Obama’s promise to Portland: he’ll bring America back

Barack Obama’s campaign for the presidency swept through the Portland Expo last Tuesday. A packed crowd cheered at each of his declarations but amplified to a deafening roar when he pledged accessible and affordable college education for all if elected in Nov. 2008. See story on page 2.

Strength, speed and sex appeal on skates

More than forty women from all walks of life came together at the Portland Expo on Sept. 22. Their purpose? To kick some ass. Dressed in brightly colored roller skates, tube socks, fishnets, booty shorts or skirts, matching team tank tops and jersey dresses, these women have enough energy to put most rock bands to shame.

Better known as the Vacationland Vixens, the Maine roller derby team (this season billed simply as ‘Maine Roller Derby’ or MRD), is paired against North Hampton’s Pioneer Valley roller derby team for the penultimate match of the season.

One of these women is USM’s own Alyson Pitts, though she’s better known in the league by her derby name: Pitts of Rage, #508. Pitts, 24, is a media studies student from Barnstable, MA.

See DERBY
PAGE 20

Anne Rosenberg
STAFF WRITER

Maine Roller Derby jammer blows past an opposing blocker in a recent bout at the Portland Expo. The team is on a roll and ready for their last home bout on Oct. 6.

Mary Jones
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PIRG to bring awareness to USM students

Mary Jones
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

They want people’s signatures, they want people’s voices, but most of all they simply want people to be aware. Students of USM’s new MainePIRG chapter are working hard to change the world one step at a time.

Maine’s Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) is part of a national organization that links student chapters from across the nation. “(PIRG) shows how to run a campaign,” said Marie Stolzenburg, a 2007 USM graduate and one of the group’s founders. “If students have concerns, this is what they need.” PIRG provides resources and leadership skills for students who wish to tackle issues such as hunger, student debt and renewable energy.

See PIRG
PAGE 3

USMers make award-winning impacts

Alum, professor recipients of Campus Compact awards

Mary Jones
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Getting students involved with their community is what USM alumna Marie Stolzenburg and Professor Robert Sanford are all about. Their work this past year bringing civic engagement to USM earned them both a Maine Campus Compact Award, presented during a ceremony held at the State House last April.

Maine Campus Compact is an organization whose mission is to “catalyze and lead a movement to reinvigorate the public purposes and civic mission of higher edu-
Obama sweeps through Portland
USM students divided on the presidential hopeful’s chances

Jenna Howard and Joel C. Theriault
A&E Editor and News Editor

Barack Obama, the Democrat presidential candidate from Illinois, stirred the biggest crowd reaction in his speech at the Portland Expo last week, when he pledged affordable college education to all Americans.

“That’s our future right there,” he said, “and they shouldn’t be saddled with $50,000 or $70,000 worth of debt. We’re rich enough as a nation, we can afford it.” The cheers from the crowd reached the ceilings of the exposition building.

USM students supporting Obama attended the rally last Tuesday, many leaving enthusiastically.

“He was a really great speaker,” said English major Danica Koenig. “He was a really great speaker.”

Obama spoke surrounded by supporters on all sides, touting an optimistic message of hope and the return of America to a packed house audience, most of whom paid up to $23 a ticket.

Obama shared an experience he had in Greenwood, a tiny South Carolina community, where a city councilwoman was famous for getting a crowd roaring by chanting with them “Fire it up!”

“Ready to go!” She reminded him of the power one voice has to make change, he said.

“One voice can change a room,” he said, “and if one voice could change a room, it can change a city. And if it can change a city, it can change a state. And if we change a state then we change a country.

If everything he said could be put into action, our problems would be solved.”

“Hearing Obama speak made me hopeful and truly excited that America could be a country worth being proud of,” said Ryland Cook, a 25-year-old art major.

“Hearing Obama speak made me hopeful and truly excited that America could be a country worth being proud of,” said Ryland Cook, a 25-year-old art major.

Obama is not the only candidate to visit Portland. Republican hopefuls Fred Thompson, actor and former senator, and ex-New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani recently made campaign stops in the Pine State. Obama’s other New England stops last week included Peterborough, NH, and the Democratic debate in Hanover, NH, last Wednesday.

Obama is a political rock star,” said Marta Hurgin, a 20-year-old international studies major, “but he lacks the experience needed to beat Hillary Clinton.”

Obama covered a number of pertinent political points, commonly heard in the political arena lately. He accused health insurance companies of “working an inside game and America has been locked out of the conversation.

“I don’t know about you,” he said, “but I do not accept that in the wealthiest nation on Earth we should still have 47 million people without health insurance and millions more who are struggling with bankruptcy because they have unpaid medical bills.”

Obama promised the Portland audience that every American would have healthcare coverage before the end of his first term as president, if elected.

Obama is not the only candidate to visit Portland. Republican hopefuls Fred Thompson, actor and former senator, and ex-New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani recently made campaign stops in the Pine State. Obama’s other New England stops last week included Peterborough, NH, and the Democratic debate in Hanover, NH, last Wednesday.

And if we can change a country then we change the world.”

Maine residents who attended may have thought they would get the same type of stale speech candidates in the past brought to them, but instead were treated to Obama’s message of hope and change in the fundamental ways government works. Although he spoke of the specific issues at hand—war in Iraq, lack of a viable healthcare system nationally, and affordable education for all—Obama’s main focus was the re-invention of American hands into government, and the need for honesty and transparency from Washington, D.C.

“There are those who argue the contest in this election is about who can work the game better,” Obama said, “but it is my assertion that it’s not a need to work the game better. What we need is to put an end to the game plan because the times are too serious and the stakes are too high and we need a spirit of responsibility and sacrifice and honesty and truthfulness and that is what we’re looking for in the next President of the United States of America.

“What’s wrong with America is not the American people,” he continued. “The American people aren’t the problem, they’re the answer. We just got to get American people focused on Washington and change is going to come,” adding “…it’s possible to come together and rally around a common destiny.”

Obama covered a number of pertinent political points, commonly heard in the political arena lately. He accused health insurance companies of “working an inside game and America has been locked out of the conversation.

“I don’t know about you,” he said, “but I do not accept that in the wealthiest nation on Earth we should still have 47 million people without health insurance and millions more who are struggling with bankruptcy because they have unpaid medical bills.”

Obama promised the Portland audience that every American would have healthcare coverage before the end of his first term as president, if elected.

Obama is not the only candidate to visit Portland. Republican hopefuls Fred Thompson, actor and former senator, and ex-New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani recently made campaign stops in the Pine State. Obama’s other New England stops last week included Peterborough, NH, and the Democratic debate in Hanover, NH, last Wednesday.

news
WMPG community radio launches the Beg-A-Thon fund-raiser today in the face of “the death of Internet radio,” said Jan Wilkinson, WMPG’s local music director and treasurer, said the week-long campaign is more than just a fundraising event and is a rallying point for the community and a rare opportunity for the station to interact with its listeners.

“During Beg-A-Thon, our listener donors are invited to come by the station, have a bite to eat, meet our volunteers, pick out a thank you gift, see WMPG’s World Headquarters,” Wilkinson said in an e-mail interview. “In short, they get to see firsthand that they are part of our community.”

The funds raised from listener donations during Beg-A-Thon comprise most of the station’s operating budget, Rand said.

“MainePIRG originates because we were unhappy with the state of the world and felt powerless, but we wanted to fix this,” said Korsen, a senior sociology major and this year’s chair.

“The increased royalty burden could mean “the death of Internet radio,” said Rand.

Jan Wilkinson, WMPG’s local music director and treasurer, said the week-long campaign is more than just a fundraising event and is a rallying point for the community and a rare opportunity for the station to interact with its listeners.

“During Beg-A-Thon, our listener donors are invited to come by the station, have a bite to eat, meet our volunteers, pick out a thank you gift, see WMPG’s World Headquarters,” Wilkinson said in an e-mail interview. “In short, they get to see firsthand that they are part of our community.”

The funds raised from listener donations during Beg-A-Thon comprise most of the station’s operating budget, Rand said.

“We definitely feel the love,” she said. “Hopefully, PIRG will be around for a long time.

—Anna Korsen

PIRG pushes for on-campus change

This year is MainePIRG’s first official year as a chapter, but the organization has been active on campus for two years. The push to make the chapter official on campus began with students Stolzenburg and Anna Korsen in spring of 2006.

“MainePIRG originated because we were unhappy with the state of the world and felt powerless, but we wanted to fix this,” said Korsen, a senior sociology major and this year’s chair.

The students went through a lengthy process of gathering students and gaining both national and university support. PIRG chose student debt as their first campaign platform to show their credibility as a group. Their mission, to teach students how to deal with debt, led the group to become involved in the Opportunity Maine campaign. The campaign, originating from the minds of students and headed by then-student body president Andrew Bossie, initiated a bill last year for a tax credit Maine graduates could take to help pay off student loans. The bill was made law June 20 of this year.

PIRG members have many plans in the works this academic year. Their first campaign will attempt to manage hunger and homelessness in Portland, a continuation of their efforts last spring. Students volunteer at the Preble Street and Teen Centers in Portland helping to organize donations and continue a tootyery drive which will provide Preble Street with much needed supplies. A film festival focusing on global hunger and homelessness hosted by PIRG is scheduled this fall.

Korsen said PIRG will protest the construction of an asphalt plant near the Gorham campus. The group alleges that the plant will lead to greater air pollution and traffic in the area. PIRG has been circulating petitions for student signatures which they will then send to the Gorham town office.

MainePIRG plans to promote the Downeaster, a rail line from Boston to Portland, to try to increase its commuter usage. Korsen added the group would like to see the line extended to Brunswick, allowing greater use in the Portland area and a reduction in commuters’ dependence on fossil fuels.

A campaign called “Campus Climate Challenge” will attempt to reduce USM’s environmental footprint, challenging the university to increase use of renewable resources and reduce pollution and global warming.

Part of the climate campaign includes sending students to the conference “PowerShift” in College Park, Maryland. The November conference gathers students who will try to agree on a plan for the country to reduce its own contribution to global warming. The plan will be presented to the president, as a way to increase the student role in the decision making process.

MainePIRG’s biggest goal, said Korsen, is to officially establish itself as a sustainable USM resource for students.

“We definitely feel the love,” said Korsen. “Hopefully, PIRG will be around for a long time.”

On March 2, 2007, a report in SaveTheNet.org reads, “the Copyright Royalty Board (CRB), which oversees sound recording royalties paid by Internet radio services, increased Internet radio’s royalty burden between 300 and 1200 percent.

“The vast majority of web casters were barely making ends meet as Internet radio advertising revenue is just beginning to develop,” the report continued. “Without a doubt most Internet radio services will go bankrupt and cease web casting if this royalty rate is not reversed by the Congress, and web casters’ demise will mean a great loss of creative and diverse radio.”

The increased royalty burden could mean “the death of Internet radio,” said Rand.

Jan Wilkinson, WMPG’s local music director and treasurer, said the week-long campaign is more than just a fundraising event and is a rallying point for the community and a rare opportunity for the station to interact with its listeners.

“During Beg-A-Thon, our listener donors are invited to come by the station, have a bite to eat, meet our volunteers, pick out a thank you gift, see WMPG’s World Headquarters,” Wilkinson said in an e-mail interview. “In short, they get to see firsthand that they are part of our community.”

The funds raised from listener donations during Beg-A-Thon comprise most of the station’s operating budget, Rand said.

“MainePIRG originated because we were unhappy with the state of the world and felt powerless, but we wanted to fix this,” said Korsen, a senior sociology major and this year’s chair.

MainePIRG plans to promote the Downeaster, a rail line from Boston to Portland, to try to increase its commuter usage. Korsen added the group would like to see the line extended to Brunswick, allowing greater use in the Portland area and a reduction in commuters’ dependence on fossil fuels.

A campaign called “Campus Climate Challenge” will attempt to reduce USM’s environmental footprint, challenging the university to increase use of renewable resources and reduce pollution and global warming.

Part of the climate campaign includes sending students to the conference “PowerShift” in College Park, Maryland. The November conference gathers students who will try to agree on a plan for the country to reduce its own contribution to global warming. The plan will be presented to the president, as a way to increase the student role in the decision making process.

MainePIRG’s biggest goal, said Korsen, is to officially establish itself as a sustainable USM resource for students.

“We definitely feel the love,” she said. “Hopefully, PIRG will be around for a long time.”
Looking for a career that keeps you focused on your future?

“Think a lot of our students,” she continued, “particularly if they’re first-generation college students, they don’t have any experience with it. They hear the term ‘graduate school’ but it doesn’t really mean anything to them.”

Misconceptions about graduate school are a major concern for Benson. “There’s a sense that it’s just an extension of undergraduate programs,” she said, “that you can only get a doctorate where there are all kinds of levels, you can do master’s (degrees) and certificate programs—there’s a lot of misconception we want to eliminate with this.

“We also want to get at appropriate reasons and inappropriate reasons why people go to graduate school,” said Benson. “I see a lot of students who tell me they’re going to graduate school because they don’t want to look for a job and that’s not a good reason…because graduate school requires a lot of study in mind to pursue it.”

Among the topics Benson and Sweet hope to address are how to find and research schools, how to pay for them, the admissions process, tests like the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and personal statements.

“The personal statement piece is very big. It is key,” Benson said. “Most graduate programs require it. It’s sort of a stepped-up version of what people wrote for their undergraduate essay…a personal statement is kind of the next level of intensity up because it’s more focused, the question is usually very related to the program they’re applying to and they’re really looking for evidence that this is a well thought-out application.”

The second of the graduate school information sessions is scheduled for Oct. 10 at the Woodbury Campus Center cafeteria from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., and will have a “college fair-type atmosphere,” said Benson. Over 30 schools will have representatives present, as well as a graduate school preparation program called Kaplan.

For Benson, the benefits of education past the bachelor’s level far outweigh the extra time and work associated with it. “It’s becoming more and more a necessity,” she said. “There’s some fields where it’s required. Some fields you have to do it. If you want to be a lawyer, you go to law school…My daughter is a science major, she wants to be a lab researcher, she’s got to get her PhD.”

Beyond the bachelor’s degree

Joint USM offices offer two graduate school information days

JOEL C. THERIault
NEWS EDITor

Two of USM’s graduate school offices will host a workshop day and a graduate school information day in response to the growing requirements for master’s degrees and other even higher education.

“So You Want To Go To Graduate School?” is a workshop scheduled for Oct. 3 that will attempt to answer students questions about the need for graduate education in their fields, how to prepare for testing and how to finance their programs. Mary Ann Benson, assistant director of Career Services and Professional Life Development, and Lisa Sweet, director of Career Services and Professional Life Development, will be in Room 44 of Payson Smith Hall on the Portland campus from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The workshop, “not just for a student with an undeclared major in graduate studies,” said Benson, “is kind of the next level of intensity up because it’s more focused, the question is usually very related to the program they’re applying to and they’re really looking for evidence that this is a well thought-out application.”

“The personal statement piece is very big. It is key,” Benson said. “Most graduate programs require it. It’s sort of a stepped-up version of what people wrote for their undergraduate essay…a personal statement is kind of the next level of intensity up because it’s more focused, the question is usually very related to the program they’re applying to and they’re really looking for evidence that this is a well thought-out application.”

The second of the graduate school information sessions is scheduled for Oct. 10 at the Woodbury Campus Center cafeteria from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., and will have a “college fair-type atmosphere,” said Benson. Over 30 schools will have representatives present, as well as a graduate school preparation program called Kaplan.

For Benson, the benefits of education past the bachelor’s level far outweigh the extra time and work associated with it. “It’s becoming more and more a necessity,” she said. “There’s some fields where it’s required. Some fields you have to do it. If you want to be a lawyer, you go to law school…My daughter is a science major, she wants to be a lab researcher, she’s got to get her PhD.”

At Citistreet, we are committed to our employees. We offer continued development opportunities throughout your career.

If you are looking for a career opportunity with an industry leader that involves working in a fast-paced environment using state-of-the-art technology and working side-by-side with great people, then Citistreet is the place for you!

Go to www.citistreetonline.com to view our available positions.

SAVE THIS DATE - Thursday, Oct. 18, 10 AM - 3 PM
It may be important to your future!

Citistreet will have members of their Human Resources and IT departments onsite at the John Mitchell Center on the Gorham campus to discuss the opportunities and initiate the COBOL aptitude test.

From AWARDS
PAGe 1

After a successful 2006-2007 campaign, Stolzenburg approached the student senate to present PIRG as a viable student group. Last spring, still $1,000 shy of their initial funding goal, MainePIRG was awarded a grant to fund a graduate student intern on the campus in time to see Stolzenburg graduate with a degree in English and a minor in philosophy. She said her future plans include grad school and teaching.

“I want to work on engaging people on our community,” she said.

Anna Korsen, a senior sociology major, is the current chair for USM’s PIRG chapter.

Sanford, an associate professor of environmental science, has promoted civic engagement in his classroom for years. He challenges students to think about how to put their knowledge to practical use within their community. In each of his classes he assigns a project asking students to choose an issue relative to them and their community, and then create a plan to either alleviate or generate awareness of the issue. Students must find a way to get it distributed, if they plan an awareness drive they must facilitate it.

Sanford also more recently played a role in establishing an environmental sustainability minor at USM.

From AWARDS
PAGe 1

Student, professor receive activism awards

Stolzenburg received the Heart and Soul Student Award which is given to six students throughout the state. Sanford was awarded the Donald Harward Faculty Award for Service Learning Excellence.

“It generates awareness at the legislature and university that we want to do this,” said Sanford of the award.

Stolzenburg campaigners for two years to bring a chapter of the Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) to USM. The group provides resources and leadership skills to those students who want to make a difference in the world. Stolzenburg said she had the desire to leave something behind after she graduated that would help students connect with their community, finally deciding on PIRG for its projected sustainability. A lengthy process of campaigning and gathering support soon followed. She was able to gain student support and start the group's first campaign tackling student debt with help from the national PIRG organization, Stolzenburg said.
Sept. 24
You probably kick puppies, too. 12:10 a.m.—Officers found a dog that had been left in a vehicle on the Portland campus. A side window had been left down, but no wa- ter. Officers gave the dog water and asked the owner, who was warned of the risks of leaving pets in vehicles.

Sept. 23
Wheel out em from here 8:25 p.m.—Someone complained of skateboarders trespassing on campus in Gorham.

Has anyone seen my stapler? 6:20 p.m.—Someone in the G-20 lot in Gorham complained that for the second weekend in a row someone has bothered his scooter. This time it had been picked up and moved.

Getting railed 4:50 p.m.—A warning was issued to a student found sliding down a rail outside of Robbie Andrews Hall in Gorham.

Sept. 22
You look like you have booze in you 11:35 a.m.—A summons for possession by consumption was issued to an intoxicated person outside of the Field House in Gorham.

You do too 3:09 a.m.— A warning was given to a female subject for consumption of alcohol outside of the Field House in Gorham.

You forgot the rest of your booze in the dorm 2:41 a.m.— An abandoned backpack was found in Upton Hastings Hall with a bottle of liquor in it.

Can I check your insides, real quick? 1:39 a.m.—Two subjects in the G-13 lot in Gorham were given summons for possession of alcohol by consumption.

Boozehound 1:18 a.m.—A summons was issued to someone in the Brooks Student Center in Gorham for illegal possession of alcohol by consumption.

Boozehound’s friend 12:35 a.m.—A person in the G-15 lot in Gorham was issued a summons for possession of alcohol by consumption.

Not cool, people 11:47 a.m.—A report of possible sexual assault was made in Hastings Hall in Gorham. Officers are investigating, but assure there is no threat to the community.

Pick on someone your own species 1:27 a.m.—Officers watched a person leave the Brooks Student Center in Gorham and kick over a barricade. The adviser they picked to pick it up and leave. The barricade was not damaged.

Getting railed 1:09 a.m.—A warning was given to a student found sliding down a fire escape of Robbie Andrews Hall in Gorham.

Stinky situation 2:00 p.m.—Someone reported the odor of methane gas on the first floor of Portland’s Glickman Family Library. Officers notified Facilities Management, who found the gas to be coming from the nearby Widener Center construction site.

Stinky situation 2:00 p.m.—Someone reported the odor of methane gas on the first floor of Portland’s Glickman Family Library. Officers notified Facilities Management, who found the gas to be coming from the nearby Widener Center construction site.

Gassy 11:48 a.m.—Officers notified Gorham Fire Department that a car in the GC-2 lot was leaking gasoline. The vehicle was towed by SOS Towing.

Paris Hilton comes to USM? 10:48 a.m.—A mail services driver reported he heard a person moaning in the bushes near the G-11 lot in Gorham. USM and Gorham officers searched the bushes but could find none.

Tone it down, tough guy 12:10 a.m.—Officers gave a motor- ist on the Water Tower Road in Gorham a verbal warning for unnecessary acceleration noise.
The real meaning of academic freedom

ANGELIQUE CARSON  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Last week President Ahmadinejad of Iran was invited to not only visit, but speak at Columbia University in New York City. The President supported thousands of listeners that the Holocaust was not fact, but theory. He further submitted that Iran, the USM should follow Columbia’s example. Whether the university agreed or disagreed, hated or loved what Ahmadinejad was bound to say — and did — amplify to a crowd of thousands, his words got people civically engaged in way that they weren’t 15 minutes before he took the podium.

Columbia’s students were allowed their academic freedoms. It’s unfortunate that USM students were not.

Executive & Advertising Policies

Editorial & Advertising Policies

- The Free Press is a weekly student-run newspaper paid for in part with Student Activity Fee monies.
- The Free Press has a gender neutral language policy.
- Letters and unsigned opinions otherwise indicated refer to the editors. The Free Press reserves the right to edit or refuse all articles, letters, and other materials submitted for publication, including those we have solicited.
- Columns are the opinions of the columnist and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher or employees of The Free Press. On occasion, guest commentaries will be solicited or accepted from members of the USM community on topical issues and may not exceed 750 words.
- One copy of The Free Press is free of charge. Up to 10 additional copies are available for 25 cents each at the office of The Free Press, 92 Bedford St., Portland, Maine. On occasion, bulk purchases may be arranged. Payment and the Executive Editor’s approval are in advance.
- Advertising: The Free Press welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be submitted electronically, include the author’s full name, school year or relationship to USM, phone number for verification and may not exceed 350 words without prior approval from the Executive Editor.
- The deadline for all submissions is Thursday at 4 a.m., proceeding the week of publication. Send submissions to freepress@usm.maine.edu.
- Anonymous and/or illegible submissions will not be published.
On October 5, the Free Press and the Portland Events Board is putting on Speed Dating. Since you’ll all be there, what is the single most important trait you look for in a significant other?

Honesty. If they’re not honest then you can’t build anything off of that, and if they’re not honest once then you don’t know if they’re going to be not honest again.

Brenna Widdis
Junior
International studies major

My number one thing is I look for people who are happy with where they are in their life. If they’re happy with being a student or they’re really happy doing their job…I mean there’s nothing worse than being with someone who’s not happy with their life.

Danielle Hanson
Senior
Nursing major

I like someone who is good-looking, and I think that character is just as important as being good-looking. I think there are so many, for me, girls who are good-looking but it’s difficult to find someone who has good character to me.

Hayato Wakatsuki
Sophomore
Geography major

Assertiveness. Someone who is willing to not rule implicitly in a relationship or be passive and be ruled.

Erik Eisele, Senior
Political science and media studies major

Someone who is supportive, because sometimes when everything’s getting hectic, things look like they’re at their worst, if somebody’s there even just to go out of their way to say something nice it helps get you through some of the toughest times.

AJ Chalifour
Senior
Political science major
Student body president

From LETTER PAGE 6

was a violation of USM students’ academic freedom. This is because (as Roger Bowen, former head of the American Association of University Professors, pointed out in his keynote address last week) Patten’s decision was made in an atmosphere of intense, organized pressure from various police organizations and other special interest groups.

In this case, USM students and the greater Portland community were denied a forum in which to have an informed, educational discussion on the important questions raised by the art show. These questions include: How do we define the term “political prisoner”? Are there political prisoners in the US? And what are the relationships between violence, the state, and movements for social change? We were all denied an opportunity to learn about this crucial issue because of pressure put on USM from entities whose primary agendas where not concerned with ensuring the quality and intellectual diversity of our education.

In his letter last week (“Academic Freedom: What is taught in the classroom has its limits”) Jason Lavoie expressed his concern that “there currently is no uniform policy for what is and what is not taught in our classroom.” Lavoie’s main argument was that supposed “liberal indoctrination” is a significant problem on college campuses, and that this tendency violates the “academic freedom” of conservative students. Lavoie brings up a good point in regards to the power of professors, but his claims of the persecution as a conservative student are dubious, mainly because they are not backed up by any evidence or examples.

Roger Bowen, in his speech last week, had some ideas for addressing the credibility and quality of professors’ teaching. He cited the effectiveness of the peer-review process, while also calling for more co-teaching, interdisciplinary teaching, and student review as further means for preventing professors from misusing the power they have over students. While these suggestions may not be perfect, I believe that they are a good starting point for action and further discussion on this issue. These efforts are also an alternative to the right-wing, and potentially authoritarian “Academic Bill of Rights” promoted by Lavoie.

Thank you Jason Lavoie for contributing to this important discussion—I hope that it will continue with many more voices participating.

For the Gloria Duclos Convocation on Academic Freedom event listing, please visit: http://usm.marine.edu/%7Ehistory/conveventsfall.html. The Convocation committee is still welcoming student proposals for events in the 2008 spring semester.

Daniel Chard
Daniel Chard is a USM senior majoring in history, and a member of the Academic Freedom Convocation steering committee.

Bistro article will line my hamper’s cage

Dear Editor,

I have not written before, but after reading one of the most biased articles in the history of me reading the news (and I’m subscribed to Fox news), I felt I must say something. How much did they pay you to print that garbage?

I hope it was a lot if “It’s too healthy, I want more chocolate” was the only protest you could find.

How about “It’s overpriced, inconvenient, and run by the devil.” I think that would be my number one complaint.

Apparently Aramark (in their own despicable ways) have decided that only people in Gorham should have easy access to drinks and snacks after 5 p.m., leaving all the students with night classes (and I can’t be the only one) without caffeine.

Once upon a time there were 24-hour machines there that you could go to if you had an evening class, and get a honey-bun and a Pepsi, to quiet the rumblings of my stomach after having to skip dinner to come straight from work. I guess I can’t blame Aramark. They are greedy and shameless, and would do anything to increase profit, including starving students that get hungry after six.

But I expected better from you. Last semester I found you funny and insightful. I’ll try reading your next issue, perhaps this was a fluke, to make the school seems wonderful to the freshman. This article, however, will be lining my hamster’s cage.

Hoping for Better,

Heather The Thirsty
I WANT PEACE OF MIND SECURITY
AND THE KNOWLEDGE THAT IF I DROP MY PHONE DOWN THE SEWER, ALL MY FRIENDS' NUMBERS WON'T GO WITH IT.

My Contacts Backup lets you know when your contacts need to be backed up so you don't lose any while you're out and about. Start today at USCellular.com/backup.
Living Proof of talent at USM

First fall theatre performance boasts intense script and serious cast

JENNA HOWARD
A&E EDITOR

The Main stage at Russell Hall was sweltering Wednesday night, a product of the day’s heat and blazing stage lights. Student Kristen Peters, assistant stage manager, pointed out between scenes, “We need to light this differently, he couldn’t be reading by that light if it were 1:00 in the morning. We didn’t think of that.”

At the same time, a member of the crew spoke with the director, William Steele, looking intently at her clipboard, “We have $300, eight performances, and six dress rehearsals,” she said. She and Steele discussed how many bottles of cheap champagne—a prop—they’ll need to accommodate each show.

Although there was ample joking and laughter, the room was focused; each person taking notes, joking and laughter, the room was

The Russell Hall stage will transform Oct. 5 thanks to the set design of USM student Jesse Pilgrim shown here unfinished at cast rehearsal.

also a genius mathematician. Her ability to overcome his death is highlighted while the plot begs the question; how much of her father’s madness—or genius—will she inherit?

The cast said in a group interview that they are focused and serious. The 2001 Pulitzer Prize winning play is a cast member quips. "Right now, we are living Proof," a cast member quips.

All September, cast and crew are eating, sleeping, and breathing the play. It seems bound to pay off.

Step Up to the Plate is an awards banquet hosted by the ever-awesome League of Young Voters to honor the achievements of Portland’s young movers and shakers. Winners in such categories as Portland’s Best Activist, Artist, and Green Professional will be awarded. Socially and politically conscious minx come together to pay tribute and learn about the do-gooders, and also to gamble via silent auction. Olympic Snowboarder Seth Wescott will be among the attendees. Tickets $18-50 (recommended: pay your age!) 6:30 p.m. / Holiday Inn by The Bay/ Portland/ 722-3207/ theleague.com/me

SATURDAY OCT 6

If you’re going mad with school and jobs and need a jolt of feel-good: get rubbed, and drink tea at the same time. For less than $30, go for a Foot and Lower Leg Massage at SOAK Foot Sanctuary and Teahouse.

MONDAY OCT 1

Show some love to our campus community, culture in the area. WMPG hosts its annual Fall Begathon starting today and lasting the entire week. Listener support pays for 1/3 of all that you hear and all that they do so very well. A few dollars is much nicer than blowing them kisses from afar. Donations / Oct 1-7/ WMPG radio/ Portland/ 847-3000/ www.wmpg.org

TUESDAY OCT 2

One Longfellow Square is swiftly becoming a hot spot for amazing music in town. They kick-off a Tuesday-night Jazz series with Kneebody, improv performers from LA. $10/ One Longfellow Square/ Portland/ 8 p.m./ 761-1751

The Free Press  |  October 1, 2007
Abolishing Columbus Day

USM senior Bethany Tremblay has organized a rally and protest against Columbus Day. She is the social-work intern for the Multicultural Student Affairs office and works with the organization to get the protest off the ground. She's making moves, and we wanted to talk to her about them. Here's what she told us.

FP: So, this is a part of your internship?
Bethany: There were many things my site had planned for me, but my supervisor, Keita Whitten, allowed me to engage in my own project as well.

FP: What is your goal for this event?
Bethany: My objective is to have Columbus Day removed as a federally recognized holiday in the state of Maine. Instead, let’s celebrate Native American Day. Maine would not be the first state to do this; we would be following South Dakota, Louisiana, Hawaii, and Colorado.

FP: Although USM should be a great place for political and social discussion, are you worried about criticism?
Bethany: I should state this now: the protest is strictly for educational purposes, it is not anti-Italian-American, it is only anti-celebrating Columbus. As a Maliseet, Native American woman, I cannot sit quietly as this holiday is celebrated year after year. First, Columbus did not discover anything, this land and the aboriginal people that occupied and took care of it were already here. Secondly, Columbus enslaved many of these aboriginal people and took them from their homes. Third, the colonization of this country began with him, which ultimately led to the genocide of the Native American people.

FP: You’re awfully bold.
Bethany: I think celebrating this holiday can be compared to celebrating a day for Hitler and Fascism in Germany.

FP: Wow. How is the event going to open people’s eyes?
Bethany: There will be influential speakers, for one. There will also be drumming by USM’s own “One Nation.” It begins at 1pm on Monday, October 8 on the green at Luther Bonney.

FP: What you’re doing could be monumental. Any last words?
Bethany: Please come and join us in the cause to remove Columbus Day in the state of Maine. I hope that students and the public can find it in their hearts to take part in our very peaceful and educational protest to end this ignorant and misleading holiday.
Every little thing he does is magic

Gregor Clary, 22, practices contact juggling on the Portland campus last Wednesday. Temperatures reached the high 80s that day, bringing most students outside to study or, in Clary’s case, juggle. Clary had only been practicing the skill for 5 days was already putting on an impressive show. As a classical humanities major, Clary plans to pursue his skill only as a hobby. He performs at Tommy’s Park in Portland’s Old Port frequently, though he had his first paid gig, a birthday party, last Sunday. Clary will teach balance coordination at Deering Oaks Park on Oct. 7 from noon to 4 p.m. at the stage. After graduation, Clary hopes to pursue a career as an archaeologist. He’s currently working on learning new street art entertainment, namely fire breathing. In the pictures above, he performs what is known to contact jugglers as “the beginner.”

Proof of talent at USM’s theatre department

From PROOF PAGE 9

Festival reviews the USM fall performance and decides whether or not they will make the cut to compete nationally in terms of stage management, performance, direction and sound among others.

Director William Steele, a theatre professor at USM, speaks highly of the production. “Proof is a great story, a great vehicle for training actors,” he said.

Bobby Trask, theatre playing the romantic interest of main character Catherine and a student of her father’s, speaks highly of the play as well. “The play is contemporary, it’s real,” he said. “The fact that you can follow the individual changes in each character goes a long way.”

“The audience can relate to something about each personality on stage,” says Slaney Rose Jordan, who plays the lead, Catherine.

The accomplished cast needs not flattery, their resumes sparkle with such accomplishments as reaching the top five in a national student soap opera competition last May put on by the cable network, SOAPnet. Supporting cast members Stacy Ann Strang and Ian Carlson were a part of the group that made the finals.

The actors were cast in May of this year and spent the following months reading the Proof script, written by David Auburn, and learning their characters thoroughly.

The entire set was designed by USM student Jesse Pilgrim, and the sound score was created by Pete White, a USM theater major.

When the play’s two actresses take the stage they masterfully engage in an intense dialogue that is boiling with emotion. Two actresses, that’s all. Two actors complete the quad cast. See their efforts pay off on stage Oct. 5-14 at 7:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Oct 7 and 14. USM students can purchase tickets for $5. Seniors and faculty pay $8. The public pays $12.

For more information visit usm.maine.edu/theater

USM Theater major Ian Carlson plays Robert, the mad mathematician whose death leads to questions of his daughter’s sanity.
WMPG
Fall Begathon!
October 1st – 7th

Call 874-3000 or Visit www.wmpg.org To Donate!
Foo Fighters - Echoes, Silence, Patience, & Grace

JEFF BEAM
Music Columnist

Released Sept. 25 2007

Echoes, Silence, Patience, & Grace marks the Foo Fighters’ sixth studio release. After 2005’s In Your Honor double-album, Dave Grohl and the gang take a different approach, only releasing 12 tracks. In Your Honor split the Foo Fighters’ normally melodic driving alternative rock sound and spread it across the two CD’s: Disc One boasted the hardest rocking, guitar-crunching scream-fests the band has ever mustered, while Disc Two was an all-acoustic affair featuring the likes of Norah Jones. Both discs had their own charm, but it was far from their best effort. Echoes, Silence, Patience, & Grace not only finds the return to the Foo’s memorable 90’s sound, but they often combine both elements of their last album into one song.

“The Pretender” is a take-no-prisoners assault on modern radio. It’s that classic Foo sound that Grohl has nearly perfected since the band began in 1995. The album then takes an unexpected turn. “Let It Die” starts out with only an acoustic guitar and sounds like it would belong on Disc Two of In Your Honor. The song slowly builds and creeps up on the listener, until a wave of distortion comes out of nowhere. It’s about as unexpected as a full Van Halen reunion, but unlike a Van Halen reunion, it makes sense.

The Foo Fighters have found a way to fuse together the two sounds they seem to be in love with in a new and unique way that expands their sound and allows the band to further mature. “Come Alive” and “But Honestly” are also slow-burners that start out mellow, but end with a wall of beautifully-constructed noise.

The Foo Fighters continue to travel into uncharted territory. “The Battle of the Beaconsfield Miners” is the first instrumental track to grace a Foo Fighters LP. This song is the result of Grohl having a knack for harmony, a love for acoustic guitars, and a guilty-pleasure of heavy metal. It features virtuoso Khaki King as a guest guitarist, and the song is a breath of fresh air in an already-crisp batch of tunes. The final barrier broken down is the addition of piano. The traditional bass-drums-guitars lineup is shaken up on songs like “Home” and “Statues,” a tune that easily stands-out.

Like a good wine, the Foo Fighters are getting better with age.
Facebook contributes to social activism

The shots are more likely to find their way onto CNN than if sent by an individual, though this can only be speculative.

The place to keep looking, in regards to how social media is affecting our interactions, is to look at how effectively we're bringing these issues to our politicians and managing proactive change. We see increasing number of electoral politicians, in and pursuing office, making appeals on these websites to be our candidates. One article was written this summer about politicians following the advice of their young staff in pursuing MySpace and Facebook outreach, but trying too hard to control their images and thus failing to completely connect. What will be interesting, and very soon necessary, is when politicians begin to broaden the issues they address on the Internet and to actually address the issues that their users are bringing to them online, not just distribute well-controlled messages using their MySpace and YouTube accounts.

The advent of "applications," which are essentially widgets that make Facebook useful, is helping to contribute to bridging these gaps. Applications presently exist to tell users the weather, show quotes from their favorite television shows, and commit to giving money to non-profits and politicians. Applications are making it easier for the groups like the Myanmar support group to function on a tangible level, and they will force politicians to begin responding in a real way. By mobilizing these groups to use applications to send letters to the editor, send letters to politicians, make telephone calls to their Congress people, etc., they will begin to, and in some cases have already begun, to take grass-roots activism and action to a new level that politicians will not long be able to evade by offering carefully crafted campaign messages. The future of these cities is one in which we won't only be better-positioned to stay in touch with old and new friends, but where we will be able to change the world around us for the better, to compound our voices, and to demand a better present and future from our politicians.
HELP WANTED - WORK STUDY

Want to work for us? The Free Press is hiring office assistants, writers, illustrators, production assistants, photographers, and even editors! Visit us above WMPG @ 92 Bedford street, Portland. CALL US @ 780.4084. E-MAIL freepress@usm.maine.edu

Free Press story budget meetings are held weekly from Noon to 1pm. Come meet the team and see what the Free Press is all about, 92 Bedford Street, Portland.

The Free Press wants to remind you to enjoy your Spring Break responsibly. Have fun, let loose, try new things, and make it back alive. Remember that what happens on spring break stays at spring break. Don’t post your hook up pictures on facebook unless you want us to tell the whole world about the bad things you did.

UNIVERSITY BARTENDING

- Alcohol Awareness Program
- Credit Cards Accepted
- Professional Bartending Training with "Hands On" Pouring Sessions
- Over 10 Years in Business!!!
- Access to Job Placement Database!!!
- Great Part-Time or Seasonal Jobs

Classes start Nov. 1st - 4th
Eastland Park Hotel
137 High St., Portland

1-800-U-CAN-MIX
www.universitybartending.com

Happy 12th Birthday, Clyde!

Love, Dad and the rest of the Free Press Crew

Do you want to be a part of the action?
The Free Press is looking for assistant editors in news, sports and arts.

Contact Executive Editor Angelique Carson at angelique_m_carson@yahoo.com
Getting up to par

‘Quiet leaders’ and a calm coach help Huskies face back-to-back home tournaments

Mike Taroff  |  STAFF WRITER

Hard work and determination have the USM golf team headed in the right direction. Nearly halfway through the season, the Huskies are the only group in the nation to lead all of their labor with scores and team triumphs.

Brent Proefro (Standish) epitomized the rewards of hard work on Sept. 25 during the St. Joseph’s Invitational at Point Sebago Golf Club in Raymond when he fired a season low 71 under par and received tournament medalist honors honors leading an impressive team effort that saw the Huskies finish third.

“He started going low on the front and sometimes it’s hard to keep it going, but he did it. I’m happy for him,” Coach Reggie Grant said.

“He’s been working on his game and it’s showing.”

But Proefro isn’t the only Husky impressing this fall. The team members, according to Grant, who allows his players to practice on their own time and so the season continued without full responsibility and suffered the advantage.

The course, which could prove troubling to opponents who have never experienced its narrow fairways and ample trouble areas, could help the Huskies build enough momentum to carry them through the rest of the season and into title contention at the New England Intercollegiate Golf Association Championship in Brewster, MA.

Regardless of wins and losses it seems as though Coach Grant will be satisfied with his team no matter what.

“He’s got a great group of kids who come from great families and they make it a lot of fun,” Grant said.

“Getting those four solid scores is going to make us work harder and push, the New England Patriots are so good of recent scandals like Pete Rose (gambling) or Barry Bonds (steroids), the Patriots have proven why they have won three Super Bowl titles in the last seven years and are poised to win another. They have put all of the media attention behind them, perhaps using it as fuel, and have come out looking better than ever.

This Patriots squad is so good it’s almost unfair. Offensively, they’re the best they’ve ever been and when Richard Seymour and Harrison come back it is likely that the same will be said of the defense. Tom Brady has more options than a Blackberry—something he could never say before—and he’s got his offense running on all cylinders.

And while the Patriots may not go 16-0 like the ‘72 Dolphins who many consider to be the greatest team of all time, the sheer dominance that the Patriots have shown over the last couple of weeks gives reason to believe it’s possible.

Harry Bonds has been chased out of San Francisco, Michael Vick is hated worldwide and Mark McGwire has been forced to stay home, but the New England Patriots did something that none of them did.

In immediately admitting their wrongs, the Patriots took the blame and paid their debts. Now they’re out to send a message; a message the rest of the league is hearing loud and clear.

Class should be Bill Belichick’s middle name

Mike Taroff  |  COLUMNIST

Amidst increasingly negative press, the New England Patriots are showing the world how to deal with flak: they’re winning. They’re rallying behind a common cause and are looking like the greatest football team to ever grace an NFL field.

Patriots fans drooled during the off-season, waiting patiently to show off their newly revamped roster including Randy Moss, Kyle Brady, Dante Stahlworth, Adalius Thomas, not to mention a fully-recovered Rodney Harrison.

Then we all found out that Harrison was included to a human-growth hormone scandal and it seemed like the Pat’s flawless record was beginning to be marred. But Harrison came forward and admitted he was wrong and so the season continued without incident.

Following the Pats embarrass- ment of the Jets on Sept. 9, allegations were made that the Patriots had been violating an NFL rule by video-taping play signals and using that information to gain an advantage.

Strike two.

But “class” should be Bill Belichick’s middle name: he took full responsibility and suffered the brunt of the punishment, in the end paying $500,000 in fines.

With two strikes against them and calls for their 2005 Super Bowl win to be forfeited, the Patriots could easily have become distracted, taken the field discouraged and been pounded.

Instead of giving in to the me- dia’s ruthless attempt to put them at the level of past scandals like Pete Rose (gambling) or Barry Bonds (steroids), the Patriots have proven why they have won three Super Bowl titles in the last seven years and are poised to win another. They have put all of the media attention behind them, perhaps using it as fuel, and have come out looking better than ever.

This Patriots squad is so good it’s almost unfair. Offensively, they’re the best they’ve ever been and when Richard Seymour and Harrison come back it is likely that the same will be said of the defense. Tom Brady has more options than a Blackberry—something he could never say before—and he’s got his offense running on all cylinders.

And while the Patriots may not go 16-0 like the ‘72 Dolphins who many consider to be the greatest team of all time, the sheer dominance that the Patriots have shown over the last couple of weeks gives reason to believe it’s possible.

Harry Bonds has been chased out of San Francisco, Michael Vick is hated worldwide and Mark McGwire has been forced to stay home, but the New England Patriots did something that none of them did.

In immediately admitting their wrongs, the Patriots took the blame and paid their debts. Now they’re out to send a message; a message the rest of the league is hearing loud and clear.

Need advice on our new TIAA/CREF funds?
Consulting on personal financial issues, retirement planning and withdrawal strategies. Investment portfolio consultation, development and management. Reasonable rates.

Fee only financial planning and investments
The Gold Company
207-659-7884
moneyprof@comcast.com
165 Newport Street
Portland, ME 04101
Joel I. Gold, Ph. D., CFP®
Registered Investment Advisor
www.thegoldcompanyfinancialplanning.com
An apple a day in October

CHristine Bullard
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Fall is the time to catch up on all the apples you’ve missed over the year—it’s your last-minute cram session before flu season hits (if, that is, you follow sage advice). All it takes is a short drive toward Bar Mills—10 minutes outside Gorham—following the signs: “Snell’s Farm this way.”

Once you’ve arrived, you’ll find a charming orchard with a variety of apples, all of which come into season at different times. The trees are easy to tell apart, labeled by different colors of ribbon. During the early fall, look for McIntosh, Cortland or Macoun breeds. The Cortland is the best for baking fresh apple pie, and the McIntosh will satisfy your cravings for sour. As fall continues, the winter apples—Rome, Red Delicious and Golden Delicious—begin to ripen.

The apples are most plentiful at the tops of the trees, so the owners provide ladders for people to climb. If a ladder seems too easy, there’s always the option of swinging from the branches. Standing tall in the orchards, you can see the farm’s huge flower garden, which adds even more color to the autumn scene.

Once you’ve picked your fill, you carry your overflowing bags (provided by the farm) to a small stand, where a friendly worker weighs the packages, charging by the pound. The service is quick and always done with a smile.

If you don’t want to pick your own but still want to enjoy hand-picked Maine apples, there are plenty of pre-picked bags in the farm’s small store, along with fresh apple cider in half and whole gallons, and a variety of home-grown vegetables including peppers, broccoli and even potatoes all sold at affordable prices.

The farm is open every day from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., so hop in the car, head for the orchard, put that crisp twenty dollar bill toward fresh produce and save big on winter health care costs.

Do you spend most of your time staring at a computer screen?

Come get paid for it.

The Free Press is looking for a Web Specialist

To apply contact angelique_m_carson@yahoo.com
Alicia Croteau
Major: Exercise Physiology
Year: Senior
Sport: Cross Country

She isn’t the best runner on the cross-country team—she took last place in the recent Cofish Bowl, and placed in the last ten in the race previously. But you don’t have to be good or fast or perfect to be a hero. Alicia Croteau, a senior from Berwick, has the heart that sets the athlete apart from the hero: no matter what the clock says at the end of a race, she’s never ready to call it quits.

FP: What do you love so much about running?
Alicia: Obviously I’m not good, it’s just my thing. I don’t think I know anyone who does love it. Running and I have love-hate relationship—I don’t really like it, but I don’t know what I’d do without it. It’s just craziness and it’s out of shape! It’s just a stress relief, and it’s just what I’ve always done.

FP: Why did you come to USM?
Alicia: I probably shouldn’t say, but it wasn’t because I wanted to. I couldn’t afford UNE. It was way too expensive so I had to transfer, and USM was about the same distance from home, so I came here.

FP: What do you do in your spare time?
Alicia: Study! No, when I have free time, which isn’t very often, I try to go outside, even to just lay in the grass and sleep. I have to be with people all day long, so it’s really nice to get away from them sometimes.

FP: What is a hero to you?
Alicia: A hero for me would be—well, I want to joke and say it’s someone who saves the world, but I don’t know how to really answer. They come in all shapes and sizes, and it’s different for every person. I’m definitely not a hero. I don’t see people looking up to me, I’m just your average Jane. People don’t think I’m amazing. I just go along and do my own thing.

FP: So who are your heroes?
Alicia: Those people that don’t give up, because I know how easy it is to quit. There’s at least one race every year that I’m last in, and it sucks, but then it’s over.

By the third period, competition was so fierce that each team

The MRD scoreboard before MRD’s jam

and it’s over.

Venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

venue: Portland Expo

The MRD is always recruiting new members. They advertise through social networking sites, and are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.
Out is the new in
How to love your October break

SARAH TRENT
SPORTS EDITOR

The leaves are turning and the weather is clear. It’s sunny and the temperatures are in the 70’s. It’s October in Maine, and starting this weekend, we have our first vacation of the year.

Joining the annual rush of leaf-peepers might seem a little kitschy, but it is the real beauty of the Vacationland, so why not get out and enjoy it? From Oktoberfest and county fairs to rolling rivers and autumn scenery, take a break from classes and schedules this weekend, get outside, and try to remember the way life should be.

Go climb a mountain
If foliage is what you’re looking for, the views from Mt. Washington on a clear day are unbeatable—the White Mountains National Forest and the Presidential range will be elusive, your view limited only by the curvature of the earth. Just under two hours from Portland, try the Crawford Path for moderately-level hike with amazing vistas of the mountain range.

If hiking isn’t your thing and you have some extra cash, take the Cog Railway—$31 for an adult ticket (family deals are available) will take you round-trip on the second-steepest railroad in the world. The train runs hourly from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. until Oct. 22, when it drops to two runs a day at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

If you’re up for a slightly longer drive, Mt. Katahdin is equally hard to beat. Oct. 15 is the cut-off date for climbing the mountain, so get your hike in soon. Camp in the park for $9 per person per night.

For a shorter drive and a much easier hike, head up to Freeport’s Bradbury Mountain. Better yet, go at night: the new moon is Oct. 10, so on a clear night you’ll have a spectacular view of the autumn sky. Find a constellation chart online and know what to look for: Orion, both Dippers, Pegasus, Cassiopeia, Gemini, Sagittarius and many others are easy to find this time of year. (Or visit the USM Planetarium beforehand, free for students, 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays)

Check out the fair
Famous in its own right, the Fryeburg Fair is back, running Sept. 30 through Oct. 7. From farmers to cowmen, comedians to musicians and all the fair food and beer you can ask for, the 157th annual fair shouldn’t be missed, if only to say you were there.

For something completely different, head up to Sunday River for their Fall Festival weekend, the highlight of which is the eighth annual North American National Wife Carrying Contest. Sound strange? Men carry their wives (or vice versa, if you want) across a 278-yard course that includes a waist-deep pit of muddy water. Try piggyback if you dare, but the “Estonian carry”—the woman upside-down on her husband’s back, legs wrapped around his neck—is the preferred and more successful method. If you don’t want to race, check it out—you’ll want to leave wanting to find a spouse before next year.

Hit the water
For an easy-going, relaxed weekend trip, drive 1.5 hours west on Highway 302 and make a stop at one of the canoe outfitters just past Fryeburg (try Saco Bound)—rent a canoe or kayak for $25 a day, and hit up the easy rolling Saco River, where the foliage is approaching its peak and the shallow water is still warm.

If you want to camp on the river, Saco Bound has a handful of campsites along the banks, costing $7 per person per night. Don’t forget to bring marshmallows, and be on the lookout for rope swings over deep water. For more information on rentals, call Saco Bound at (603) 447-2177, or find another outfitter in the phonebook.

If you don’t want to paddle, and don’t have the time or energy to leave Portland, stick around town and take a cruise of Casco Bay. Casco Bay Lines—in the ferry terminal at the end of Commercial St.—offers a handful of cruises that take you around the bay and to several of the islands.

Get off on Peaks for a bike ride or wander, or stay onboard for scenic views of Portland and the islands. On a warm evening, try their Sunset Cruise, $13 per person to see seals, seagulls and sunset from the water, and then watch the peaceful lights from island houses and the city itself in the distance.

For a better date, or if your paycheck treated you well last week, take the schooner Bagheera (a beautiful vintage wooden sailboat) for a classic and romantic sail around the bay. The cost is $30 for a two hour day trip (12 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.) or $35 for the sunset cruise (5 p.m.). Bring a bottle of wine or a thermos of hot chocolate and be ready to cuddle.

Women’s derby is knock-down fun

From DERBY PAGE 1

and an original member of the league. She says that roller derby has not only enhanced her own life but also that of other skaters and the larger community. “MRD is a unique outlet for women of all sizes and ages, and behind all the showmanship there lies an athletic league with grueling, endurance-driven practices.”

For those unfamiliar with the newest sport to hit Maine arenas, skaters follow standards for rules, seasons and safety developed by the Women’s Flat Track Derby Association. They play with six referees, complete sets of pads and a seemingly never-empty penalty box. They meet three times a week to train and perfect their teamwork, checking techniques and skating skills. Along with their memorable showmanship, they are real athletes and take their sport seriously.

The game, called a bout, is played in three 20-minute periods. Each team sends five players onto the circuit track: three blockers (defense), one pivot (last line of defense) and one jammer (scorer). Pivots and blockers from both teams organize themselves into a single pack facing counterclockwise on the track, with the jammers starting 20 feet behind.

The referee blows a whistle, signaling the beginning of a jam formation; the pack starts to skate and players can shift positions within the pack, while the jammers stand still. When the last person in the pack has completed a full lap, real

Women’s Field Hockey

Hill keeps Huskies at #1

9/24 – Goaliekeeper Allie Hill (sophomore, Cape Elizabeth), named the defensive player of the week, became the third USA field hockey player this season to be recognized by the Little East Conference. Hill lost to USM women’s teams last Friday and Monday, but the Huskies lost only one game against Eastern Connecticut. She has started all of the season’s games, and played all but 11 minutes. At 5-feet-9, she also has an 81.2 save percentage. Along with goal scorers like Lowe and top-notch University of New England, the Huskies have helped the Huskies to the number one slot in the conference.

---Compiled by Sarah Trent

The Free Press | October 1, 2007