

the free press

Volume 39, Issue 11 December 11, 2006

**Men's B-ball
warms up.**

**Will they get
hot?**

Page 16

50 first dates

Ski & Ride host successful social

ANGELIQUE CARSON
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The dining area in the Woodbury Campus Center felt more like a nightclub than a cafeteria. Two bartenders in neckties and uniforms served red wine, ales and liquor and DJ's pumped out tunes to an eager crowd of about 100. Tables for two lined up one after the other like a railroad track leading back to its starting point in one giant circle. Only instead of a train going 'round and 'round, USM's single men did. The stops along the way: USM's single women.

The Ski and Ride Club held a night of speed dating last Friday to raise funds.

About 120 participants paid \$5 at the door for a nametag, a release form and a shot at love.

Students sipped on their drinks and chatted nervously with whoever happened to slide into the seat across from them. Some leaned in towards each other, enthralled in conversation, others frequently glanced at their wrists, begging the hands of their watches to speed ahead. At the end of each timed five-minute interval, the emcee would announce, "Alright men, move one to your left! Love is just moments away."

The idea was to meet as many people as possible in a short period of time. If one

date liked the other, participants wrote the name of their desire on a card and moved on to the next date. Cards were to be handed in to a central location and tallied. A "match" meant that two participants wrote each other's names down. But if Suzy wrote Johnny's name, and Johnny didn't write Suzy's, Suzy was out of luck.

Though the tables were small enough to feel intimately acquainted with the opposite's pores, each was spaced only a foot or two apart, allowing incidentally for double dates if conversations got awkward; a parachute in a crash and burn situation.

"It's much more laid back than I was expecting," said senior Justin Gore, a participant. "There are no real expectations with anybody; most people are just out to meet people, not necessarily a partner."

The full bar set up in front of the Bleeker Street café may have had something to do with the laid back tone. USM students aren't accustomed to having access to alcohol on campus, nor a place to meet up as a student body. Aramark was hired to bartend the event, and a \$35 liquor license was mandatory. Participants of legal age took full advantage of the opportunity; the bar grossed \$700 and paid for itself with \$400 to spare. The profit will go to Aramark, though the club feels that it should go to them for their role in promoting and orchestrating the event. That is still being negotiated.

The fundraiser, intended to partly fund the Ski and Ride Club's annual skiing and snowboarding trip (this year to Jackson Hole, Wyoming), took about two months

of planning and a lot of promotion. The idea came from Josh Chase, president of the club, who had seen speed dating on TV and thought it looked like fun. Some students, though, didn't hop on board right away.

"A lot of people were negative about it, in thinking we were suggesting that they needed speed dating [to get a date]," said Chase. "I thought it was a fun idea, let's do something other than the Old Port for once."

In the end, students didn't seem to care whether or not they found love; only 30 of the 120 participants turned in their tally cards.

"I wanted to meet some people that I could go skiing and snowboarding with," said Julia Jones, 22 of Southern Maine Community College, who heard about the event through her sister. "It's been slightly awkward, only because I don't know anybody here. [But] I definitely met some people that I might stay in touch with."

The first round of dating got started around 7 p.m. for ages 18-21, and a second round followed for the 21+ crowd. Though a third round for LGBTQ participants was scheduled, too few signed up to execute that round.

Baujan Bekenov, an exchange student from Kazakhstan, said that speed dating doesn't exist in his homeland, but he wishes it did.

"It was very good, I had a lot of fun," said Bekenov. "I think I will try in my country."



photo by Angelique Carson

Jenna Howard chats with her date during speed dating at Woodbury Campus Center

Campus struggles with evacuation chaos

Another bomb threat forces authorities to rethink policies

JOEL C. THERIAULT
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Twenty thousand dollars. That's how much you could get if you have information leading to the arrest of the individuals responsible for the bomb threats this semester. Last Tuesday, President Richard Pattenau approved a request from Craig Hutchinson, vice president of student life, to increase the reward from the original \$5,000.

"The increase in the amount might help to further loosen voices in the community that could have information to share," said Hutchinson.

The library in Gorham received a telephoned bomb threat last Monday at 4:10 p.m., upping the total count to seven this semester. Police would not disclose details of the investigation.

Previous threats were received on Oct. 2 and 3, and Nov. 8 and 14. Another threat was received by e-mail on Nov. 26.

"The University of Maine System's only policy governing emergency response states that each institution must have a policy in place", said Michael Sauda, UMS's safety and environmental manager.

"You've got to have a system and a process," said Sauda. "You can't make 'cook book' policies for everything, but you can put in place a process to have decisions made."

A member of USM's faculty had a different response to bomb threats during the Nov. 14 evacuation: do not respond. The professor, who wished to remain anonymous, said, "I told my students they were welcome to go, but I was staying."

The professor added that although that particular class was in session after 4 p.m., the time of the threat, no one had checked the building by the time class was over at

6:30 p.m.

"If you stand up to fear, they will have less power," the professor said.

Craig Hutchinson, vice-president of Student and University Life, said, "It's certainly understandable. (However) one of the problems with hearing the alarm is you don't know what the emergency is."

"If the alarm is ringing," he said "you should leave. It is not appropriate to make a decision otherwise."

At last Friday's student senate meeting, Police Chief Lisa Beecher confirmed the FBI's role in the investigation, despite the agency's earlier denial. "They actually didn't even want me to say that they're working on it," she told the senators, "but I'm putting it out there to you because I think you deserve to know."

Beecher added that other universities' responses were examined in an attempt to refine USM's response, and an element common among all of them was the de-



cline of threats after evacuations became an option instead of a priority.

Gorham and Portland campuses changed evacuation procedures after the Nov. 14 scare. The new plan was to clear one designated building on each campus so that students have a place to wait until other buildings are deemed safe. However, Woodbury Campus Center, the designated location in Portland, was not available for

See **BOMB**, PAGE 3



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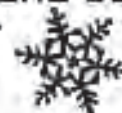
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USM's budget guru steps down

Chief financial officer retires

AMANDA ZANE
STAFF WRITER

After forty years of working as the university's chief financial officer, Sam Andrews will retire on January 12.

When did you start at USM? What initially brought you to the university?

I was a business major as an undergraduate at Babson College. I did graduate studies at Orono. I started in 1966 as part of the School of Business faculty. Back then USM was part of Orono. It was OPAL, Orono, Portland, and Law.

What did you teach?

I taught business, marketing, and finance for 35 years. It was enjoyable. In some ways the students change; in others, they don't. They still want knowledge. The faculty and staff are top-notch and go beyond the call of duty, providing services. They go the extra mile. USM is a refreshing place to work.

How did you become USM's Chief Financial Officer?

After about seven to eight years of teaching we formed the "Community College Without

Walls," a cooperative with St. Francis (now UNE) and Nasson. We had an arrangement with Southern Maine Technical College (now SMCC) to provide associate degrees. After kicking around for several years, President Bob Woodbury, put me in charge of budget related matters in the 70s.

How has USM changed during your time here?

There has been a lot of change for the better. Gorham has become a very nice residential campus with good academic and athletic programs. Portland has become a thriving urban, professional campus. Lewiston-Auburn, established in 1989 has become a good place providing access to education. Community relations and community recognition of USM has improved. There are activities at Abromson. It's not just about classes.

What do you do as CFO?

I try to help the dollars do as much as they can. There have been great changes, not just in technology. In 1989-90, 70 percent of the university's funding was from the state. Now that figure is 40 percent. We have gone from being

a state supported institution to a state assisted institution.

What would you say have been some of the disappointments of your job?

A disappointment is the students leaving Maine, the "brain drain." And also that the local community doesn't recognize the quality, depth, breath, and impact of USM.

How do you balance teaching and administrative functions?

It's not a question of balance. It's a question of doing what has to be done.

Describe a typical day.

There is no typical day. It is about the big thing at the moment, whether that is budget, personnel, or a building project. The variety makes it interesting.

Why are you retiring? What do you look forward to doing?

Well, I won't miss the 5 a.m. phone calls about closing school on a snowy day, or shoveling. My wife has been retired for several years and we have a three year old and an eight year old grandchild that we will spend more time with.



photo by Amanda Zane

Sam Andrews will be missed by USM

We'll spend more time around the house and relaxing.

President Pattenau said: "[I] can't begin to express how deeply I've appreciated his budget management skills, not to mention his sage advice on any number of issues, financial and otherwise." What would you say in response to this?

The president is very kind and I appreciate his comments. I hope I've had a positive impact, in a variety of different jobs on the university.

Is there anything else you want to say to our readers?

Continue on. Continue to be the good place that you are now. People's perceptions are hard to change, but don't let people tell you it's not a good place.

Sex offender confronts life on campus

Says professors are supportive

JOEL C. THERIAULT
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Elmer Howard, Jr., a third-year computer science and philosophy major at USM, has led a fairly low-key life at USM thus far, despite having spent time in prison and having his photograph on fliers posted on the Gorham and Portland campuses since the end of October. Student's seem to be ambivalent.

Jim Stoddard, a freshman psychology major who saw the posted fliers, said, "I think most students are torn about it."

Howard, 29, is a convicted sex offender.

In December, 2000, Howard, who was 23 at the time of conviction, was sentenced to 12 years all but four suspended, and six years of probation for gross sexual assault on a 14-year old male in Brunswick, according to USM's Police Chief Lisa Beecher and information on the on-line sex offender registry. Howard was tried and convicted in Portland Superior Court.

"The harshest reaction I've gotten from people in society is that they were abused themselves, and if they haven't really dealt with it, then they can't deal with me," he said.

Howard has been looking for a job that's closer to the Portland



Photo by Joel C. Theriault

Elmer Howard is a computer science and philosophy major at USM. campus for the past seven months. "I've been to culinary arts school, and I've attempted to go for many jobs where I've been qualified or more qualified for the position," he said, "but as soon as the felony comes up then I lose the job. I've seen it numerous times."

Beecher contacted Howard before the fliers were put up.

"She wanted to tell me personally before they did it," Howard said, "because she didn't think it was fair to walk onto campus and find the postings without any prior knowledge. She did give me Dean (of Student Life Joe) Austin's phone number to contact if I had any issues."

At last Friday's senate meet-

ing, student senator Alex Bressler asked Beecher how it is decided when it was appropriate to post fliers of sex offenders. She answered, "We have been faced with that decision several times in the past and have not put up any posters, so it's not an automatic thing that we're going to be doing all the time. It's a very measured response."

The presence of the fliers detailing his conviction has not shaken Howard. "I dealt with that when I was in prison, and when I got out I dealt with that with society," he said.

In prison, Howard said that he was considered the lowest of the low. "Being gay and having a sex see **HOWARD**, page 10

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

When does punishment become a crime?



In this week’s paper we’re running a controversial story on a student who is a convicted sex offender (see page 3). Recently, USM police posted fliers around the Portland and Gorham campuses with his name, mug shot and status as a sex offender. It wasn’t a flier limited to bulletin boards; it was an in-your-face, around-every-corner warning.

You would have thought someone had a bomb.

Maybe the publicity of the Catholic Church scandal rocked society to the core, and now we’re on a sex-criminal manhunt. That’d be understandable; many of the men Catholics deemed sacred turned out to be scumbags. But is that what it’s about?

Don’t misunderstand. I don’t intend to trivialize sex crimes or their devastating effect on victims. But if we expect those who have wronged society to pay their

debt, and then be released and re-integrated into their communities, can this work?

I understand that a small percentage of students attending USM are under the age of 18 (are 17 year olds really in more danger than 18 year olds?). And the university has a daycare program on campus. But if we’re trying to protect those that are too young to protect themselves, why not alert their parents and care-givers?

How do we reform criminals if we brand them as criminals for life? Why not, then, display posters of convicted murderers who have been released? How about motorists who have killed people in my community while driving drunk? Shouldn’t I know if they share a road with me? Doesn’t releasing convicts back into society mean that they are deemed fit to live among us again? If not, they’re probably better off in jail

for life, for their own well-being if not ours.

Michel Foucault, the French philosopher, shared some provocative thoughts on the topic in his book, *Discipline and Punish* (1975). In it, Foucault discusses his disapproval of the institutional management of incarceration from 18th century France to modern America.

“The conditions to which the free inmates are subjected necessarily condemns them to recidivism: they are under the surveillance of the police; they are assigned to a particular residence, or forbidden others. Being on the loose, being unable to find work, leading the life of a vagabond are the most frequent factors in recidivism.”

Elmer Howard, the subject

of our story by Joel Theriault, discusses the difficulty he has experienced in trying to find a job. His prior conviction constantly resurfaces and prevents him from being productive and self-sustaining. There are some of you who may say “good, he is a sex offender and he deserves everything he gets.”

The thing about that is, he already “got” punished. He served time, and continues to carry out a sentence through mandatory group and individual therapy. To make that transition from prison to the outside, he must have the ability to earn money. He wants a job and a college education. What we’re essentially saying to him is, listen: it’s great that you want to be productive but you can’t have a job. You’ll have to find some

other way to make money. Yes, you can attend college, but we’re going to brand your face and crime on every door on campus and alert students that you’re lurking. Now, go ahead, re-integrate! You’re a free man!

If it were me, I’d sprint back to prison for shelter, food and anonymity.

Is this system of punishment useful? Are we reforming criminals in this way, or condemning them to an impossible existence?

It seems that Howard’s punishment was determined once and for all. He was branded “sex offender” when he was sentenced in December 2000, and it’s looking like that’s all we’re ever going to let him be.

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HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?
Send letters to the editor to freepress@usm.maine.edu

Question of the week

If you could change any significant historical event from the 20th century, what would it be?



World War II. Just the way it happened. It was total destruction, it just ruined the world.

Mike Gould,
Sophomore,
Political Science



The occupation of Vietnam. Too many people died for something that had nothing to do with us.

Ali Boyer,
Sophomore,
Women’s Studies



The influenza epidemic of 1918. It was emotionally, economically and culturally devastating. My father’s parents lost both of their first spouses.

Brenda Crane,
Administrative Associate,
University Health and Counseling
Services



Assassinate Adolf Hitler. His actions led directly to mass genocide

Jennifer Murray,
Sophomore, Sociology

Photos and Interviews by Joel C. Theriault

THESE DAYS

A local report from an island resort

ALEX STEED

COLUMNIST

A few years ago, I was fortunate enough to sit in on a sociology class at Bentley College conducted by Dr. Gary David. It being a week before spring break, David went around the room and asked where everyone would be vacating. “Cancun,” said one student. “Negril,” gushed another. “Ah,” David sighed. “These are all really nice places. Just do me a favor,” he quipped, “when you get back from the resorts and hotels of your choices in Negril and in Cancun, don’t tell your friends that you went to Jamaica and Mexico, because you won’t have visited these places. You’ll have gone to IMF-manufactured theme parks.”

I laughed at the time; I distinctly remember being the only one.

For the past several weeks, I have been working at a foundation that is based out of a hotel in Negril, Jamaica. The Rockhouse Foundation is the offshoot of the Rockhouse Hotel, a practitioner of responsible tourism that presently repairs and works in schools in Negril. During the day, I work with children at the Negril All Ages School. At night I am as guilty as the rest; I vacation, lounging by the pool and eating at restaurants that are insanely overpriced by local standards. This position is an interesting one, as I split my time equally between hanging around beautiful children native to the island and goofy-looking tourists. For half of the day, I am in Jamaica and for the other half of the day I’m in, in the words of David, an “IMF-manufactured theme park.”

Three weeks ago the winds at the resort had picked up to 40-50 miles per hour and by the next day the water over the cliffs on which the resort sits stirred violently. On Thanksgiving Day,

tourists were evacuated from their rooms, which were being assaulted by the coastal waters. Finally, on Saturday, the first calm day of the week, I heard the tourists as they trickled to the checkout desk, complaining to each other, “Sure, on the day we have to go home, the pool opens up.” In all of it, I couldn’t figure out what on earth gave Americans such grandiose senses of entitlement think that they deserved such a good time. After all, who goes to a post-colonial, predominantly black nation to take some time off in celebration of all of the indigenous people we cleared out of the states in order to make room for—well—sweet potatoes, turkey, stuffing and *A Christmas Story* marathons on TBS?

It made me consider even more seriously - did I deserve such a good time? At the school, I work with sixth, seventh, and eighth graders who—plain and simple—cannot recite the alphabet, or write their own names. Their parents have sent them to school in hopes of seeing their children get ahead of where they are, but many of them are slipping behind.

This is a country that lost big to colonial harboring of fruit and sugar monopolies, overwhelming national debt, unfair “free-trade” zones, and shortsighted IMF-directed economic policies. First-world mistreatment of Jamaica has been as despicable as it has been crooked. The people of Jamaica are the ones who deserve to enjoy what they’ve been forced to sell to tourists in order to make a living. Instead, we’ll continue vacationing, while many folks here will continue to fall through the cracks that we created.

My hope, however, is that this pessimism may prove to be unfounded at some point in the



future. Having spent the past several months working in Vermont, I was lucky to hear Senator-Elect Bernie Sanders reminisce about a time when Americans could step foot virtually anywhere in the world, and they’d be lauded for the virtue and generosity of our then-great country. Since that time—which Mr. Sanders had surely romanticized slightly, but makes a good point with all the same—we have gotten to the point where some Americans are so scared of what our image has generated, when we’re in foreign lands, we’ll pretend that that we’re from Canada in order to avoid incriminating ourselves with our violently hawkish, imperial nationality.

Just under a month ago, Americans voted for themselves the gift of new leadership, and as an unforeseen bonus, Donald Rumsfeld stepped down from the office of Secretary of Defense. We’ve already enacted our first, small steps towards informing the world that we’re trying to change. As we move forward, we must consider the way in which we touch the world. Election Day must not be the only day on which we ask ourselves as a country if our sense of entitlement—what we believe we deserve—is worth all of the damage it has done.

With billions of people suffering worldwide as a result of our taking what we believe we deserve, we must reconsider everything to which we once believed we were entitled.

JELLY DONUT SERIES

The democracy question

DAVID BROWN

COLUMNIST



We hear so much about democracy these days; our government is peddling it on the world market, sometimes a bit aggressively, in Russia it’s receding, and in China it’s ignored. To add to this, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan recently suggested that average Iraqis are now worse off than under Saddam Hussein; that living without water, electricity, or stability, coupled with everyday violence and death just doesn’t add up to a better life even if you have a democracy.

This comment didn’t go unnoticed, with the strongest condemnation coming from the Iraqi government itself. But this debate begs an interesting question: is democracy really all that it is said to be?

Anyone who has read Plato’s Republic knows that the philosopher had little time for democracy as a form of government, suggesting that it allows for a schizophrenic multitude of opinions and can grant power to self-serving individuals; being the last step in the slide towards tyranny.

We have come a long way since the original Athenian democratic experiment. Here in America, democracy benefited from a unique situation as it was budding: social and geographical isolation. This isolation from external influences allowed the institutions to develop uncorrupted and at their own pace. This is a most important step in developing a trust relationship with the public, something democracy cannot function without. I think it is also safe to say that, as a result, American democracy is rather unique in the level of trust that exists within it.

In the broader global context and with the trend towards globalism it would seem that we are out of luck with the spread of this political system. But that is not entirely correct, democracy can still take hold anywhere it wants, but it is going to be hard. It will also need massive public support and in most cases a relatively stable economic climate.

To take a look at some democracies that have developed in this way, we can see that each one is unique in its constitution and its composition, but each one is becoming entrenched. Those societies are moving forward, albeit slowly. Ukraine and Liberia are recent examples that jump to mind.

On the other side of the democratic coin we have the splintering of the Balkans, the election of Hamas in Palestine, and the continuing struggle in Iraq that have lain bare the problems that internally divided nations face, lacking trust in their institutions and polarization against external aggressors.

In each of these situations, instead of the best and brightest “democrats” (i.e. those who believe in Democracy) being elected to office, the nation has splintered along ethnic and religious lines, or the people have elected those who promised to deliver them from a specific problem like corruption or unemployment. What democracy has done, in other words, is expose and bring to a fore the fault lines running through these nations, as opposed to easing these tensions.

We need to consider then, that each nation will need its own form of democracy, on its own terms, developing and expanding at its own rate. We have made the mistake of thinking that, somehow, the people of Iraq, who have been bullied continually by their own government and by the West, would embrace and sing the praise of a US style democratic structure. Democratic institutions and rhetoric mean little to anything if it does not originate with those people it will be governing.

What can we conclude then, considering the nature of democracy? Perhaps that it is a state of mind rather than simply a framework for government. Unstable and polarized states will always expose the trusting nature of this system, and it will take a lot more than force to make this experiment work.

David Brown is a political science major at USM

you are God. But the reality is in the middle somewhere. So I’d rather just look at my course evaluations.

What are your other interests?

There is not a lot of time right now because I have a two-year-old daughter. But I like yoga, and I like clothes. This is me: (she shows a card that says “All I want is peace on earth and really cute shoes.”)

I heard you took some students to the United Nations earlier this semester?

I started a Model United Nations program here. We took 30 USM students to a conference that the University of Pennsylvania puts on in Philadelphia. We are assigned countries that we represent as ambassadors. We were Jordan, Kenya, and Singapore. It’s really interesting. The students had a great time.

Interview by Todd Hebert

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FEATURED FACULTY

Peace on earth and cute shoes

Lynn Kuzma

Department: Political Science

Years at USM: 8

At what point did you develop an interest in politics?

As an undergraduate, I had five different majors. In my senior year I just happened to be a political science major. I didn’t know what I was going to do, and I was really good at school, so I just decided to go to graduate school. I’ve been in school ever since.

Where did you go to school?

I got my PhD at Ohio State. I’m a girl from the Midwest.

What brought you to Maine?

I had two jobs previous. First, Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, then I was at North Dakota State University. But I hated Fargo, North Dakota and

the job in Portland came up. Being by the water looked interesting.

Why didn’t you like Fargo?

The first year I was there, they had 12 blizzards. Then they had a flood where we all had to be evacuated from the city. When I first got there, they tell you to make sure you wear a scarf over your mouth because you could freeze your vocal chords. It was often thirty below zero.

Have you looked yourself up on ratemyprofessor.com?

No, but my husband has. On that website, you get the two extremes, but neither are very helpful. You get the disgruntled people, and the people who think



Lynn Kuzma

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The times they are a-changin'

New host graces Dogfish open mic nights

JOEL C. THERIAULT
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

After 14 months at Portland's Dogfish Café on Free Street, veteran singer/songwriter Bob McKillop hangs up his hat as the co-host of the eatery's weekly open-mic night.

It all started on Oct. 12, 2005. The Dogfish Café, formerly the Free Street Taverna, was purchased and renovated by Ted Arcand. His sister-in-law, Michele Arcand, is responsible for booking music acts Thursday through Saturday nights.

Arcand had previously started an open-mic night in college, and initiated the event at Dogfish. "I love music," she said. "There's nothing more exciting to me than building a community, and open-mic is a perfect venue for that."

Arcand had been looking for a co-host for a while when her friend and former Maine Songwriter's Association (MSA) president Heather Caston recommended McKillop, of Portland.

"He's everything I could've asked for in a co-host and more," said Arcand. "He pays attention so well. It's so important to really listen to people and Bob does that. He brought a different level of professionalism you don't usually see."

McKillop is a former board member of the MSA, and immediately took Arcand's offer to co-host the Wednesday night event.

"It's been just great," McKillop said. "I've learned so much. I've met dozens and dozens of local and regional mu-

sicians, which I really like. And I like working with Michele, she's great.

"I feel like I've come a long way (at Dogfish)," he continued. "It's been a good way to promote myself and my songwriting."

McKillop decided to leave his open-mic duties to further explore his own music career. "I need to write more," he said, "and I want to get back to that." He added that one of his projects is a CD he's been working on, and he is also enrolled in online courses at Boston's Berkley School of Music for certification in music business.

"He brought a different level of professionalism you don't usually see."

-Bob McKillop.

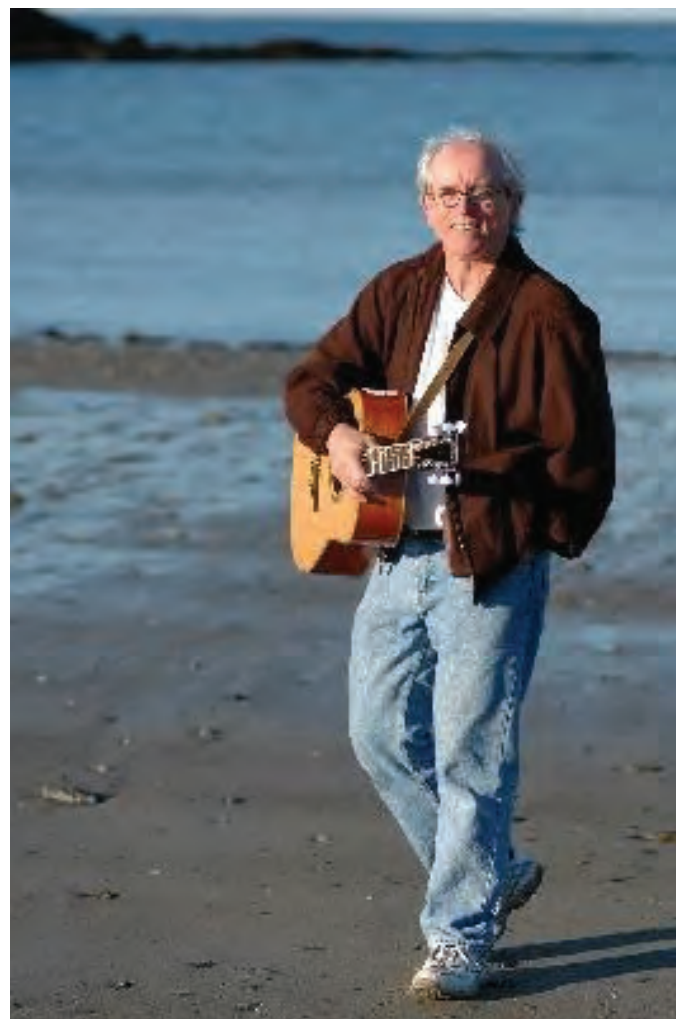
"I really enjoy the open-mic," said McKillop, "but I want to move on and get these other things rolling."

McKillop's replacement as co-host is Mark Lembo, one of the

original owners of Acoustic Coffee on Danforth Street, which he sold in 2005. McKillop said he is very experienced as a host and as a liaison for Portland's local musicians. He said he is sure Lembo would pick up where McKillop left off.

The open-mic at the Dogfish Café begins at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, with sign-up at 7 p.m. A guest musician is featured every week in the middle of the 15-minute long sets. This Wednesday's featured artist is McKillop, a way of sending himself off on the right note. A special going away night is scheduled for Dec. 20, featuring Mary Ukes Hargreaves.

Although that night will be McKillop's last, he will visit Dogfish frequently, in the "capacity of an open-mic artist," he said.



Courtesy of Bob McKillop

Writing is focusing on writing songs again, something he's been doing since he was five.

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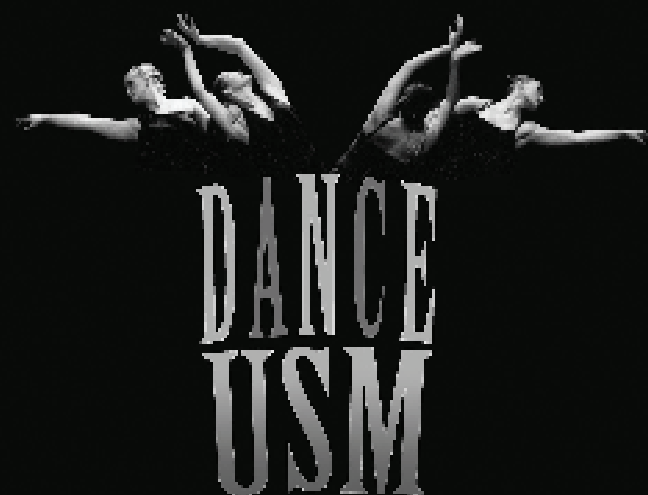
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You gotta check them out

Learn to love the banjo

JOHN COONS
COLUMNIST

Sufjan Stevens is one of my favorite new artists that I have discovered over the past two years. He is also frustrating to listen to. He has grooves that are steeped in Americana, but are unlike anything else you'll hear on the radio. Sufjan uses mixed meter and often changing rhythmic patterns or uneven bars while the music always continues with a seemingly very simple beat. His harmonies also use lots of little crunches that aren't presented to be crunchy, but just there to add extra color.

Simply put, the laid-back attitude causes very intelligent writing to sound simple and embraceable. Sufjan is the bastard son of folk music and indie rock. You listen to his music, you fall in love and then you go wait... this guy is from Michigan?

There is a great amount of tongue-in-cheek attitude in Sufjan's approach to his music.

It seems like sometimes, he just revels in being absurd. For example, one of his song titles from his CD, *Illinois*, is "The Black Hawk War, Or, How To Demolish An Entire Civilization And Still Feel Good About Yourself In The Morning, Or, We Apologize For The Inconvenience But You're Going To Have To Leave Now, Or I Have Fought The Big Knives And Will Continue To Fight Them." Contrarily, the actual song is made up of instrumental's and a choir of "Ah's," without a single lyric.

On the flipside, Sufjan's lyrics are great. Many times, a simple line is repeated for emphasis, or he will indulge in wordplay. For example, from the aptly named track "Decatur, Or, Round Of Applause For Your Stepmother!" we have: Denominator, go Decatur, go Decatur, (It's the great I Am) abominate her, go Decatur, why did we hate her? (It's the great I Am.).

Every Sufjan CD is packed to the brim with tracks with everything from short instrumental in-

terludes to the track "Let's Hear That String Part Again, Because I Don't Think They Heard It All The Way Out In Bushnell," which isolates one of the many instrumental layers used in his music that is often lost upon first listening.

Sufjan's mellow personality is ever present in all of his CDs. This could be because--thanks to multitracking--he sings and plays drums, guitar, banjo, oboe, English horn and a variety of other instruments, literally accompanying himself. His voice and approach to music is very relaxed and matter-of-fact, and the music comes across very genuine as a result. The song material is also very personal to him.

Sufjan has declared that he wants to write a CD for each state, using different places and historical events for inspiration. He has already finished two CDs in this manner one for his home state, *Michigan* (2003) and the other, *Illinois* (2005). To give you an idea, inspiration for his songs on *Illinois* (my favorite album



Asthmatic Kitty Label

of his) are as varied as Chicago, Superman and the serial killer John Wayne Gacy, Jr.

While personal lyrics, and a unique thematic approach add a lot to the wonder that is Sufjan, it is his music that is what speaks best for his greatness as a singer/songwriter.

I strongly recommend anything by Sufjan (including his massive CD boxed Christmas set), but for my money, nothing's better than *Illinois*. And talk about getting your money's worth- on iTunes, you can buy the full album (24 tracks) for a mere \$9.99.

LISTEN TO: "Come on! Feel the Illinois!", "John Wayne Gacy, Jr.," "The Seer's Tower"

GET THEM: Bull Moose, iTunes, Amazon.com

Sweet sounds warm a storming december eve

USM's holiday gala

AMANDA ZANE
STAFF WRITER

As storms battered Portland, the attendees of the Music Department's 16th Annual Holiday Scholarship Gala, which coincided with the department's 50th anniversary, had no cares about weather.

They focused on music, food, the raffle, and live auction, with donated items valuing \$40,000. The Abromson Center glittered, transformed by ice sculptures and pine boughs studded with gold lights. Projection screens showed auction items and photos.

At \$90 a person, the attendees are invested in music, supporting a worthy scholarship fund. Portland Saab and Portland Volvo

have sponsored the event for nine years, giving \$20,000 this year. Last year the gala raised \$57,000, which they hope to exceed this year.

The School of Music has a strong campus presence. As Margaret Wilkis, coordinator of the event, which started as a mad-rigal dinner to showcase student work, explains, "The focus is 100% on the students."

The dinners became a gala at the Portland Regency. Then, alternating between various Portland hotels, until moving to the Brooks Student Center. This year is the first on the Portland Campus.

Previous years have included a formal dinner but this year is strictly hor d'oeuvres and deserts.



Courtesy of usm.maine.edu

2005 holiday Gala

James Stanhope, USM police lieutenant ate McDonald's while surrounded by baked brie, sushi, grapes Roquefort, smoked salmon, fresh vegetables, a carving station, mini quiche, candied pecans, devilled eggs and other hors d'oeuvres. Stanhope was

assigned to the event because alcohol was served. He did not anticipate problems and thought it was a worthy cause.

Craig Hooper, who has been involved with the gala from the start, said that instead of problems, "this event has been fabulous every year. It starts off the holiday season."

Dr. Peter Martin, conductor of the USM Wind Ensemble agreed, "every year it outdoes itself." His group has prepared a selection of carols. Their professionalism, repertoire, intonation and lush tone were impressive. Noticeably missing, though, was any non-Christmas themed piece. The evening, though secular, did have clear religious undertones.

Binney Brackett, of the school of music office, who has handled reservations for the nearly 250 attendees said. The gala is "compli-

SEE GALA, PAGE 11

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Monday

Holiday Sing Along/ 7:30 p.m. /Corthell Hall/ Gorham Campus/ Free/ 780-5555

Hip-Hop Open Mic/ 8 p.m./ The Big Easy/55 Market St., Portland/ \$5/ 775-2205

Tuesday

Pool Tournaments/ 8 p.m./ Blackstones/ 6 Pine St., Portland/ Free/ 775-2885

Acoustic Night/ 7 p.m./ The Mercury/ 416 Fore St., Portland/ Free/ 879-4007

Wednesday

Groove Disciples/ 9:30 p.m./ Bull Feeney's/ 395 Fore St., Portland/ Free/ 773-7210

Bobby/ 6:45 p.m./ Nickelodeon Theater/ 1 Temple St., Portland/ \$7.50/ 772-9751

Thursday

Magic of Christmas/ 7:30 p.m./ Merrill Auditorium/ 20 Myrtle St., Portland/ \$45/ 756-8433

Merry Madness/ 5 p.m./ Portland Harbor Hotel/ 468 Fore St., Portland/ \$99/ 775-9070

Friday

Jimmy Dunn/ 8:30 p.m./ Comedy Connection/ 8 Custom House Wharf, Portland/ Free/ 774-5554

Saturday

The Toughcats/ 9:00 p.m./ SPACE Gallery/ 538 Congress St., Portland/ \$20/ 828-5600
Hot Salsa on a Cold Night/ 7:00 p.m./ Bubba's Sulk Lounge/ 92 Portland St./ \$7-\$25/ 828-0549

usmfreepress.org

from HOWARD, page 3

offender conviction is like being hit twice. You got gay people, then you got sex offenders, then you got gay sex offenders. I was threatened (in prison) for being gay and being a sex offender.”

The fliers seem not to have affected Howard’s experience as a student. “I haven’t had any comments, I haven’t had any threats, nobody has given me the dirty eye or anything,” he said.

Although the fliers are still posted on the Gorham campus, they appear to have vanished from Portland. “We did take them off the entrances,” Beecher said in a telephone interview, “and moved them inside to the bulletin boards.” She added that she did not know if people were taking them down or not.

“On one hand we live in a society that says to give people a second chance,” said Stoddard. “But on the other hand, sex offenders are viewed as such a negative element, and it’s so emotionally charged that people can’t see through that.” He said he thought that most sexual offenses are seen as the “vilest of crimes.”

Howard said that his professors have been supportive of his educational goals, and repercussions are no longer a concern. “I was worried that my professors would downgrade my work,” he said. “This is such a hot topic and it’s very emotional, and sometimes emotions get the best of people.”

He now participates in weekly group counseling. His next step is individual therapy for personal trauma issues and a monthly “maintenance counseling” when he completes group therapy. His counselor, friends and his partner are all part

of what Howard refers to as his “support network.”

Howard said he had publicly experienced harassment in the past because of his sexuality and his crime, but not at the university. “I don’t know if people didn’t hear, or that they don’t care, I’m not sure,” he said.

Ben Ball, a freshman criminology major, had not seen the flier, but did not hesitate to use his laptop to view Howard’s case on the registry. “His MO is not college students,” he said. “I don’t see anyone on campus being a target. I’m more worried about any unregistered sex offenders on campus.”

Howard enrolled at USM in January 2005.

“I learned more about computers when I became network administrator for the educational department [in prison], training people on the basic computer skills,” he

said.

Despite his positive academic experience, he has difficulty securing a job closer to campus. “It’s very frustrating,” he said. “I understand some criminals and how their convictions can stop them from getting jobs: how are they going to live? They have to go back to what they know. That’s what makes them survive.

“Kind of like everything else, it’s something that might be a part of me, actions I’ve taken,” he said. “But I’m working through my issues, and I’m working towards becoming a productive member of society... I am not my crime.”

Beecher said the fliers were posted because a minority of people under the age of 18 exists on campus. High school students take classes in the Early Studies Program,

Sullivan and Hill gyms are used by the community and there is a daycare center in Portland for student, faculty and staff’s children.

Beecher said a campus-wide e-mail alert about Howard was not necessary because most students are over 18. “We were trying to be responsible to those who are under the age of 18 without sensationalizing the fact that he’s decided to pursue his education at USM,” she said.

Beecher said that Gorham’s police notified the university of Howard’s presence. “It’s on the sex-offender registry that I go to school here,” said Howard, adding that USM’s Gorham address is listed on the registry. “There are ‘web-site watchers’ that reported it to the police.”

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Meet Joe Student

Name: Zachariah Turner Gage-Croll

Major: Currently undeclared, but leaning towards sociology with a geosciences minor

Year: Sophomore (after taking four years off and learning tile) Installation.

Hometown: Cherryfield, Maine

Why did you choose USM?

Because I love Maine, and Portland is a great city with lots of cool people and activities. Also, most of my family is in Maine.

What do you hope to do after graduation?

I hope to work with ground-water resources and other aspects of human and environmental interaction.

Do you have any pets or siblings?

No pets, but my 20 year-old-sister goes to UMaine at Farmington.

What do you think of Aramark?

Thankfully, [I have] no meal plan with the school, so that's my opinion of Aramark—[I have] had it in the past and I'm glad to be done with it.

Do you have any hobbies?

Working with tile, playing guitar, hanging out with friends and my girlfriend, and I try to exercise. I go jogging, play football or soccer.

Favorite music?

I like to listen to a variety: rock, funk, folk, blues, reggae, and classical.

If you were an animal what would you be?

If I were an animal, it would be a ram. I'm quite strong minded and don't like to back down or admit any faults or inadequacies.

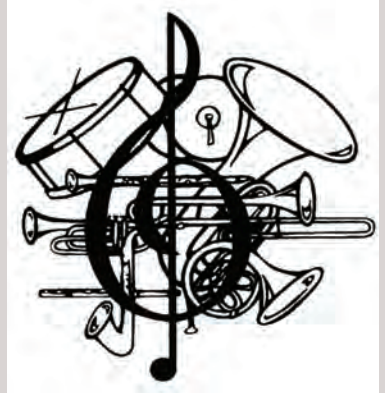


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GALA. FROM PAGE 9

cated to work on, but it's fun, we know we'll have a good time and raise a lot of money."

It is complicated work, taking much planning. Sue Small, regional chef for Aramark came to campus to help. "The campus team has been preparing all week," Brett Roukey a chef at USM Gorham notes. Input from previous years helps form a menu. Most dishes were prepared at the Woodbury Campus Center, but some came from Gorham. At 1:30 the team moved items to Abromson. Some bartenders came from the Lewiston-Auburn Campus. It has been a full USM effort, or as staff member Lucas Bowen says, "Quite the ordeal."

Outside the kitchen, the music students have been working hard, too. Laura Whitney, a senior music student performing an opera piece, said her group has been rehearsing weekly since the start of the semester. Their commitment is evident.

The event comes down to the students. A scholarship recipient, Coco Donovan said: "It's such a privilege to sit in a classroom and have knowledge fed to you." This gala, supporting the pursuit of knowledge, was filled with both edible and musical delicacies.

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Asian American Assoc.& Symposium is sponsoring a used eye glass drive. Drop off your specs in Luther Bonny Mon or Wens at the AAAS table in the lobby

Pagan Students Association Weekly meetings held Monday's 6:30 p.m. in Boiler room, Woodbury Campus, FMI email usm_psa@yahoo.com

The Psych. club is sponsoring a trip to the EPA conference 3/22-25 in Philadelphia. Apps on 5th floor of the science building by the elevator.

The Art Student Union is having a Cup and Card Sale. Dec 7 @ Woodbury Campus Center & Dec 14 @ Bailey Kiosk, Gorham. Get handmade gifts for friends and family and support USM artists!

Sick of cafeteria food at USM? Frustrated with the recurring bomb threats? 35th Student Senate is here for you! Bring questions, comment, or complaints about your experiences. Fridays at 3pm Woodbury Campus Center.

Come & celebrate! Join **College Democrats!** Thursdays at 6:30pm in Boiler Room, Campus Center FMI: Shorty Eung, Publicity Director, Jadensan@msn.com

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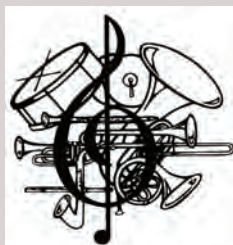
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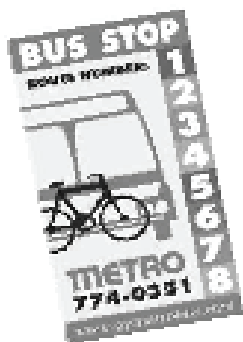
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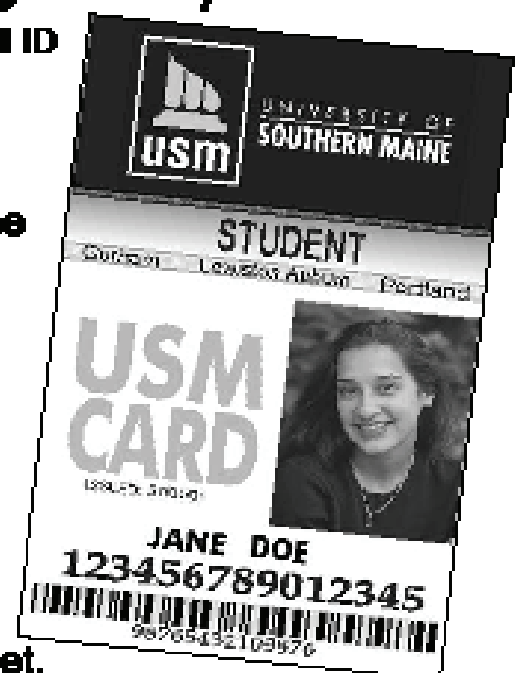


► With more than 800 bus stops, METRO provides bus service throughout Portland, Falmouth, Westbrook and the Maine Mall area of South Portland. Bring your bike – all METRO buses have bike racks.

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► METRO recently added thirteen new, natural gas buses to the fleet.

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For more information,
visit www.gpmetrobus.com
or call 774-0351.

Keeping fit on the slopes

YOUR GUIDE TO SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING IN MAINE

Ashley St. Michel
Sports Editor

Big Squaw Mountain
Route 15
Greenville, Maine 04441
(207) 695-1000
Info@BigSquawMountain.com
Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holiday weekends.



Offers alpine skiing, snowboarding, ski rentals and a terrain park on 30 trails. No night skiing, half pipe or snow tubing. On-sight ski shop offers parabolic skis, snowblades and snowboards, along with lessons. Big Squaw also has call-ahead lodging, equipped with video games and pool tables. Average annual snowfall of 136 inches.

Big Rock Mountain
P.O. Box 1001
Mars Hill, Maine 04758
(207) 425-6711
1-866-529-2695
info@bigrockmaine.com
Open Wednesday thru Fridays 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. through January 7th. Hours after January 10th – Wednesdays TBA, Thursday and Fridays 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Offers new lifts, improved grooming, cross-country, night skiing and snowshoe trails. Big Rock’s lodge now includes a new café with hot food, homemade soups, sandwiches and snacks. Group and private lessons available for skiers of all ages. Rentals available. Now offering a Tube Park. Ski team member discounts. Average annual snowfall of 160 inches.

Lost Valley Mountain
200 Lost Valley Road
Auburn, Maine 04210
(207) 784-1561
info@lostvalleyski.com
Open Monday through Thursdays 1:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Fridays 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Sundays 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Offers 15 easy to intermediate trails on 45 acres. College student discounts with proper I.D. Rentals available. Group and private lessons accessible. Ski programs available for people of all ages and experience. Ski and snowboard shop offers rental equipment and repairs. Average annual snowfall of 60 inches.

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come write about them

contact Ashley St.Michel at sainty1203@yahoo.com


IT'S ABOUT

THE SPEED

You've got to see it to believe it.

At speeds of up to 30 miles per hour up and down the ice.

And yes, there's the occasional crash or two as well.



UP NEXT:

Friday, December 15th vs. Manchester 7:05pm

AAA Insurance Member Appreciation Night! The first 1,000 fans will receive a pocket road atlas courtesy of AAA Insurance! Coats for Kids Sponsored by WCSH6 and The Salvation Army! Donate a coat and get a FREE ticket to a future Pirates game!

★ Saturday Night Hockey Night ★

Sunday, December 17th vs. Springfield 4:05pm


Lace up your skates for a post-game "Skate with the Team" brought to you by Weight Watchers. Meet the players and get autographs!

GREAT SEATS START AT JUST \$7!

Call 775-3458 or visit www.portlandpirates.com

IT'S ABOUT

THE GAME



PORTLAND PIRATES

2006 ATLANTIC DIVISION CHAMPIONS

Upcoming Games

December		
Tue. 12-12		
Women's Basketball vs. UNE		5:30 p.m.
Women's Ice Hockey vs. UMASS BOSTON		7:00 p.m.
Men's Basketball vs. UNE		7:30 p.m.

Sat. 12-16		
Men's Basketball vs. UMF		2:00 p.m.
Thu. 12-28		
Women's Basketball @ Florid		2:00 p.m.
Fri. 12-29		
Women's Basketball @ Florida		10:00 p.m.
Men's Basketball @ St. Joseph's		5:00 p.m.
Men's Basketball @ St. Joseph's		1:00/3:00

January

Fri. 5		
Women's Ice Hockey vs. HOLY CROSS		7:00 p.m.
Men's Ice Hockey @ Wesleyan		7:00 p.m.

Sat. 6		
Women's Basketball @ Western Connecticut		1:00 p.m.
Women's Ice Hockey vs. M.I.T.		3:00 p.m.
Men's Basketball @ Western Connecticut		3:00 p.m.
Men's Ice Hockey @ Trinity		3:00 p.m.

Tue. 9		
Women's Basketball @ Rhode Island College		5:30 p.m.
Men's Basketball @ Rhode Island College		7:30 p.m.
Men's Ice Hockey vs. FRAMINGHAM STATE		7:00 p.m.

Thu. 11		
Women's Basketball vs. SALEM STATE		7:00 p.m.

Fri. 12		
Men's Ice Hockey vs. HAMILTON		7:00 p.m.

Sat. 13		
Women's Basketball vs. KEENE STATE		1:00 p.m.
Women's Ice Hockey vs. PLYMOUTH STATE		7:00 p.m.
Women's Indoor Track & Field Invitational		1:00 p.m.
Men's Basketball vs. KEENE STATE		3:00 p.m.
Men's Ice Hockey vs. AMHERST		3:00 p.m.
Men's Indoor Track & Field @ Bowdoin		1:00 p.m.

Sun. 14		
Women's Ice Hockey @ Plymouth State		2:30 p.m.

Tue. 16		
Women's Basketball vs. PLYMOUTH STATE		5:30 p.m.
Men's Basketball vs. PLYMOUTH STATE		7:30 p.m.

Fri. 19		
Women's Ice Hockey @ Trinity		4:00 p.m.
Men's Ice Hockey vs. UMass Boston		7:00 p.m.

Compiled by Ashley St. Michel

SCOREBOARD

- Women's Basketball (4-1, LEC 1-0):**
12/2 – USM 92, UMass Dartmouth 52
- Women's Ice Hockey (2-5-0, LEC 2-4-0):**
12/2 – USM 5, St. Michael's 0
12/3 – USM 5, Castleton State 4
- Men's Basketball (2-3, LEC 0-1):**
12/2 – UMass Dartmouth 75, USM 70
- Men's Ice Hockey (3-3-0, LEC 3-1-0):**
12/1 – USM 2, Middlebury 0
12/2 – USM 3, Williams 2

SPORTS

Huskies battle for control Men's basketball falls short in overtime



Nick Goding(30) releases a jump shot, helping USM reclaim the lead, 42-41, over UMass Dartmouth. Dartmouth won the game in overtime, 75-70.

ASHLEY ST. MICHEL
SPORTS EDITOR

Junior center Nick Gooding (Concord, CA) posted a double-double, 21 points and 14 rebounds, against the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth Corsairs at Warren G. Hill Gymnasium Dec. 2. The Corsairs proved to be too much for the Huskies, slipping by USM them in overtime, 75-70 in the Little East Conference game.

The first half was a battle for both teams, as they struggled to gain control of the floor. A team technical foul was called against the Corsairs before tip-off, resulting in a 2-0 lead to start the half for the Huskies. The Huskies rallied early on with two steals resulting in a break-away lay-up and a two-handed dunk that sparked a fire in the crowd.

The Huskies outscored and out-rebound the Corsairs in the first half. USM shot a solid 50 percent from the field while the UMass Dartmouth dragged behind at just 36.4 percent. The Corsairs dominated the Huskies from beyond the three-point line, hitting 33.3 percent, while the Huskies grabbed 25 percent.

USM had the upper-hand underneath the boards, 14 of their 16 players are over six feet tall, grabbing a total of 43 rebounds in the game. The Corsairs made up for their height in their defense, taking 12 steals, while the Huskies walked away with seven.

USM took off with an 11-point lead, 29-18, with 4:52 in the half, but UMass Dartmouth made a 12-4 run and ended the half down by only three points, 33-30.

In the second half, the teams handed over 13 lead changes and eight ties. The

Huskies struggled in the field, dropping down to just 36 percent, significantly lower than their percentage in the first. The Corsairs also struggled with the ball shooting just 40 percent from the field. UMass Dartmouth took the lead, 62-60, with 52 seconds left in the game, but when junior Drew Copenrath (Barnet, VT) was fouled on a rebound with just 29 seconds left, the 6-5 forward hit both foul shots and tied the game. Both teams headed into their first-of-the-season overtime period.

USM fell behind in overtime after the Corsairs rallied with a three-pointer and a lay-up with just 4:09 to play. The Huskies had a few chances from the line as well but missed four of their eight foul shots, and ended the game with a loss, 75-70.

Although the Huskies put up a strong 43.1 percent from the field during overtime

play, they were overcome by turnovers, ending the game with 23, while the Corsairs stood at 15. The game was the third consecutive loss for USM (2-4), who is tied for seventh place out of the eight teams in the Little East Conference preseason coaches' poll for the 2006-07 season. The team ended their 2005-06 season standing at 9-17. The Corsairs stood in fifth place in the coaches' poll, while Western Connecticut and Plymouth State tied for third, Keene State in second and Rhode Island College led the pack.

USM had three players hit in the double digits from the field. Gooding handed in 21 points, 14 rebounds and two steals while freshman forward Greg Whitaker and junior guard Josh Daniels each put up 13 points, four rebounds and two steals.



Josh Daniels (23) drives the lane for a layup. Daniels put up 13 points in the Little East conference game. Dec. 2.

HUSKY Highlights

Men's Hockey

USM edges Williams 3-2

12/2 - Junior Mike Stevens' (Dover, NH) goal midway through the third period helped push the Huskies over the Williams College Ephmen, 3-2 in an ECAC East-NESCAC inter-league men's hockey game at the USM Ice Arena. Williams grabbed a 1-0 lead, but the Huskies responded with the next three goals. Freshman Tom Galiani (Lindenhurst, NY) tied the game with his second goal of the campaign at 6:50. Senior captain Mark Carragher (Charlottetown, PEI) gave the Huskies the lead with his fourth goal of the season. Huskies senior goalie David Beckles (Stanford, CT) made 25 stops.

Men's Indoor Track & Field

Hopkins wins mile

12/3 - Huskies senior tri-captain Chris Hopkins (Worcester, MA) opened the 2006-07 men's indoor track and field season by winning the mile run at the Northeastern University Husky Winter Carnival held at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston. Hopkins covered the mile distance in a time of 4:21.07, to slip by a pair of runners from the University of New Hampshire, Robert Stiles and Mathew O'Connor. Stiles finished with a time of 4:21.10 and O'Connor was clocked at 4:21.44. Junior tri-captain Forrest Tobie (Mt. Vernon) finished eighth in the 800 meters with a time of 2:00.51. Sophomore tri-captain Jimmy Sawyer (Gorham) finished ninth in the 400 meters with a time of 51.41. Junior Adam Haggerty (Hermon) was tied for 12th place in the pole vault after clearing 12-5 1/2.

Wrestling

Huskies finish second at invitational

12/3 - Freshman Matt Ulrich (Garfield, NJ) won the 133-pound weight bracket and was named the Most Outstanding Wrestler after leading the Huskies to a second place finish at the Second Annual Ted Reese Wrestling Invitational at the USM Field House. In the 149-pound weight division, Huskies sophomore Mike Dumas (Kennebunk) claimed first place, while freshman Mike Morin (Fryeburg) finished second. Junior Mark Moyer (Somerville, NJ) won the 165-pound division, defeating Plymouth State's Donny Connolly 3-2 in a hard-fought championship battle.

Women's Hockey

Huskies rally to beat Castleton State, 5-4

12/3 - Senior Caitlin Tassone (Woburn, MA) scored the game-winning goal with 26 seconds left in regulation to top off a three-goal rally in the final eight minutes and give the Huskies a 5-4 victory over the Castleton State College Spartans in an ECAC Women's East hockey game at Rutland Regional Fieldhouse. Freshman Brittany George (Barrington, NH) cut the deficit to one for the Huskies with a power-play goal. Tasson tied the game at the 17:00 mark with an unassisted goal, then added the game winner at 19:34 off an assist from senior Kelly Connors (Topsfield, MA). Senior goalie Jen Arno (Westford, MA) made 20 saves for the Huskies.