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University of Southern Maine

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Picketers protest low pay and expired contracts

ACSUM members and supporters rally for contracts

LINDSAY CARLSON
STAFF WRITER

Over 100 non-contracted employees gathered in front of Payson Smith Hall to protest what they believe to be unfair contract negotiations and unreasonable salary proposals on Friday, March 10. The demonstrators’ contracts expired last year and they have not yet come to an agreement for their new contracts.

According to demonstrators the COLT (clerical, office, laboratory, and technical) staff of the University is the lowest paid unit. President of ACSUM (Associated COLT Staff of the Universities of Maine) and demonstration organizer, Jim Bradley, is concerned those workers cannot afford to take a pay cut.

“When students celebrate successes we’re right there with them, but we can’t go broke in the process,” said Bradley. The protest intentionally coincided with the arrival of University System Chancellor Joseph Westphal. Bradley said the protesters were “hoping to draw public attention to the fact that literally thousands of employees are working without a contract.” Faculty, staff, and students from all of the universities throughout the University of Maine System made up the bulk of the demonstrators.

According to Bill Steele, professor of theater at USM and AFUM (Associated Faculties of the University of Maine System) chapter president, a university needs happy employees and he does not think the University System is doing enough to keep its employees happy. “We haven’t had a cost of living raise in five years,” said Steele. “It’s time the University steps up.”

After speeches from the union leaders, the picket line moved from the Payson Smith lawn to the Abromson Center auditorium, where Westphal was scheduled to speak. Picketers gathered in the auditorium to hear the Chancellor and ask questions.

Chancellor Westphal spoke to demonstrators about the tight budget and potential cuts to universities throughout the system. The Chancellor said there is a $15 million budget deficit statewide and new regulations limit requests for additional funding. Westphal said the new regulations prevent him from submitting more than a $5 million request for extra funding.

According to Westphal, his request for an additional $5 million has not been approved by the governor or legislature yet. He also said that even if it is, the universities will still face a $10 million deficit.

Westphal acknowledged the salary concerns of workers; he said he is “a very high priority” and asked for the support of the union workers and leaders in finding resolutions.

However, president of AFUM, Ron Mosely, disputes Chancellor Westphal’s claim. “We were told over ten years ago that compensation is a priority [but] our chart shows a 30 year drop in the purchasing power of our salaries. When is it going to become the kind of priority that we see in budgets?”

Demonstrators emerged from the meeting feeling no more encouraged than they had before they met with the Chancellor. Shannon Cox, project coordinator at University of Maine in Orono, called it, “the same old, same old.” She does not expect things to change at all.

“It’s a tough situation. People come here in good faith [thinking] they’ll make some inroads and they don’t have intentions of that.”

Those feelings were echoed by other picketers who said that Chancellor Westphal had been evasive and unwilling to answer their important questions.

Westphal, on the other hand, said he felt communication lines had been opened. “I think it’s always important to just hear from people,” he said. “I think that overall they wanted to make a point with me and they made it.”

The Chancellor said that his next step is to start a dialogue with the workers and union leaders and try to figure out a plan.
March 17, 1762:

Joseph, how dare you ask where all the assault on our human rights that into effect a law that outlaws abortion are thousands of feminist activists at are always open to the public. There of thought provoking programs that promote and organize an abundance staff and faculty work tirelessly to wake up women!!! Your future is the free press and the USM Police do not have to drive his car the case is being investigated by the Portland Police Department.

March 4 – Someone reported a student was robbed at knifepoint in the Women's Resource Center, while it was parked on the Gorham campus.

March 6 – Someone reported a student was scratched in the Student Center, while providing the arts scene, and planning personal projects.

Asking where we are is frankly asking where we are is sitting behind a desk in the Women’s Studies program) that target 3 organizations (the GSSO, the Women's Resource Center, and the Women's Studies program) that work the whole school year to offer lectures, art and performance events, and support the campus literary and academic events to students concerning everything International Women’s Day stands for. It is the time the movement gains support from the world, and it is trying to improve that and we no longer pass this work off as the burden of women specific programs doing so is the only reasonable thing it is trying to do and that they support funding for “The York political view, you aren’t the only one! It’s just that you can’t tolerate anyone else’s views but your own, so you simply mock anyone who advocates about the front of the entire student body, and we are forced to cringe at your writ- ing and hope that the year will end so that we can get a better editor. Please, please!!! Be quiet already! And stop embarrassing yourself by complan- ti... Once again, just command it! Emily Holland - Politics

On Operation Phoenix

I know that some people are disappointed by the Operation Phoenix crew’s decision to rescind the refe- rendum question asking students if they support funding for “The Southern Maine Review,” but we feel that doing so is the only reasonable option. The SMR has had a very long and valued history with students, and that kind of relationship can only emerge from an unwavering trust that every- one is in fact the student body’s best interest in mind. Thus, we simply do not feel right moving forward with so many Senators voicing con- cerns about the plan. We believe that continuing the campaign would only result in dissuade to the Senate, the student body and the SMR. In our minds, this campaign has never been about “winning”; rather, it has been about bringing our case to campus and dem- onstrating that the student body is not just willing to accept the status quo and let the students decide. Given that the Senate represents the interests of SMR students and the SMR, its members must listen carefully to its collective voice.

Students from Operation Phoenix will continue with the Senate about ways in which the SMR might fall under its care. During my 18 years with the SMR, I saw first- hand the numerous and varied ben- efits that the student body’s political position can bring to students, and I sincerely hope that they will find a way to con- tinue the work of the SMR and there- by reap the benefits of the SMR.

Ulanda Ghierten
Former Managing Editor of SMR

Things around USM in need of fixin’

Have you ever spent a week- end on the Gorham campus, or hang out in the Law Building on the Portland campus. The Women’s Resource Center, while providing the arts scene, and planning personal projects.

Asking where we are is asking where we are is sitting behind a desk in the Women’s Studies program) that target 3 organizations (the GSSO, the Women's Resource Center, and the Women's Studies program) that work the whole school year to offer lectures, art and performance events, and support the campus literary and academic events to students concerning everything International Women’s Day stands for. It is the time the movement gains support from the world, and it is trying to improve that and we no longer pass this work off as the burden of women specific programs doing so is the only reasonable thing it is trying to do and that they support funding for “The York political view, you aren’t the only one! It’s just that you can’t tolerate anyone else’s views but your own, so you simply mock anyone who advocates about the front of the entire student body, and we are forced to cringe at your writ- ing and hope that the year will end so that we can get a better editor. Please, please!!! Be quiet already! And stop embarrassing yourself by complan- ti... Once again, just command it! Emily Holland - Politics

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Students from Operation Phoenix will continue with the

Letters to the editor

Response to Women's Day columns

I am writing in response to the columns on the fourth floor of Anderson The women's bathroom was unable to find the Kappa Iota was found a student not to drive his car – Someone vomited – Someone reported a male officer arrived on the scene. He had been divinely called to Christianize Ireland and was sent as the Catholic Church’s missionary to the island. He was there for almost thirty years before he died. In that- time he converted most of the Irish population.

COMPILLED BY THE STAFF OF THE FREE PRESS AND THE USM POLICE

FEBRUARY 27 Someone reported a man in a dark coat trying the door handles on a car. The police suspect the group has been moving to different rooms in the building in order to hold their meetings. The students have said they have never spoken to before.

FEBRUARY 28 – Thirteen people were stuck in the elevator in the third floor of Robie Andrews Hall.

Some people were trapped in the elevator but the lift unexpectedly broke on the third floor that looked it was caused by a bee or pellet gun.

MARCH 1 – A student advised a student not to drive car with the boot still attached to it because it would damage his vehicle. The student said he was going to drive it anyway because the student doesn’t have the money to get the boot removed. An RA reported a student on the third floor of Blodgett Wood Hall had too much to drink and was throwing up. The student was referred to Maine Medical Center for treatment and was issued a citation for the possession by consumption.

MARCH 3 – Someone reported a couple fighting in Anderson Woodward Hall.

A woman reported that the hub caps were stolen off her car sometime the night before while parked on the Gorham campus. A student, off campus, was robbed at knifepoint in Portland. The case is being investigated by the Portland Police Department.

March 4 – An RA reported that a vehicle had been broken into and stopped between the first and second floors, then dropped off near the building where it let the passengers out.

MARCH 5 – A student reported that $100 was missing from their room, but didn't want to file a report because they have no faith in the legal system. A woman reported some- one printed on her parking pass while it was parked on the Gorham campus.

MARCH 6 – Someone reported a student was scratched in the Gorham parking lot over night.

CORRECTIONS FOR ISSUE 16:

Page 8: Shultz not Schultz

Kappa Iota was found in the Student Center, while providing the arts scene, and planning personal projects.

Asking where we are is asking where we are is sitting behind a desk in the Women’s Studies program) that target 3 organizations (the GSSO, the Women's Resource Center, and the Women's Studies program) that work the whole school year to offer lectures, art and performance events, and support the campus literary and academic events to students concerning everything International Women’s Day stands for. It is the time the movement gains support from the world, and it is trying to improve that and we no longer pass this work off as the burden of women specific programs doing so is the only reasonable thing it is trying to do and that they support funding for “The York political view, you aren’t the only one! It’s just that you can’t tolerate anyone else’s views but your own, so you simply mock anyone who advocates about the front of the entire student body, and we are forced to cringe at your writ- ing and hope that the year will end so that we can get a better editor. Please, please!!! Be quiet already! And stop embarrassing yourself by complan- ti... Once again, just command it! Emily Holland - Politics

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Former Managing Editor of SMR

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And the candidates are...

Here are profiles of the 17 candidates running for the 21 seats on the 35th Student Senate.

Rachel W. Bragan, Resident
Major/Minor: Biology/English
Class: Senior
Community involvement: I am an RLA in Armstrong Hall. I am also a tutor in the Learning Center in Garbon as well. I also work as the Resident Advisor of the lounge.

What are the top three issues facing USM students today? I think the top three issues facing USM students today are the high cost of tuition, the high cost of textbooks, and the high cost of textbooks. I think those are issues that affect a lot of students.

David C. Colson, Resident
Major/Minor: Political Science/Chinese
Class: Junior
Community involvement: I am currently serving on the 14th Student Senate, which is a member of the Student Alliance Committee. I am also the current Co-Chair of the Student Alliance Committee. I am also the Co-Chair of the Student Alliance Committee. I am also the Co-Chair of the Student Alliance Committee.

What are the top three issues facing USM students today? I think the top three issues facing USM students today are the high cost of books for the student Senate, the high cost of books for the student Senate, and the high cost of books for the student Senate.

Kristi L. Gagne, Commuter
Major/Minor: Political Science/Philosophy
Class: Senior
Community involvement: I am a student of the Student Senate, which is a member of the Student Alliance Committee.

What are the top three issues facing USM students today? I think the top three issues facing USM students today are the high cost of books, the high cost of books, and the high cost of books.

Angela L. Kimball, Commuter
Major/Minor: English/Linguistics
Class: Senior
Community involvement: I am a member of the Student Senate, which is a member of the Student Senate, which is a member of the Student Senate.

What are the top three issues facing USM students today? I think the top three issues facing USM students today are the high cost of books, the high cost of books, and the high cost of books.

Amanda L. Slattery, Resident
Major/Minor: History/Spanish
Class: Senior
Community involvement: I am a member of the Student Senate, which is a member of the Student Senate, which is a member of the Student Senate.

What are the top three issues facing USM students today? I think the top three issues facing USM students today are the high cost of books, the high cost of books, and the high cost of books.

David A. Brown, Commuter
Major/Minor: Political Science/Philosophy
Class: Senior
Community involvement: I am a member of the Student Senate, which is a member of the Student Senate, which is a member of the Student Senate.

What are the top three issues facing USM students today? I think the top three issues facing USM students today are the high cost of books, the high cost of books, and the high cost of books.

Laura A. Saia, Resident
Major/Minor: History/Geography
Class: Senior
Community involvement: I am an RLA in Alpha Chi, a member of the Student Senate, and a member of the Student Senate.

What are the top three issues facing USM students today? I think the top three issues facing USM students today are the high cost of books, the high cost of books, and the high cost of books.

Jason M. Lavine, Resident
Major/Minor: Political Science/Public Relations
Class: Senior
Community involvement: I am a member of the Student Senate, which is a member of the Student Senate, which is a member of the Student Senate.

What are the top three issues facing USM students today? I think the top three issues facing USM students today are the high cost of books, the high cost of books, and the high cost of books.

James J. McKeon, Resident
Major/Minor: Political Science/Philosophy
Class: Senior
Community involvement: I am a member of the Student Senate, which is a member of the Student Senate, which is a member of the Student Senate.

What are the top three issues facing USM students today? I think the top three issues facing USM students today are the high cost of books, the high cost of books, and the high cost of books.

Basil E. Lynds, Resident
Major/Minor: Political Science/Criminal Justice
Class: Senior
Community involvement: I am a member of the Student Senate, which is a member of the Student Senate, which is a member of the Student Senate.

What are the top three issues facing USM students today? I think the top three issues facing USM students today are the high cost of books, the high cost of books, and the high cost of books.

Shaun M. Cote, Resident
Major/Minor: Philosophy/Linguistics
Class: Senior
Community involvement: I am a member of the Student Senate, which is a member of the Student Senate, which is a member of the Student Senate.

What are the top three issues facing USM students today? I think the top three issues facing USM students today are the high cost of books, the high cost of books, and the high cost of books.

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COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENT LIFE
No vote until April

RICHARD SMART
NEWS EDITOR

Approving the proposal to change the Honors Program into a college may be in violation of the Faculty Senate’s governance documents. Not because the language of the documents is vague but because there’s a page to the document missing.

The issue was raised by Tom Parchman, vice chair of the senate, towards the end of the session, after an extensive discussion about the Honors Program that was filled with confusion and clashing ideologies. After being asked if passing the proposal would require the governance documents to be rewritten, Parchman said according to an older version of the bylaws it would require changes but he was uncertain about the newest version because the page with those laws is missing. In order for the Senate to pass a proposal that’s in violation of their governance documents they would need a two-thirds majority.

The discourse surrounding the proposal was varied, with some making statements about an honors college draining all of the “bright” students from general education classes. Others said if USM was going to create an honors college, it should use the proposal that people had already put so much effort into drafting. The discussion elicited applause and unsolicited comments from the gallery.

There seemed to be as many opinions of the proposal as there are faculty senators, but the majority seemed to be ambivalent towards the proposal before them.

President Richard Pattenaude spoke in favor of adopting the proposal, citing both his own experience in an honors program when he went to college, and the usefulness of such a program to USM in terms of recruiting.

“The rise of community colleges and the demographics of Maine, it’s important to have an honors college” for the health of USM,” said Pattenaude.

Members of the Senate were not as resolute as Pattenaude. Michael Hamilton attempted to pass an amendment to the proposal that would call for the creation of an honors college, but wouldn’t use the model set forth in the proposal. After lengthy discussion the amendment was voted down 23 to 3.

After further discussion, the Senate decided to divide the proposal into two separate issues to be voted on. The first vote would determine if the Senate was in favor of creating an honors college at the University in principle. The second vote would determine if the Senate was in favor of the proposal for an honors college that had already been drafted. Before either issue could be voted on, the meeting was adjourned. The issue will be taken up at the Faculty Senate’s next meeting in April at the Lewiston-Auburn campus.

As the meeting ended the members of the gallery shuffled out, some in anger, some in disgust and even some crying.
Letter from the editor

A couple of thoughts on the upcoming student government elections

JOSEPH R. THOMPSON
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Okay, it’s been a busy week here at USM. In case you’ve missed the news, we’ve got a new Commander in Chief maintaining a 34 percent approval rating. We’ve been told that this is largely due to our lack of progress in Iraq. We’re all concerned, of course, about the welfare of our troops. But we do have some other issues to consider as well.

One issue is the upcoming student government elections. There are two main candidates running for the position of President, and they are both offering very different visions for our school. The incumbent, a strong supporter of the war, is facing a challenge from a candidate who has criticized his policies. The incumbent has promised to continue supporting the war effort, while the challenger has called for a more peaceful approach.

Another issue is the budget. The current administration has been cutting programs and reducing services in order to save money. The candidates have different views on how to address this problem. The incumbent has promised to continue cutting programs, while the challenger has proposed new revenue-generating strategies.

I encourage all students to vote in the election. It’s important that we have a strong student voice on campus and that our elected leaders represent our interests.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Thompson
Executive Editor
Meet Joe Student

Are you taking any interesting classes this semester? I’m really enjoying Representation of Animals in Literature.

Who’s one of your favorite USM professors? Margaret Reimer. I took an Ancient Literature course she taught.

Who’s one of your favorite roommates? No, just my roommates and I go to work last week. I pulled a sandwich to take to my lunch, and was immediately attacked by the precarious pyramid of leftovers after my visits. As I reassessed the cupboard contents and put my sandwich in one of my Mom’s smash-proof containers, we realized that we eat a lot of coldcuts, and buying them from Hannaford, we get them in resealable plastic bags which tear too easily to reuse and can’t be sensibly recycled.

I harbor no illusions that the original three R’s, “reading, and ‘riting, and ‘rithmetic”, were being replaced by a triplet that had more claim to the name: reduce, reuse, recycle. Given my mother’s apparent early issues with the real three R’s, I was dumbfounded last week when my mother told me about the time she spent on the town’s recycling program in our hometown. Apparently her disgust was or-

Executive Editor Joseph R. Thompson can be contacted at freepress@usm.maine.edu

Photo and interview by Jen Feldman

Margaret Reimer. I took an Ancient Literature course she taught.

Life is messy, no question. Still, small things do add up to make a difference. I can, when I can. Small things, so my education is free. The federal government gives grants to tribes for various things. So my education is free. They pay for tuition and living expenses.

What function should USM’s Student Senate serve?

They should address all the student issues, such as tuition and the university rules. With the new alcohol policy you now get a summons to court. Honestly, it promotes drunk driving because no one wants to stay in the dorms.

Any questions for me or The Free Press?

Why is Abbey Burnett the most awesome person in the world? And why doesn’t she have a boyfriend? ♦

On being green

MELISSA ST. GERMAIN

When I was in elementary school, I clearly remember my mother being disgusted that the original three R’s, “reading, and ‘riting, and ‘rithmetic”, were being replaced by a triplet that had more claim to the name: reduce, reuse, recycle. Given my mother’s apparent early issues with the real three R’s, I was dumbfounded last week when my mother told me about the time she spent on the town’s recycling program in our hometown. Apparently her disgust was or-

Harry Carter
English

Fletcher Baron
Business

Bethany Trembaly
Social Work

Rebecca Libby
Art

Evan Motvier
Communications

Have a question you want answered? Send it to freepress@usm.maine.edu

DANDY, from page 5

of trying to take over and govern Iraq’ (Seattle Post-

Intelligencer, 09.29.04). Just remember that in his State of the Union address a month or so ago, the President lulled us with the same lie he’s been insulting us with for the past three years. “We’re on the offensive in Iraq, with a clear plan for victory.”

The only people who are left confidently in favor of this war appear to be blind-supporters of the President’s ambitions that are hiding their thinly-veiled imperial aspirations behind the guise of “conservatism.” While it’s unfortunate that we learned this as a country after the invasion, there is nothing conservative about supporting an ill-planned, ill-executed campaign of aggression that has cost U.S. tax-payers $251 billion. There is nothing patriotic about contaminating the future of our country with unmanageable debt and a bad international reputation. The venture has been ill-conceived, mismanaged and poorly executed and now there’s no way to hold the accountable parties accountable. As noted above, true conservatives, Republican and others, and I all agree on Iraq. The War in Iraq has been, and continues to be, a failed policy. ♦

I didn’t even know we had a senate. How about they tell people what they do? What do they do?

Organize what’s going on, inform students, and act as leaders. They should make sure that students get involved.
The Maine Jewish Film Festival is your back-stage pass to some of the most enthralling, thought provoking films from all over the world that you’ve never seen. You haven’t seen them because they aren’t films that would ever hit the mainstream theater scene. The features are mainly independent, international, documentaries and short films that are only screened through film festivals such as this one, which is held every year in downtown Portland. The event is Vacationland’s very own Cannes Film Festival, but colder and with fewer Hollywood elites.

The Maine Jewish Film Festival began in 1998 and has thrived annually in southern Maine for the past eight years. It started within the Jewish community but has since extended beyond that into a broad based community feature. In that time, they have presented over 125 little-known films to Mainers in an effort to provide an open, public, community-based forum for introspective exploration and discussion of the Jewish experience.

This year’s festival begins on March 17 and runs for nine days. Event coordinators viewed over 175 movies before finally deciding on the diverse 25 that would ultimately be put on the bill. The chosen movies stood out for their overall excellence, and more specifically for their compelling, thought provoking themes and poignant, accurate depictions of various Jewish topics. Criteria for movie selection included that the story had to reveal something about how people are living their lives as Jews, and the joys as well as dilemmas that surround that, whether it be in a historical or a present-day context. Movie-goers are provided the opportunity to screen a wide range of genres from hilarious to heart-wrenching, and in many different formats including foreign, short, documentary, feature and independent films.

Executive and artistic director of the MJFF, Bess Welden, is passionate and excited about this year’s production. She is part of the team that spends the entire year fundraising, grant writing, soliciting business sponsors and individual donors to finance the event. She is confident with the content of the films as well as the benefits of bringing a film festival to Mainers. She notes the significant difference between renting a DVD and watching it in the isolation of your own home, and the opportunity to come together with 150 others to watch a film together.

“Watching a film in this atmosphere changes the way people watch films and changes the way the people think about them,” said Wesson. “It opens up a sparkling dialogue between these groups. These films help to highlight what is the same and in some ways we are different, and in some ways we are very much the same.

Festival attendance grows with every year. Last year’s event saw 2,250 people walk through its doors. This year, three extra days of films were added. 2,000 tickets have already been sold and sales continue to boom. Although the event is well-attended by Maine’s Jewish community, a vast multitude of cultures and ethnicities make up the faces of those seated in the theaters every year. It doesn’t matter what your background is, the films are enjoyable because they tell great stories about who we are as humans and how we got to this point.

One goal of the festival coordinators is to get more college students involved. They have even collaborated with three other colleges to have satellite screenings of the films shown on campus, including Bates, Colby and UMaine Farmington. Lucky for USM Portland, students can take advantage of the location of the event, being held just down the road a piece. Many of the topics addressed are relevant to those frequently taught in USM classrooms, issues that include tolerance, racism, sociology, psychology, politics and ethics. In an effort to welcome USM students, Bess Welden has offered a special college discount for the March 22 showing of "Discordia," a documentary about Concordia University in Montreal. The entire film takes place on the college’s campus, and all the main characters are students there. The film was made by two students who recently graduated from Concordia and focuses on how the Israeli/Palestinian conflict in the Middle East affects a lot of what’s going on at this particular campus in the Northeast. The film is an eloquent demonstration of how college students can be actively involved in creating the politics of their own world. A movie ticket generally costs $7, but on this special night the ticket is free.

After the film presentation, directors of the films are often present so the audience may take part in a unique opportunity to have an open discussion with the creator of the project in the flesh. Frequently in the past, the films have received an award and sought to launch in-depth, passionate dialogue about issues larger than just the film productions themselves.

The discussions are meant to put the audience in the driver’s seat and allow them to control the discussions, ask questions and decide what direction they want the conversation to go in. They can ask questions of the directors about the film, or extend the conversation to broader sentiments the films may have stirred in them.

The festival integrates a variety of themes into the event such as the Lesbian Gay Bi-Sexual Transgender (LGBT) program, the Women Film Makers Forum, Seniors Free Matinee and the Youth Program.

Keeping these groups’ causes in mind helps the event planners address the intersecting paths between different minority groups, and often assists in creating an open dialogue between these groups. These films help to highlight that in some ways we are different, and in some ways we are very much the same.

The Maine Jewish Film Festival begins on March 17 and runs for nine days. Event coordinators viewed over 175 movies before finally deciding on the diverse 25 that would ultimately be put on the bill. The chosen movies stood out for their overall excellence, and more specifically for their compelling, thought provoking themes and poignant, accurate depictions of various Jewish topics. Criteria for movie selection included that the story had to reveal something about how people are living their lives as Jews, and the joys as well as dilemmas that surround that, whether it be in a historical or a present-day context. Movie-goers are provided the opportunity to screen a wide range of genres from hilarious to heart-wrenching, and in many different formats including foreign, short, documentary, feature and independent films.

Executive and artistic director of the MJFF, Bess Welden, is passionate and excited about this year’s production. She is part of the team that spends the entire year fundraising, grant writing, soliciting business sponsors and individual donors to finance the event. She is confident with the content of the films as well as the benefits of bringing a film festival to Mainers. She notes the significant difference between renting a DVD and watching it in the isolation of your own home, and the opportunity to come together with 150 others to watch a film together.

“Watching a film in this atmosphere changes the way people watch films and changes the way the people think about them,” said Wesson. “It opens up a sparkling dialogue between these groups. These films help to highlight what in some ways we are different, and in some ways we are very much the same.

Festival attendance grows with every year. Last year’s event saw 2,250 people walk through its doors. This year, three extra days of films were added. 2,000 tickets have already been sold and sales continue to boom. Although the event is well-attended by Maine’s Jewish community, a vast multitude of cultures and ethnicities make up the faces of those seated in the theaters every year. It doesn’t matter what your background is, the films are enjoyable because they tell great stories about who we are as humans and how we got to this point.

One goal of the festival coordinators is to get more college students involved. They have even collaborated with three other colleges to have satellite screenings of the films shown on campus, including Bates, Colby and UMaine Farmington. Lucky for USM Portland, students can take advantage of the location of the event, being held just down the road a piece. Many of the topics addressed are relevant to those frequently taught in USM classrooms, issues that include tolerance, racism, sociology, psychology, politics and ethics. In an effort to welcome USM students, Bess Welden has offered a special college discount for the March 22 showing of "Discordia," a documentary about Concordia University in Montreal. The entire film takes place on the college’s campus, and all the main characters are students there. The film was made by two students who recently graduated from Concordia and focuses on how the Israeli/Palestinian conflict in the Middle East affects a lot of what’s going on at this particular campus in the Northeast. The film is an eloquent demonstration of how college students can be actively involved in creating the politics of their own world. A movie ticket generally costs $7, but on this special night the ticket is free.
Bangkok Thai, crazy good

Great food, decent prices, and all the entertainment you need

**A & E Editor Angelique Carson can be contacted at freepress@usm.maine.edu**
Blood Brothers: a bloody good time

A new USM musical hits the theater this week

Lauren Smith
Staff Writer

Who doesn’t love British humor? The newest play to theater this week promises to be eventful if nothing else. While British musical is a hybrid of dark tragic scenes depicting old English city streets and traces of the popular off-beat style of British comedy, Assistant director Calien Lewis says are mannerisms and tones of voice. The actors had to create a differentiation between the actions that their characters had as children as opposed to how they are when they’re grown up.

Theater professor and director of “Blood Brothers”, Wil Killroy. “It deals with honesty, issues of fidelity, violence, acceptance, class and discrimination, and family relations as the overall outcome of this production.

“My favorite thing about the show is it’s a story that students, or anyone seeing it, can find parts to relate to,” said Killroy. “It’s a musical that’s not just about being happy and tap dancing. It’s got quite a bit of drama and layers to it.”

Blood Brothers

Where: Main Stage at Russell Hall, Gorham campus
When: March 17 and 18: 7:30 p.m., March 19: 5:00 p.m., March 23 thru 26: 7:30 p.m.
Tickets: students: $5, faculty $10, general admission $15
For reservations and more information contact the Russell Theater Box Office at 780-5151.

Jason Edward Cook as Mickey Johnstone and Jared Poulin as Eddie Lyons. The play follows its main characters over a span of about 25 years, and the director has chosen to use the same actors throughout. The actors have the difficult task of portraying a character at 7, and then that same character as a grown 25-year-old but are made believable through what Lewis says are mannerisms and tones of voice. The actors may be mannerisms and tones of voice. The actors have the difficult task of portraying a character at 7, and then that same character as a grown 25-year-old but are made believable through what Lewis says are mannerisms and tones of voice. The actors had to create a differentiation between the actions that their characters had as children as opposed to how they are when they’re grown up.

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Monday, March 20
5:30 PM Short Shorts (5 short films)
7:00 PM Isn’t This a Time!
Tuesday, March 21
3:00 PM Hineni: Coming Out in a Jewish High School
5:30 PM A Cantor’s Tale
7:30 PM Protocols of Zion
Wednesday, March 22
5:30 PM Discordia with God on our Side
7:30 PM Short Shorts (5 short films)
Thursday, March 23
5:30 PM Short Shorts (5 short films)
7:00 PM LGBTQ Program
Love Story and Lover Other Guest Artist, Barbara Hammer
Friday, March 24
5:30 PM Storytelling @ Maine Historical Society
489 Congress St., Portland
12:00 PM Soldiers Luncheon
1:30 PM A Cantor’s Tale
SOLD OUT except for All-Festival Pass Holders
Saturday, March 25
5:30 PM Gloomy Sunday
7:30 PM Go For Zucker!
Sunday, March 26 - Closing Day
11:45 AM The Ritchie Boys Closing Film and Party
@ the Portland Museum of Art
2:15 PM Uphizin


Blood Brothers

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**Student Government**
**Meet the Candidates Forum**

**Tuesday, 3/14**  11:45am-1:15pm  
Woodbury Campus Center Amphitheater  
Portland Campus

**Thursday, 3/16**  7:30pm-9pm  
Brooks Student Center - Lower Level  
Gorham Campus

**VOTE ON-LINE AT:**  
www.usm.maine.edu/studentlife/choose06
Sudoku

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

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WUD YOU LIKE TO BE THE
STUDENT COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER?

Speech Requirements:
❖ Speaker must be a graduating student, eligible to participate in commencement and have no more than 9 credit hours to complete at the end of the 2006 spring semester.
❖ Speech must be 3-5 minutes in length.
❖ One speech per graduating student may be submitted and it is encouraged that the speech be the original creation of the presenter.
❖ Two students may collaborate on a speech, but only one student will be permitted to deliver the speech and sit on the commencement stage.
❖ Speech should be addressed to the University community in general, including traditional and non-traditional students, family members, guests, faculty and staff.
❖ It is suggested that the speech reflect on the University experience and provide direction for the graduating class.
❖ Selection is based on quality, content and oral presentation.

Presentation Requirement:
❖ One or more selections will be made from all entries will be orally presented before the selection committee on Tuesday, April 11th, 2:00-4:00 p.m. in Rm. 212 Abromson Center, Portland Campus. If you submit a speech, please block out this time on your schedule. You will be notified by April 7th if you will be invited to present before the committee.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION
Friday, March 24, 2006, 4:00 p.m.

Please return (or fax) cover sheet and speech text to:
Student and University Life
Attention: Pat Haskell RE: Student Commencement Speaker, 117 Payson Smith Hall,
Portland Campus
Questions: Call Helen Gorgas Goulding, Committee Chair, 780-4629

❖ The selected speaker will be honored with a University of Southern Maine Chair with engraved name plate.
❖ For any writing assistance, you are encouraged to contact the Portland Learning Center, 253 Luther Bane Hall, or Gorham Learning Center, Costello Sports Complex.

An Opportunity for Community Prayer
“Take Twenty”

Wednesdays, beginning March 15 —

12 noon   Boiler Room, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland
          A mid-day respite with music, musings & prayer.

4:00 p.m.   Husky Hut, Brooks Student Center, Gorham
          End the day with reflection, music & prayer.

Sponsored and facilitated by the Episcopal Campus Minister, The Rev. Shirley Bowen, through the Interfaith Chaplain’s Office.
Materials used will be from a variety of faith traditions.
All are welcome.
So, I thought bestiality was illegal. However, I was in NYC recently and while I was there I was dragged into a porn store that was equipped with a very extensive bestiality section. What gives?

What gives is that the preferred name for bestiality is zoophilia. What also gives is your mom. Dear reader, you may be shocked and/or pleased to learn that bestiality is, in fact, legal in eighteen states: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey (2006 legislation proposed), New Mexico, Ohio, Texas, Vermont, Washington (2006 legislation in process), West Virginia, and Wyoming. You will notice that New York is not on the list. There, bestiality is a Class A misdemeanor, per NY CLS Penal @130.20 (1994). Legal issues aside, who do you think you're fooling with this "dragged into a porn store" business? This advice columnist may be dumb, but she's not stupid.

Where are all the descent men folk at? I've checked the bars, USM's classrooms, college parties and my bed. They aren't occupying any of those spaces, I've only found "boys" there. I'm looking for someone intellectually stimulating and good in the sack. My boss says that I can find straight men hiding out at gay bars. I'm running out of hope. Is there some pot of gold hiding from me over the rainbow? Also, will you marry me?

Your boss is an idiot. Straight men do not hang out at gay bars unless they like having sex with other men. My dear deluded reader, your problem isn’t that you’re looking for men in the wrong places. No, your problem is that you have standards. High standards. Maybe instead of searching for JFK you need to settle for William Howard Taft. That’s right, Taft. Sometimes the truth hurts.

Cards and Stars Horoscopes
By Lemma Luciferous

Rather than just looking at the sky for some insight into your week, 1, Lemma Luciferous, perform a single card tarot reading each week to see what challenges and blessings are approaching you during your journey through life.

ARIES (The Hanged Man): The Neptunian aspects of this card indicate a change in your perspectives this week, Aries. Whatever happened last week that made you stop and think isn’t going away this week. Don’t be scared to change as you learn and grow. That’s just a part of life.

TAURUS (The World): Every opportunity – every dream that you can dream is being offered for you to actualize, all you need to do is reach for it. This week’s reaffirmation comes with a warning though: you’re running out of time to waffle.

GEMINI (Judgment): As you go through this week, Gemini, expect to feel a strong sense of duty. The Plutonian influence of this card will keep you aware of the darker side of life – aware and unashamed. Don’t be surprised to find yourself speaking out against injustice and know that there are Libra behind you waiting to help.

CANCER (2 of Rods): The by-the-book definition of this card’s inverse is confusion. So, add two stars if you can figure out what you want in life by Wednesday. Subtract two if you decide to just keep muddling about. Oh, and add a star if you take time to sit in silence on Monday and reflect on what is going on.

LEO (Ace of Pentacles): Every aspect of your day-to-day life in this physical world work so exactly as you’d expect it. No surprises and no punches this week, Leo. This may be a good time to re-examine your life plan.

VIRGO (The Hermit): That thing you’re feeling, Virgo, is for a spiritual knowledge that you won’t find on T.V., in books, or on the radio. Spend time this week looking for it very deep within yourself – you have the answers to those questions that keep you up at night.

LIBRA (The Magician): Action, not words, are your strength this week. If you know a Gemini, be on the lookout, or hear she may need help during their social-justice crusade this week but don’t expect to be asked, just jump right in.

SCORPIO (3 of Rods): Put your games on hiatus this week, Scorpio. If you don’t, you may just piss-off that one person you need something from (like a job, a loan, a friendly ear). You’ll know when you’ve gone too far when you’re told to “grow up.”

SAGITTARIUS (Knight of Rods): With spring in the air and hopefully a song in your heart, this is a good week for you to be focusing on the future. Who will you be, where will you go? Entertain these questions this week through the perspective of your current reality.

CAPRICORN (4 of Pentacles): Your greed will be your downfall this week, Capricorn. Reach for what can be, happy with what you’ve got and stop trying to take that little bit more. Why? Think of yourself on a ladder and if you stretch way out and reach for somebody else’s pile, your ladder will tip over.

AQUARIUS (2 of Pentacles): Did you spill some salt and toss it over your shoulder? Shudder when your black cat crossed your path or when you dropped a knife, Aquarius? For some reason you’re feeling supersticious this week. A word to the wise for tonight: Take a bath and throw Stevie Wonder’s “Superstition” on the hi-fi.

PISCES (6 of Swords): Understand this week, Pisces, your time to reevaluate your game is running out. On top of your game: Things are going well. Average week: You have some work to do. Time to reevaluate your game: Your understanding is stunted.

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Wanted – business student for hire
$12-17/hr, depending on experience.
Biddeford, Maine requests assistance in
preparations of a professional business plan.
Potential block-busting/newly patented
children’s learning product. May look good
on resume/class project. Possibility of future
employment. Inquiries please call or email
Al @ 284-3138 or akinnan@maine.rr.com.

Free Press Editorships
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for editorships for next year
For more information, email freepress@usm.maine.edu.

Math Club
Meetings on Fridays @ 10:00 a.m. Math
Dept. @ 300A Payson Smith – Portland

CSI - NEW STUDENT GROUP!
(CrimeStud, Student Group) (CSI)
has just been created and is looking for new
members. Please come with ideas on March
15th & April 19th from 3-4pm in
301A Payson-Smith Hall.
If you are interested, please contact Garrett Strout
garrett.strout@usm.maine.edu.

“I Am My Own Wife”
Tickets are $12.00, and the show will be
at The Portland Stage Company, 25
800 Congress St. For more
information, please call 226-8235.

New Students: walk to school in Gorham
Nice, clean, furnished rooms. Shared kitchen and
baths. Call 839-5466. Ask for Debe or
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STUDENT GROUPS

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WANTED-EXPERIENCED CAREGIVER
To stay overnight, awake with senior woman
in her home near Portland campus.
$10-12/hr. If interested, please contact Tracey
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Becoming a Dell student rep, earn $12/hr.
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WANTED – BUSINESS STUDENT FOR HIRE
$12-17/hr, depending on experience.
Biddeford, Maine requests assistance in
preparations of a professional business plan.
Potential block-busting/newly patented
children’s learning product. May look good
on resume/class project. Possibility of future
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Nice, clean, furnished rooms. Shared kitchen and
baths. Call 839-5466. Ask for Debe or
Peter.
ORGANIZE A MASCOT HEIST. 

ANNOUNCE “DUCKS ARE TOUGH, MAN.”

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Please call Chris Detoy @ 212.537.8417 with any questions regarding this document.
USM SENIOR HEROES

#11 Donna Cowing
Height: 5'6
Position: Guard
Hometown: Weeks Mills, Maine
Stats: 8.0ppg – 3.1rpg

#33 Megan Myles
Height: 5'11
Position: Forward
Hometown: Auburn, Maine
Stats: 12.6ppg – 5.5rpg

#30 Katie Frost
Height: 5’8
Position: Guard
Hometown: Calais, Maine
Stats: 8.4ppg – 2.2rpg

#12 Diana Thibaudette
Height: 5'10
Position: Forward
Hometown: Sanford, Maine
Stats: 1.4ppg – 1.1rpg

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Wed. March 29th 5:30-7:00p.m.
Portland UCU 391 Forest Ave

Space is limited RSVP 800-696-8628 or email: melanie.israel@maine.edu

USM Department of Theatre and School of Music present

BLOOD BROTHERS
by Willy Russell
directed by Will Kilroy
music director Edward Reichert
Winner of the Olivier Award for Best Musical
Russell Hall,
USM Gorham campus

March 17-26, 2006
7:30 p.m.; March 17, 18, 23, 24, 25; 5 p.m.; March 19, 22, 26
Reservations required: 780-5151
$15 general; $5 students
$10 senior citizens/USM employees
For access inquiries call (207) 780-5151,TTY 780-5064.
It’s the Sweet Sixteen for the Lady Huskies

Team moves forward in Division III

ASHLEY ST. MICHEL
SPORTS EDITOR

As the University of Southern Maine Lady Huskies entered the gym Saturday, March 4, a crowd of rowdy, yellow-shirted USM students, faculty, and staff members were ready to rumble. Abnormally loud boos, scrapes, and yelping exited the mouths of usually quiet, nerdy physics majors at the Hill Gymnasium in Gorham. The match-up was the 28-1 USM Huskies against the 25-4 Norwich Cadets. Through foul trouble, uneven man-to-man height match-ups, and excellent scoring percentages, (on behalf of the Huskies), the Norwich Cadets watched as their game slipped away and USM expanded their record to 29-1.

The first half was a struggle for the dominating Huskies who only scored 31.3 percent from the field. The Cadets used three of their tallest players underneath the hoop at the start of the half, in order to better control the USM forwards. The Cadets ran into trouble when taller players like Norwich’s Kristi Myles topped all scorers with 24 points, five of which came from beyond the three point line. The Huskies also saw the final four tournament in 1998, 2000, and 2005.

Myles topped all scorers with 24 points, five of which came from beyond the three-point line. Jordan forward Ashley Marble (Auburn) contributed with 23 points for the Huskies. Marble and Myles combined to grab a total of 12 rebounds against the Cadets. The 12 rebounds were less than half of the total 38 boards USM snatched against the 29 the Cadets took. Senior guard Katie Frost (Calais) also helped the Huskies along with eleven points in the game.

As for the fan base turnout for the upcoming tournament games, Coach Fifield said “I hope the student body will come out in full force and have a good time at the games supporting us…” Fifield also added, “We need a great atmosphere with a lot of school spirit.” USM finished the game shooting 58.6 percent from the field and 55.6 percent from the three-point field. Norwich shot 42.4 percent from the field. USM’s Ashley Marble (23) guards Bridgewater’s Ashton Mitchell.

The University of Southern Maine Lady Huskies played in the Sweet Sixteen tournament on Friday night at Warren G. Hill gymnasium in Gorham. Southern Maine took on Bridgewater College from Virginia. Southern Maine trailed the Bridgewater Eagles for the first five minutes of the game, until Megan Myles answered back with one foul shot, two lay-ups, and a three pointer. Donna Cowing also chimed in with a three point-er. In addition Myles walked away from the game with three steals. Ashley Marble topped all players with 21 points and 12 rebounds. Marsha Kinder scored 17 points for the Eagles. The Lady Huskies averaged 43.6 percent from the field, while the Eagles only averaged 29.3 percent. Southern Maine won the game, 68-55, extending their record to 30-1. The Huskies won on Bowdoin on Saturday, March 11, in the NCAA Elite Eight Conference.

Entering Elite Eight

USM’s Lindsey Walsh is guarded on her way to the basket.

Husky Highlights

Marble, Myles, and Fifield earn MWBCA Honors

Senior forward Megan Myles (Auburn) and junior forward Ashley Marble (Topsfild/ Woodland) were named to the Maine Women’s Basketball Coaches Association (MWBCA) All-State first team. Marble was also recently selected as the ECAC East Player of the Year and MWBCA player of the year. USM head coach Gary Fifield was named the MWBCA coach of the year. Marble averaged 16.9 points and 9.3 rebounds per game, while Myles averaged 13.0 points and 5.5 rebounds per game.

Southern Maine races to 12th

Southern Maine men’s indoor track and field team set one school record while finishing in 12th place out of the 44 teams attending the ECAC Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships at Ursinus College. The only record set at the championship was by the distance medley relay team of sophomores Curtis Wheeler (Derby, VT/North Country Union) and Forrest Toole (Mt. Vernon/Maranacook), fresh- man Jimmy Sawyer (Gorham) and junior Chris Hopkins (Worcester, Mass./St. Peter Marcan) who finished third with a time of 10:20.63. The previous record was 10:22.41, set two years ago.

Bellemore vaults into first place

Junior Melissa Bellemore (Manchester, N.H./Manchester West) won the pole vault and placed fifth in the 55-meter hurdles, leading Southern Maine indoor track and field team to a sixth place finish at the 2006 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) held at Ursinus College. Bellemore won the pole vault by clearing 12.21 (1.61- ½) and entered her personal best in the 55-meters with a time of 8.81 seconds.

Curry conquers Southern Maine 9-3 in opener

Freshman midfielder Garrett Shaw (Brunswick), Zack Fermanis (Gorham), and Chris Brookes (Hallowell) scored the only three goals in Southern Maine’s Lacrosse season opener against Curry. Sophomore Ryan Rooney (Newton, Mass.) of Curry scored five out of their nine goals; defeating the Huskies.

Norwich ends Southern Maine’s season

Junior center Mark Carragher (Charlestown, P.E.) scored one goal for the Huskies, while Ben Loss (Willmette, Ill.) scored two goals in the first semifinal game of the 2006 ECAC East Championship Tournament on Saturday March 4, in Northfield, Vt. Southern Maine finished its season at 12-13-2.