’s opportunity to celebrate students coming up with their own ideas, doing research and discussing it. The statement of values really says what it’s about: people getting together and exchanging ideas and thoughts.

Is the conference open to anyone? There is this perception that Thinking Matters is only for undergraduate students and it’s not. It’s primarily undergraduate students because we have a lot more undergraduate students [enrolled at USM], but it’s open to graduate students.

Is there still time to sign up? Absolutely. We have an online submission form where a student submits an abstract. The website is research.usm.maine.edu/thinkingmatters. Abstracts submitted by March 3rd will be considered. If there are any questions about Thinking Matters, the Thinking Matters line is 207-228-8044 and Thinking Matters is on April 21, the Friday closest to Shakespeare’s birthday.

Has your involvement in Thinking Matters always been as faculty co-director? I haven’t been directly involved this way. My role relative to this was as director of research initiatives. This is one of the projects that research initiatives supports, but this year I have returned to the faculty. I’m no longer an administrator and so I picked up this faculty co-director job wearing a faculty hat.

Julie Ellis, faculty co-director of Thinking Matters

PHOTO BY LINDSAY CARLSON
Local farmers help University cafeterias get organic

More produce, but not meat, organic at Aramark

JOSH SCHLESINGER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Even though USM cafeterias have offered local and organic produce for almost a year, they have only just recently begun to advertise it. Local farmers in Maine as well as in other parts of New England supply our cafeterias with organic produce.

According to Keith Brady, the director of Dining Services, USM faculty and students have expressed an interest in local and organic produce. Included in the myriad of organic selection are apples, pears, carrots and celery courtesy of organic farmers in California. In the fall, many of the apples that appear in the cafeteria come from Randall’s Orchard in Standish. “We feature about 75-80 percent of our fruit from Randall’s in the fall,” said Brady. Most recently, USM has been receiving local shrimp from Maine Shellfish, and in the past week the Portland campus has sold about 35 pounds of this local shrimp.

The term “organic” refers to food that has not been chemically touched in any way. It generally is viewed as food that is much healthier and is free of most bacteria that reside in non-organic food. With regard to taste, organic food may taste the same as non-organic, but according to Brady the food will be crisper.

Brady has added that the emails of thanks for this organic and local selection have been appreciated. “The more feedback we get from USM, the more we’re able to bring this piece of program forward,” said Brady. In an effort to get as much community response, the cafeterias have been issuing online dining surveys, comment cards, as well as doing things the old-fashioned way—interacting with clients on a daily basis.

At this point, most of the organic menu will be limited to produce, as opposed to meat and poultry. Providers of USM’s local produce include but are not limited to Oakhurst Dairy, Portland Beverage, Mackin Dairy and Sure Winner. USM also gets beverages such as Steaz and Naked Juice from these proprietors of local food.

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In terms of the future for the USM cafeterias and organic supply, Brady just got back from a trip to Pineland in New Gloucester. Pineland is an organic farm that is talking to USM about working one on one with to expand its organic menu. According to Brady, USM and Pineland are still in “continuing discussions.” “We need to determine how things will get transported from them to us,” said Brady. “We are very optimistic; it’s a pretty new and exciting place.”

Much of the organic produce being served in the cafeterias are on display. However, if you are curious about which food is organic, and which is not, just ask one of the cashiers or workers in the cafeterias.

For more information on organic food, visit:
www.organicfood.co.uk.
Letter from the editor

JOSEPH R. THOMPSON  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Everyday I wake up to the 5:00 a.m. BBC report and everyday at 5:01 a.m., the point where I’m aware enough to translate the anchor’s voice into news, I find myself surprised at the power people hand over to fear. Once we hear a story like the world is a turbo drive engine fueled by high octane terror and about to blow a screw, it’s easy to believe.

Why is this? Okay, that’s a rhetorical question – I know. Let me try again: Why is this?

I don’t know why. However, I have a couple of guesses: Fear is an easy emotion to create within ourselves. While peace and alike require fear and effort, we have rather high amounts of fear running in the backgrounds of our mind – just like that Blackmail computer worm. It could also be that fear is a response to the global increase of consumerism. Follow this logic for a second: Fear is an emotion based on loss – that is, we fear when we face the threat of losing something, for example losing a privacy, respect, things, religion/fair and so on. Now, as the world becomes more and more consumer-focused we gain more and more things. The amount of things that we are scared of losing grows faster than we are growing in our own fear, creating fear within ourselves, and before we know it are responding back to the world through fear. Of course, we are the world so we see the world responding to us through fear.

These two guesses leave a pretty hope- less taste in my mouth. Each one leads to a self perpetuating cycle – maybe fear is the fabled perpetual-motion that scientist used to try and create. But there is an alterna- tive – an alternative that isn’t based on religion, politics, wealth or anything we use to divide ourselves. It’s here all along. It’s everywhere – Palestine, Israel, Iceland, and Venezuela. We’ve known about it ever since Fear trampled on it when Pandora opened that gift from Zeus (never hear a guy who likes to have sex in the shape of a swan).

Hope. To simplify, yet such a complex idea it’s not simplistic. Hope is the tool that lets us respond with threats to the courage to be able to let go of the now and to accept change – even if it means a loss of something in our lives. Or, for those who prefer metaphors, hope is why we have the strength to clean the whole dead wood out of our physical and emotional gardens, allowing for new growth each spring.

A couple of weeks ago, I quoted from the renaming of the Desiderata. I’d like to end this epitome with one more quote from it, this time from the end. As the week goes by I tend to say over and over, remember these words and hopefully it’ll make you smile a bit:

“All with its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.”

“Conservative” is not a dirty word

CYNDLE R. PLAISTED  
COLUMNIST

Whether you are reading this column because you are ovaried to see a conservative voice represented in the Free Press or because you want to know just what a “conservative” columnist might have to say, I feel it necessary to lay out what you can expect from this column and its writer. I have been a faithful reader of the University’s paper since my matriculation at USM in 2003. During that time, I have constantly noted the decidedly liberal slant of the paper, and though it has not surprised me, I have wished occasionally to hear a voice from the right. I understand that this is through no lack of attempts on the part of the Free Press editorial staff to recruit a conserva- tive writer. Apparently, there have been many contacts made with members of the College Republicans, offering them this very position. For whatever reason, the opportunity to air conservative views has not seemed as enticing as expected. Perhaps it’s their realization on the part of would-be columnists that these are not necessarily popular views in this part of the country, and perhaps it’s just a lack of encouragement at the university. But I’ve always been a brave girl.

When Joseph approached me about be- coming a paper conservative columnist, the idea was particularly tantalizing. And then uneasiness set in. What on earth was I going to talk about in this column? Certainly not just the old debates of abortion, gay marriage and the death penalty. Although these are worthy things to discuss, they have been well argued in much larger arenas. This is not to say that hot-button issues will never be addressed in this column. There is a reason these have become the “biggies” in the world of political partisan argument and that is be- cause everyone has some feeling about them, one way or the other. In the past I have written searing pieces involving some of these divisive subjects, but if it is not my goal to stun and offend. I would like to expose all of Free Press readers to a mind they might not be familiar with: The conservative. Perhaps through this column, the staunchly liberal will see some occasional similarities between their viewpoints and theirs. I know that in the past I have been on the receiving end of major disbelief from fellow students when they learned of my political leanings. I have no doubt that I may encounter even more surprised reactions when this column begins running in the paper.

I also want to make it clear that I do not present myself as the voice of all Republicans at the University. That isn’t even possible. But I will be a new voice for the paper, allowing more students to identify with what they read here.

I guess what I hope to achieve here is nothing earth-shattering: I want to contrib- ute to the discussions and dialogue that are fostered by the Free Press. I want to talk about things that matter, with a conservative yet decidedly Cyndle slant. You’re going to see that I sometimes present a fairly eclecitc understanding of an issue. This is what happens when you’re a Protestant, artist, conservative and liberal all at once. I will try to expose some of the ideas that accommodate such a collection of contrac- tions. But most importantly, I would like anyone reading this to understand that “con- servative” is not a dirty word.
Glow in the dark

Protection Agency’s Green Light’s

You know that song from The Sound of Music: “My Favorite Things”? John Coltrane did a sweet version of it, too. Anyway, in the spirit of that song, what are some of your favorite things? Dancing. All kinds, but especially dirty. Frisbee. The tree on the Western Prom.

What tree?

The one you can climb really easily. I like the Space gallery and Herb Gully’s. Their burritos are four times better than Granny’s. I like the colorfulness of Congress Street in terms of the people. There’s one guy who’s always looking for a fight. The other day he yelled “Who walks in front of a dog?” at someone. He isn’t nice at all, but I like him. The Blanket Man asked me buy wine for him.

A specific kind of wine?

No, just wine.

Did you do it?

No. I would have bought him food, though.

Name a celebrity you’d like to have sex with.

Angelina Jolie. She’s hot and I think she’d be really great in bed.

Are you an ass man?

I like butts and I cannot lie, but I wouldn’t define myself as that.

Do you read The Free Press?

I do, believe it or not.

Do you have any gripe with USM you’d like to air?

I think the advising process is broken down by race.

I’d like to know what the artist’s motive was. What was he trying to do? I’d like to know his [the artist’s] reaction to what’s happening.

Anti-western sentiment is probably just at all time high. It probably has a lot to do with the war and with American politics. I suspect these types of cartoons have been around for years.

The artist should have realized what would have happened. Obviously there was going to be some backlash.

What do you make of the mythic city? I was shocked by the realization that the time in the future when we over-consume and the rate at which we consume will be seen.

I thought about that experience. I laughed a little and disrupted the tension of an undefined moment. Annoyed, Timothy stared at me and asked what I was laughing at.

I’m going to be some backup.

I’d like to know what’s next. I think the advisors aren’t as informed as they should be. I haven’t heard from anyone who’s un eclared but otherwise that’s the consensus from other students, especially in foreign language programs. As a last semester senior, I know more options, but before I had no idea.

Last question. Will you give me some money, please?

Yes.

How much?

I don’t have any change. That’s what I give the bums.

Do I look like a bum?

[Insignificantly] No.

I think the advisors aren’t as informed as they should be. I haven’t heard from anyone who’s un declared but otherwise that’s the consensus from other students, especially in foreign language programs. As a last semester senior, I know more options, but before I had no idea.

The answer to all of these questions is: Glow in the dark.
Winter reading list
ALEX STEED
ASS. A&E EDITOR
February break is right around the corner. You’ll soon be home for a week, boozing with the family. Aside from revisiting booze-addled debauchery, what better way to kill time than to read a book or two to enrich your mind? While I know many of you have a general aversion to reading, I am here to offer advice on a handful of books that are better than blockbuster movies, building snowmen and blowjobs (seriously).

“Monkey Wrench Gang” by Edward Abbey:
One of the first things Abbey would probably suggest that we, as USM students, do is to take “On the Road” off of your favorite books sections of Facebook and MySpace. Of the books we could possibly recommend, this book will make a worthwhile addition to the arsenal of anti-hoarse-mouth rhetoric people often spit at me every time I try to read a book. From the immortal words of a twenty-something posturing as a sage: “The words of a twenty-something are often sh*t.” This book is not only funny but a great reflection on the excesses of Christmas. It’s fun. It’s a great reflection on the excesses of Christmas, and about the dangers of the suburban life.

“The Complete Joy of Home Brewing” by Charlie Williams/
New Complete Joy of Home Brewing” by Charlie Williams

April, 2006

PHOTOS COURTESY OF USM

A&E LISTINGS

A list of stuff to do this week instead of staring at your dorm room walls.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Sound in the Dark film series. “Afropunk” a documentary focusing on race identity within the punk scene. 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., SPACE Galley, 538 Congress Street. $6 / $5 for members. FMI info@space538.com or 828-5000.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Make out with your lover, or curse the holiday’s existence.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

“Discovering Malaga Island: African American History in Maine,” featuring a program on the plight of the African-American settlement off Maine’s coast in the early 1900s, drumming by Michael Wingfield & USM drummers, and vendors representing the African Diaspora. 5-8 p.m., Luther Bonney Auditorium, Portland, free and open to the public, 780-4006.

Portland Pirates Host USM Night featuring the Pirates vs. Lowell Lock Monsters, 7:05 p.m., mention USM to receive the special price of $6, Cumberland Civic Center, Portland 828-4665, ext. 350.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

“One Acts,” written by USM student playwrights, directed by Professor Assunta Kent/ Feb 16-18: 7:30 p.m. Feb 19: 5 p.m. / $12 public, $8 ser-
vices and staff, $5 students / Russell Hall, Gorham, 780-5151.


FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

“Rough Crossing,” Portland Stage Company / $19 to $33 / 7:30 p.m./ $12 public, $8 ser-
vices and staff, $5 students / Russell Hall, Gorham, 780-5151.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

“One Acts” special matinee show (see “One Acts” above) 5 p.m. / Rus-
sell Hall, Gorham. 780-5151.

LISTINGS COMPILED BY ANGELIQUE CARSON
The Ramp.” Both are shaped as they sound and are used in existence. The actual apparatus comes in several variations, appreciated fact of life.

Superhero lightly. Rourke is a revolutionary sex activist. She are pretty ones, fast ones, rugged ones, fat ones, skinny ones, fanatics can whet their appetite with an uncensored variety, with a letter. “V” stands for “vanilla,” or straight-up hetero, for communicable disease. I won’t say that the industry demeaning and exploitive. I won’t say that the industry is complete without a good session. To help, I investigated Videoport and Nomia to find out a few things about the shop:

Nomi:

1. Thursday night is ladies night. From 5-8 p.m., they offer a ladies-only atmosphere to ensure that all parties have an opportunity to visit the store, no matter what their comfort level.
2. The Liberator. It’s the best sex-apparatus product-line in existence. The actual apparatus comes in several variations, though the most popular models appear to be “The Wedge” and “The Ramp.” Both are shaped as they sound and are used to encourage new or amplified pleasure via a plethora of exciting sexual positions. The Liberator’s website advertises the wedge with a picture of a woman bent over with the words “Hit the Spot” above her. A pink G is positioned above her head with one of Cupid’s arrows sticking out of it. A caption asks, “eating out this Valentine’s Day?” The Liberator is that cool. Nomia has a ton of Liberator products.
3. So many nice dildos; so, so many nice dildos. There are pretty ones, fast ones, rugged ones, fat ones, skinny ones, fanatics can whet their appetite with an uncensored variety, with a letter. “V” stands for “vanilla,” or straight-up hetero, for communicable disease. I won’t say that the industry is complete without a good session.

Mixed media show mixes things up

A review of the latest exhibit at The Clown

Lauren Smyth

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

At first glance, an art-loving college student may not see Portland as a thriving Mecca of art. However, upon closer inspection, you can find an abundance of small galleries scattered throughout the city, like the The Clown, which is hidden behind a typical brick storefront located in the bustling center of the Old Port on Middle Street.

Past exhibits at The Clown include printworks, ceramics and landscape paintings. Holding this particular show together is its common theme of “mixed-media,” a style of art that uses everyday household products and turns them into art. The pieces are made out of common materials like wax, nails, thread, dolls, stamps, gypsum and even shoes. A recurring sense of obscure humor and intense self-discovery seems to be an abounding theme throughout the exhibit. However, the pieces are delicately varied.

The exhibit features artists Buzz Masters, Robert Hollingworth, Patricia Wheeler, Rosalind Fedeli, Erin Herbig, Chandra Glaeseman, John Andrews, and Deborah Randall. Glaeseman takes a stand with her small but powerful series of mixed-media vaginas, named “Playing with my Vagina” and a painting called “The Art of Seduction.”

Another highlight is a series of Hollywood paintings by artist Erin Herbig, who is also an assistant to the art director and works closely with the exhibits. The paintings feature an ink-copied dancer who appears and reappears throughout the works, mostly against backgrounds abstractly depicting West Hollywood, where Herbig lived for a few years before moving to Maine. Herbig claims this dancer to be a representation of the people of Hollywood, in that “they look beautiful on the outside, but sometimes really that’s all that there is.”

Gagnon says that many of the works currently on display “contain things that might link someone back to their childhood,” particularly Deborah Randall’s works, which have dress patterns peeking through paintings of ’50s and ’60s inspired children which are reminiscent of childhood.

While the exhibit is considerably smaller than say, the Guggenheim or even a typical New York pizzeria, its art is not anything to be ignored. The pieces are interesting and highly creative. Through Videoport, Portland, Maine, is not by any means the entertainment capital of the United States, America, The Clown may be able to prove, if you let it, that interesting things can come in boring packages.
Sigur Rós enchants Portland
The Icelandic group thrills fans at its Monday night show.

Erica Hansen
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Sigur Rós show at the State Theater last Monday night was rad. The string quartet Amina, who played on Sigur Rós's latest release, "Takk," went on stage right around 7:30 as the opening act for the sold-out show. They performed a set of charming, airy songs consisting of violin, cello, bells, glockenspiel and beats from a laptop, all the while frequently switching instruments. It was a nice opening since Amina would later be playing with Sigur Rós once they took the stage.

Sigur Rós plays the type of music that makes you feel like you're in a trance, being whisked away on a sonic journey through icy dreamscapes, places that are enchantingly beautiful yet strangely haunted at the same time. Their latest album, "Takk," has some amazing sounds that are even more ethereal and otherworldly than their previous releases and overwhelmingly contagious. They kicked off this year's string of U.S. tour dates right here in Portland, and it was a show to be remembered.

The audience stirred, likely wondering if Sigur Rós would sound as good live as they do on their albums. Would they really be able to recreate such unique and textured sounds on stage?

Any doubts were quickly extinguished as Sigur Rós came on stage, backlit onto a sheer curtain and broadcasting pre-show and admission music, is original scores created by a mysterious temptress. The plot twists and turns and is designed to keep you guessing until the very end. "I learned what it is to make it a production," said Perron. "Now I can go out and say, 'Yes, I've had experience writing for actors, and I've had experience in production.' It's great for the resume."

Two student's short plays take the main stage at Russell Hall.

USM playwrights get their chance to shine

Valentine’s Day is coming up and everyone’s got love on the brain. Why not? It’s a pervasive topic that concerns each and every one of us. Theater students Mia Perron and Tim Sheridan even wrote scripts on the topic and then turned them into reality. "One Acts" is a two-play show running February 16 to 19 at Russell Hall in Gorham. The show features Perron’s "Layers of Love" and Sheridan’s "Love and (Just) Romance."

Perron and Sheridan wrote the plays during a playwriting program offered by USM’s theater department. This year, just like the past twelve, Assunta Kent, associate professor of Theater and Women’s Studies, selected two scripts to be turned into reality. "One Acts" is a two-play show running February 16 to 19 at Russell Hall in Gorham. The show features Perron’s "Layers of Love" and Sheridan’s "Love and (Just) Romance."

Perron and Sheridan wrote the plays during a playwriting program offered by USM’s theater department. This year, just like the past twelve, Assunta Kent, associate professor of Theater and Women’s Studies, selected two scripts to be turned into full productions. Kent worked closely with the two writers on bringing their words to life.

Comprised completely of USM students, an entire cast joined their efforts on everything from costume design to lighting and music.

The process started in October, giving students the time to work on costume designs. The soundtrack to the show, including pre-show and admission music, is original scores created and produced by USM musicians.

In the past, the program has been very successful and appears to be thriving. Kent and Perron both speak very highly of the program. "It’s just incredible that USM offers this experience," said Perron. "Now I can go out and say, ‘Yes, I’ve had an experience writing for actors, and I’ve had experience in production.’ It’s great for the resume."

"Layers of Love" is a post-modern romantic comedy. It follows the unsatisfactory love life of Audrey and the conflicting love advice that she gets from the quirky entertaining characters of the supporting cast. It even has a steamy make-out scene.

The second play "Love or (Just) Romance" is a glimpse into the lives of two conventional lovers whose bond is tested by a mysterious temptress. The plot twists and turns and is designed to keep you guessing until the very end.

The plays are set in USM’s general area, in cities like Windham and Gorham. The topics are described as being for a mature audience and are written by twenty-somethings for twenty-somethings.

"This has been a wonderful experience for me," said Sheridan, who graduated in 2005. "I’ve been very inspired by this experience to continue pursuing writing. It’s given me a firm idea of what works and what doesn’t."

Similarly, Perron had nothing but good things to say about the early experience this production process has given her, and why it’s a valuable tool to have at USM.

"I learned what it is to make it a production," said Perron, "instead of just words on the paper. I learned how to turn [my work] into something that is alive."
CHOOSE USM 2006

Student Government Elections
Nomination Information

POSITIONS AVAILABLE
✓ Student Body President
✓ 21 Seats on the Student Senate
  9 commuter seats
  6 resident seats
  6 at-large seats

REQUIREMENTS TO RUN
✓ Undergrad student taking 3 or more credits in
  Portland/Gorham in Fall 2006
✓ Minimum GPA of 2.0

IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 2/1</td>
<td>Nomination Forms Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 3/3</td>
<td>Nomination Forms Due at 4:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 3/6</td>
<td>Campaign Weeks Begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 3/17</td>
<td>Campaign Weeks End</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 3/20</td>
<td>Elections Begin at 12:01am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 3/23</td>
<td>Elections End at 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of 3/27</td>
<td>Votes verified &amp; results announced</td>
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</table>

Nomination forms Due by 4:30pm on Friday, 3/3

Turn in forms at either Office of the Dean of Student Life
Woodbury Campus Center - P  Brooks Student Center - G

Pick up an Elections Resource Packet for all
Elections policy and campaigning guidelines.

CONTACT US

Caroline Young
Elections Commissioner
caroline.young@maine.edu

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Slither Link

Draw line segments between dots.
The line segments form one loop
with no branches or crossings.
The numbers indicate how many line segments
are around that square.
Any number of line segments
can be around a blank square.

Sudoku

Put one digit in every small square.
Every row, column and thick-bordered square contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats.

15 IT TRUE
THAT YOU’VE BEEN
GRANTED
IMMUNITY?

Put one digit in every small square.
Every row, column and thick-bordered square contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats.
How do you seduce a female?

I was/am in a relation with a woman that I have known for over 20 years. Things kind of got dull and I went through some times when I was second-guessing this relation. She is 8 years older. Because of the age difference I was ashamed of her. Always felt that “OMG what if a hot babe likes my looks and sees me with her?” Then one day I met a woman at work (12 years younger). It seems she really dug me so we talked about developing a relation together but because of my relation with the older woman she didn’t want to see me. I fell totally in love with her, became desperate and left the job to be with her (my friend and boss). I was devastated when she told me she no longer wanted to talk to me. I was enraged at my co-worker (my friend and boss). I was devastated when she talked about developing a relation together but because of my relation with the older woman she didn’t want to see me.

My girlfriend is a Trotskyite and I am a Social Democrat. While the sex is great, we constantly argue whether the former Soviet Union was a deformed worker’s state that should have been uncritically defended against the Capitalist West or whether is was a society run by a new class of bureaucratic Ancap. The Trotskyites can be crafty and that’s why you need to be prepared to feel like the rope. The strong forces of love, hate, ambition and laziness are acting on you this week. Don’t get pushed into one extreme or another. Rather, learn to find the balance. If you and a friend have been butting heads, expect a change. This sword card depicts a woman blindfolded with two swords, choices and the future that challenges and blessings are approaching you during your journey through life.

ARIES (Ace of Swords)★★★★★: In the heat of War game we call life, Aries, be prepared to feel like the rope. The strong forces of love, hate, ambition and laziness are acting on you this week. Don’t get pushed into one extreme or another. Rather, learn to find the balance.

TAURUS (Queen of Swords)★★★★: Here’s a word of the week for you, Taurus. Privation. The state of being deprived, lacking what is needed in your existence. Now I need a word from you, Taurus. This week, you need to find a name for what you feel you’re lacking.

GEMINI (Queen of Cups)★★★: Expect to find strength in the areas that make a good monarch. Gemini. Your interpersonal skills, practicality and intuitiveness will all help you envision your next big endeavor.

CANCER (2 of Swords)★★★★: Good news, Cancer. If you and a friend have been butting heads, expect a change. This sword card depicts a woman blindfolded with two swords, choices and the future before her. The reverse indicates a removal of the blindfold and the end of a stalemate.

LEO (P of Rods)★★★★: The opposition facing you this week is a hidden blessing for you, Leo. Expect to find people challenging you left and right. Why this week? Because the universe thinks you need to build your inner strength.

VIRGO (7 of Pentacles)★★★★: A funny card to get in the heat of winter, Virgo. But it looks like this is the time for you to be planting the seeds of your worldly garden. Start those investments – they’ll take off and before you know it you’ll be resting on your laurels.

LIBRA (2 of Pentacles)★★★★: Don’t juggle your money too much this week, Libra, or else it may just slip through your fingers. Instead, this is a good time if you wanted to engage in written communication – like sending a letter to Mom or Pop or a Valentine’s Day card to a lover.

SCORPIO (4 of Cups)★★★★**: Expect a surprise, Scorpio, or it may pass you by. Whether it’s karma or something else, the universe is granting you a boon this week. Just be sure to use it well – gifts like this don’t happen everyday.

SAGITTARIUS (5 of Pentacles)★★★★: Don’t be too lavish this week or else you’ll feel quite pinched, Sagittarius. Maybe it’s those holiday bills coming back or maybe you’re blowing too much on your lover this week – what ever it is, you might want to be a bit thriftier.

CAPRICORN (The Fool)★★★★: You run the risk of being sidelined for being to flippant and glib this week, Capricorn. Think twice about every decision you make – even the minor ones can have huge effects. In fact, before you do anything, find some butterflies and just watch their wings. Instead, this is a good time if you wanted to engage in written communications – like sending a letter to Mom or Pop or a Valentine’s Day card to a lover.

AQUARIUS (The Emperor)★★★★: Yes, Aquarius, you are very intelligent and very rational and these aspects will show this week as noted by The Emperor card but this card has another aspect to it: Authoritarianism. Be sure to listen to those around you, not as your subjects, but as your equals.

PISCES (The Tower)★★★★: This is a complex card, Pisces. The tower speaks of change and we know that change is inevitable. But if the change is positive or negative, that is for you to decide. Change what you want but if you don’t choose to change anything, expect the universe to make some changes for you.

**Note:** The numerical values above the cards represent the strength of the influence each card has on that sign for that week.
**Sales**

**Tarot Readings/Bake Sale**
11-3, Monday 13th
Luther Bonney Lobby
Buy some goodies for yourself or a loved one!

**Bake Sale!**
On February the 28th from 10:30 am until 2:00 pm, the Geography and Anthropology Student Association will be having a bake sale on the Portland campus in Luther/Bonny Hall. Stop by and enjoy the treats!!

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The Pagan Student Association will hold meetings on Mondays, 5:30-7, Roller Room, Woodbury Campus Center. Curious? Stop by say hi. FMI email usm_psa@yahoo.com

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**Apartment**

**University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre presents**
Two HOT new Valentine’s plays at USM!

**Layers of Love**
by Mia Perron
(popular columnist for The Windham Independent)

**Love and (Just) Romance**
by Tim Sheridan
Directed by Assunta Kent
For mature audiences only

February 16-19, 2006
7:30 p.m., Feb. 16, 17, and 18; 5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 19
Russell Hall, USM Gorham campus
$12 general; $5 students; $8 senior citizens/USM employees
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**HUSKY SPORTS SCHEDULE**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/14</td>
<td>Women's Basketball</td>
<td>UMass Boston @ Home</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/14</td>
<td>Men's Basketball</td>
<td>UMass Boston @ Home</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/16</td>
<td>Women's Basketball</td>
<td>@ St. Joseph's</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/17</td>
<td>Men's Ice Hockey</td>
<td>@ Saint Anselm</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/17</td>
<td>Men's Indoor Track</td>
<td>New England Div. III Championships</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Women's Indoor Track</td>
<td>New England Div. III Championships</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/18</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Women's Indoor Track</td>
<td>New England Div. III Championships</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2/18</td>
<td>Women's Basketball</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/18</td>
<td>Men's Basketball</td>
<td>Keene State @ Home</td>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/18</td>
<td>Men's Ice Hockey</td>
<td>@ New England Div. III Championships</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/19</td>
<td>Women's Ice Hockey</td>
<td>@ Saint Anselm</td>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**HUUSKY HERO**

**HATTIE LANDRY**

**RECENT HIGHLIGHTS:**

Little East Conference Track Athlete of the Week for January 30 to February 5. Competed in three events February 3 at State of Maine Championship at Bates. Won the 55 meter dash, came in second in both the 55 meter hurdles and 200 meter dash, yielding 26 points for Southern Maine.

**INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF SPORTS:**
- Photography
- Film Developing

---

**PRE-GAME RITUALS:**

Make sure I warm up on my own, just think about what I have to do and how I am going to do it.

**FAVORITE THING ABOUT USM ATHLETICS:**

The Team is great. I enjoy everyone’s company. We are all pretty close; outside of practice and meets we hang out for each others birthdays.

**MAJOR:** UNDECLARED

**YEAR:** SOPHOMORE

---

**TO WHOM I GIVE SPECIAL THANKS:**

Basically anyone who has helped me along the way.

**WHAT HER COACH SAYS:**

I feel fortunate to have athletes like Hattie on our team. She brings a tremendous work ethic and understanding of the sport. To run the 55 meter hurdles, 55 dash and 200 dash at the level she performed at the state championships is quite an accomplishment.

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**USM ATHLETICS**

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Sports Editor Todd Hebert can be contacted at freepress@usm.maine.edu
Ashley Marble didn’t break steals and five rebounds in which came from three-pointer—also paced the Huskies, adding with four more steals in the three-pointer, and got away to score six field goals, one Sibley in less than three minutes. Marble’s defense was relentless. She tapped in with five field goals and one three-pointer, and contributed, in large part, to other aspects of her game. Marble grabbed one offensive rebound and six defensive rebounds to earn herself, along with junior Shannon Kynoch, the rebounding honors, each of them grabbing seven rebounds for the Huskies. Marble also had one steal and three assists in the 24 minutes she played. Junior guard Lindsay Welch also contributed to the Huskies well-organized defense with three steals and three rebounds. Welch was fouled early on in the game, hitting the ground hard on a breakaway, but recovered quickly to come back out and repeat another steal from off the bench.

The Panthers started to regain their ground after being fouled, but fell short again when the Huskies came back for a 17-2 run in the first seven minutes of the second period. The Huskies ended the half with a 40-19 score, leaving the Panthers in their dust.

The second half was lead by senior guard Katie Frost and Kynoch. Kynoch opened up the lead to 71-28 after her three-pointer and Frost’s five unanswered shots all scored in under the first seven minutes of the half. The Huskies well-balanced defense and offense was key to their 80-39 win over the Panthers in the Little East Conference game, although their defense seemed more effective, forcing the Panthers into 34 turnovers. The Panthers did walk away with some of their dignity, allowing them to say they did force 15 turnovers and eight steals, although only four of their players contributed to the scoring in their game. The Panthers, although able to keep up with the face-paced Huskies, could not seem to keep the ball long enough to score. While the Panthers chimed in 23.5 percent from the field goal range, the Huskies shot 44.8 percent for the game. The Huskies also shot over 57 percent from the three-pointer line and 50 percent from the free throw line.

Are the Huskies unbeatable? If the Huskies can continue to play their offense and defense as they have been playing, combining the leading roles of Marble, Kynoch, and Myles, the Huskies may just be unbeatable. Their face-paced breakaways seem almost unstoppable, and their unbreakable defense leads to a turnover almost every time an opponent over the half court line.

The win was the 12th straight for the Huskies and raised their overall record to 26-1. They have won their last 56 games against Little East opponents and 43 straight games at home. Following the game, the Huskies were honored with the NCAA Division III record for 26 consecutive seasons of 20-or-more games won. This dates the record back to the 1980-81 season for the Huskies.

### Husky Highlights

**Marble Named Player of the Month**

Junior USM Women’s Basketball forward Ashley Marble (Topfield) was named the Women’s Division III News Player of the Month for the month of February. Marble averaged 18.1 points and nine rebounds per game for the Huskies in eight games. She has had eight ‘double-double’ efforts this season. She is shooting 54.4 percent from the field and is second on the team in steals with 36.

**Panthers devour Huskies**

Junior forward Devin Ruocco (Dover, N.H.) scored a game-high 23 points and grabbed eight rebounds to lead the Plymouth State University Panthers to a 69-51 Little East Conference win over the Huskies Tuesday evening. Suffering their second conference loss in as many games, the Huskies dropped to 10-12 overall and 3-8 in theLEC. Senior forward Bill Hardwick (Boothbay) led the Huskies with 17 points. Sophomore guard Walter Phillips (Portland) was the only other Southern Maine player in double-digits, with 12 points and seven rebounds.

**Spencer Wrestles into Rookie of the Week**

Freshman Wrestler Nick Spencer (Bridgewater, Mass) was named Pilgrim League Rookie Wrestler of the Week. January 30 through February 5. Spencer had a 4-0 record last week, including two pins out of four matches. Scoring in the 133-pound division, Spencer earned a pin over Rhode Island College senior Todd Bloom in a time of 6:29. Spencer also helped Southern Maine to a 33-18 win over Pilgrim League opponent Zack Henninghausen (United States Coast Guard Academy) in a time of 2:10.

**Landry Dashes for Southern Maine**

Sophomore Hattie Landry (Acton) was named the Little East Conference Track Athlete of the Week for the week of January 30 through February 5. Landry competed in three events Friday, February 3, at the State of Maine Championships at Bates College. She helped the Huskies to a first place finish in the four-team meet. Landry won the 55-meter dash with a time of 7.58 and placed second in both the 55-meter hurdles and the 200-meter hurdles. Her time in the 55-meter dash was just 0.01 seconds shy of the school record.

### Huskies Roll On

The USM Huskies women’s basketball team defeated the Plymouth State University Panthers 80-79 Tuesday night. The win was the 12th straight for the number one ranked Huskies and raised their overall record to 26-1. The 20 wins for the season extends the Huskies’ NCAA Division III record for consecutive seasons with 20-or-more wins to 26, dating back to the 1980-81 season. Junior forward Megan Myles (Auburn) paced the Huskies’ offense scoring a game-high 15 points. Junior guard Shannon Kynoch (Topfield) added 13 points and shared team-high rebounding honors with junior Shamon Kynoch (South Burlington, Vt.) as each grabbed seven caroms. Sophomore guard and junior Katie Sibley (Boothbay) each contributed nine points to the offense.