

the free press

Volume 39, Issue 19 April 7, 2008
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE



ATHLETES DO
SPRING BREAK
TOO
PAGE 17

24 'weather events' later

David O'Donnell
Staff Writer

In the final days of March, Portland's snowfall total topped 100 inches for the season – that's 30 above the yearly average, and a marked departure from last year's mild winter.

So far, this has been the 14th snowiest in the city's history, and USM has experienced plenty of delays, cancellations and annoyances.

But don't blame it for any of our budget woes.

Last summer, Facilities Management began fielding bids from local paving contractors, who turn to plowing snow during their slow winter months. The bids constitute a fixed rate for the entire season, and are typically based on an estimated 15 snowstorms.

Regardless of what follows, the price sticks, and the lowest bidder walks away with the prize.

Over the winter of 2006-07, it was the contractors who clearly emerged with the better deal.

Not so this winter – so far, there have been 24 "weather events."

So the term "winning bidder" may be used lightly.

For the 2007-08 school year, Glidden Excavating & Paving was awarded the contract for the Portland campus, while Peter Pinkham Inc. handles Gorham.

See WEATHER page 13

"The more the community sees the school as a key engine to the future of the region, more positive things will happen."

–Robert Blackwood, Chair of the Board of Visitors

USM's Board of Visitors gives report on university's future

Matt Dodge
News Editor

Just before campus cleared out for vacation, the USM Board of Visitors presented a report on the future of the university.

The report, called the "Southern Maine Imperative II," calls on the local community to make a substantial investment in the university, which they think is in the best interests of both the region and the school.

The Imperative II comes eight years after the first Imperative. It has been called a "report card," but it also redefines goals and sets new expectations, especially in light of the current financial hole in which USM has found itself.

The Board of Visitors serves as an advocacy group for USM and includes members of the business, legal and educational communities in Maine. Many on the board are alumni.

Citing USM as the economic and cultural driver of the region, the 28-page report outlines how a "healthy USM leads to a healthy region, which in turn leads to a healthy state."

Calling USM the "fuel in the engine of economic and societal growth," the report presents

eight recommendations for the growth and health of the university.

These goals include increasing research and development, earning national distinction, and improving retention. While the board offers some ideas for how these might be reached, it leaves figuring out

implementation up to the university.

Despite current budget concerns, the Board of Visitor's recommendations do not focus solely on getting the school back on firm financial footing. Rather, the report sets forth long-term goals which aim to boost the reputation of USM.

Investment from local businesses to ensure the success of USM can only help the university, according to Blackwood.

See VISITORS page 13

Louraine's 'One Blue Pearl'

Student directs organization for teaching about carbon credits

Mary Jones
Staff Writer

It all began on a boat, while Louraine Rudolph was cruising around one of Maine's numerous bays.

"I was sitting there on the boat and looking at one of the most beautiful places in the world and knew we have to save this," said Rudolph, a sophomore theater major.

That idea spurred a dream that is now becoming a reality. Rudolph is now the executive director of "One Blue Pearl," a non-profit organization looking to save the world one person at a time.

"Our mission is to educate people about offsetting their carbon output," said Rudolph.

The organization is still in developmental stages but was officially incorporated in Maine on January 3 of this year.

Next fall, Rudolph hopes to begin teaching students at USM.

Parts of her plans include "planned action profiles," personalized plans to help both individuals and groups to reduce their carbon output.

Her primary focus will be to teach college students, but hopes one day to include high school and elementary education.

Reducing your carbon output doesn't have to be costly or time consuming, something Rudolph wants people to know. It can be as simple as turning your car off instead of leaving it idling.

See LOURAINÉ page 13

Beyond the clash of civilizations

Brandon McKenney
Staff Writer

"My name is Daniel Pearl. I am a Jewish-American from Encino, California."

In his last moments, Daniel Pearl could not escape the horror he had spent the better part of his journalistic career spotlighting.

Following those forced final words, Pearl would be slain by his captors, a group of Islamic militants inside Pakistan. And so another chapter of the Arab-Jewish divide had been written.

But his voice would not be silenced.

Spurred by the media attention surrounding his death, Pearl's family would quickly found the Daniel Pearl Foundation in an effort to continue his work of fostering constructive dialogue between Jews and Muslims.

Part of that effort includes a lecture tour, featuring a dia-

**Beyond the Clash of
Civilizations
Monday, April 7,
7-9 p.m.
Hannaford
Lecture Hall
Free
Seating is limited**



logue between his father, Judea Pearl, and Islamic scholar Akbar Ahmed.

The presentation will come to USM on Monday, April 7.

The event will be a moderated dialogue with questions from the audience in an effort to create a frank and respectful discourse about a very fiery topic.

"It is one of the flash-points of our 21st century," says Abraham Peck, Director of Jewish,

Christian, and Islamic Studies at USM.

Peck believes students needs to be engaged with issues such as this, if only for the simple reality that Americans are no longer immune to the bloodshed that has consumed so much of the world.

Peck is also confident that students will attend, citing crowds of close to 1,000 at two previous pro-

See BEYOND page 13

Campus Events

Monday April 7

Free Press Budget Meeting- Want to write? Want to tell us what we should be writing? All are welcome./ 92 Bedford Street, Portland Campus/ 5pm-6pm/ For more information email Sarah Trent at sarah.trent@yahoo.com.

Mock Interviewing with Employer Representatives- Students will meet with employers individually to practice their interviewing skills. They will receive valuable feedback from local employer representatives. Open to all majors./ School of Business, 113 Luther Bonney Hall, Portland Campus/ 5:30pm-7pm/ Students must RSVP to Melissa Burns at 780-4669 or mburns@usm.maine.edu.

Book Signing with Author Suzanne Strempek Shea- Winner of the 2000 New England Book Award for Fiction/ USM Portland Bookstore/ 7pm-8:30pm/ For more information please contact Barbara Kelly (207)780-4702, bkelly@usm.maine.edu.

Douglas M. Schair Lecture "Beyond the Clash of Civilizations"- Professor Judea Pearl, father of slain journalist Daniel Pearl, and Ambassador Akbar Ahmed, authority on Islam, will speak about Muslim and Jewish cultural issues. This event is free and open to the public on a first-come first-served basis; seating is limited/ Hannaford Hall-USM's Abromson Community Center, Portland/ 7pm-9pm/ For

more information contact Gillian Britt 207-775-2126.

Tuesday April 8

Club Volleyball Team, Guys and Girls- weekly meetings on Tuesdays and Sundays/ Hill gym-Costello Sports Complex, Gorham Campus/ 7pm-9pm/ For more information Please email Dani Netland at dnetland@maine.rr.com.

Free Press Writing Workshop- Weekly meeting/92 Bedford Street, Portland Campus/ 5pm-6pm/ For more information email Sarah Trent at sarah.trent@yahoo.com.

Model United Nations Organization Weekly Meeting- If you like global affairs and conference planning, please join us/ 217 Abromson Community Education Center, Portland campus/ 5pm-5:30pm/ For more information please email jelena.sarenac@maine.edu.

Wednesday April 9

Interfaith Conversations about Real Life Issues: The Environment- USM Associate Chaplains will model respectful dialogue across lines of differing belief systems/ Faculty Dining Room, Brooks Student Center, Gorham/ 4pm-6pm/ For more information please contact Interfaith Chaplain, 228-8093 or interfaith@usm.maine.edu.

Lecture: "Law, Justice and Love in Shakespeare's 'The Merchant of Venice'"- Regina

Schwartz from Northwestern University will present this lecture that is sponsored by USM's English Department. Free and open to the public/ University Events Room, Glickman Family Library, Portland campus/ 4:15pm-6:15pm/ For more information please call 780-4291.

Student Group STAND-Movie Night: "A Devil Came On Horseback" - Genocide in Darfur/ 10 Bailey Hall, Gorham Campus/ 7pm-8pm.

Thursday April 10

USM Job Fair- Sponsored by Career Services and Professional Life Development. Free and open to the public/ Sullivan Gym, Portland campus/ 12pm-4pm/ For more information visit Career Services and Professional Life Development.

Safe Zone Project Orientation Session- Join us to learn more about the LGBTQ community at USM, gain support for being a safe and supportive ally/ 107 Bailey Hall, Gorham/ 1:30pm-3:00pm/ RSVP required by 4/8 - Email sparker-holmes@usm.maine.edu or call 780-5767 for more information.

Meditation Club Meeting- Please come to our weekly open meetings to learn and practice methods for fostering peace in yourself/ 208 Luther Bonney, Portland Campus/ 2:30pm-3:30pm/ For more information

please contact yoorilawson@hotmail.com.

Maine Pirg Meeting- Weekly meeting/ 7pm-8pm/ Woodbury Campus Center Student Involvement Desk, Portland.

Gorham Events Board Meeting- Weekly meeting to plan events for the Gorham campus/ SIAC(Husky Hut)-Gorham/ 7pm-9pm/ For more information please contact aschwartz@usm.maine.edu.

Friday April 11

Physics Club- Pizza Party! Science Building Rm 250, Portland Campus/ 11:30am-3:30pm.

Student Senate Meeting- Weekly meeting/ Room 403, Luther Bonney Hall, Portland campus/ 2:30pm-4:30pm/ Call 228-8501 for more information.

Seminar Series, Copyright Laws-"Media, Technology and Animation Graphics"- The Center for Law & Innovation and the Maine Center for Creativity are co-hosting a series of seminars focusing on how copyright laws affects various creative works. Admission: \$5 for students/faculty, \$10 for the general public, and \$20 for attorneys seeking CLE credit/ Moot Courtroom-USM School of Law, Portland/ 3:30pm-5pm/ Please pre-register by contacting the Center for Law and Innovation (207) 874-6521 or email patent@usm.maine.edu.

Classical guitarist Keith Crook performed at the Corthell Concert Hall on Friday, April 4th. Crook plucked and strummed his way through a genre spanning show of original and existing compositions.



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Questions to Ask Employers.



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

Alternative Spring Break with Habitat for Humanity

Abigail Cuffey

Contributing Writer

On March 23, seventeen USM students took off on a weeklong spring vacation down south.

Instead of going the typical tanning-on-the-beach-in-Cancun route, these students worked with Habitat for Humanity International and ventured on an Alternative Spring Break (ASB) trip to Slidell, La.

Just thirty minutes from New Orleans, nearly 85 percent of Slidell's homes and businesses were lost to Hurricane Katrina. This area is now part of Habitat for Humanity's mission to promote a "people-to-people partnership, drawing prospective Habitat families and communities together with volunteers and resources to build decent, affordable housing."

At a cost of \$1,000 per person, students had to raise money for transportation just to be able to volunteer.

Funding for the trip "actually started before there was technically even a trip," says senior Danielle Webster, one of the students who went.

As early as August, the group began raising money through an online auction, as well as bake sales, bottle drives, and even selling coupon books.

Students had the opportunity to choose which part of the country they wanted to work.

Last year the ASB group went to Bay St. Louis, Miss., but wanted to choose a place deeply affected by Hurricane Katrina.

After flying into New Orleans, the group stayed mainly in Slidell, La. to work.

As it turned out, Habitat for Humanity International had overbooked the area in Slidell, so the group graciously agreed to work with the Faith Bible Church Disaster Relief Team instead. Much of the work they did was similar to what they would have done for Habitat.

In exchange for their work, the Church offered them sleeping quarters in their sanctuary. When asked what her initial reaction to the area was, Webster replied, "sadness. It has been over two and a half years and there are still areas where there is still so much destruction."

Among the many signs of poverty, the students witnessed "X's" still marked on buildings as well as windows boarded up. And while some of the houses appeared to be undamaged

on the outside, "the inside had been completely gutted," said Webster.

The students want to bring awareness to the cause and not let the event be forgotten. People are still living in FEMA trailers.

Typically with projects like this one, the building materials are funded by the homeowners themselves. Those families who are able to pay for the supplies do, but need help with the physical labor – that's where volunteers step in.

Many handy skills were learned on this trip, as one student shared, "I learned how to cut metal studs. Each time I do something like this, I learn something different, whether it is siding, framing, painting, or insulating." These are certainly not the typical hobbies of the average college student.

The group worked on two projects while there: a building to house more volunteers, and a community center. The feeling of appreciation was always present, with the residents continually showing their gratitude to the student volunteers.

Many students on the trip were able to relate their experience to their future careers. "I chose my (criminology and psychology) majors because I knew I wanted to help people and this project just reaffirms for me what I am doing and why I am learning what I am learning," says Webster.

From this trip, the students observed how residents of Louisiana still have so much faith in life, and are just happy to have survived. While there, students met an inspiring couple who had given up all their belongings and moved to Louisiana to help with rebuilding.

They currently live on donations.

On the difference a year makes, the students noticed little improvement in conditions in the Ninth Ward.

"Most people...cannot afford to rebuild and are living in tents or on mattresses under the overpasses," says Webster.

Students were split onto different job sites because of the high number of volunteers. Activities included mudding drywall, filling in floors with clay and sand and working at a community center that will eventually provide housing, food and clothes.

Some students even worked in the church cleaning out a new warehouse.

The group didn't spend all their time working, though, and did get a chance to experience some sightseeing and culture, including swamp tours and New Orleans.



Above, Danielle Webster and Arlita Hallee shovel dirt to fill a homeowner's foundation. Below, Emily Julian paints a mural. These women went to Louisiana as a part of USM's Alternative Spring Break.



Why go so far, when there's work to be done at home?

Alternative Spring Breaks are common among colleges in the U.S. In the Slidell area, students from New Jersey, Washington State and UCLA participated alongside USMers.

There are many similar volunteering opportunities in the Greater Portland area.

According to Dan Wallace, Construction Manager for Habitat for Humanity-Greater Portland, their volunteers come from many walks of life, including companies, retirees, high school and college students alike. Students as young as 14 may volunteer, and there is really no age limit as long as you can pick up a hammer.

Currently, Habitat for Humanity-Greater Portland is working on improving building practices by "going green." Soon volunteers, including students from McGill and Purdue, will begin construction on four new houses on Demers Street in Portland.

Volunteers don't have to be skilled carpenters to work; "anyone who can lend a hand" is welcome, according to Wallace. The challenge is that when working, "you're never going to know how much is going to get done." There's a lot of teaching involved, so you just have to take it one day at a time.

When asked about students volunteering in local areas instead of down south, Wallace believes that USM has been very gracious in working with Habitat, helping out with projects whenever needed. He recognizes that there is a national need for assistance, and USM seems to be "doing it all."

He also adds that volunteering your time in a foreign place is a great chance to "visit and learn about a new place."

It's always great when you can do both.

Volunteer closer to home

Stefanie Dvorak

Staff Writer

While many students took the MTV route and spent their spring break stumbling through the sand at such seaside destination as Cancun and Daytona Beach, others donated their time to build houses.

Seventeen USM students and one advisor traveled to Slidell, La., where nearly 85 percent of homes and businesses were destroyed when Hurricane Katrina hit the area in 2005.

In Maine, students from McGill, Purdue, Northwestern Connecticut Community College, and SUNY Oswego have been working with the Portland affiliate of Habitat for Humanity

to construct and renovate homes over their own spring breaks.

Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller to provide people with affordable shelter. So far, the nonprofit organization has built over 225,000 houses globally, providing more than one million people with a place to live.

The program's volunteers build suitable homes for low-income families. The mortgage payments and the sale of the homes go back into Habitat for Humanity to build even more homes.

Globally, Habitat for Humanity is located in more than 90 countries. Additionally, those persons wishing to volunteer are able to in any state in the United States.

What happens now that spring break is over? Do USM students have volunteer opportunities here in their own backyard?

"Absolutely," says Andrea Thompson-McCall, the director of community service at USM. Alternative Spring Break offered local options for those who couldn't travel, and her office allows for plenty of other chances throughout the year for students to work on projects here.

Students can get involved with Maine PIRG of find volunteer-work through the office for community service and civic engagement, which Thompson-McCall runs. "Opportunities are available for students who don't want to leave home or can't," she says.

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Ben Taylor takes SGA election by a landslide

Matt Dodge

News Editor

Experience paid off for sophomore Ben Taylor. The current vice chair of the USM Student Senate won the recent SGA Presidential race carrying a commanding 44 percent of the vote.

Taylor's term as president will officially begin at the end of the semester, at the same time that next year's 12 elected senators are officially seated so that they can approve the budgeted allocation of the Student Activity Fee.

The other two presidential hopefuls, Adam Royer and Ben Skillings, garnered 27 and 23 percent of the vote, respectively. The remaining 5 percent went to write-in candidates.

However, these numbers might not be representative of the more than 10,000 students at USM: only 345 voted in the presidential race.

This is down significantly from closer to 600 in last year's election, which was the first election to be done online rather than at tables across campus.

This year, several students involved in student government cite the timing of elections as



the reason for the low turn-out. In past years, candidates were allowed a full week of campaigning after announcing their candidacy.

This year, due to deadline extensions, campaign week went by without much notice.

Next week, we'll look more at what happened, and feature profile of your next student body president.

If you're interested in learning more about student government, stop by their office in the Woodbury campus center or attend the next Student Senate meeting, this Friday from 2:30-4:30 in 403 Woodbury Campus Center.



USM has implemented recycling containers around their campuses as a part of their effort to lower their carbon footprint. The university recently became a member of STARS, a pilot program meant to measure sustainable practices across campuses nationwide.

Measuring the 'green'

(And we're not talking about money)

Laura Fellows

Intern

The University of Southern Maine's sustainability program is being brought to the next level: USM has been selected as one of about 90 colleges nationwide to participate in the pilot stage of a new rating system.

This Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) is being developed as a means to measure and compare

sustainability progress throughout college campuses nationwide.

While similar to the LEED rating system (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), a program that has awarded certification to a handful of USM buildings, STARS is a program that takes into account the sustainability processes of the entire campus, from building materials to food, curriculum, finances and more.

STARS is being developed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), and has been launched to the testing stage this semester after approximately two years of preparation.

Ultimately, the completed program will give college campuses a system on which to base their sustainability measurements. Once this common system is in place, schools will be able to compare ratings and progress – even between schools that are very different from each other in all other aspects.

STARS works by creating a series of categories and subcategories in which the school can earn points based on its sustainability data. Some of these categories may change substantially before the testing is complete, but that's why this testing phase is so important.

"It's about involving people and finding out which processes work and where the barriers are," says Dudley Greeley, USM's sustainability coordinator.

These categories and points will become the standard upon which schools will base their ratings.

Greeley says that STARS will help USM to collect and control its data. "It's important," he says, "to create a common baseline by which you can compare your own situation from year to year; that's the way it's most useful."

Once implemented, STARS will allow USM to eliminate waste and track its own sustainability information more efficiently.

"We've had problems with how to measure our ability to recycle, or buy more responsible flooring, or paint our walls with less problematic paint, and get some policies and systems developed, and this process is going to help move that forward,

help formalize it, and help get more people involved."

The testing phase began this semester. In order to participate, USM needed to be a member of AASHE – which carries a \$1000 annual price tag. Due to a donation, the university was able to join and sign on to the STARS pilot stage.

While there are plenty of other "green" programs going on around campus, Greeley believes that this one has the potential to help organize the other campus efforts and create more community. One of the long-term benefits would be to keep sustainability programs on-track as students come and go over the years.

Right now, Greeley and other faculty and staff are involved in coordinating the data, much of which is gathered by students.

Travis Wagner, assistant professor of Environmental Science & Policy, is getting students from his 300-level class involved in gathering data for the STARS project. Most of them are helping with the environmental categories of STARS, but others have looked for information from food services and other areas.

"This has been a difficult task, actually trying to find this data," Wagner says. "You would think it's pretty readily available and it's not."

Moving toward a more sustainable and environmentally "greener" campus can be difficult, says Greeley, because "it's not going to change overnight. Measuring a campus's sustainability indicators is not an easy task."

Eventually, however, he believes that not only will this program help USM become a more sustainable campus, but it will also allow all participating schools to learn more efficient processes and be able to compare notes more easily.

"Ultimately," Greeley says, "it's about culture change. This process is saying, 'let's change this around; let's start to measure more than just the money.'"

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Convocation 2008

Riding the Freedom Bus

Grace Mueller

Contributing Writer

On Wednesday, March 19th, a group of USM students, staff and faculty traveled from the Portland campus to Lewiston-Auburn College (LAC) to participate in a discussion titled

"The Place of Ideology in the Classroom." A part of the Gloria S. Duclos 2008 Convocation on Academic Freedom, this was uniquely a student-led event.

USM staff members Gabe Demaine and Pat Finn organized a "Freedom Bus" to travel from Portland to LAC for the event, and one of my professors, Dr. Wendy Chapkis, decided to take our Politics of Difference class along for the ride.

Here I present a journal I kept to document the experience.

4:13 p.m. - We "Freedom Bus" riders are gathering in the Woodbury Campus Center amphitheater. Dr. Chapkis had our class write brief essays on an assigned historical "freedom bus," and we've been asked to read them aloud. Me and the other woman who wrote about Rosa Parks and the Montgomery bus decide to split up so we each get to talk.

4:42 p.m. - We're on the bus — a cushy VIP coach — and Dr. Chapkis is getting things going by describing one of her own bus experiences. In 2003, she and other activists protesting the beginning of the war in Iraq were arrested for civil disobedience in front of Senator Olympia Snowe's office. They were transported to Cumberland County jail in a bus.

I feel so fortunate right now to be in a learning community in which many professors are politically active, and I think that this is an important aspect of academic freedom, which is what today is all about. Employees of the university can participate in actions against what they see as injustice, without fearing the loss of their jobs.

5:23 p.m. - We have arrived at LAC and people are mingling. I have been staying close to people I know.

5:30 p.m. - Everyone is settling in their seats. Chairs are set up in comma-shaped groups of about seven, so I sense that small-group discussions will be a prominent aspect of the event.

5:45 p.m. - For the last fifteen minutes, various administrators and people involved in the planning of this event have been outlining the history building up to tonight. In fall 2006, USM closed the "Can't Jail the Spirit" art show.

Some reactions called the closure an act against academic freedom. The Gloria S. Duclos convocation committee, which chooses a theme for a series of focused presentations each year, decided to center on academic freedom this year. LAC students organized to create tonight so that students, too, got a voice in the series. Tonight's discussion will focus on silenced minorities in the classroom, and the student-professor power imbalance this causes.

6:10 p.m. - We have been divided into small groups, as I anticipated.

7:00 p.m. - The LAC organizers made two video "vignettes" to stimulate conversation. The first is a scene showing a political disagreement in the classroom, and the difficultly students can face if they find their opinions in the minority and in disagreement with views held by a professor.

The second explores student religious convictions, and the ways in which they also can be silenced in the classroom.

After each "vignette," the facilitators passed around discussion questions to grapple with in our small groups. In the first discussion, I was the first to speak up, but the facilitator's body language sent the message that he was uninterested in what I was saying. Self-conscious, I haven't said much since.

How odd that at a discussion of academic freedom, I feel silenced.

The LAC professor in my group seems very concerned with the issues raised, and asked us students what she could do to ensure that students feel comfortable to freely express their opinions in her classes. I was really touched by this, as she seemed to genuinely value our suggestions.

7:10 p.m. - One of the problems expressed by members of my group is the tendency for some professors to call on students with minority opinions to express THE conservative viewpoint, or THE liberal perspective, and so on.

This habit not only causes these students to feel as if they are being picked on, it also falsely oversimplifies matters.

In reality there is never a single conservative, liberal, or whatever opinion on an issue, but rather many, sometimes similar views held by those that identify within these categories.

Professors can improve by not presenting opinions in this flattened manner, but rather recognizing and approaching viewpoints as multifaceted.

7:20 p.m. - We're in a planning session for future action in light of our discoveries tonight. Someone just mentioned the importance of being an ally, and this is something that has been emphasized in my Politics of Difference class as well.

One can act as an ally by standing together with someone who is being marginalized, regardless of whether one personally identifies with him or her.

In the university, this seems like an especially useful tool in building more comfortable spaces for expression, as allies can act to shift the power imbalance students face in the classroom.

7:25 p.m. - We Portlanders are back on the "Freedom Bus" and I am thinking about how impressive tonight's program was. The LAC students organized the event successfully as an engaging dialogue, although, as in my case, which might demonstrate part of the problem, discussions may not have been as open as would be ideal.

The next convocation event, which revisits the cancellation of Tom Manning's "Can't Jail the Spirit" exhibit, will take place this Friday, April 11, in the Talbot Auditorium.

It will feature Svetlana Mintcheva, the art director of the National Coalition Against Censorship Arts Program; Dan Chard, a senior history major; Marie Follayttar, a senior art major; and G. Bug Swenson, a renowned Kennebunk artist displaying his "academic freedom" art work.

They will reevaluate the cancellation of the controversial exhibit and look at its implications for academic freedom for USM and beyond, based on new research into the forces and events influencing then-President Richard Pattenau's decision.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

Riders get ready for the Freedom Bus to leave Portland. They drove to Lewiston, hearing along the way of historical freedom buses, in order to attend the most recent event in USM's Gloria S. Duclos Convocation. The event on the LAC campus was about the treatment of minorities in classrooms.

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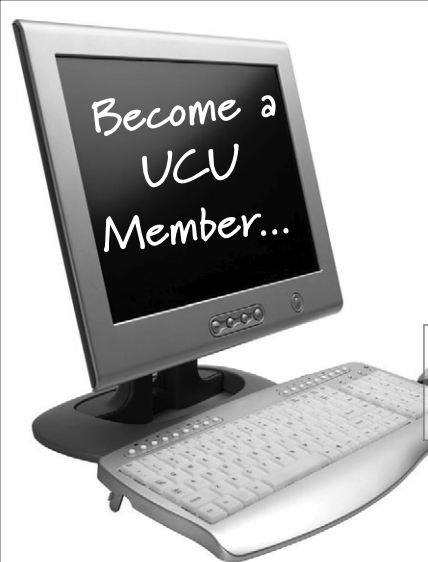
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NCUA

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Newspapers are dying. Apparently. So they say.

Call me naïve, but I'm not convinced.

Over vacation, in an interview with Justin Ellis, who was writing about the same topic for his Monday column in the Press Herald, I told him that I thought newspapers were simply finding themselves again.

Finding themselves in the face of a supposedly apathetic public, or an apathetic young public; in the face of losing ad revenue and viewers to the worldwide web; and all of this under an economy that seems to get worse every day.

I don't think that the public is apathetic. I don't even think that they're numb, even after the major media blasts of the last decade, including Monica Lewinsky, Sept. 11, Hurricane Katrina and the Iraq war. Not that those events weren't important — but sometimes, enough is enough.

No, numb isn't what we are. And if people have stopped reading because they don't care, it's because newspapers and the media aren't giving them the things they care about.

According to a 2006 National Newspaper Association report, readership of small, community newspapers is actually up.

"Despite stories of readership challenges and continued pressure from shareholders for even-larger profit margins at large dailies, the community newspaper industry is growing and thriving," said Jerry Reppert, listed then as president of the NNA.

Why are they doing so well? They're the primary source of essential, local news.

While I respect and admire the people working at the Press Herald — because they're doing what I aspire to do — I have to admit that I wouldn't choose to read their newspaper.

Why do I need to read the AP wire stories that saw yesterday on my Yahoo RSS news-feed? Why do I need to re-hash the story I saw on last night's news?

And I'm not asking for more breaking news content on their website, which is what they seem to have begun doing in response to the news "crisis."

I want local. Portlanders, of all people, should know the feeling.

Portlanders "Buy Local." They eat local. I want to read local.

As editor of the Free Press, I have learned to think on an ultra-local scale. We cover USM. We feature our students — my peers; our professors — my teachers and friends.

And though I'm hardly in a position to judge our content, since I help create it, they are who I, and I think you, want to be reading about.

I have two issues of the Press Herald pinned to the bulletin board above my desk: one is folded to show Beth Quimby's Jan. 25 story, "Faculty grills candidate for USM president." Why did I keep it? I'm quoted on page four.

The second I've kept is only two weeks old: the one in which I tell Justin Ellis about newspapers.

When I took over as Sports Editor last semester, I did so with the intention of improving what I thought was the weakest section in the paper. As a former USM athlete, I knew how much it sucked. It wasn't about the athletes, it was about games. And not even the good games.

When I took over as Executive Editor this semester, I had the same goal on a larger scale.

In order to gain the attention of you, our readers, we needed to write about things you cared about. About you. About your friends. About what's going on and how it affects you.

This is where the community newspaper thrives. The national news and the AP wire doesn't cover high school basketball games. And I'm pretty sure the national news could care less about the current mess at Cape Elizabeth — but I bet the Cape Courier found its way into a few more hands than usual last week.

When our Feb. 11 edition featured "My professor's my boyfriend" and "26 academic programs put on probation" on its front page, it flew off the racks.

And because we were able to break the 26 programs story days before the Press Herald had it — because our reporters, friends with the student senators, knew to be at that particular meeting — our website had a record number of hits and was linked from U.S. News & World Report.

We have the opportunity, when we're not also trying to be in class, to beat and be better than the Press Herald in our locale, USM.

The Press Herald, and other newspapers nationwide, should take the time to find their own locale, and let AP do what it does best.

In regards to the worldwide web, that's a whole other can of worms. But if newspapers can refocus their coverage, I think the rest will come in stride.

Like I told Justin, there will always be journalism — there will always be news.

Sarah Trent
Executive Editor

CORRECTIONS

Our week of
mistaken identities

The photo we ran above "Artesani's hard work pays off..." (3/17) was not a photo of Emily Artesani. It was of senior Christa



Hutchinson, who, like Artesani, runs the 400 meters and is a member of the 4x200 relay team that won New England's. Both are outstanding athletes. It was an editor's error.

The column "Some food for thought" (3/17) named Dennis Gilbert as the author of "Open your mind and read," the March 3 column to which it was responding. The original column was by student Dustin Gilbert. Dennis Gilbert is a professor of Media Studies. They are not related. It was an editor's error.

"Your student government voting guide" (3/17) labeled a photo as candidate Katie Dunn. It was actually a photo of candidate Molly Dolby; Dunn's photo was not pictured. It was a production error.

BREAKING TRADITION

Donning my red hat (and gloves)

Marie Allen

Columnist

"When I am an old woman I shall wear purple with a red hat that doesn't go and doesn't suit me." —Jenny Joseph

I have three dogs.

One of them, Princess, always showed the potential to be a great dog, even after she ate the seat belt in our car. We could see the potential there.

She is an old lady now. She wears a silly bow with great dignity and has gone from never thinking about entering the dining room during dinner to being the biggest mooch in the house — because she knows she can.

If she were a human, she would be a member of The Red Hat Society.

We have all seen them, groups of older women in red hats, flaunting expectations. They don't care what they should be doing, they're doing what they want.

Princess now starts rumpuses with great abandon and has been known to miraculously get over her hip problems if something of interest is left on the counter.

I respect that about her, and I let her get away with it.

My temples, rather than my muzzle, have gone grey, but Princess and I have a lot more in common than you'd think.

I am not quite old enough for the Red Hat Society, but I am a potential member.

I can see myself wearing obnoxious red hats and flaunting conventions, relying on the fact

that I had aged gracefully enough for long enough.

I don't own a red hat. I have red gloves though, so maybe I will start my own society, "The Red Glove Society."

Membership would be for those of us who haven't quite reached the peak (or the top of the body) yet, but are old enough to know that we can get away with saying and doing certain things.

I am starting to grow into my own voice.

I am rarely with out anything to say—just like Princess.

While I don't object as loudly to the existence of squirrels, I am aware that the list of things I can say openly is growing.

For example—I hate my Philosophy Class.

There, I said it and I do feel better.

When I signed up for it, I thought it would be very different. It isn't, and I hate it.

It had potential though.

School, for me is filled with possibilities and potential.

I don't have to worry about what I want to be when I grow up, because I am, by legal standards, a grownup.

Having realized that the potential to become a teacher was as inviting to me as leftovers on my kitchen counter are to Princess, I decided to come back to school.

While my age may allow me to get away with being slightly more flippant in class than my younger peers; it doesn't exempt more from those god-forsaken core requirements, so I struggle on.

There is potential all around us at USM. The school is what we make it.

Opportunities to be involved abound and yet I am constantly shocked by the lack of involvement by my fellow Huskies.

I would have loved to attend the recent conference called "Change '08".

I have a hard time fathoming why more people didn't.

I didn't go because of the timing — it was held during the hours most of us red-hat-and-glove-wearers work.

When will the University and its leadership grab hold of the fact that they are ignoring an entire portion of the student population by holding events such as this during the hours when most of us are busy trying to earn those ever increasing tuition dollars?

How about a Saturday conference?

Perhaps a section of the conference could have been held during the afternoon and evening to allow those of us that work during the day to attend at least part of the program.

We are a different generation — has the university ever thought about changing the way it communicates with students who are "of a certain age"?

School is what you make it. Despite a full time job, three kids and school I seem to have found my home here at the Free Press.

There are so many ways to be involved, to make yourself heard.

The possibilities are endless, potential is everywhere.

Be a part of your college community; make USM whatever you want it to be.

(And don't be afraid to wear a red hat).

the free press

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Letters to the Editor

College Democrats

There are a couple of errors in the article "College Democrats" (3/17) which deserve published correction in the interest of accurate reporting and an informed student body.

First, in the discussion reported on by David O'Donnell, "economic equality" was never mentioned as a value held by any group member. What was mentioned was equality of opportunity.

"Economic equality" sounds synonymous with communism, a system that commonly breeds equality of poverty and not one advocated by any Democrat.

Equality of opportunity, on the other hand, is something far different both philosophically and in practice.

People's interests and abilities will always vary; some people will choose more arduous work for the financial benefits it entails, others will choose a more leisurely existence. Incentives for hard work need to remain.

What seems most just, then, is to establish policies that allow a person adequate choice in how to live his or her life. This means, at the preliminary level, ensuring that educational opportunities are available that allow for upward social mobility.

Bill Clinton may have been a controversial leader, but the Democratic policies of his administration allowed millions more people to attend college than during the last eight years of Republican rule.

Second, I cannot recall any group member demoting "free and open debate" to second in value to anything: we cherish it as the fundamental component of good government.

We share Learned Hand's view that "opinions are at best provisional hypotheses, incompletely tested. The more they are tested...the more assurance we may assume, but they are never absolutes. So we must be tolerant of opposite opinions."

Jeff Doucette
Senior
College Democrat

Request for the "Right"

I am writing to commend Dustin and his column. In the three years I have been at USM, no one has been able to stir up as much debate as his column, an achievement in itself.

What disappointed me though, was the lack of mention of the flag in the list of things in his column of March 11. Does Dustin not believe in the flag as the representation of the living country?

The lack of discussion of flag code and the numerous violations visited upon this important symbol was a real oversight. For a person claiming to be a patriot of the United States, they should be sure to be familiar with these important laws.

The not-punishable nature of flag law has meant people, on a daily basis, get away with insulting the very symbol designed to represent them.

I call on Dustin to address this serious oversight in a future column.

David Brown
Senior

To Whom It May Concern:

This fall, I will begin my senior year at the University of Southern Maine and for the first time I have not been granted Federal Work Study. When I reviewed my award, I thought there had been a mistake.

As a full-time student, I rely on work-study to help pay my bills so I can continue my education unhindered by a full-time, off campus job.

After communicating with the Financial Aid office I was rudely informed by an advisor that, due to new policies, I had not fallen within the parameters of the work study award. This happened despite my standing as a senior, having financial need greater than the past and applying well before the priority deadline.

I soon realized that I was not alone.

Many of my peers have received substantially smaller aid packages than ever in their academic career, and very few have been granted work-study, despite having previously received and utilized it.

USM is in a financial crisis. This has led to budget cuts and widespread layoffs, which influence campus morale.

As students, my peers and I also feel the affects of the administrative decisions made.

Not only are we worried about how to support ourselves while taking classes, but are also subject to employees of the university taking their frustrations out on us.

While trying to figure out how to pay my bills next semester, I was interrogated and dealt with callously by a financial aid officer. I understand her frustration, but I deserve better than this.

I chose to come to USM for many reasons, and as someone paying to be here I believe I deserve as such.

A co-worker, currently a USM undergraduate, has been forced to reevaluate her plans to attend USM for grad school in the fall, owing to a poor financial aid package.

Understandably, the university's situation is severe, especially given the fact that student enrollment and retention are major issues. But without students, you don't have a university.

We need a positive environment to learn and work in, and without that, we will look elsewhere.

Financially in need,

Hilary Manuel
Junior
Media Studies

Granny's writes

The following response to "Mourning the big burrito" (Feb. 11) was written last week on our website edition:

A friend offered me a quote one day when I was frustrated by the incredibly inaccurate bullshit rumors I had heard about myself.

"Great minds talk about ideas, good minds talk about events, weak minds talk about people."

It is so much easier to project weaknesses and faults towards others than ourselves.

Not to say that connecting alcohol and drug abuse to the restaurant business is a big stretch, but look around you: do you have any concept of how expensive it is to run a reasonably priced and socially responsible business in this world?

Walk a mile in my shoes and then make your assumptions.

Christopher Godin
Owner of all the blame for the demise of
Granny's Burritos

The Declaration makes no guarantees

I am unsure which "left" or "right" perspective first made this mistake in the recent issues of the Free Press. I caught it in the most recent issue, March 17th in Laura Ashworth's column, "Some food for thought..."

The following snippet is incorrect: "... the Declaration of Independence, which guarantees every American citizen the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

The Declaration makes no such guarantees. The Declaration is a condemnation of British rule of the colonies and makes the case for separation. It is not the document that sets out our rights as citizens of the United States.

The Constitution sets the framework for, and the Amendments (Bill of Rights, etc.) set out our rights and the limits on our government.

Stephen Houser
Professor of Computer Science
Director of Information & Technology

FROM THE RIGHT

Don't believe the hype around Democrats

Dustin Gilbert

Columnist

Dean Scontras was born and raised in Southern Maine, the youngest of seven children.

He graduated from Sanford High School in '87 and the University of Maine in '91.

Despite being told that he was too small to play football, he played as a varsity wide receiver his freshman year at Sanford — and didn't win a single game.

His senior year they were 6-2, and he went on to play Division IA ball for UMaine.

Years later, he's striving to defeat the odds again, this time as a Republican taking on a lineup of power-hitting names in Maine's Democratic party. He's running for Maine's first-district seat in the U.S. Congress.

His confidence is backed by facts, statistics and examples of where this state has been going wrong and what's needed to correct it.

To the USM student body, he asks that you "not believe the hype."

The "hype," he told me when I sat down with him last week, is believing Democrats because they're "good" and disagreeing with Republicans because they're "bad" — a traditional Mainer attitude.

When Scontras graduated he did what half of the young people from this state's colleges do.

"I hopped in my red Volkswagen Rabbit and left Maine. On that drive I heard a country song on the radio titled 'I ain't never comin back again.'" Scontras didn't plan to either.

But he did, after spending time in nearly every metropolis in the country working in the tech industry. He returned to raise his family, wanting to share the Maine landscape with his kids.

"When I take my sons fishing on the rocks for stripers or play football on the beach, there is nothing else that I'd rather be doing. That is the most important thing to me."

But more than just the family man, Scontras is a politician — and he's concerned that the current Democrats aren't doing what's best for the state.

He says that the governor turned down tech companies looking to bring business to Maine, saying that the state wanted to keep an agrarian economy and was "more interested in growing tomatoes in a glass house."

On another point, he says that Ethan Stremling (a Dem. opponent) and Governor Baldacci aren't planning on giving Mainers the opportunity to be independent from the state.

Stremling wants to raise the minimum wage another dollar — which will make things tougher for small businesses.

I spoke up and said that Democrats like Stremling, who also owns low-income housing, keep pushing programs that allow low-income Mainers to live off the state, while at the same time keeping those people in poverty — and keeping their vote.

It's a tactic that breeds laziness and dependency on government programs, which breeds Democratic voters.

Working Mainers suffer as their taxes and costs of living are constantly rising.

In an interesting example, Scontras compared Maine to Ireland.

"Ireland was a major exporter of potatoes and young people. The taxes and (agrarian) economy drove Ireland's youth right out of the country."

He says that once Ireland figured out that releasing tax pressures and introducing new types of industries would fix the problem, they began to thrive. Now that they're at the top of the European Union, people are returning. "Young people are staying and exporting potatoes isn't as important."

Talking about a March 26 debate at the Maine Art Space Gallery, he put into two sentences what I've been trying to tell my liberal friends for years: "the Democrats on that stage and across Maine and America have begun to take away the idea that America is exceptional. It dilutes what is truly American."

On Maine Republicans and the directions the party should take, he had an interesting allegory.

"The Maine Republican party is a lot like the Red Sox used to be. No matter how good they were or how much they were winning by, everyone expected them to lose."

Everyone bought into it, he says, until the team and its fans began to trust the talent, rather than the curse. Down 3-0 in the ALCS, they came back—and Scontras isn't about to forget it.

"The Maine Republican party needs to stop believing in the curse that this state will always be run by Democrats. There's no better example than the Red Sox, even the Patriots. They had Bledsoe, who was a good quarterback with a legendary background, but then he went down and the unknown Tom Brady came in. [Brady] believed in himself and the fans stood behind him. These patterns of victory, the stories of the way these teams won, this is what the Maine Republican party needs to become."

"Give me one reason why students should stay in Maine," I asked him.

With the story of his own trip in the VW Rabbit and what eventually brought him back, his answer was simple. "To influence change."

Opponent's criticize Scontras' inexperience in public office, but it becomes a moot point when one realizes that the House of Representatives is not merely a political stepping stone — it's for working American citizens who wish to influence change and better the country's future.

A proud Mainer with Reagan-like values, Scontras is striving for meaningful change and real progress toward the goals common to both Republicans and Democrats: maintaining graduates, eliminating budget deficits, decreasing the tax burden, and attracting businesses that will turn our economy around.

Don't believe the hype around Democrats. Believe the hype around changes that will work.

Visit www.teamdean08.com for more information on Scontras and his candidacy.

Your weekly horoscopes

Written by the Free Press staff

Aries

March 21-April 20

Must...go...Facebook

You may feel especially drawn to your Facebook account this week. The stars align, telling you to network, network, network. Go with it. (And love it when you get all kinds of happy birthday wall posts).

This week, throw a costume party.

Taurus

April 21-May 20

Dive in heels first

It's time to rock like that French girl on MTV commercials. Don't hold back, take on the week's issues like a sequin-wearing, high-heeled rocker.

This week, buy a lottery ticket.

Gemini

May 21-June 20

Beware the Diva

This week, this whole month actually, you craave attention. Fine. Crave it. But after everyone looks at you, consider what they may be thinking of you. You can act the diva, and the spotlight can be really great for you, but watch out for the underdog if you get too high and mighty.

This week, upgrade your computer.

Cancer

June 21-July 21

Playful?

Under playful Mars, you may feel any of the following: silly fits of joy, loopy behavior, excessive chattiness, bat-your-eyelashes coy, you may even come down a case or two of 'the giggles.' However the planet effects you personally, delight in the spring fever you're experiencing and let it go to your head. You doesn't want the giggles?

This week, have a meeting with your advisor.

Leo

July 22-August 21

It's in the air!

Love. Get your mojo working. Springtime. Blossoming. Romance. Either rent the sex movies (see arts section, page 11) or try flirting.

This week, bust out the flip-flops.

Virgo

August 22- September 21

Take Charge

You don't need a second opinion to know you're right, take the initiative and step in a new direction. Something you may be wary of could reap sweet benefits.

This week, tune up your bike.

Libra

September 22- October 21

Ass-shaking?

Can't nobody hold you down! Oh no! You got to keep on mooovin'! Coincidentally, you have fallen into the horoscope of ass-shaking and empowerment. And good for you, everyone needs a



good dance party (be it mental or physical) and of course nobody can hold you down, you're a Libra.

This week, skip class and get ice cream.

Scorpio

October 22- November 21

Balls to the walls.

Take this time while you're feeling ballsy to do something you might not have the guts to do otherwise. Try for a new job, secure an internship, put an end to drama between you and the girl from that party.

This week, wave to the guy in the car next to you.

Sagittarius

November 22-December 20

Feeling Feisty.

Thanks to Mercury, you are totally freaking feisty right now. While this could spur more flirtation, umm, let's just say keep it (in your pants) calm for the time being. Or else you risk making a fool of yourself. Use the feist for making witty jokes, wearing a daring top — anything but making moves.

This week, recycle this paper!

Capricorn

December 21- January 19

Go with the Flow

Unexpected events have made way for a new project, and you should roll with the punches this week. It's April, it's a new month, it's time to register for classes, it's time to graduate, it's time to get a haircut. Go ahead and take chances that have to do with the unexpected. What better time?

This week, accept that invitation to an honors society.

Aquarius

January 20-February 18

Reward System

It's a good time for you to take a look at your life, sigh, and relax. Take little breaks to get yourself through a busy time. Set little rewards for yourself. Beer after your exam. Nails done after a big job interview. Cheers.

This week, buy somebody flowers

Pisces

February 19-March 20

You go-getter, way to live in a Technicolor world this week, Pisces. It takes an honorable person to move the way you do, and you can be commended for your big dreams. Right now, playing hard to get might be the best way to get what you want. Or what you think you want.

This week, do your laundry.

Now where are the laws?

Elisabeth Altshuler

Contributing Columnist

Sitting at home over February break, I was flipping through the channels until I landed on the news, which was reporting on the shooting at Northern Illinois University.

Listening in awe to the details that were being given, I was immediately brought back to when I flipped through the channels at my grandfather's house close to nine years ago.

At that time, I, like the rest of country, was learning of the massacre that had taken place at Columbine High School, where on April 20, 1999, two students opened fire on students and faculty, killing twelve and wounding twenty-three before taking their own lives.

Though I remember being frightened by what I was hearing, the gravity of the situation didn't really affect me until I turned to the news on February 14, 2008 and saw that a gunman had unleashed fire on students and

faculty at NIU, killing five and wounding sixteen.

I think the passage of time and growing older has given me a new outlook on the rash of shootings that have happened in the past year (and decade).

For me it is no longer a situation where shootings happen elsewhere; they happen at our schools and in our hometowns.

This fear has expanded in me, and it seems to have expanded in others as well.

In a letter to the Portland Press Herald, Sacopee Valley High School teacher Ralph K. Ginorio voiced his opinions on mass shootings.

He believes that "in a world where madmen murder schoolchildren, we must select, train and arm volunteer, well-trained teachers so that they might be their students' protectors."

Though I empathize with his desire to protect students and faculty from those wielding guns, an article in The New York Times titled "Gun Crazy" puts forth something that to me makes more sense: "practical steps the nation

can take that would make it more difficult for dangerous people to obtain deadly firepower."

One of these steps is that background checks should be required for every gun purchase. "That means closing the egregious loophole that permits unlicensed dealers to sell firearms at gun shows without conducting any background check," the article states.

Time will tell if tougher gun laws come to fruition, and in the meantime what the public is left with are sorrowful reminders of the tragedies that have occurred.

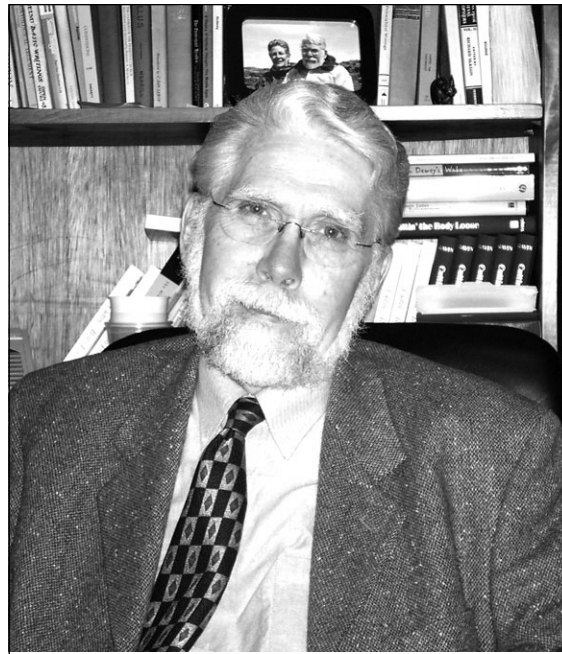
A "lie-in" to commemorate last year's shooting at Virginia Tech will take place in Portland (and at other locations nationwide) on April 16th from 11:45 to 12:15 p.m., and I plan to attend.

The lie-in will feature thirty-two people dressed in black, to represent the thirty-two victims of Virginia Tech, lying down simultaneously.

Seeing this will not only remind us of past shootings, it will also show us how far we have to go.

FEATURED FACULTY

Photo and interview by Liz Lugosi



BILL GAVIN

PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Do you tend to favor modern philosophers more than the ancients?

No, I actually teach ancient philosophy, and I've taught it since I came, so it still remains one of my favorite subjects. I'm very much indebted to people like Socrates and Plato. I think that many of the issues that arise in Plato still have relevance today.

Do you agree with him about poetry?

Initially Plato says things like "philosophy is right and poetry is wrong" but Plato himself was very much a poet. So I conclude from that that for Plato there's good and bad poetry, and good poetry doesn't pretend to be more than it is.

In some ways I think there are close affinities between the philosopher and the poet. I think there's something ironic in the fact that Plato himself is a very poetic philosopher. And when push comes to shove, he's intent to turn to allegories and metaphors to get at the essence of reality.

Were you a philosophy major as an undergrad?

No, I was a Russian major, Russian and Soviet studies. I was doing something supposedly practical. Then I took an intro to philosophy class and the instructor said, "I don't have the answers, but I have interesting questions" and I became hooked, or bewitched.

Did people ever ask you why you're doing this?

Yes, it's generally a good way to stop a conversation - "what do you do?" "I do philosophy." Generally it gets turned into "oh, psychology?" or silence. But I get to read great things by great people.

What would you say to students who are studying what they love, and getting the same questions?

It's important, because the issues that you'll have to deal with have been dealt with by some of the great philosophers.

It's a kind of dress rehearsal. It's a way to express yourself logically and succinctly, and not to be taken aback by issues you're going to have to face anyhow.

For example, one of the courses I teach is "Death and Dying," which I've done for about 20 years, which is a humbling experience. It's one that I can't say I enjoy necessarily, but it's good to do, because sooner or later everyone is going to have to deal with it.

How long have you been teaching?

At USM since 1968, so just about 40 years. When I came I was the only member of the department — we now have eight people, plus some part-timers, and we're a pretty robust department.

What's your favorite thing about teaching?

Convincing students that questions are more important than answers, and that each answer should lead to a question. Answers make the world less interesting than questions.

Who is your favorite philosopher?

William James (1842-1910), who's not only a well-known philosopher, he's the father of American psychology.

Arts & Entertainment

9 The Free Press | April 7, 2008



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX SIMOES

A 'coslayer' dressed as Ryck from the anime "Death Note." The fan's costumes made Anime Boston almost worth the wait.

Fans save Anime Boston 2008

Jake Cowan

Contributing Columnist

Anime Boston invaded Beantown's Hynes Convention Center over Easter weekend, and just like Christians flocking to midnight mass, anime fans from all over the East Coast made their yearly trek to this nerd-Mecca.

While home in Massachusetts for Spring Break, I set out early Saturday morning, accompanied by my friend Al, to indulge in the prolific art form that is Japanese animation.

Neither of us had attended an anime convention before, and unfortunately, neither of us will be attending Anime Boston again.

Being super-negative isn't usually my bag, but taking part in Anime Boston was like waiting in line (for four hours!) to see a unicorn and then when it is your turn to finally see the mythical steed, it turns out to be a giant ugly horse.

There will never be enough space to go into detail about what went wrong, but here's a brief rundown: due to an understaffed crew, a juvenile registration system involving thousands of fans and four computers, and unprofessional organization all around, my Saturday at Anime Boston almost became the worst day of my life.

Thank God for those crazy anime fans.

If you didn't know already, anime fans are a different breed of sub-culture. There is a Japanese word, *otaku* (oh-talk-oooh), defined as anyone with obsessive interests, especially in anime.

Otaku was invented by non-anime fans to describe the fanatics' insane obsessive behavior. The only reason Al and I survived Anime Boston was because of the thousands of *otaku* and their affinity for "cosplay."

Cosplay is when anime fans hand-craft costumes of their favorite anime characters and then don them for all to admire. I would equate it to an anime Halloween, but that would be discrediting the insane amount of detail injected into these costumes.

Most fans spend months creating their costumes using detailed intricacy to create wardrobes identical to those worn by various characters.

The majority of fans at the convention cosplayed, and Al and I actually felt out of place for dressing normally.

Countless anime were represented, but the best costumes we saw came from *Neon Genesis Evangelion*, *Fooly Cooly*, *Death Note*, *Desert Punk* and *Jin-Roh*.

After Al and I waited four hours to enter the convention, we were tired but ready to party. Our first stop was to see the Japanese band The Pillows, perform songs from our favorite anime *Fooly Cooly*.

In traditional Anime Boston fashion, the show was postponed an hour.

While seething and waiting for The Pillows, we were treated to a special opening performance from Japanese pop group, Luv & Response. Listening to Japanese pop stars lip-synch and dance to carbon copy American-influenced pop-ditties for 45 minutes is only entertaining when they tell you and the crowd to, "crap your hands."

After finally bobbing our heads to a few of our favorite Pillow's tunes, we entered a conference room that was scheduled to hold a question and answer forum for Adult Swim.

Adult Swim plays "mature" adult comedies as well as late-night anime on the Cartoon Network. As quickly as we sat down, Al and I got up and left after the two people sitting at the podium said, "Sorry, but we have no affiliation to Adult Swim. We're bloggers who have been fans of Adult Swim for years."

Al and I gave each other a look that said, "what the...?," then left Anime Boston never to return.

We exited with fond memories and a few pictures of the die hard fans that definitely spent more time preparing for Anime Boston than Anime Boston did itself in running this debauchery of a convention. Everybody crap your hands!

DON'T
STAY HOME

CHEER YOUR TEAM
GET A REAL JOB

APRIL 7

There will be a book-signing at USM with Suzanne Strempek Shea, winner of the New England Book Award for Fiction in 2000. Shea taught in the Stonecoast MFA program, and has written five novels. Check out her latest, "Sundays in America - A yearlong road trip in search of Christian faith," which was written after visiting churches all over the US. Free/ 7 to 8:30 p.m./ USM Portland bookstore/ 780-4702

APRIL 8

Softball, or tennis? You could even alternate between the two, as the USM men's tennis team takes on Rhode Island College at the Gorham High School at 3:30 p.m., and the women's softball team plays St. Joseph's at the USM softball field, also at 3:30 p.m. Games are free for students/ Gorham/ 780-5431

APRIL 9

Shakespeare enthusiasts: A lecture entitled "Law, Justice and Love in Shakespeare's 'The Merchant of Venice'" will be presented by Regina Schwartz from Northwestern University. This event is sponsored by the USM English department, and is free and open to the public. 4:15 to 6:15 p.m./ University Events Room, Glickman Family Library, Portland campus/ 780-4291

APRIL 10

Graduating this year? Not graduating, but interested in making money over the summer? USM's job fair will be a great place to start, continue, or conclude your employment search. Bring many copies of your resume, and meet with representatives from more than 65 companies and employers. The job fair will be hosted by USM's Career Services & Professional Life Development. Free and open to the public/ Noon to 4 p.m./ Sullivan Gym, Portland campus/ 780-4695

APRIL 11

It's looking like a high-seas theme for the Portland Pirates tonight, as they take on the Worcester Sharks. As if watching a great hockey game isn't enough, it's also fan appreciation night. Gotta love it. Tickets purchased on game day are between \$9 and \$21 depending on where you sit, but you can save by buying in advance or at a group rate/ 7 p.m./ Cumberland County Civic Center/ 828-4665

APRIL 12

The USM School of Music presents the 31st Annual Honors Recital - your opportunity to hear some of USM's finest musical talent. This collection of student solo performances is free and open to the public, but reservations are highly recommended. 8 to 10 p.m./ Corthell Hall, Gorham campus/ 780-5555

APRIL 13

The Portland Stage Company presents "Magnetic North," by William Donnelly. This play is a tale of marriage, intimacy, and betrayal, told in a warm and humorous manner. It runs until April 20. Tickets are \$29 for students/ 2 p.m./ 25A Forest Ave., Portland/ 774-0465

An honor in brass (or bass)

USM Honors Recital performers chosen

Tyler Jackson

Staff Writer

On April 12, the USM School of Music will host their 31st annual honors recital. Each year, a jury of faculty and outside guest judges select six to twelve of the finest solo performers the school has to offer.

"She or he can be a freshman, senior—it doesn't matter. Nor do grades matter," said Mary Snell, the arts promotion director for the university. "What's important is their talent in performance"

In 1978, the faculty of the music department first selected the best solo performers in the music student body, which at the time included about 50 students.

Outside the main office in Corthell Hall hangs a brass-plated plaque with the names of every honors recital performer from the past three decades.

Some of the names of the plaque include those who are now professors of music across the country, music teachers in public schools, students who went on to perform in major military ensembles and orchestras, women who have ca-

reers in major opera companies in New York, Colorado and Santa Fe, and some who have founded vocal ensembles and jazz groups in New York.

"There's no reason to believe that many of the students performing this year will not do just as well," said Snell.

Teachers of individual instruments nominate the students, which gives them an audition before the panel of judges.

Students can perform alone or with piano accompaniment.

"This is the event through which we honor excellence in solo

performance," said Scott Harris, the director of the music school. "This year's program is especially varied and ranges from opera arias to jazz to musical theatre to contemporary concert music."

The university distributes letters personally signed by Harris, informing parents, relatives, and former teachers that the students have achieved the honor.

The audience is always filled with those who have been supportive over years of practice and learning.

"Every year, I hear from the panel of audition judges that the

selection of honorees from such a deep talent pool of nominees is a real challenge, and this year was no exception," Harris said. "It is my favorite concert of the season."

The 31th Annual Honors Recital will be held at 8 p.m. Saturday April 12, 2008, in Corthell Concert Hall on the USM Gorham Campus. The Recital is free and open to the public, and reservations are being taken. Call the Music Box Office at 780-5555.

Honors Recitalists

By Jenna Howard

Twelve students will perform in this year's honors recital, out of dozens who were nominated. The annual recital — in its 31st year — features the USM School of Music's most talented students in solo performance. They're nominated by faculty and then chosen by a panel of judges made up by faculty and outside guests. Here are a handful of those chosen.

Maya Chapman



Maya Chapman already holds a degree from USM — in social work. Her concerns for humanity lend drive to the second degree she's now perusing in piano.

Unlike her fellow music education majors, she is a piano pedagogy major, which means that rather than wanting to teach general music and learning many instruments, she will master her own instrument in the hopes of one day owning her own private studio.

The twist, stemming from her social work degree, is that she dreams of teaching special-needs children.

She took a year after her first graduation to retrain her own piano chops before coming back in full force to master the craft.

She has already started down the path toward a full teaching studio, and she'll be working with her second special-needs student this month.

Piano, she hopes, will help improve his fine motor skills.

Besides also working in the School of Music Box Office, she earns her keep as a waitress in Falmouth.

To relieve stress from a jam-packed schedule? She jogs, when it fits in.

As for the stress of auditioning for the honors recital, "it's kind of scary—I mean, (the judges) are nice, but you walk in, say hello, and start playing in this huge hall. Sometimes they cut you off. I prepared two pieces, and after the first piece they smiled and said 'that's all the time we have today.'"

A couple days after walking off the stage, her piano teacher called to tell her she had made the cut.

It was same woman who nominated her, and the tight-knit pair rejoiced over the phone at the accomplishment.

Alexis Hardy

Alexis Hardy sells vodka. She also works in a costume shop. On school breaks she takes care of kids at a daycare.

Despite her various jobs at Cold River Vodka, the USM theatre department, and the Portland YMCA, this 22-year-old simply wants a career in musical theatre. Which is what she is going to be performing at Saturday's recital.

She initially saw herself getting a degree in English. However, doing musicals in high school, her love for musical theater grew with each show, and today she is working towards a bachelors degree in music with a minor in theater.

With the help of a voice teacher and musical theatre coach, the Lewiston native has risen to the top of the heap and made her way into this year's Honors Recital.

Her audition, she said, was perhaps the most nerve-wracking, and she didn't even perform in front of the judges.

"I had to do my auditions via videotape," she said, "and I wasn't allowed to stop the tape. You know, if you mess up in person you can just ask to start over, but on video, I couldn't

do this. I was nervous, it is completely different, there is no leeway."

She had another audition that same day, in Massachusetts, for the New England Theater Conference.

In front of paid professionals, "you have three minutes to sing or dance or act, or do whatever you want, basically," Hardy said. In her three minutes, she sang the piece she will perform at the Honors Recital, along with another selection, and has gotten a few call-backs so far. In her industry, this is a great sign.

It is also a good sign that Hardy has been in every single musical theater production USM has put on in the four years she has been here. From "Titanic" to "Spirit of the Reindeer," she has graced every show.

Hardy said that it's different to perform musical theatre for an honors recital that only showcases up to 12 students, with judges looking for proper technique like you'd have in opera or classical music; she had to show her technique through the theatre numbers.

But, she noted, they were also looking for individuality and commitment to the song, which were probably quite apparent after her audition.

She will perform a song called Sixteen Bars, from the off-Broadway "Taxi Cabaret," about starry-eyed youth going to New York with dreams of fame.

Coincidentally, Hardy has planned for the summer of 2009 to include a move to New York City, a flurry of auditioning, and her first attempts at stardom in the world of musical theatre.

Cassie Gray



Proud to be unique, Cassie Gray represents a minority of performers at USM. In a department that is dominated by classical vocalists, she sings jazz.

"I'd say I'm breaking through tradition," says Gray. "As far as I know, I'm the first jazz vocalist ever to make the honors recital."

Generally, she explains, its classical voice included in the recital, and the attitude is that that should be the focus of the vocals in the show.

The jazz vocalist has been hopping around between schools for some time, looking for the right place for her talent and needs.

She began college at Stonehill in Massachusetts, but there was no music concentration, she went on to Washington D.C. to the Catholic University of America, where there was a great music program, but no music education major.

She arrived at USM in the spring of 2006, and says with a tone of relief that it is here she will stay.

This year's audition was scheduled for March 1, but when a snowstorm closed campus that day, the try-outs were postponed for two weeks, and re-scheduled for March 15.

Cassie's junior recital was on the night of March 14.

Because she'd been so concentrated on her work for that show, the two extra weeks to prepare for the honors audition seemed a welcome gift.

The morning after a night performance to showcase her talent, she got up and showcased it again.

You'd think that might be a conflict, but not for Gray.

"I enjoyed it," she says. "I felt like I was getting a taste of a 'real' musician's schedule. Really, whether you have one day or five days to prepare for something like this, if you're not ready in one, you wouldn't be in five. It's about how much you've cumulatively prepared."

It can be assumed that this woman was quite prepared. To break into a recital as old as this one, within a traditional department, showcasing a different kind of sound — well, it must've been quite an audition. (And should make for quite a performance on Saturday).



DVD BATTLE

Let's talk about sex

By David O'Donnell

Two under-the-radar, new-release DVDs engage in head-to-head combat. You don't have the time or money to go to the theater. Here's some help sorting through that daunting wall at the front of your friendly, local video store.



Jeff Bridges in *The Amateurs*.



One of the many mismatched pairings in *After Sex*.

The Amateurs

Raygun Productions

Starring Jeff Bridges, Tim Blake Nelson,
Glenn Headly

VS

After Sex

Nala Films

Starring Mila Kunis, Mark Blucus, Zoe
Saldana

Andy Sargentee, a struggling divorcee and parent, comes to the conclusion that the only way to finally do something with his life is to get his entire small town to produce hardcore pornography.

The lone voice of dissent takes the tone of, "I'm no choir boy, but if we've made a porno, we've made a porno."

Andy is played by Jeff Bridges, and his dear townie friends include Ted Danson (*Cheers*), Joe Pantoliano (*The Sopranos*), and William Fichtner (everything else). There is no good explanation for the steady stream of familiar faces - this is the kind of film you usually see at the start of a major actor's career.

Andy's thought process is simple: he needs to become relevant and successful.

Sex is always relevant and lucrative. A quick glance at the escort ads in the newspaper, the sight of a busy strip club across the street — it all makes way too much sense.

And they're not talking about trash here. The local town-folk study hours of tape and concoct ambitious plotlines, including sex on a helicopter rope ladder in the midst of an explosion.

The middle of the film is where it gets tantalizing, because it finally gives the actors a tiny little air-bubble of breathing room.

Unfortunately, it doesn't let itself be just about men reacting to the pornography business (though those are its funniest moments).

The Amateurs is actually about a town coming together in the most unlikely (and implausible) of situations, with the overarching theme that pleasant surprises almost always result from taking chances you would initially disregard as too foolish, ambitious or ridiculous.

This goes for everything from the production of a porno movie to asking the hot saleslady at a furniture store if she'll have "hot lesbian" sex on film.

After Sex is a high-concept movie about high-concept relationships. It's a series of short vignettes unified by a common theme — the way in which people are temporarily uninhibited after they've just gotten their rocks off.

Freed from their libidos, they can finally confront one another with all those honest revelations that probably would have prevented them from shacking up in the first place.

After Sex puts up a "diverse" assortment of couples — closeted college lesbians, elderly swingers, detached adulterers — with the arrogant notion that the filmmaker just needs some sincerity and a gimmick to give them dignity.

Contrary to what the film wants to do, it ends up wheeling them out like a parade of freaks, ready to knock down your prejudices with edgy dialogue.

The only time we're not offered the hint of an elaborate backstory is when we're dealing with a couple of white, attractive, heterosexual thirty-somethings at the very beginning.

They don't need any explanation, and all they're worried about is coming to grips with their feelings.

After that "normal" couple is out of the way, we can dive into the gay frat boy with puppy-dog eyes being coaxed out of the closet by an overbearing sex demon.

I'm not sure if I was insulted for the white thirty-somethings, or for everybody else.

But that's just the annoying part of the movie — the rest is simply half-naked people talking dirty and angrily to one another while trying to catch their breath. It looks pretty slick.

If you hadn't read this review, you'd get the surprise of cameos from Dr. Quinn: Medicine Woman and Mr. Jones from the *Friday* movies.

By the end, you're left only with a renewed appreciation for the art of storytelling.

Letting us know that characters have had stories, at one point in their lives, isn't quite enough.

The Winner...

On a technicality, *After Sex*. Mostly because most of its actors haven't starred in much better movies, and it's watchable.

I would almost genuinely recommend it for those days when you're seriously ill and propped in front of a TV, popping in and out of consciousness. Especially if you've always had a crush on Jackie from *That 70's Show*, or spry old Mr. Jones.

I bought the album, played it endlessly and put the songs on just about every tape I ever made for a girl.

Waiting for Kozelek



Sun Kil Moon (front man Mark Kozelek, above) returns with "April," released April 1, 2008, the long-awaited follow-up to 2003's "Ghosts of the Great Highway."

Sun Kil Moon's April drops just in time for spring

Tyler Bussey
Columnist

After high school, most of my friends – scratch that, all of my friends – went off to college. I started a band.

Didn't turn out to be much of a long-term commitment; we broke up after a highly tumultuous year of only a handful of concerts, a couple of demos and one radio session to show for it.

On the other hand, I could go on forever about the songs we wrote, traveling we did, shows we played, and all the incredible music we discovered together that year.

At the top of that list is Mark Kozelek (and his many incarnations – formerly as the Red House Painters, and now as Sun Kil Moon, whose new album *April* was just released on April 1).

I remember when I first heard the Red House Painters.

Keith, the singer in my band, was giving me a lift to band practice, his prized Bonneville blasting cool air in my face.

A plain song spoke through the speakers; I turned it up high.

It was "Have You Forgotten," the leading track from the band's 1996 classic, *Songs for a Blue Guitar*, the kind of song that just melts your heart without even trying.

Keith told me he bought it randomly at Tower Records – still in business then – because he liked the cover; and, more importantly, because he'd noticed, upon exam-

ining the song titles, that they'd covered YES' "Long Distance Runaround."

YES was, and is, Keith's favorite band (which is pretty embarrassing and probably explains why our band didn't work out) but I can be grateful that his misguided YES affection led us to *Songs for a Blue Guitar*.

I bought the album, played it endlessly and put the songs on just about every tape I ever made for a girl.

It was the perfect soundtrack at the perfect time; the right album to usher in my twenties.

It's still hard to say exactly what makes Kozelek's songs so lovely. The guitars masterful – ethereal one minute and raging like Crazy Horse the next, and the lyrics are evocative, richly painted scenes of youth past, love and turmoil.

His songs can be terrifically bleak, yet contain glimpses of hope; his songs can warm, sunny and pastoral, but not without an undercurrent of pain, anger, violence.

What separates Kozelek from your typical sad-core strummer is his restraint: there's never an overflow of feeling. Kozelek deals in subtlety, in weaving simple things together into something new, something strikingly, achingly beautiful.

The Red House Painters was essentially the Mark Kozelek Band, and Kozelek dropped the moniker after the completion of *Old Ramon* in 1998.

He would go it alone for a time, releasing a solo album made up

entirely of Bon Scott-era AC/DC covers (2001's excellent *What's Next to the Moon*) and making appearances in films like *Almost Famous* and *Vanilla Sky*.

Sun Kil Moon would eventually fill the void with their debut album, *Ghosts of the Great Highway*, which many claim is Kozelek's masterpiece, eclipsing even the best Painters work.

Ghosts appeared in 2003, though Keith and I didn't hear it until 2005, and it dominated our world.

Kozelek's next effort under the Sun Kil Moon moniker came in 2005: the album *Tiny Cities*, which consisted of nothing but Modest Mouse covers. It was stunningly – and somewhat surprisingly – gorgeous, but whetted my appetite for new, original Kozelek tunes. (I don't even want to imagine how it felt to more veteran Kozelek fans, folks who'd been waiting since 2003.)

Fortunately for the devoted, a new Kozelek record has finally come.

A month ago, "Moorestown," the sixth track from *April*, leaked, and it seemed like clockwork: there I was again, playing a Sun Kil Moon record on repeat, getting lost in it.

That's the kind of band Sun Kil Moon has always been: perfect for getting lost, for letting your mind wander.

The album was released on April 1, 2008 and is available at caldoverderecords.com.

State woes, Portland wails State Theater closing impacts quality, quantity of music

Jeff Beam
Columnist

There is a buzz in the musically-inclined city of Portland, and it is one of pain. The city is hurting for a medium-sized music venue. Hurting badly.

The State Theatre formerly served as the provider of quality entertainment to Portland. It wasn't as big as the Civic Center, but bigger than any club or bar. It could hold about 2000 people, and often, it did.

The kind of bands that played the State Theatre were usually up-and-coming acts on their first tour, or bands whose creative boundaries stretch further than mainstream radio.

A number of highly popular acts have also graced the stage, including Jimmy Eat World, the Foo Fighters, and Ray Davies of The Kinks.

The venue was also a great chance for local acts to play for a larger audience than usual.

More love could be transmitted between performer and audience, as there could be more audience, more stage. And imagine the band's delight: more people, more dancing, more audience telling a friend the show was great (more fans, more shows).

The State Theatre closed in 2007.

Many, myself included, believed the venue closed due to fire code violations, but the state fire

marshal's office instead cites a management dispute.

Whatever the reason, the State Theatre is sorely missed.

When it closed, the number of concerts in Portland dropped off immediately.

Bands had a dramatically different, much smaller, even drearier choice of venues – they either had to cram their national tour into a small club, or they'd have to fill the 9,000-seat Civic Center.

Maine has a hard enough time convincing acts to head north of their usual travel route. Acts that come to Maine usually aren't on their way to anywhere else. When they're done playing Portland, they turn around and go back home.

Whether the State Theatre is reopened or a new place is built, Portland needs a medium-sized venue.

This would boost the Maine music scene, increase state revenue, and create an overall heightened sense of excitement in the city.

A rumor floated recently that Kevin Spacey considered buying the State Theatre, as an investment, as he's been known to do around the country.

The story goes that he came to take a look, and it looked like it would take way too much money to shape the place up – this coming from a multi-millionaire.

If not even a movie star can save the State Theater from rotting on Congress Street, Portland and its musical heartbeat may be in trouble.

BRANDON'S BREW REVIEW

Shipyards Brewer's Choice Special Ale 2008

Brandon McKenney
Staff Writer

I'm not a big fan of Shipyards to begin with, so I grabbed this six-pack with a bit of hesitation and low-expectations.

Shipyards puts out a Brewer's Choice each year – a limited edition recipe from their in-house brew team. Typically, limited editions of anything tend to be a little better than their established counterparts, so I hoped this ale might be an improvement on some of Shipyards' more bland offerings (Prelude and their IPA come to mind).

The beer pours out to a golden amber color with a medium head, typical of an English IPA.

The aroma is hoppy with a sweet roasty malt scent to it, and the taste is almost exactly what I was expecting: a balanced effort of sweet malt which fades into the bitterness that the hops bring.

The after-taste is a bit dry for my liking, but the beer is still a drinkable IPA by most accounts.



Like most offerings from the 'Yard, this year's Brewer's Choice is nothing I would seek out, but is a decent performer in its style.

Brandon likes beer. No kidding. If you want him to test the waters before you drop cash on your next six-pack, send review requests (or brew-related questions) to freepress@usm.maine.edu with the subject: Beer.

Student turns idea into a carbon-credit program

From LOURAINÉ page 1

An excess of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases is one of the leading causes for global warming, the increase in the average temperature of Earth's atmosphere and waters.

Another way to reduce your carbon output is to purchase carbon-offsets also known as carbon credits.

"A carbon credit is a stock in research and funding towards taking carbon out of the atmosphere or preventing carbon going into the atmosphere," said Rudolph.

Many major companies, such as Expedia, are providing this option to customers to help offset the company's carbon emissions.

Other organizations include the Chicago Climate Exchange, "the world's first and North America's only active voluntary, legally binding integrated trading system to reduce emissions of all six major greenhouse gases," according to their website.

Right now, One Blue Pearl is made up primarily of Rudolph's family members. But she has enlisted the help of friend and fellow student Kelly McCormick to create a marketing scheme.

"(Louraine) has a good heart, people will gravitate toward her," said McCormick. "She's always working for a good cause."



"Louraine has a good heart, people will gravitate toward her. She's always working for a good cause."

- Kelly McCormick

Rudolph takes inspiration from the books she reads, the people she knows, the natural world around her, and a Native American proverb that says, "we don't inherit the land from our ancestors but borrow it from our children."

Interested? Rudolph wants your help. "It would be awesome to have anybody who cares about the world as much as I do."

For more information, visit www.oneblue-pearl.org.

This year's winter piled on the snow, but didn't deepen the budget crisis

From WEATHER page 1

The only time USM has had to deviate from the bid is to have snow physically hauled away, which is no small task. It forces the contractor to use a fuel-hungry, tri-axel machine, costing the school an additional \$10,000 for all the equipment and hours required.

Ten or so years ago, that process was both more common and less costly. It was more common because students at the Portland campus were once so dependant on outdoor parking, before the five-story garage on Bedford Street.

It also cost less, because they could dump excess snow just down the road along the Back Cove. The EPA has since put a stop to that, when melting snow was determined to be a major cause of water pollution.

In recent years, the agency has required that surplus snow be relocated to certified dumpsites.

Dave Early has been director of facilities management at USM for 18 years. He happily

reports that the school has only had to pay for one of those expensive hauls this year.

And he hasn't been especially surprised by the rough weather — he's seen worse, much worse. He is also quick to point out that the school has benefited by locking in reasonable prices far in advance.

That goes for oil, too — 100 percent of its #2 heating oil was secured at \$2.209 per gallon, an improvement over what was anticipated.

In the end, according to official estimates, the school is projecting a seven-percent increase in energy expenditures over the previous year. Early admits that the figure is "conservative," and it is an increase, but he has been happy to sidestep some of the biggest pitfalls of a rough winter.

2009, he guesses, could be a different story, and one that needs to be monitored closely.

Judging from today's prices, the school's budget for fuel oil, natural gas and electricity could increase by several hundred thousand dollars.

It currently hovers at around five million.

Father of slain journalist to speak on campus

grams covering genocide and human rights,

From BEYOND page 1

including a visit from Paul Rusesabagina, the subject of "Hotel Rwanda."

The event is expected to be so well attended that the University has set up additional rooms in the Abromson center where it will be simulcast to anybody who can't find a seat at Hannaford Hall.

Although attendance has been relatively small at two similar events this year — including a debate between an Israeli Army veteran and an Israeli citizen speaking out against settlements, the well recognized names of

Pearl and Ahmed are expected to be a major draw.

Organizers anticipate that many who have followed the Iraq war or other Middle East peace issues may still be familiar with the Pearl incident.

Judea Pearl boasts credentials as a professor at UCLA and the author of three award-winning books. Ahmed, considered a leading expert on Islam, is currently a professor at American University and 2004 recipient of the Gandhi Center Fellowship Peace award.

The event will take place Monday the 7th from 7-9 p.m. in Hannaford Hall. There will be rooms at the Abromson center providing a simulcast of the dialogue.

Board of Visitors gives report card, and to-do list

From VISITORS page 1

"The more the community sees the school as a key engine to the future of the region, more positive things will happen."

The report also suggests than an antiquated "formula" for distributing state appropriation of funds must be revamped by the Board of Trustees in a way that reflects the potential and importance of USM to the region and the citizens of Maine.

USM has received the same 24 percent of the appropriation since the 1970 despite having nearly doubled in size.

The report also discusses the possibility of forming "programs of distinction" at USM. In theory, a nationally recognized program could attract out-of-state students (and their out-of-state dollars).

These marquee programs can bring a school like USM to the attention of a student who might not otherwise consider attending the university.

Interim Provost Mark Lapping is similarly intrigued by the ideas of such programs. Pointing to the growing reputation of the school's music program, Lapping recognizes the positive effects a nationally known program could generate.

"We just need to make sure other programs don't suffer as a result," Lapping said.

The Board has also tasked themselves with trying to figure out where USM ranks among peer universities, hoping to parlay high ratings from the U.S. News and World Report into local investment as a means to build the reputation and quality of the school.

The report recognizes that finding an appropriate and comparable set of similar universities can be difficult; they suggest the 90 schools of the Coalition of Urban & Metropolitan Universities (CUMU), of which USM is a member, as a starting point.

Board Chairman and USM alumnus Bob Blackwood presented the report to the USM community in late March.

"The Board of Visitors acts as the eyes and ears of the community, telling USM what the southern Maine community wants," said Blackwood, "we act as a sounding board for program changes." They do not, however, have the power to create them — actual decisions and implementation are reserved for the Board of Trustees.

The original Imperative in 2000, called "A Southern Maine Imperative: Meeting the Region's Higher Education Needs in the 21st Century," suggested the ambitious goal of making USM a top-ranked public university by 2010.

This time around, worsening budget concerns and lower enrollment have shifted the focus of the Board's recommendations. However, the lofty goals of the first report have not been completely dismissed; the Board sees national recognition of USM's quality as a goal that might help address current fiscal and enrollment issues.

The report also recommends fully implementing the newly designed core-curriculum, and seeks to "improve student persistence in completing degree programs."

For USM to be comparable to similar institutions, the Board insists, it must address graduation rates, a serious issue at a school where fewer than 34 percent of students graduate within six years.

The Imperative II was jointly financed by The Davis Educational Foundation and Clark Associates Insurance.

The Board of Visitors is currently working with USM and the University of Maine System to develop a system to measure success in implementation of the recommendations.

The board aims to provide progress reports every academic year.

A Southern Maine Imperative II: Recommendations

1. Continue to make progress toward becoming a university of national distinction among peer institutions whose mission is to contribute to the economic development, social health, and cultural vitality of their regions. Identify benchmarks to comparable universities beginning in the 2008-09 academic year.
2. Secure sustainable financing consistent with the community's vision and USM's mission.
3. Invest in program areas of potential distinction that demonstrate the quality and value of a USM education.
4. Sustain and grow applied R&D programs relevant to the needs of southern Maine business and industrial clusters and appropriate and sustainable for an institution with USM's mission, size, and resource base.
5. Fully implement the redesigned general education curriculum.
6. Prepare graduates to succeed in a global, technology-based economy through both general education and specialized degree programs.
7. Improve student success and persistence in completing undergraduate degrees so that USM is comparable to peer institutions.
8. Good progress in growth in noncredit programming, online education, and regional partnerships has been made. Continue the good progress in these areas, especially expanding online education.

Student Body President Chalifour gives first "State of the University Address"

Ashley Oliver
Staff Writer

On an evening before the spring vacation, students and faculty filled the seventh floor of the Glickman Library to hear the first annual Student Government Association's "State of the University Address."

Student Body President AJ Chalifour spoke about the university in both a critical and approving manner as he outlined the faults and triumphs of the cash-strapped school.

Areas of discussion included USM's total tuition cost, student events, budget concerns, and lack of student involvement.

He noted that, in comparison with Colby and Bowdoin Colleges, USM students end up with much more debt after graduation. His remedy for this trouble was to reach out to non-residents by offering them more scholarships based on GPA and SAT scores.

Chalifour explained his plan's benefits.

"This could serve to raise our revenue by increasing enrollment, while not requiring scholarship dollars to offset tuition rates."

For students with outrageous loans after graduation, Chalifour added his support for Opportunity Maine, a recently implemented program in which students can get tax credits to pay off their student loans.

On the subject of the University of Maine System, Chalifour had some less applauding words.

Aimed at the allocation of funds amongst the Maine universities — from which USM has gotten 24 percent of the allotment since 1970, despite nearly doubling in size — Chalifour said "it's unfair, it's illogical, and it's about time something is done about it. We cannot continue to run such a large university with such an essential mission in this state, while remaining so dependent on student tuition and fees."

Chalifour said that the current system needs to be challenged.

"Southern Maine legislators need to take ownership of USM and its importance to their own constituents as well as the state. They need to advocate for USM, and the University of Maine System in Augusta."

He further explained that state legislators in Augusta need to realize that one of USM's primary advantages is its location. Graduating students will have



more professional opportunities in southern Maine than in areas around other universities in the Maine system.

"Students would appreciate seeing improvements in three main areas: the right hardware, logical and useable instructional technology, and space that is conducive to learning and teaching," said Chalifour.

As an example, he cited a dying-seagull-sounding heating unit in Luther Bonney and the ever-changing climate of Bailey Hall, which, as he points out, may actually "serve as an advantage for our earth science majors: it's hard for other students when they have to predict how freezing cold or unbearably hot their classroom will be on any given day."



COURTESY OF THE USM POLICE DEPARTMENT

impede or interfere with students.

Welcome to the love-seat Mar. 29 – 2:19 p.m. Suspicious man hanging out on a couch in Luther Bonney, making female students uncomfortable. Subject was identified a current student, no action taken.

But seriously, don't forget those 'belts Mar. 22 – 6:48 p.m. Vehicle stopped on College Ave, warned for driving on sidewalks and without seatbelts.

The most romantic place on Earth Mar. 19 – 10:44 p.m. Two subjects caught engaging in public indecency in parking garage, were warned to seek alternate locations. Summons issued for open alcohol container in the car.

Aerial assault Mar. 13 – 2:52 p.m. People throwing snowballs off the roof of Costello Sports Complex, warned to stay off the roof.

At these prices? April. 3 – 6:22 p.m. A vehicle was seen leaking gasoline in the parking garage. Portland Fire Dept and AAA notified.

Cut-rate room & board April. 3 – 10: 37 a.m. Littering: A mattress had been dumped on the third level of the parking garage. Facilities management contacted.

Gimme your name! April. 3 – 9:36 a.m. Keeping the Peace: Subject outside Masterton Hall trying to get people to sign a petition using "pretty aggressive tactics." Given permission to remain as long as he did not

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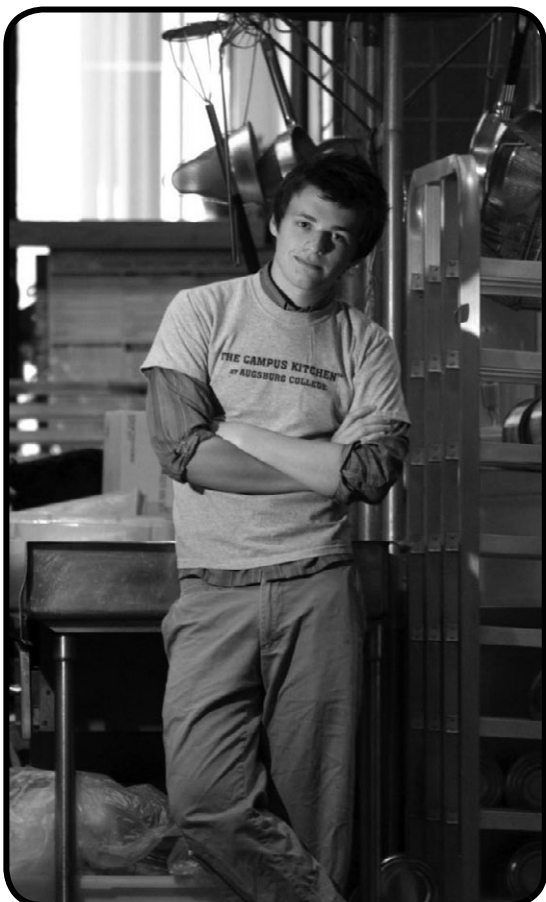
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Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).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

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				4	2	5		

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Newsday Crossword

ON THE FIELD by David W. Cromer
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Shadow box
 - 5 Takes care of
 - 10 Actress Olivia of *The Wonder Years*
 - 14 Fashion magazine
 - 15 Humphrey successor
 - 16 Brown shade
 - 17 Daily delivery
 - 18 Locomotive attachment
 - 20 Buys bonds, perhaps
 - 22 Good-luck charms
 - 23 Commit larceny
 - 24 Ambitious and aggressive
 - 25 Cosmetician's milieu
 - 28 Move furtively
 - 32 Baker's concoction
 - 37 Cat comment
 - 38 Pigment
 - 39 Mind the tykes
 - 40 June honoree
 - 42 Candle count
 - 43 News article
 - 45 Wile E.'s nemesis
 - 48 From the Arctic
 - 50 Laughing carnivore
 - 51 Olay alternative
 - 54 Corn holders
 - 58 Faucet part
 - 61 Breastbone
 - 63 Horse-drawn conveyance
 - 65 Big hairdo
 - 66 Sound quality

- 67 Ike's two-time opponent
- 68 Nomad's abode
- 69 Calligrapher's supply
- 70 Get trained
- 71 Art Deco artist

DOWN

- 1 Tourney rounds
- 2 Oxygen producer
- 3 Kicking partner
- 4 Publicity piece
- 5 Diplomacy
- 6 Swelled heads
- 7 Compass reading
- 8 Dental concern
- 9 Overwhelm with work

- 10 Orate
- 11 Charley horse
- 12 Writer Harte
- 13 Yours and mine
- 19 Calendar abbr.
- 21 Beefy slices
- 24 Explosive initials
- 26 Hidey hole
- 27 *Simpsons* bus driver
- 29 Campus official
- 30 Theater section
- 31 Decorative pitcher
- 32 Silicon Valley product
- 33 Coupe, for one
- 34 Dry-dock sight
- 35 Whirlpool

- 36 Steak order
- 41 Ninny
- 44 Gets by
- 46 "Gotcha!"
- 47 Tell tales
- 49 Ceremonial act
- 52 Outspoken
- 53 Wear away
- 55 Derive by reasoning
- 56 Way beyond well-done
- 57 Struck down, in the Bible
- 58 Italian wine region
- 59 British prep school
- 60 Social position
- 61 *Lion King* villain
- 62 Weed out
- 64 ___ carte

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66						67						68			
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UPCOMING GAMES

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

Monday April 7

Women's Lacrosse vs. CURRY @ Fitzpatrick Stadium 7 p.m.

Tuesday April 8

Softball vs. ST JOE'S (double-header) 3:30 p.m.
Men's Tennis vs. RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE 3:30 p.m.
Men's Lacrosse vs. COLBY @ Fitzpatrick Stadium 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday April 9

Baseball vs. HUSSON 3:30 p.m.

Thursday April 10

Baseball @ Salem State 3 p.m.
Men's Tennis vs. THOMAS 3:30 p.m.
Men's Lacrosse vs. UMASS BOSTON 4 p.m.
Women's Lacrosse @ Rhode Island College 6 p.m.

Saturday April 12

Women's Track @ UMass Lowell Invite 10 a.m.
Baseball vs. EASTERN CONN 12 p.m.
Men's Tennis vs. WESTERN CONN 12 p.m.
Men's Lacrosse @ UMass Dartmouth 1 p.m.
Women's Lacrosse vs. UMASS DARTMOUTH 1 p.m.
Softball @ UMass Dartmouth (double-header) 1 p.m.

Sunday April 13

Baseball @ UMass Boston 1 p.m.
Softball @ Colby (double-header) 1 p.m.

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EOE

HUSKY HERO

Interview by John Forestell

Adam Ross

Year: Senior
Major: Health Fitness
Sport: Baseball



FP: How old were you when you first started playing baseball?

Adam: I was probably 4 or 5, I have a terrible memory though so I may be wrong.

FP: Do you just pitch, or you do you play other positions as well?

Adam: I'm strictly a pitcher. Once I got to college they took away my hitting privileges.

FP: What other sports did you play in high school?

Adam: I played basketball and soccer.

FP: What made you want to pursue baseball further after high school?

Adam: It was what I was best at and most passionate about. Plus as kids we all have pro aspirations, but I guess Division III baseball suited me just fine.

FP: How many different pitches do you throw?

Adam: I throw three: fastball, change-up, and curve.

FP: Do you have any rituals you go through before a start?

Adam: No, I'm not really a superstitious person. The one thing that may be thought of as a ritual is going through the exact same stretching and warm-up routine.

FP: Who's your favorite nation team and player?

Adam: My favorite team is the Red Sox, and my favorite player is Josh Beckett, and I'm not ashamed to say that (Derek) Jeter comes in a close second.

FP: Is there anything you want USM to know about the "real" Adam Ross?

Adam: What you see is what you get, as boring as that might sound!

MIKE ON SPORTS

Betting on sports isn't just bad for Pete Rose

Mike Tardiff
 Columnist

This is not a public service announcement, just a cautionary tale: be weary of betting on sports.

No, I didn't squander away thousands of dollars in student loans to write this column, but I did put myself into a precarious situation at the hands of my own curiosity.

On my way back to Biddeford on the Saturday of the Elite Eight, I heard an ad on the radio claiming that this guy had a free tip on the biggest upset of the night in college basketball.

Hardly able to contain myself, I dialed the toll-free number and waited to hear the booming voice of God declare Memphis or some other school dead in the water. What I got instead was the thick New Jersey accent of a man talking a mile a minute about betting and handicaps and spreads.

The guy talked as though he had already watched the game happen, as if he, sitting in his probably dusty office somewhere in Jersey, actually had the power of God. He spoke with conviction and certainty. He wanted to make sure I put down a good bet.

And I could have — if I'd had the inclination to gamble away the only thing keeping me from the streets of Biddeford — made myself a lot of money thanks to this tip.

But I didn't. I don't bet.

But plenty of college students do, which is why I'm telling this tale.

U.S. Census statistics say that between eight and 20 percent of college students have dealt with a gambling problem, and peg 18-24-year-olds as showing the worst forms of disordered gam-

bling at a rate two to three times higher than all other adults.

Heck, I have a few buddies who heavily supplement their income by living at virtual poker tables, using off-shore accounts to accrue pretty thick wads of cash.

On Monday, I got a call from the same mobster-sounding, used-car-salesman that I had spoken to a few days before.

"How did the game go, Mike? Did you make some money?" he asked, hoping that his tip had led to my astronomical winnings and that I would want another.

But I hadn't put any money down. When I told him, he went crazy. Obscenities ensued and I had no idea what I had gotten myself into. Slamming down the phone he told me never to call that number again (with a few expletives inserted at his discretion).

Fair enough.

For the next three days, I got phone calls from the same ominous New Jersey area code.

Over and over they called, pushing me to sign up for their service.

What would have happened had I placed bets and won something? Would they have felt entitled to my winnings?

Would I have been indebted to some Tony Soprano clone six hours away?

No matter how curious I am to know who is going to bite the dust or carry home the gold, I will never call a hotline again.

These sorts of things start off innocently enough. The guy gives you a stone-cold-dead-in-the-water lock and you lose your shirt. Worse yet, you win a ton of money and don't pay "the man."

When do the phone calls give way to the doorbell? When will the harmless trip to bodog.com become a real problem?

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EOE

Interested in Sports? Writing?

The Free Press is now hiring sports writers. Inquire at 92 Beford Street, Portland between 9 and 1.

Puzzle answers from page 13

8	6	9	3	4	2	5	7	1	8	7	4	2	8	1	5	6	3	9	3	5	1	7	9	6	4	2	8	6	9	4	2	7	8	3	1	5	5	3	8	1	6	4	2	9	7	2	1	7	5	3	9	8	6	4	9	8	5	6	2	7	1	4	3	1	7	6	4	5	3	9	8	2	4	2	3	9	8	1	7	5	6	E	R	T	E	A	R	N	E	R	T	E	N	I	K	S	L	E	A	R	N	I	N	K	S	T	O	N	E	A	D	A	I	T	E	N	T	E	S	T	A	G	E	O	A	C	H	A	F	R	O	A	E	R	A	T	O	R	S	T	E	R	N	U	M	C	R	I	B	S	N	I	V	E	A	C	R	I	B	S	P	O	L	A	R	H	Y	E	N	A	P	O	L	A	R	I	T	E	M	R	O	A	D	R	U	N	N	E	R	H	U	E	S	I	T	D	A	D	A	G	E	H	U	E	C	A	K	E	B	A	T	T	E	R	M	E	O	W	S	I	D	L	E	S	A	L	O	N	S	I	D	L	E	S	T	E	A	L	T	Y	P	E	A	L	S	T	E	A	L	I	N	V	E	S	T	S	A	M	U	L	E	T	S	I	N	V	E	S	T	M	A	I	L	G	O	M	C	A	T	C	H	E	R	M	A	I	L	G	O	M	C	A	T	C	H	E	R	E	L	L	E	A	G	N	E	W	E	C	R	U	E	L	L	E	A	G	N	E	W	E	C	R	U	S	P	A	R	T	E	N	D	S	D	A	B	O	S	P	A	R	T	E	N	D	S	D	A	B	O
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The Huskies do spring break

Athletes travel for their tan-lines and the first grass of the season

Mike Tardiff
Staff Writer

Spring break: to most college students it means minimal activity and maximum inebriation, but to athletes at USM it means something a little different.

Whether it's a trip to New York to finally play on a grass field or a cross-country trek to Arizona where cacti and baseball rule the day, athletes and coaches from USM spend their spring breaks away from the classroom, but still with the university.

For freshman pitcher Jimmy Knicknair (Glenburn), spring break meant being away from his family on Easter and traveling past the Mississippi River for the first time.

"It was different for me," Knicknair said. "Usually we have a small family dinner."

This year, his family was 3,000 miles away, and his dinners were spent with the 30-member team.

"If I didn't have a spring trip I'd probably just be at home," said the south-paw, who partook in 14 games in 12 days. "I'd much rather spend 12 days playing the game I love in Arizona."

Knicknair and his baseball team are not alone. The softball, women's lacrosse and women's track and field teams all took spring break trips going at least as far as New York.

Freshman Erica Higginbotham (Winthrop, MA) got her first taste of the Big Apple when she traveled with her cohort of lacrosse players on a three-day trip to New York, where they grappled with lacrosse powerhouses Manhattanville and SUNY-Farmingdale, and spent some time hanging out in the city.

"The subway was the best part," she said. "It frightened some people, especially the ones from Vermont and Maine. It was crazy with all of us running around with our

Southern Maine shirts on. People were just looking at us."

Knicknair and Higginbotham are both freshmen, and the trips gave them the chance to get used to playing their sport at the collegiate level, as well as some time to get to know their teammates better.

"I knew a lot of the girls from ice hockey, but I got to know the rest," said Higginbotham. "All of the girls are awesome and there are a lot of different personalities."

While Higginbotham and the lacrosse team marveled at the Statue of Liberty and the pace of life in Manhattan and Ground Zero, Knicknair, all the way across the country, was struck by the greenness of the grass, the flatness of the deserts and the professionalism of his teammates.

"I learned a lot by just watching the older guys and the how they approach different situations during the games," said Knicknair of his collegiate debut.

But all of these great experiences do not come easily. The planning and logistical end of spring break travel is placed largely in the hands of the players and coaches.

In order for the softball and baseball teams to make their trips to Florida and Arizona a reality, each athlete was responsible for raising \$1,000 dollars to foot the cost of airfare, hotel and other expenses.

While Coach Bonny Brown-Denico of the softball team jokingly calls the whole process "a pain in the butt," she is quick to point the importance spring trips.

"Team building is huge," she said, "trying to figure out what personalities go well with one another is important. It's fun to watch the excitement building up before the trip. The girls all have a big countdown when our preseason starts in January."

For well-established programs like the baseball and softball teams, fundraising has become part-and-parcel of the spring trip. Coach Ed Flaherty and his baseball team sell advertisements in their media guide, write letters to local businesses soliciting money and hold a raffle in order to reach their fundraising goals.

But for teams like coach Sue Frost's women's lacrosse team, only in its seventh year of existence, the task can become a little bit more daunting, which forces more realistic expectations.

With the funds to travel to warmer locales lacking, coach Frost took her squad to an area near and dear to her heart: her home state of New York.

But just because they didn't travel by jet or enjoy the luxuries of tropical temperatures doesn't mean that the trip was any less successful.

"I brought them to my house and my parents made us all dinner. We pulled up in the big coach bus and we were the talk of the town," Frost said.

The trip to New York, though modest, is a benchmark for the program's progress.

Just two years removed from having their spring trip located in the Costello Sports Complex, where the then-first-year-coach Frost orchestrated a speaker on sports nutrition, a self-defense class and held double-session practices, the team is happy with their progress.

When asked about her friends on the softball team, Higginbotham was quick to point out a few discrepancies.

"They all come back wicked tan, so I made sure that I got my tanning bed minutes in," she said with a smile.

Regardless of the effort involved and the sacrifice of a "traditional" spring break, athletes and coaches alike are happy to forego Cancun and Panama Beach for a chance to grow closer as a team.

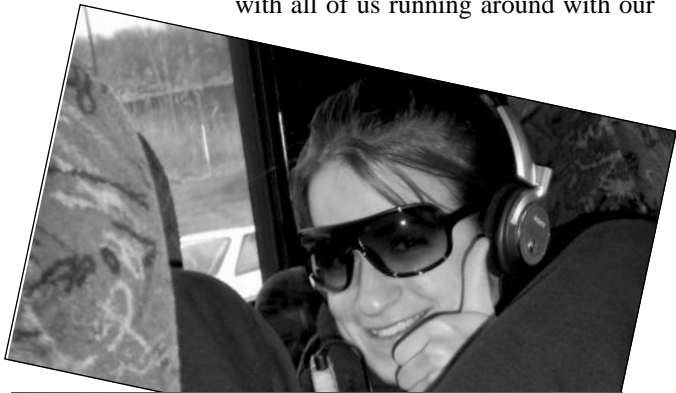
Brown-Denico tells the story of her softball players dressing up in hideously old-fashioned clothing bought at a nearby thrift shop, and Frost says that she showed plenty of videos on the bus that gave the new recruits a glimpse of what her team is all about.

Pulling out a scrapbook modeled after the "Burn Book" from the movie Mean Girls, Frost demonstrates that athletes do have a spring break.

It's just a little different.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FACEBOOK



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Student athletes help each other and community

Mary Jones
Staff Writer

The primary function of the SAAC, Student Athletic Advisory Committee, is to discuss and resolve issues for USM athletes. But the SAAC does much more than that. They've become one of the most active community service groups on campus.

"We have a huge focus on community service, especially to the children in our greater community," says Shannon Kynoch, a senior social work major. Kynoch is co-president of SAAC and part of the women's basketball and lacrosse teams.

Events organized by the group include a Halloween party at the Costello Complex which offers families a safe alternative to trick-or-treating, and a "Shop Till You Drop" day around Christmas time, at which parents can drop off their kids in order to do some gift shopping (or go on an adults-only date).

Youngsters are given a chance to play games with college athletes and then watch "the big kids" play in their own collegiate match.

Other kid-oriented activities in which the group participates include visits to the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital in Portland and a backyard skate fundraiser started by 11-year-old Gorham resident, Mick Manser.

It is very important to the committee to consider their positions as role models.

"As athletes, kids look up to us, for no other reason than the fact we can play a sport better than a lot of people and put on a USM jersey," says Tyler Ravlo, a senior hockey player, exercise physiology major, and vice president of SAAC. "You're a role model whether you like it or not."

Upcoming events for SAAC include the Husky Ball, a semi-formal dance for athletes to be held at the Eastland on April 12, and a food and clothing drive to benefit the Preble Street Resource Center in Portland. Boxes for the



SAAC students participate in a variety of events throughout the year. During the Community Halloween party on October 28, 2008, athletes supervised games and face painting.

drive can be found in the dorms and sports complex this week.

The group also participates in the many events on campus, including homecoming and the spring fling. They are trying to have representation in as many aspects of university life as possible—hoping to bring a little spirit back to USM.

For athletes and sports teams, SAAC provides an invaluable service.

"At Division III we don't have the same kind of budget as D-I schools, and we do have issues that need to be taken care of," says Ravlo.

Kynoch adds that these issues "cover everything from if teams feel they're being overlooked by the athletic department to [troubles with] food service and transportation."

The committee is made up of students from almost all of USM's 22 athletic teams.

Some of the teams currently unrepresented are the tennis teams, women's track, and men's lacrosse.

According to Ravlo, this is something the committee is set on changing.

Whatever the reasons for their lack of involvement, Ravlo says that it's easier to help teams and athletes out when they're represented by SAAC.

If you're a student athlete and are interested in joining SAAC, their next meeting is Sunday, April 13, in the ice arena classroom in Gorham at 7 p.m. You can also contact Tyler Ravlo at tyler.ravlo@maine.edu.

Assistant coach takes life's failures as reasons to keep pushing

From FARRELL page 20

"USM had challenged me mentally, it had challenged me emotionally, but it hadn't yet challenged me physically," he said, so in the fall of 2006, Farrell began getting his body and skills back in tune, practicing in the fall off-season with the men's lacrosse team.

"I knew I wasn't going to be an All-American," Farrell said, starting to laugh, "but this was my 'Rudy' moment."

But the NCAA wasn't quite so sure. Though Brian didn't know it yet, the NCAA deems players in-

eligible after their 10th semester of being a matriculated student.

It didn't matter so much that he was ten years the senior of his freshmen teammates — that spring was his 11th semester, so the administration was forced to cut him from the team.

Still Brian persevered — and head coach Malcolm Chase asked him to become an assistant coach. Brian, feeling honored, accepted, and has this year entered his second season on the team's staff.

Meanwhile, he was pressing on with what had become a never-

ending college career in the eyes of his peers. To surprise them all, he graduated in 2006 with a degree in history (and came back the following year, to no surprise at all, to take a second degree in political science).

He finally finished in 2007, but through lacrosse, has maintained his presence on campus.

Most people go through the clichéd trials and tribulations of life without gaining much, without knowing what they should do about them, or what they're capable of doing.

Despite all of his failures, Brian remains unsatisfied until he reaches heights he once thought impossible, regardless of where they place him.

"If I can push myself as far as I can go," he said, "then I haven't failed."

Fresh out of college and less than a month after his 30th birthday, Brian has found himself coming around the bend for yet another lap on the racetrack.

And if the last lap is any hint toward the future, he will race again. And he will win.

"I knew I wasn't going to be an All-American, but this was my 'Rudy' moment."

-Brian Farrell

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HUSKY HIGHLIGHTS

Baseball

Huskies take 8 wins in Arizona

4/5 - Of the 16-game opening to their season, the Huskies have only lost four, including one very close match to Wheaton on Saturday, which ended 5-6. They started the season in Arizona with three losses in a row to William Paterson and Suffolk, but rallied to finish their spring break trip with only one more loss — and eight wins. After several postponements due to snow-covered fields, the Huskies are scheduled to open at home versus Husson on Wednesday. For an updated schedule, see the athletic department website.

Softball

Coach Brown-Denico earns 300th win

5/3 - The Huskies took a 7-4 win to split a double-header with the University of New England and earn head coach Bonny Brown-Denico her 300th win. Brown-Denico was last year named the Little East Conference coach of the year, and has a 300-215-5 record over 13 years of coaching for USM. The Huskies lost the first game of the double-header 4-5, after the Nor'easters took two quick runs at the bottom of the seventh inning. In the second game, the Huskies trailed 1-2, but completed five runs on six hits in the fifth to seal their lead and the win.

Women's Lacrosse

Caitlin Albert leads 14-5 win over Western Conn

4/5 - With a game-high five goals, junior Caitlin Albert (Scarborough) lead the Huskies to their second win of the season against conference rival Western Connecticut. It was their second consecutive win, bringing their season to 2-5. They came out fast and hard against the Colonials, taking a 6-0 lead before their opponent were able to score. Other big scorers included sophomore Jess Knight (Alfred), freshman Kristy Kendrick (Waterboro) and senior Justene Dorr (Gorham). Senior goalie Katie Quartuccio (Poughkeepsie, NY) had a stellar 15 saves in the win.

-Source www.usm.maine.edu/athl



Senior Shannon Kynoch (South Burlington, VT) uses her height to her advantage on a draw versus St. Joe's. At right, junior Georgia Hurd keeps warm, looking to pass. The Huskies swept St. Joe's 20-3 for their first win of the season.

STAFF PHOTOS BY BRANDON MCKENNEY



Laxer's relax with their first win *Huskies take 20-3 victory versus St. Joe's*

Brandon McKenney

Staff Writer

The women's lacrosse team grabbed its first win of the season in a 20-3 trouncing of St. Josephs last Wednesday night. The win brought the Huskies to a 1-5 overall record going into the weekend.

Sophomore Jessica Knight (Alfred) and Freshman Kristy Kendrick (Waterboro) combined for 11 goals.

Knight seemed particularly energized to be playing alongside Kendrick, her former Massabessic teammate, sprinting all over the field on her way to 6 goals.

"It felt good to get our duo back together," said Kendrick. "Jess is one of those players that pushes you to get better and I'm glad she's my teammate for another 3 years."

The chilly weather at Portland's Fitzpatrick Stadium—where the game was relocated because snow still covers the field in Gorham—didn't seem to bother the Huskies as they dominated the

first half, heading into half-time with a 13-1 lead over the Monks.

Southern Maine came out again in the second half and continued their dominance, playing like a team that was coming from behind the whole game.

Each goal looked easier than the last.

Sophomore Erica Robertson (St. Albans, VT) added another 3 goals while teammate Amy McNally (Waterboro), racked up two of her own.

Senior Goalie Katie Quartuccio (Poughkeepsie, NY) seemed pleased with her teammates, as she only had to make 7 saves for the win.

"Any success I have in goal is because of my defense," she said.

Although their first win came against a relatively inexperienced St. Josephs team playing in their first varsity season, the Huskies seemed content to take it.

"I don't feel it was bittersweet at all," said Knight. "A win is a win."

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SPORTS

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Tennis starts strong in conference play

Huskies work toward fourth consecutive conference title



John Forestell

Staff Writer

After one of their most impressive seasons in recent memory, the 2008 men's tennis team started right where last year's Huskies left off. In their home opener, they took down Little East Conference rival UMass Dartmouth 6-3.

The close competition was led by sophomore Josh Warren (Hermon) and junior Derek Stevenson (Raymond), two of only three returning players on this year's squad, who is looking to extend their LEC supremacy by vying for their fourth conference title in a row.

Warren, playing in the number one singles slot, took over the court with a 6-2, 6-3 win over the Corsair's senior Dave Gogoi, and Stevenson floated through at

number two, taking a 6-1, 6-1 win over junior Chris Forster.

Steve Lent (Sharon, NH) and Adam Mitchell (Windham, ME) each won their singles matches against UMass as well, Mitchell taking home his first collegiate victory, filling the number 5 position for USM.

Regardless of the strong turnout on the singles circuit, Warren said that the most important matches for the Huskies to win are the doubles.

"We're pretty strong in the top of our lineup," he said, but added that "second and third doubles are where we really need to get points. It's crucial to get those wins."

Warren and Stevenson made nice work of the Corsair's number one doubles team, 8-4, and number two pair Lent and Mitchell took their own win, also 8-4.



Sophomore Steve Lent (Sharon, NH) hits it hard in the Huskies' home-opening match against Bates College. At left, sophomore Joshua Warren (Hermon) connects with the ball. They lost to Bates, but went on to take a win in their first conference match.

Junior Matt McGowan (Waterville) and freshman Jake Cowie (Scarborough) fell at number three, 3-8.

To say the Huskies have dominated the Little East Conference the last four seasons would be an understatement.

In 2004 they had one loss in conference play; 2005 they went undefeated; 2006 they had one loss and in 2007, undefeated again.

The only real deterrent for this team has been their play outside of the conference, where they have to play the likes of Colby, Bates, and Bowdoin, who are sometimes nationally ranked.

Their season opener, versus Bates—ranked number seven in the Northeast—was a lost cause, and the Huskies fell 0-9. Since beating UMass Dartmouth, they have sustained a non-conference, 1-8 loss to Endicott, and their first conference loss, albeit a tight one, to Salem State, 4-5.

The only returning players from last year, Warren, Stevenson, and McGowan will need to provide veteran leadership throughout the spring in order for the Huskies to repeat their domination of the conference.

"It seemed like we were weak at the beginning (of the season),"

said Warren, "but we picked up a couple of guys that have helped add some much needed depth."

Warren himself, in his second season for the Huskies, has yet to taste a loss in conference play.

He took the number two singles championship last year, as well as the number one doubles title, paired with the now-graduated Craig Spann, and was five times named LEC rookie of the week.

The Huskies next conference match comes Tuesday at home versus Rhode Island College. See them in the Gorham field house at 3:30 p.m.

New life, new direction

After watching his father die – and come back – Brian Farrell found himself back on track

John Forestell

Staff Writer

"I'm gonna race again, I'm gonna win."

The words of Brian Farrell's father stumbled off the hospital room walls and found their place inside Brian's head, and the heart monitor beside the bed began to etch its sound across his eardrums: a long line...a beep. A long line...a beep.

Farrell, 21 at the time, had just watched his father die — and come back.

When his father's heart stopped, a doctor had tried to revive him. Brian had stood in the middle of the room watching his father, whose eyes were closed, whose heart was barely pumping. Then all of a sudden, the older man jerked forward from the hospital bed, eyes open and screaming in

pain. Brian had thought for sure his dad was gone. But he'd fought through it.

While his father, a harness racer at Scarborough Downs, was in nine-out-of-10 pain, the pair had reached toward each other and locked hands. Looking toward his son, as if to assure him that he was actually breathing and alive, he said, "the pain feels good."

After years of struggling through high school, working himself toward self-destruction, and being unsure of where he was headed — which was looking like nowhere — his father's second chance at life inspired Brian to make one for himself.

Brian grew up in Cumberland and went to Greely High for one year before moving to South Portland and South Portland High School for his last three years. He considers both his alma mater.

While at Greely, Farrell picked up lacrosse, but was forced to give it up when he moved because South Portland didn't have a team.

High school didn't impress or motivate Farrell, and he graduated from South Portland in 1996 with what he calls a D-average.

"I wasn't even thinking about college when I graduated high school, I didn't even bother taking the SAT's," he said.

Nonetheless, he began attending the University of Southern Maine as a non-matriculated student, taking a couple classes each semester while juggling four different jobs.

"I was working 80 to 100 hours a week, I would go from one shift to the next," Farrell said.

For the next few years, Farrell continued to work and take classes with no forward movement towards a degree and no career



Brian Farrell (pictured center) at a men's lacrosse practice, where he's a second-year assistant coach after NCAA rules said the 30-year-old couldn't play.

aspirations outside his regular employment.

It seemed as though he was bound to live up to everyone's expectations that after high school, he'd go nowhere.

In 1999, when his father came back to life, things changed.

To say that Brian found direction would be an understatement.

By 2001 he had been accepted to USM and began his first semester as a full time student with the help of financial aid.

By 2002, he had been accepted into the Honors Program and named the student representative for the honors faculty council.

In 2004, he became the assistant director for "Words and Images" an annual art and literature magazine published at USM.

He held that title for four years, but Brian's involvement with everything USM didn't stop there.

See FARRELL page 18

STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY