

One step at a time

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

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



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.

 ${\sf ANNIE}\;{\sf Rosenberg}$

STAFF WRITER

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

USMers make award-winning impacts

Alumn, professor recipients of Campus Compact awards

MARY JONES

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Getting students involved with their community is what USM alumnus 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-

> See **AWARDS** PAGE 4

news **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 celings 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. "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.

Other students were less impressed by Obama's speech. "Obama is a political rock star," said Marta Hurgin, a 20-year-old

"What's wrong with America is not the American people... The American people aren't the problem, they're the answer." – Barack Obama in his speech at the Portland Expo last Tuesday

international studies major, "but he lacks the experience needed to beat Hillary (Clinton)."

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 whompaid 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!" and "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.



A sold-out crows at the Portland Expo showed their support for Barack Obama.

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 reinduction 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 have visited Maine. Republican hopefuls Fred Thompson, actor and former senator, and ex-New York City mayor Rudy Guiliani 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.

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news WMPG fights for the return of radio This week Station's annual Beg-A-Thon helps community stand up against Internet

ANNIE ROSENBERG

STAFF WRITER

WMPG community radio launches the Beg-A-Thon fundraiser today in the face of "the death of Internet radio," said Jim Rand, station manger, in an e-mail interview. The campus and community radio station's bi-annual event has been a station tradition since the early 1980s, he added, and a way to keep in touch with the community it serves.

"We are funded by grants, mostly via the Corporation for Broadcasting, Public USM Student Activity Fees, local business support and other fundraising events," Rand said. Listener donations account for 25 to 30 percent of the station's budget, he said.

"Fundraising and listening to radio in general has been on the

decline or flat in recent years at public, community and commercial radio," said Rand, adding the drop in listeners is because of new technology and Internet advances. "We speculate that technological changes such as iPods are directing people away from radio."

WMPG offers some streaming and archive downloads at www. wmpg.org to try and tap into a market of technology and return listeners to the airwaves.

"We provide these downloads as a free service," said Rand, "but may need to create some type of revenue from them in the future. This may be done with a sponsor tag or subscription service."

WMPG's goal to have their entire schedule available on demand has been delayed because "there are license fees associated with this service which are still being negotiated," said Rand.

"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.

"This is the most effective way of raising money in the shortest amount of time," said Rand.

WMPG accepts online donations at www.wpmg.org, via mail at 96 Falmouth St. Portland, ME 04104 or by telephone at (207) 780-4943.

in history October 2, 1950 Charles M. Schulz debuts 'Peanuts' comic im seven newspapers

SANTA ROSA, California-When cartoonist Charles M. Schulz (1922-2000) joined United Features Syndicate in 1950, the company decided to run his new comic, which the company named "Peanuts."

Schulz's famous comic featured characters Charlie Brown, siblings Linus and Lucy, Schroeder, Marcie, Pigpen and Charlie Brown's beagle Snoopy. Schulz designed others to address social issues in his comic, including feminism (Peppermint Patty) and racism (Franklin).

"Peanuts" ran until Feb. 13, 2000, a day after Schulz's death. In May 2000, several cartoonists paid homage to Schulz by inserting "Peanuts" references in their own strips.

-Compiled by Joel C. Theriault

PIRG pushes for on-campus change

From PIRG PAGE 1

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 continuance of their efforts last spring. Students volunteer at the Preble Street and Teen Centers in Portland helping to organize donations and continue a toiletry 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

"We definitely feel the love," she said. "Hopefully, PIRG will be around for a long time. – Anna Korsen

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 decrease 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."



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news **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, administrative manager of the office of Graduate Studies/Graduate Admissions, will lead the question-and-answer formatted workshop. The workshop will be in Room 44 of Payson Smith Hall on the Portland campus from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

"It's really designed to be just a 'how-to' for any level," said Benson, "not just for a student who is a senior-but anyone who potentially has grad school on the radar for next year, five years from now, whenever...It'll be more of a conversation rather than a lecture."

"I 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 'grad 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 focus. There's no such thing as an undeclared major in graduate school, you really have to have a very specific line 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 undergrad 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.

Student, professor receive activism awards

From AWARDS PAGE 1

cation." according to their website. Eighteen Maine colleges are members, and each year students and faculty members are recognized for their work toward this goal. They are nominated by their peers and then are asked to submit a written account of the work they did.

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 campaigned 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.

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 became an official chapter on 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 their 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 see their project through, said Sanford, adding if they create a flier they 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 sustainabilty minor at USM.

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COURTESY OF THE USM POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sept. 24

You probably kick puppies, too 1:26 p.m.—Officers found a dog had been left in a vehicle on the Portland campus. A side window had been left down, but no water. Officers gave the dog water and located the owner, who was warned of the risks of leaving pets in vehicles.

Sept. 23

Wheel 'em out of 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 Robie Andrews Hall in Gorham.

Sept. 22

You look like you have booze in you 3:15 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 liquor by consumption. A third person was given medical assistance.

Don't be stupid 12:34 a.m.— Joshua Labbe, age 19 of Buxton, was arrested in the G-20 lot in Gorham for OUI and transported to Cumberland County Jail.

Sept. 21

Proceed 10:26 p.m.—Officers checked the ages of eight people carrying a large amount of liquor. All were found to be of legal age.

crime of the week

September 21 (2:06 a.m.)

Someone in Gorham's New Residence Hall reported an intoxicated naked male running around outside and urinating everywhere. Officers could not make contact with the man.

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. They advised the person to pick it up and leave. The barricade was not damaged.

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 12:53 a.m.—A person in the G-15 lot in Gorham was issued a summons for possession of alcohol by consumption.

Sept. 20

Share the road 10:39 p.m.— USM and Portland police officers were called to disperse a large group of skateboarders in front of Portland Hall interfering with traffic and making noise. A USM officer moved about 15 people inside of the Hall.

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 Wishcamper 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 no one.

Tone it down, tough guy 12:10 a.m.—Officers gave a motorist on the Water Tower Road in Gorham a verbal warning for unnecessary acceleration noise.

Campus Events

information.

news

Opportunity Maine presents Tax

new student debt legislation holds

a press conference announcing

the method of payment for taking

OppME's tax credit. Presented by

Governor John Baldacci and the past

two Maine governors, Angus King and

John McKernan/ Abromson Communi-

ty Education Center, Portland campus/

3 p.m./ Send an e-mail to Tony Giam-

petruzzi at tony@giampetruzzi.com for

Philosophy Symposium Meeting-

Weekly meeting/ Philosophy House,

47 Exeter Street, Portland campus/ 3

Circle K Meeting – Weekly meeting

of USM's community service chapter/

Gorham campus/ 8 p.m.-9 p.m./ Send

an e-mail to president Maria Zamboni

at maria.zamboni@maine.edu for more

Husky Hut, Brooks Student Center,

Model United Nations Organiza-

tion-Weekly meeting/ Room 212,

Abromson Community Education

vahoo.com for more information.

Center, Portland campus/ 6 p.m.-7:30

p.m./ Send an e-mail to modelunorg@

Maine PIRG Meeting-Weekly meet-

ing of student group tackling student-

driven campaigns to fight hunger and

cost of education and textbooks/ Din-

ing Area, Woodbury Campus Center,

Portland campus/ 7 p.m.-8 p.m./ Send

an e-mail to emilv@mainepirgstudents.

"So You Want to Go to Graduate School," Career Services work-

shop-Opportunity to learn about

financial aid/ 44 Payson Smith Hall,

Portland campus/ 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m./

Call Mary Ann Benson in the office

of Career Services and Professional

Hall at 780-4220 or write to her at

mbenson@usm.maine.edu for more

Life Development, 100 Payson Smith

graduate school programs and

org for more information.

OCT. 3

homelessness, global warming and

more information.

p.m.-4 p.m.

information

OCT. 2

Credit Card—The campaign for the

<u>oct. 1</u>

Knitting Group—Weekly meeting/ Woodbury Center Campus Bookstore, Portland campus/ 4:30 p.m.-6 p.m./ Send an e-mail to Barbara Kelly at bkelly@usm.maine.edu for more information.

Pagan Student Association Meeting – Weekly meeting/ Boiler Room, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland campus/ 6 p.m.-7 p.m./ Send an email to usmpsa@yahoo.com for more information.

OCT. 4

Business at the Beach: Enterprise Rent a Car—Opportunity to learn about careers with Enterprise, named one of the "best places to start a career" by Business Week magazine two years in a row/ Second Floor Science Building Research Wing, Portland campus/ 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m./ Send an e-mail to May Ann Benson at mbenson@maine.edu for more information.

Asian American Association and Symposium—Weekly meeting/ Learning Center Conference Room, Luther Bonney Hall, Portland campus/ 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m./ Send an e-mail to jessica.daidneault@maine.edu for more information.

Gorham Events Board Meeting-

Weekly meeting/ Husky Hut, Brooks Student Center, Gorham campus/ 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

"Thirsty Thursday," weekly entertainment presented by Gorham Events Board/ Brooks Student Center, Gorham campus/ 9 p.m.-11 p.m./ Free to all students.

<u>oct. 5</u>

Student Senate Meeting – Weekly meeting/ Room 423/424 Glickman Library, Portland campus/ 1 p.m.-3 p.m./ Call 228-8501 for more information.

Speed Dating/Hip-Hop Show—Portland Events Board and the Free Press co-host a night of speed dating with DJ Shade spinning, followed by Lab 7. Free food and prize raffle/ Woodbury Campus Center, Portland campus/ 7:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.: Speed dating 8 p.m.-11 p.m., Lab 7 at 11 p.m./ Free for all/ Send an e-mail to farnhamJ@ msn.com for more information.



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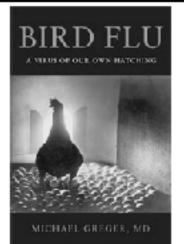
Presented by Michael Greger, M.D. Director of Public Health and Animal Agriculture The Humane Society of the United States

Date: October 17, 2007

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Luther Bonney Auditorium, University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME Sponsored by: Maine Animal Coalition and USM Sustainability Committee FMI: www.maineanimalcoalition.org or 207-773-2215

Leading public heath authorities now predict as inevitable a pandemic of infinenza, triggered by bird flu and expected to lead to millions of deaths around the globe. The infinenza visus has existed for millions of years as an innocucus intestinal virus of wild ducks. What turned a harmless waterborne duck visus into a killer? In a finiling multimedia presentation, Dr. Michael Greger traces the human role in the evolution of this virus. In the face of the coming pandemic, Dr. Greger reveals what we can do to protect our families and what society can do to reduce the likelihood of such potential catastrophes in the future.



<u>perspectives</u>

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR 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 suggested to thousands of listeners that the Holocaust was not fact, but theory. He further submitted that Iran, the entire country, contained no homosexuals.

His comments were at best offensive, besides completely inaccurate and irresponsible.

Most would denounce Ahmadinejad as ignorant or crazy. In fact, the president of Columbia University, Lee C. Bollinger said to Ahmadinejad's stiff, smiling face that he was "either brazenly provocative or astonishingly uneducated." But the fact that the Iranian leader is controversial in the most offensive, jaw-dropping way didn't stop Bollinger from inviting Amadenijad to not only visit the university, but stand on his own soap box. It certainly wasn't a decision that went without global criticism.

The students, whether they loved or hated Ahmadinejad, seemed to appreciate the opportunity to at least hear what he had to say.

One Columbia student summed up the situation well in a New York Times article the day after the event. "I'm proud of my university today," Stina Reksten said. "I don't want to confuse the very dire human rights situation in Iran with the issue here, which is freedom of speech. This is about academic freedom."

USM had it's own academic freedom concerns last September on the Portland campus. An art display by Thomas Manning, a convicted murderer of a New Jersey State Trooper, was abruptly and nervously pulled down from the walls of Portland's Woodbury Campus Center due to controversy surrounding the display.

The protesters made noise when USM referred to Manning as a political prisoner, something Manning and his advocates maintain is true. USM later revised their description of him, putting quotation marks around the term, "political prisoner."

It wasn't the art itself that was problematic for protesters, which included the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. It was the fact that Manning was convicted of murder, and now had his art celebrated on campus. They felt he was a criminal whose contribution to society should be silenced because of his background.

When USM pulled the exhibit, then-USM President Richard Pattenaude said he was pulling it because Manning and his partner Raymond Luc Levasseur's backgrounds "have impacted the exhibit to the point where the exhibit itself, and the purpose behind it, have become misunderstood and needlessly divisive."

But an atmosphere in which controversial issues are exposed and debated is exactly what a university, an institute for higher learning, should welcome. We shouldn't cower in fear at the first sign of dissent. A university that claims to be "a neutral forum for the expression and discussion of ideas," as Pattenaude said, looks foolish when it's only open to discussion when that discussion is easy-going and pleasant.

Last year, I wrote a lame column about the exhibit closing; that I wasn't sure how I felt about it because maybe some wounds are better left untouched, and perhaps we do need to be concerned with the pain of those affected by Manning's criminal acts. I felt bad for the slain state trooper's family.

But surely there were Jews, homosexuals, and educated worldcitizens everywhere who were pained by Ahmadinejad's irresponsible and erroneous statements. Certainly members of the Jewish community-particularly those whose families were brutally and systematically murdered-felt a slap in the face when Ahmadinejad denied that it ever happened. But even Ahmadinejad was allowed to speak, if for no other reason than to provoke conversation amongst students.

I'm pretty sure that the president of Iran, currently pushing to develop its nuclear weapons program, has more power than Thomas Manning, who's currently serving 133 years behind the bars of a Virginia federal prison.

Though our discussion and exploration of what academic freedom



means in America was stifled last year through our administration's embarrassed and scared reaction to a protest that paled in comparison to Columbia University's last Tuesday, it's encouraging to see the debate continue on this campus. Two letters to the editor this week continue that dialogue.

USM should follow Columbia's example. Whether the university agreed or disagreed, hated or loved what Ahmadinejad was bound to-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.

the free press

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- The deadline for all submissions is Thursday at 4 p.m. preceding the week of publication. Send submissions to freepress@maine.edu
- Anonymous and/or illegible submissions will not be published.

Letters to the editor

Professors should be free to teach what they wish

The presentation by Professor Bowen about academic freedom (Last Thursday, in Luther Bonney's Talbot Auditorium titled "Academic Freedom in American Democracy,") is worthy of praise. It ably showed the dangers facing that freedom today, and what Jason Lavoie wrote (last week's Letter to the Editor, Sept. 17 edition) fits into that danger exactly.

To "reign in on teachers" and put a uniform policy on how subjects are taught is exactly against what academic freedom stands against. To teach about the president in any light, positive or negative, is academic freedom. The only people that should be allowed to censor what is taught in the classroom are the faculty themselves.

Classrooms are not a place for "political indoctrination," but should be open to political discussions of all sorts. Professors can only teach an ideology, not force students to believe it. Any case of students being punished for expressing their political opinion should be brought to that professors department, where the faculty should decide if the punishment was politically motivated or not.

It is insulting to the profession of college professors to believe one would not take a fair look at the argument before them.

In your hope conservative students speak out; I in turn encourage radical students to speak out. Not to fear prosecution from the government, university, or student body. Be careful with your words, we know where "bring it on" got us half way around the world.

Paul McCarrier, Freshman

Academic freedom should concern USM students

Dear Editor,

I write in response to USM student, Jason Lavoie, who, in my opinion, missed the point in his letter to The Free Press last week, regarding what forces constitute the greatest threats to the academic freedom of students here at USM and elsewhere. The two biggest threats to the academic freedom of students are: 1.) Blocked access to education and/or inability to study due to lack of money, and 2.) Limitations on what can and cannot be discussed and studied in

schools and universities, imposed by powerful outside special-interest groups.

The first threat to academic freedom is one that most USM students are familiar with, though we may not be accustomed to thinking about it as such. I believe that when anyone who is sincerely interested in pursuing an education is denied access simply because they cannot afford it, or because instead they are forced to work at low-paying jobs and/or care for children without community support: their academic freedom is being violated. A similar violation occurs when students are not able to study adequately due to the above conditions. Expensive students loans are also problematic, because they limit our freedoms after college, often tying us to unrewarding jobs that contribute to the decay of our emotional and physical health.

The second major threat comes from special interest groups. This includes corporations, police, religious and political groups, and any others who seek to prevent students from studying and making informed decisions on particular topics. Many, including myself, feel that former USM President Richard Pattenaude's cancellation of the art exhibit "Can't Jail the Spirit: Art by 'Political' Prisoner Tom Manning" last September

> See LETTER PAGE 7

The Free Press | October 1, 2007 7

<u>perspectives</u> QUESTION OF THE WEEK Interviews by Angelique Carson and Joel C. Theriault, Photos by Angelique Carson

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**

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.

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**

Letters to the editor

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) Pattenaude'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 classrooms." 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.maine.edu/

%7Ehistory/coneventsfall.html. The Convocation committee is

still welcoming student propos-

semester.

als for events in the 2008 spring

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 hampster's cage

Dearest 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?

AJ Chalifour

Senior

Political science major

Student body president

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

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The Free Press | October 1, 2007



Slaney Rose Jordan, USM music theater major stars as Katherine in Proof. Her love interest is played by Bobby Trask, a communication major and theater minor.

Living Proof of talent at USM

First fall theatre performance boasts intense script and serious cast

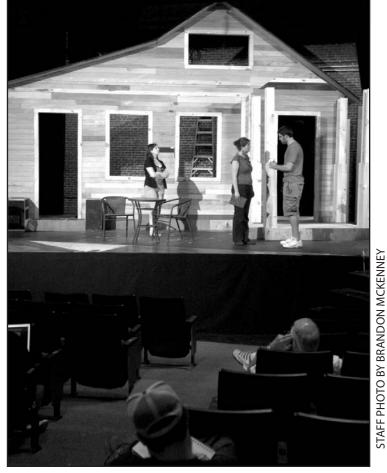
JENNA HOWARD

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 intensely 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, everyone working to improve the performance before the Oct. 5 opening night of *Proof*, the latest play to come out of USM's theatre department. Although they have been rehearsing together for less than five weeks, the cast is surprisingly together, remarkably collected, and disciplined to say the least. Perfecting *Proof* is their common goal. The cast, crew and directors are taking the process seriously. The 2001 Pulitzer Prize and Tony award–winning play is the story of Catherine, a daughter who serves as caretaker of her mentally unstable father, who is



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 will turn people's heads. Three out of the four-member cast have been acting for close to a decade and are theater majors, or concentrating on musical theater.

"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. Every fall, a critic from Kennedy Center American College Theater

> See **PROOF** PAGE 11

DON'T STAY HOME

UNDUST YOUR COLOGNE COLLECTION AND GET YOUR DATE ON

MONDAY, OCT 1

Show some love to our campus' contribution to 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 kickoff a **Tuesday-night Jazz series with Kneebody,** improv performers from LA. \$10/ One Longfellow Square/ Portland/ 8 p.m./ 761-1757

WEDNESDAY, OCT 3

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/ 772-3207/ theleauge.com/me

THURSDAY, OCT 4

Bob Dylan, Elvis Costello, and Amos Lee are set to play at the Civic Center and there are still tickets. \$50-66/ Civic Center/ Portland/ 775-3481

FRIDAY, OCT 5

Woodbury Campus Center gets a Bar for one night only: in honor of **Speed Dating**. (I had a boyfriend last year, and I still went.) Gather a posse and go for the sheer pleasure of getting shamelessly hit on, indulging in awkward (a.k.a incredible) conversation, and something of a delightful after-party with Lab 7, a pretty rockin' little band you'll love to dance to. The one time you can drink on campus. Cheers to that. Free admission/ Woodbury Campus Center/ Portland Campus/ 7:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m./ Shuttles running from Gorham to Portland and back every hour

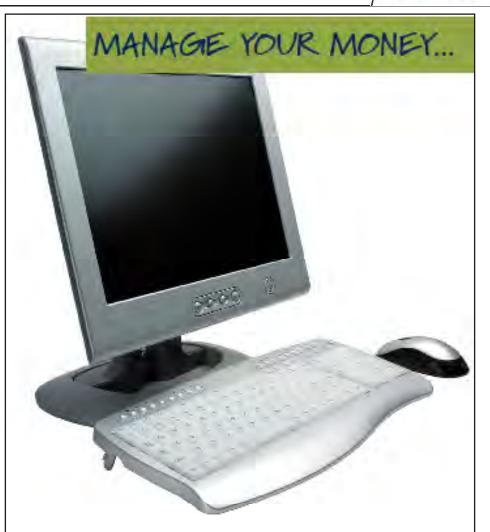
SATURDAY OCT 6

The oober-talented USM theater department puts on the second night of **Proof** at Russell Hall. This continues until Oct 14./ \$5 students/ Russell Hall Main Stage/ Gorham campus/ 780-5151

SUNDAY OCT 7







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MEDIA WHORE **Delving into a social frontier**

ALEX STEED

args + engergamment

COLUMNIST

It is both exciting and enlightening to find that social media sites like MySpace and Facebook aren't being exclusively used to show off personal preferences, arrange booty calls, and form nonsensical groups like "I Secretly Want to Punch Slow Walking People in the Back of the Head." These sites are surely changing the way that we interact with issues and politicians, but to what ends? What can we expect from a growing interactive political virtual frontier?

If aspects of this change on the electronic frontier are for the best, as they are purported to be, and this change can aid in picking up some substantial news coverage, perhaps it will first mean that network news can balance intense and somewhat over-eager coverage of internet sex-offenders with a handful of profiles of proactive surfers of the web. Signs of this immediate change can be seen during world events such as the protests and government crackdown in Myanmar where BBC's World Report and the AP both covered stories about the growth of Facebook groups showing support for the mobilized monks. As of Friday afternoon, a Facebook support group for the monks started–several days ago–has over 110 thousand users. Until Internet to Myanmar on Friday, users of the group based in Burma were posting pictures of the protests, bypassing traditional news organizations, which would then be reported to the papers and BBC.

I wonder, however, how this change will fully manifest itself. I am happy to see so many students coming out in Internet droves that will affect the protests there. Sure, the group is quickly getting pictures—quicker than major network news services—but would this be happening if Facebook was absent from the picture? It's hard to imagine whether or not they would be hitting the news the way that they are.

The way that Facebook groups can be structured, especially with the backing and support of 110 thousand users online—when they offer pictures to a major news network,

> See MEDIA WHORE PAGE 14

Abolishing Columbus Day

USM student bound to make Maine the fifth state to say no to ignorance

JENNA HOWARD

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



This girl means business

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 a 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 maincharacter 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.



Acting for nine years, Stacy Ann Strang's stage presence is fine-tuned. She plays Clair in USM's Theater performance of Proof.



Reserve your ticket! (207) 780-5151, TTY 780-5646 www.usm.maine.edu/theatre



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MUSIC REVIEW 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-noprisoners assault on modern radio. It's that classic Foo sound that Grohl has nearly perfected since the band begun 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 slowburners 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 alreadycrisp batch of tunes. The final barrier broken down is the addition of piano. The traditional bass-drumsguitars lineup is shaken up on songs like "Home" and "Statues," a tune that easily stands-out.

The band, however, doesn't abandon their staple sound all-together. "Erase/Replace" and "Long Road To Ruin" are a return to the sound that made the Foos famous, while "Cheer Up, Boys (Your Make-Up Is Running)" sounds like it could easily be found on any Foo Fighters album to date. The difference is the fact that guitarist Chris Shiftlett is finally featured and given the freedom to freak-out on the fingerboard. Since joining the band in 1999, Shiftlett has only now found his sound and place in the band. While "Summer's End" and "But, Honestly" are spiced up with sensational solos, the entire album is littered with guitar licks not previously heard in the Foo Fighters' catalog.

Echoes, Silence, Patience, & Grace is a very impressive album. It's honest, it's fresh, and it's articulate. Dave Grohl leads the Foo Fighters into new musical directions, almost reinventing themselves while keeping in touch with the best parts of their past sound that they've so convincingly championed. Like a good wine, the Foo Fighters are getting better with age.



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Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest). **Rating: BRONZE**

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Facebook contributes to social activism

From **MEDIA WHORE** PAGE 10

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 on the basis of expanding and diversifying group of users, 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 wont 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.

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sports Getting up to par

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

MIKE TARDIFF

STAFF WRITER

Hard work and determination have the USM golf team headed in the right direction. Nearly halfway through the season, the Huskies are starting to slowly cash in the fruits of their labor with low scores and team triumphs.

Brent Profeno (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 while 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 and I'm happy for him," Coach Reggie Grant said. "He's been working on his game and it's showing."

But Profeno isn't the only Husky who is taking his game to new levels. It seems like every event a new name leads the team's scoring effort.

David Murphy (Melrose, MA) preceded Profeno's round with an impressive 18 holes of his own when he carded his season low of 79 at the Waterville Country Club during the Sid Farr Invitational on Sept. 22 leading the Huskies to a third place finish.

"When we see someone go low out there it makes us work harder because we know we can get there too," Murphy said.

Of the nine team members, only five play in each event, the best four efforts comprising the team's total score. While the level of parity on the Husky golf squad is quite impressive, Coach Grant wishes he could find a way to get even more of his players on the same page.

"Every tournament we seem to have two or three good scores but we need four or five," he said. "It's going to take the right combination of players."

Getting those four solid scores is going to take even more hard work. according to Grant, who allows his players to practice on their own time at the team's home course, South Portland's Sable Oaks. While they don't have organized practices, players are required to spend certain amounts of time in the gym, on the practice green, at the range and on the course.

"What it really comes down to is managing your misses. That's what golf is all about," Grant said of the game, "I want the kids to learn how to score when they're not striking the ball (well)."

Grant's coaching style, which blends working hard with staying relaxed on the course, seems to be helping some of his players bring their games to new levels.

"We're even laid back at matches and Coach never really dwells on it if we play poorly," Murphy said. " I think that helps us play better."

Coach Grant and his squad have been getting strong leadership out of their two captains, senior Greg Mitchell (Durham) and junior Ben Loss (Wilmette, IL) who have provided solid play and leadership in the Huskies' six tournaments thus far. Loss has carded the low score for the team on three occasions including a season low effort of 76 during the Terrier Classic at the Waterville Country Club while Mitchell led the team at the UMF Invitational when he carded an 81.

"They are quiet leaders," Grant said of his captains. "Ben is a hockey player who loves golf and works his butt off. Greg always has a smile on his face and he is a warrior."

Backing up Mitchell, Loss and Murphy are Justin Merchant (Westbrook), Andrew Slattery (West Minot), Matt Reid (Portland) and David Roberge (Auburn) who have all posted scores for the Huskies this season.

The team's attention now shifts towards making a strong push at the end of the season in order to dethrone perennial powerhouse Husson College as the states' best D-III golf team.

In order to do so, they hope to capitalize on back-to-back home tournaments at the frustrating and unforgiving Sable Oaks golf course.

"It's a tremendous advantage to be playing there because it is a course management course and it gives us a five to 10 stroke advantage from the beginning," Grant added.

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.

"I've got a great group of kids who come from great families and they make it a lot of fun," Grant said, "and that's what golf is all about. It's a lifelong sport and some of my best memories have come in collegiate golf."

Homecoming games at USM



Competition was fierce on Friday afternoon as teams from various student organizations battled for the gold in the Homecoming Olympic games.



Class should be Bill Belichick's middle name

MIKE TARDIFF

COLUMNIST

Amidst increasingly negative press, the New England Patriots are showing the world how to deal with flack: 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 had been linked 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 embarrassment 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 media'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.

Barry 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.



sports

Husky Scoreboard

Women's Soccer 9/22 – USM 4, UMass Boston 1 9/27 – Salem State 2, USM 1

Field Hockey 9/22 – USM 4, Eastern Connecticut 2 9/24 – New England College 3, USM 2 9/26 – USM 5, Worcester 2

Men's Soccer 9/22 – USM 2, UMass Boston 1 9/26 – Colby 2, USM 0 Women's Tennis 9/22 – Rhode Island College 9, USM 0 9/27 – Colby-Sawyer 6, USM 0

Golf 9/22 – 3th place Sid Farr Invitational 9/27 – 2nd place Univ. of New England Invitational

Women's Cross Country 9/22 – 5th place Codfish Bowl

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 handpicked 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 homegrown 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.

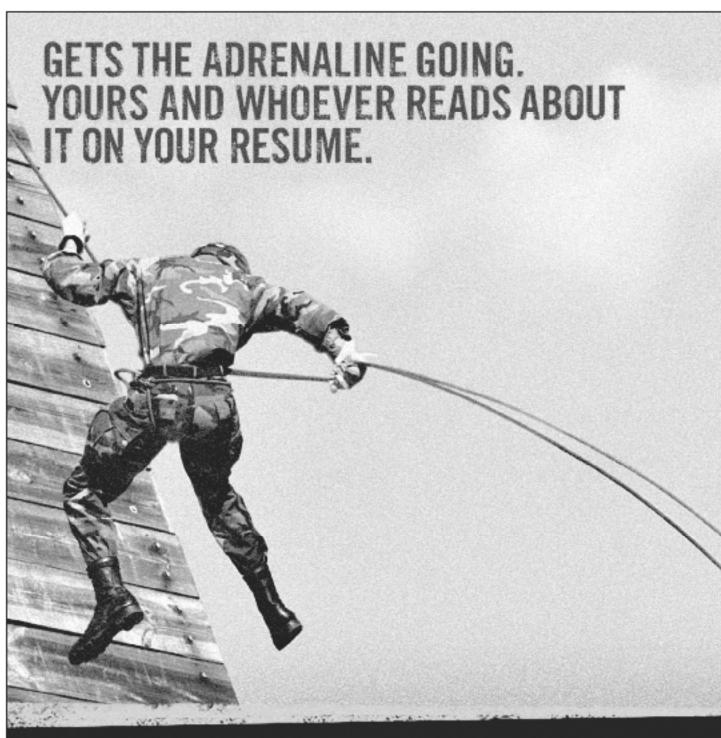
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sports

HUSKY HERO Interview by Sarah Trent

Alicia Croteau

Major: Exercise Physiology Year: Senior Sport: Cross Country

Sheisn't the best runner on thecrosscountryteam—she took last place in the recent Codfish Bowl, and placed in the last ten in the race previous. 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 guits.

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. I'd go crazy

and be out of shape! It's great stress relief, and it's just what I've always done.

FP: Why did you come to USM?

probably Alicia: 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.



Derby features jammers, blockers, and attitude

From **DERBY** PAGE 20

play begins: the jammer from each team—a speed skater and the only player allowed to score pointsstarts skating. During each jam, which lasts two minutes, these skaters try to lap the pack. After their first pass through the group, each opposing skater she passes equals one point.

While trying to defend against the opposing jammer, blockers do everything they can to help their own get through the pack, pushing, pulling and sling shotting her past the other team's skaters. Meanwhile these blockers are also engaging each other, using their shoulders, torso, hips and butt to block, hit and check other skaters'.

Within the first jam on Saturday at the Portland Expo, MRD had pulled into the lead thanks to their skilled jammers' deft weaving through the pack. The crowd yelled and cheered with energy that almost matched the skaters. But the bout was far from in the bag for MRD. Each time they pulled ahead, Pioneer Valley upped the ante and nearly tied the scoreboard before MRD's jammers could score again.

By the third period, competition was so fierce that each team played through at least one entire jam with their jammer in the penalty box, leaving the teams' blockers in sole control of maintaining the score. For one nerve-wracking jam, MRD had their jammer and a blocker in the penalty box.

Pioneer Valley kept MRD on their toes through the last minute of the game, but Maine managed to hang on to their lead 109 to 93

The team's second victory sets them off on a good foot at their new home in Portland.

After a long and challenging search for a home that has taken them everywhere from outdoor rinks in Westbrook to Roller World in Topsham, the league now holds practices at Victory Lanes Indoor Karting and hosts home bouts at the Portland Expo. Founded in March 2006, MRD is entirely skater owned-and-operated, boasting a roster of more than 30 women.

The MRD is always recruiting "fresh meat," Pitts said, and anyone interested should e-mail "The Mom Bomb" at themombomb@mainerollerderby.com. Non-skaters are encouraged as well, since there's always a need for volunteer referees and EMTs for bouts, as well as art and design for team promotion.

But whether or not you want to get involved, the bouts are not events to be missed. The energy, attitude, camaraderie and athleticism cannot be matched.

Your last chance this season to check out the action is Oct. 6, when Maine Roller Derby takes on the Albany All-Stars at the Portland Expo. Doors at open at 5 p.m., action starts at 6 p.m. Tickets can be found at BullMoose or www. mainerollerderby.com for \$10 or at the door for \$12.

UPCOMING GAMES

Opponents names written in capital letters means the game will be played at home

Monday, October 1 Golf, USM FALL CLASSIC, Sable Oaks GC 10 a.m.

Tuesday, October 2 Men's Soccer vs. BATES 4 p.m. Women's Tennis vs. PLYMOUTH STATE 3:30 p.m. Field Hockey vs. SALEM STATE 4 p.m.

Wednesday, October 3 Women's Soccer vs. FRAMINGHAM STATE 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 4 Field Hockey @ St. Joseph's 3:30 p.m.

Friday, October 5 Golf, SOUTHERN MAINE CUP, Sable Oaks GC noon

<u>Saturday, October 6</u>

Men's Soccer @ UMass Dartmouth 1 p.m. Men's Cross Country @ NEICAAA New England Championships 1 p.m. Women's Cross Country @ NIEcAAA New England Championships tba Women's Soccer vs. UMASS DARTMOUTH 1 p.m. Women's Tennis @ Western Connecticut 11 a.m. Field Hockey vs. KEENE STATE 2 p.m.

Sunday, October 7 Golf @ Husson Invitational 11 a.m.

Monday, October 8 Golf @ Husson Invitational 8 a.m.

Tuesday, October 9 Men's Soccer vs. MAINE MARITIME 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 10 Women's Soccer @ Bates 4 p.m. Women's Tennis @ Colby 4 p.m.

<u>Thursday, October 11</u> Field Hockey vs. COLBY 4 p.m.

Saturday, October 13

Men's Soccer vs. EASTERN CONNECTICUT 1 p.m. Men's Cross Country @ Maine State Championships noon Women's Soccer @ Eastern Connecticut 1 p.m. Women's Tennis @ UMass Boston 1 p.m. Field Hockey vs. UMASS DARTMOUTH 2 p.m. Women's Cross Country @ Maine State Championships tba

Tuesday, October 16 Men's Soccer @ Tufts 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 17

Women's Soccer @ Colby 3:30 p.m. Field Hockey @ Plymouth State 3:30 p.m.

Friday, October 19 Women's Tennis @ Little East Conference Tournament tba <u>Saturday, October 20</u> Women's Soccer vs. WESTERN CONNECTICUT 1 p.m.

Men's Soccer @ Western Connecticut noon Field Hockey @ Bridgewater State 2 p.m. Sunday, October 21



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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 leafpeepers might seem a little kitschy, this is the most beautiful season in vacationland, so why not get out and enjoy it? From Oktoberfests 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 ablaze, your view limited only by the curvature of the earth. Just under two hours from Portland, try the Crawford Path for moderate-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

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

Oct. 6 at the Portland Expo.



Sick of school yet? Take a break and get lazy on the Saco River.

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 flowers to cows, 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 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.

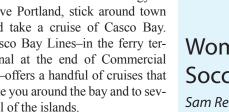
If you want to camp on the river, Saco Bound has a handful of campsites along the banks, costing \$7 per person per night. Don't forget to bring marshmallows, and be on the lookout for rope swings over deep water. For more information on rentals, call Saco Bound at (603) 447-2177, or find another outfitter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



≧ PHOTOS The sexiest sport on skates, Maine Roller Derby shows off the strength and speed of nearly thirty local women. Check out their next bout on

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 shapes and sizes, 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 showwomanship, 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

> See DERBY PAGE 19

HUSKY HIGHLIGHTS

Men's Cross Country

Wheeler twins lead the pack 9/15 - The Wheeler twins, Curtis and Nick (seniors, Derby, VT) continue to dominate the cross country team's headlines, winning races and awards nearly every week. Last Saturday they placed second and fourth, respectively, at the 35th UMass Dartmouth Invitational, leading their team to a second place finish. Sept. 8, the brothers placed first and second at the University of New England Invitational, bringing the Huskies to first place in their first race of the season. Curtis has been named Little East Conference runner of the week for two consecutive weeks, and captains his team alongside his brother Nick and senior Forrest Tobie (Mt. Vernon). The Huskies stand 24th in the most recent New England poll (includes all divisions) and are looking ready to defend their 2006 Little East Conference title.

Women's Soccer

Sam Rennie scores conference award

9/24 - After a seven-point week, senior midfielder Samantha Rennie (Hudson, NH) was named Little East Conference offensive player of the week. This is her second career award from the conferencetwo years ago she was named a defensive player of the week. Her seven points-three goals and one assist— helped the Huskies to a 2-0 win versus UMaine Farmington and posted her first career hat trick against UMass Boston, leading a 4-1 win. She has moved into the number two scoring position in the stats, behind senior Natasha Levandowski (Scarborough). The Huskies stand at number three in the conference behind Keene State and defending conference champs Western Connecticut.

Women's Field Hockey

Hill keeps Huskies at #1

9/24 - Goalkeeper Allie Hill (sophomore, Cape Elizabeth), named the defensive player of the week, became the third USM field hockey player this season to be recognized by the Little East Conference. She follows sophomore forward India Lowe (Gloucester, MA) and senior sweeper Justene Dorr (Cherry Hill, NJ). Hill maintained a 1.09 goals average for the week, with 17 saves in a 1-1 week, including a conference win against Eastern Connecticut. She has started all of the season's games, and played all but 11 minutes. At 39 saves on the season, she has an 81.2 save percentage. Along with goal scorers like Lowe and topnotch defenders like Dorr, Hill has helped the Huskies to the number one slot in the conference.