**Students STAND for action**

**Brandon McKenney**

*Staff Writer*

Three USM students are concerned about genocide in Darfur. Well, perhaps there are more than three, but in a year when involved students seem to be less involved than usual, and facing a lack of general knowledge about what’s happening in Darfur, three are trying to reenergize a student group dedicated to the issue.

The USM chapter of STAND (Students Taking Action Now Darfur), whose members include Alexandra Petropoulos, Aaron White and Joe Cerny, is trying to build up some recognition on campus and in the community to get more people engaged.

They’re optimistic that their group and a string of events they have scheduled over the next few weeks will get students thinking about Darfur, the western-most region of the northeast African country of Sudan.

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**Sarah Trent**

*Executive Editor*

By threatening the suspension of 26 academic programs, interim Provost Mark Lapping was trying to “light a campfire.” Fires, indeed, have been lit.

Computer science came up with an inch-high stack of documentation supporting their program. Physics and chemistry students all but rioted. Lapping received earfuls of comments from faculty and students, notes or petition-like documents written by more than one person, and, he says “the occasional diatribe.”

“At the end of the day, when someone’s ox is being gored, people fight,” he said.

Two months after putting the programs – including women’s studies, the R.S. in economics, and LAC’s arts and humanities – on probation, the provost program has submitted a plan for how they’ll address the issues that put them on ‘the list.’

These issues include-low enrollment – only 62 students graduated last year from all of the programs, combined – and trouble “working and playing well with others,” said Lapping, citing “internal troubles” in the midst of which students found themselves caught. He did not name specific programs with this problem.

The Russian program is the only one which has not yet submitted a plan, says Lapping, but he’s extended their deadline because the department consists of only one faculty member.

Most of the plans, Lapping said, trying hard not to roll his eyes, were prefaced by statements saying, “if we get eliminated, life on earth would never be the same.”

“No full-time faculty will lose their job,” he said. “We need faculty. There’s a myth that faculty will be reduced or asked to teach more – it’s a scare tactic,” said Lapping. “It’s not happening.”

While student senators asked him questions that emphasized their frustrations with some of the administration’s decisions around the less-protected part-time faculty in recent “budget cuts,” their real concerns focused more around the transparency of how programs are being evaluated under the cloud of the current budget crisis, which, combined with near-weekly news of more cuts, has a lot of university employees feeling vulnerable.

“At the end of the day, when someone’s ox is being gored, people fight.”

-Mark Lapping, interim provost

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**Suspension threat lights fires, inspires plans**

**Sarah Trent**

*Executive Editor*

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**Bridging religiousdivide**

**Brandon McKenney**

*Staff Writer*

A Jew and a Muslim walked into an auditorium. And they had a conversation. No joke. For an audience of more than 700 in the Abromson Center. The two were part of a dialogue on the issues between Judaism and Islam.

Judea Pearl (left) and Akbar Ahmed take a question from an audience member during a discussion in front of more than 700 in the Abromson Center. The two were part of a dialogue on the issues between Judaism and Islam.

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**Taylor-made for student body president**

**Matt Dodge**

*News Editor*

Ben Taylor could just wait in the wings for his term to begin. After the announcement of his landslide victory in last month’s student government elections, Taylor could just kick up his heels on the Student Senate desk in the campus center office. He could coast until next semester, putting himself on the back for earning 44 percent of the vote and enjoy a nice, stress-free month.

He could. But that’s just not Ben Taylor. “I would just be bored if I wasn’t involved” said Taylor, who has spent the last seven weeks following current the student body president AJ
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The economy sucks Part 1 of 3

Looking for jobs in a recession

Abigail Cuffey
Contributing Writer

A local radio station is entering its listeners with encouragement for its latest contest: “What will it take to stimulate your economy? A new television or maybe free gas for a year?”

Everywhere you turn, the buzz of recession is eminent.

Talk of an economic slump is all over news headlines; “jobs slashed,” and “pointing to a recession” have become commonplace.

They’re not exactly encouraging words for college students and soon-to-be grads.

According to the Associated Press in Washington, about 80,000 jobs were cut in the month of March. The recession has caused a jump in unemployment rates, up from 4.8 to 5.1 percent, over the same month.

Those with jobs heavily affected are in the construction, manufacturing, retail, financial services and other business service fields.

Housing market collapses, credit crunches and off-balance financial systems are the culprit in all of this mess, and the results – including an estimated 7.8 million unemployed, are only making the financial situation worse.

All of this might just seem like economic jargon, but it could have devastating effects for students entering the work force this year.

One USM student feeling the effects is Bethany Lynn, a 2007 graduate of USM’s Muskie School of Public Service, offers some good news to the economic situation.

He believes that “the recession will end by next fall because the Fed has lowered interest rates, and Congress has passed the stimulus package.”

Colgan recognizes that it is a “little harder to find a job” in Maine, but not significantly so. There’s definitely a decline in employment, he says, but New England isn’t feeling the effects quite as hard as California or Florida.

On the topic of summer jobs, Professor Colgan stresses that the population in Maine increases by fifty percent during this period.

“It’s not difficult to find a summer job,” he says. “There’s a labor shortage in Maine anyways, and private sector jobs will help with this.”

Colgan also doesn’t think that this summer’s high gas prices will hamper tourism.

“This will only discourage long distance traveling, but encourage short term traveling,” he says.

This means that Maine might see more travelers from Massachusetts, as opposed to Michigan or Kansas.

However, he also recognizes that with prices forecasted for upwards of $4 per gallon this summer, “we don’t know what’s going to happen.”

Statistics show that most graduates end up getting a job 50-100 miles from where they graduated. With the economic slump, he says that most students will seek further education in their current field, but won’t change direction entirely.

One recent graduate not worried about her financial future is Kara Lee, who left USM in 2007 with degrees in business administration and marketing.

Kara was attending the USM’s annual job fair the month before graduation, and something lined up fairly quickly.

When asked about the economic slump, Kara isn’t too concerned.

“I’m going to stay in Maine for a few more years, but eventually I’ll move out of state, she says, “not because of the job crisis, but because of the weather.”

Next week, part two will look at how USM’s enrollment might be affected by the recession.

Not all the news is bad...

Despite the recession, some jobs remain necessary – business, professional services and healthcare are expected to add jobs as baby boomers reach the age of needing assistance.

Growth in these fields was evident at USM’s annual job fair last week, where a majority of available jobs were in the nursing, accounting and management fields.

With so much talk of unemployment, the job fair was a refreshing reminder of the jobs still available in Maine.

The fair included a chance for students to participate in resume workshops and mock interviews, as well as meet with employee-seeking businesses.

It included local businesses like L.L. Bean, Mercy Hospital and Wright Express, who are looking for eager students to join their workforce.

“Gas prices have affected how much I drive, but the shuttle bus is helpful. Traveling internationally is getting harder because the U.S. dollar isn’t worth as much because of adjusting exchange rates in Europe.”

Miranda-May Beaubien, Sophomore Environmental Science

“I don’t really pay attention to that stuff. I just swipe my debit card whenever. I’m kind of living in my own little world… I feel pretty secure with the money I have saved.”

Seth Doyle, Junior Media Production

“Since gas prices continue to rise, I take the shuttle-bus to class instead of driving. Necessities have begun to cost too much, so I don’t buy as many video games and limit drinks when out.”

Steve Spampinato, Junior Media Studies

“I’m a horse instructor in the area and there has been a huge lack of business lately. Usually participants are up three times than what it is now. People are obviously cutting back on extracurricular activities to save money.”

Kim Bragdon, Junior Biology

“A co-worker told me that my summer job at USM was going to be cut because of the budget crisis. I heard they were installing wireless internet on the buses, but they can cut my job? That just doesn’t make sense.”

Chris Gauge, Junior History

“I’ve limited spending and started a savings account. I’m not really worried about my job since I have work study.”

Eric Beaty, Junior Electrical Engineering
Mental health & campus safety one year after Virginia Tech

The tragedy in Virginia has brought outrage, anxiety and a more streamlined approach to student well-being.

Dr. Robert Small, the clinical director of counseling at USM, operates on both the Portland and Gorham campuses each week from offices that break sharply in look and feel from other departments.

“After last year’s tragedy at Virginia Tech, and it has always been the busy season for anyone in this line of work. It’s when hundreds of seniors look toward life after college, and hundreds more struggle to catch up with end-of-the-year work. It is no wonder that college is one of the most common places for a mental illness to make itself known. Following the mental-health related Virginia Tech tragedy and the more recent shooting at Northern Illinois in February, his work is that much more important.”

“We probably see in the range of 800 students over the academic year,” says Small. While some come with smaller-scale personal growth issues, “on the other end of the continuum, we have students that get depressed and for various reasons want to die.”

He stresses that the number of people that come to him in extreme distress is small, relative to the number that simply need to talk out isolated problems. He also points out that the majority of major cases that come his way are from students at the tail end of an academic career.

“After last year’s tragedy at Virginia Tech, Small’s first order of business was to send a mass e-mail to students and faculty aimed at reminding them how open his door is. He was on hand to help sort through the shock of the then-unfolding event, but also anything else that could affect the school’s nearly 11,000 students: the end of a romance, the persistence of dis-satisfying study habits.

“Following the events last April, there is now an ‘involutional withdrawal’ option available to USM administrators which goes beyond the reach of conduct-based expulsion. It would be considered if a person were to cross the line from being a mental-health case to a potential safety threat. But Small is weary of the tendency for media memes to lead people into expecting the impos-sible. “Whenever you put [this many] people in one place, there is going to be risk. The hardest part of this discussion is that bad things do happen sometimes,” he says. “However, the well of commu-nication and collaboration across the different departments, focusing on the students’ best interests, has never been greater.”

If you talk to any administrator whose department was put under scrutiny in the last year – and few were not – “increased collabora-tion” is the single most-cited de-velopment.

Employees of the counseling department meet weekly with those in the offices of Student Life, Community Standards, and Campus Safety. Occasionally, says community standards director Joseph Nelson, that can involve weighing a matter where an issue of conduct be-comes one of mental health, and vice versa. By all accounts, these meetings were already taking place before April 2007. But since then, they have been woven into the fabric of the school, and even extended outside it.

For instance, a USM student who is admitted to a nearby hospi-tal for psychiatric reasons is given the opportunity to sign a disclo-sure form. Doing so extends patient-doc-tor confidentiality to the school’s counseling center, allowing them to become involved with the stu-dent during and after their hospital stay. It’s by no means mandatory, but it is a way of directly reaching out to the student at the height of a personal crisis, and letting them reach out to counselors.

The idea behind it, and other efforts, being that it beats passing out a few pamphlets in the hallway when, after-the-fact, troubled stu-dents return to campus.

In Portland, University Counseling Services is located in 105 Payson. In Gorham, find them in 110 Upton. They are open 8-4:30 Monday through Friday. Any student paying the health fee (those enrolled in six or more credits) has already paid for his or her first 12 counseling sessions.

David O’Donnell
Sports Editor

With only cloudy and conflict-ing information about the killer, early coverage at Virginia Tech last April focused on the victims – their varied lives and harrowing final moments.

It told of people like Liviu Librescu, the 76-year-old profes-sor and Holocaust survivor who pushed himself against a class-room door to allow students an escape out the window.

And his other stories offered a hint of contrast to the otherwise bleak news, in which the US had just witnessed the deadliest civil-ian-shooting rampage in its his-tory.

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That’s when a package ar-rived at NBC News headquarters, something that appeared to be a bizarre spin on the “press kit” – videotaped monologues, still pho-tographs, and a 118-page written statement prepared by the shooter, 23-year-old Seung-Hui Cho. It was unquestionably a method of reaching out, but an incompre-hensible one.

The package’s contents were crafted while he had the deed firmly in mind, at least in nature. It is believed that he dropped it in a location near the school. The package’s contents were those of a “press kit” – videotaped monologues, still photographs, and a 118-page written statement prepared by the shooter, 23-year-old Seung-Hui Cho. It was unquestionably a method of reaching out, but an incompre-hensible one.

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Campus Events

Tuesday April 15
Club Volleyball Team- Guys and Girls- Weekly meetings on Tuesdays and Sundays/ Hill gym-Costello Sports Complex, Gorham Campus/ 7-9 p.m./ For more information Please email Dan Nistel danistel@usm.maine.edu.

Women and Spirituality- Women in leadership in their diverse religious communities discuss their paths to religious life, the mentors who encouraged them, how they have persevered/ Woodbury Campus Center Amphitheater, Portland/ 12:30-2 p.m./ For more information please call 780-4996 or 228-8093.

Model United Nations Organization Weekly Meeting- If you’re interested in global affairs and conference planning, please join us/ 217 Abromson College Student Center (Husky Hut)-Gorham/ 5-7 p.m./ For more information or other information please email jelena.sarenac@maine.edu.

Wednesday April 16
Student Parent Brown Bag Lunch- Brown Bag lunch for Student Parents. Children invited. Featuring cookies, punch and tea/ Women’s Resource Center, Portland Campus/ 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m./ For more information please contact aschwartz@usm.maine.edu.

College Democrats Meeting- Regular meeting of the USM College Democrats/ Woodbury Campus Center, Portland Campus/ 5-6 p.m./ For more information contact Elizabeth Trask at elizabeth.trask@maine.edu.

Thursday April 17
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/ 7-8 p.m./ For more information please contact yolanda@hotmail.com.

Thinking Matters- Student Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Symposium, including “Civic Matters,” featuring civically engaged student work/ Portland Campus (various locations)/ 2:30-3:30 p.m./ For more information visit http://research.usm.maine.edu/thinkingmatters.

Maine Pier Meeting- Weekly meeting/ 7-8 p.m./ Woodbury Campus Center Student Involvement Desk, Portland.

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

Friday April 18
Thinking Matters- Student Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Symposium, including “Civic Matters,” featuring civically engaged student work/ Portland Campus (various locations)/ 8-9 a.m./ For more information check out http://research.usm.maine.edu/thinkingmatters.

Student Senate Meeting- Weekly meeting/ Formal Lounge, Upton Hastings Hall, Gorham campus/ 2:30-4:30 p.m./ Call 228-8501 for more information.

Saturday April 19
STAND Student Group- Torce Welcoming and Public Support Walks/ Congress Square (595 Congress St.)/ 12-1 p.m.

SGA President-elect Ben Taylor sits in front of a banner in the SGA offices in Woodbury Campus Center. The sophomore became involved at USM before he even enrolled, and is looking forward to making change on campus.

From Taylor page 1
AJ Chalifour, getting to know more about a new role.

In the conference room of the student government office, Taylor seems comfortable. Dressed in a sweater, with the collared shirt you’d expect in an elected official, his garb reflects his casual, personable approach to politics – all the required formality without any of the intimidation. Instilled with the “values of democracy” at an early age by his mother, a civics teacher, Taylor has long been involved in student government.

In his tenure at Windham High School, Taylor served as a class officer, and was eager to continue his record of involvement after he shed the cap and gown. Like many USM students, Taylor’s path to Husky-hood was not a traditional one.

After graduating high school, Taylor went into the workforce for two years, holding down a full time job at Radio Shack to earn money for college. Living on Brighton Avenue at the time, Taylor always kept one eye down the road towards the Portland campus, and one foot in the world of academia, getting involved with students creating the Opportunity Maine program even before he was enrolled at the university.

By the time he did enroll, he was already involved with the students who helped bring PIRG (Public Interest Research Group) back to Maine, and noticed that PIRG and student government seemed to attract many of the same people.

Though there is a lot of cross-over between the groups, Taylor was at first unsure of how to get involved, but seems to have figured things out quickly – the sophomore is serving this year as vice chair of the student senate.

As senior student body president AJ Chalifour approached the end of his time at USM, Taylor saw his chance to affect change at USM, and head up the organization with which he had become so familiar.

Now that he’s won, Taylor has to decide what tone his impending presidency will take. Last year’s president, Andrew Bossie, focused his term on working with administration and staff to reach his goals and was a key force in creating Opportunity Maine, which finally came to fruition in January.

Chalifour has defined his time in office this year through working more closely with students and student groups.

Given these precedents, Taylor says that a good balance is important.

“I think it’s important to be accessible to students, and work with them to find creative solutions to USM’s problems,” he says.

These problems, in Taylor’s opinions, are not as strongly tied to the budget as some people think.

The often-cited “community” that USM lacks is not a problem that can only be solved with cash, he says. “There are lots of things we can do that the budget has little implication on.”

Getting people to sporting events, Taylor suggest, is a cost-free way to build community and pride in USM.

“Given these precedents, Taylor says that a good balance is important.”

Taylor aspires to generate involvement by getting students to lend their unique talents to the SGA, helping both the organization and school grow as a result.

“Some of these students have skills in specific things,” he says. Giving one example, Taylor suggests that “a marketing student could be a valuable resource if they get involved.”

Taylor hardly comes across as the fiercely political type. His seems more like a panda bear with a propensity toward chuckling.

The mustached president-elect is quickly learning that the presidential job requires a cheeky ability to adapt to a crowd.

“You need to be able to switch roles,” he says. “You can be casual with students, but you need to put on the formal face sometimes to deal with official matters.

Hoping one day to pursue a career in international diplomacy, Taylor is currently studying Russian and hopes to go abroad his senior year.

Such a choice would mean a more limited role for Taylor in student government, but he isn’t preoccupied with titles and recognition.

“That’s not what’s most important to me,” he says, “I just want to help address all these things that could be better at USM.”
This week’s paper and a handful of events in the past week have reminded me that it is difficult to be a student and a journalist at the same time. I am not talking about the scheduling conflicts between a 60-hour workweek at the Free Press and a full course load – I am talking about the various potential conflicts of interest with which student journalists grapple when they write about the university with which their lives are entwined.

As editor, if this newspaper, it has been very much to the benefit of both myself and my staff that I have spent the last five years making connections across campus. I played lacrosse, ran the editing club, was a student senator and have been involved with the board of student organizations, the honors program and first and foremost, the English department.

I know people. I know how systems work. I’ve been around – which, I think, allows me to see the bigger picture when we cover something. It might not otherwise have had access to or knowledge of. And yet, we are the ultimate decision makers. When what we write is wrong, it is the last line of defense.

This is an ongoing struggle – and not one a student editor can ever escape. I guess this is a necessary evil. My experience has made me much more professional, the pressure and responsibility I feel for my work is profound. I feel a huge influence in the words I write.

I will be writing stories on the women’s lacrosse team – because it is a student editor’s(floor), the university newspaper that I have been making with the students I have known for four years making

I am not aware of an effort made by Mr. Scontras to come to USM, as many other candidates did. I have not spoken to him myself, but I feel his presence would facilitate an exchange of ideas beneficial to the entire USM community. That being said, there is some false information and unsubstantiated arguments put forth in the column that are worthy of more earnest scrutiny.

First, one of Mr. Scontras’ opponents in the race was misidentified as Ethan Strimling. His name is Ethan Strimling. This spelling error, repeated throughout the column, is negligible, except that it appears indicative of a superficial grasp of Mr. Strimling’s career and candidacy. Mr. Gilbert’s remarks confirm this: “Democrats like Strimling [sic], 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.”

Strimling earns his living honestly by working at a private firm, the minimum wage, which is, above all, a practical means of reinvigorating the economy. As Mr. Strimling notes, “Americans who make less spend a higher proportion of their income at the market, re-injecting that income back into the economy and propelling economic stimulation.”

A policy of “trickle down” economics, in contrast, as President Bush’s tax cuts represent, gives extra money overwhelmingly to people who need it the least and have the least incentive to spend it quickly. Mr. Scontras’ business acumen could prove an important asset in the effort to strengthen Maine’s economy, but it is essential to the capabilities of the market not be exaggerated.

Private firms are concerned almost myopically with maximizing profits; more ethical consider- sion seldom register. Adequate safeguards must be routinely put in place to check the economic and sociological impact of the decisions that businesses make. As Mr. Strimling notes, “Americans who make less spend a higher proportion of their income at the market, re-injecting that income back into the economy and propelling economic stimulation.”

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Private firms are concerned almost myopically with maximizing profits; more ethical considera- tions seldom register. The free market is not without exceptions, but the traditional dichotomy, which is that the market works and the government doesn’t, is not always the case. The government, after all, is a practical means of reinvigorating the economy.

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Letter to the Editor

Don’t generalize about the poor

Dear Free Press,

This letter is in response to “Don’t believe the hype around Democrats” published on April 7. First and foremost I would like to thank you for allowing Mr. Gilbert to contribute to our school newspaper. It is very important for a publication such as The Free Press to contain varying view points, different ideas, and suggestions which allow its readers to obtain different perspectives on a myriad of issues.

However, his most recent contribution is a flimsy example of the ignorance that is widespread throughout our country. All politics aside, what he has stated in his article is offensive, oppressive, and rapaciously prejudiced. He stated, “Democrats… keep pushing programs that allow low-income Mainers to live off the state… It’s a tactic that breeds laziness and dependency on government programs.”

What is it that he is trying to say here? Is he saying that all low-income Mainers are lazy and enjoy their financial situation so much that they sit all day doing nothing but freeload off the state?

His article projects this, and furthermore he is offending all students who attend the University of Maine System including himself. He and ten thousand other students attend this publicly subsidized university. Does this mean that he is lazy and that the Democrats are trying to keep him in poverty because he attends USM?

If it were not for USM, I would not be able to further the education that will allow me to contribute more to the economy. I am very thankful for this.

I would like to suggest to him that in future articles he should not generalize about the poor. He should educate himself about what it means to be poor in this country. And I would also like to suggest that he obtain some real-life, real-world experience before he settles on becoming an advocate for this corporate libertarian populace he seems to be representing.

Sincerely,
Matthew C. Hayden
Senior
History Major

ONLINE POLL:
Where do you plan to live next year?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>My parents’ house</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<td>Moving/Transferring</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<td>Abroad</td>
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<td>West End Portland</td>
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This Free Press poll is not scientific and reflects the opinions of only those internet users who have chosen to participate. The results cannot be assumed to represent the opinions of internet users in general, nor the public as a whole.

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How long have you been in Maine?
Since the early 1970’s. I moved here immediately after graduating (undergrad) and was part of the back-to-the-land movement, and built a little place out in the woods.

A place in the woods?
That was a time when people were disillusioned with the Vietnam War, and there were a lot of young people throughout the country moving to rural areas. What I did was not exactly off the grid, but it was an alternative kind of lifestyle. I was living within a system that I didn’t agree with and I was trying to do something positive within that.

How long did you live there?
About seven years. It was an owner-built home that was designed based on the size of lumber that I could scavenge.

Wow, what did you do there?
I had electricity but not running water, and did gardening, baking and all of those kinds of things, which started to eclipse my studio time, and I realized that the studio time was important. There are lots of different outlets for creative and even intellectual activity, but I do have a commitment to making visual art, so I went back to graduate school. But I learned something really important during that time that’s really still a part of who I am.

What kinds of art do you do now?
I’ve been working on setting up an interplay between visual art and geographic information systems, and so in some ways what I do is a form of digital mapping -- a broader way of defining that would be cultural cartography. It could be mapping some very personal feelings or perceptions about a place, and sometimes I map opinions.

Have you mapped any opinions lately?
Lately I have not. But I did a project with students where we went out and looked at the neighborhood where I live, and used principles of design and rated different locations in the neighborhood according to those design principles -- so that’s where I took the point data and made these very colorful contour maps that you can read and see how they reflect those opinions. The end result just stands for the multiplicity of viewpoints, how people can think about things differently - so that we can’t really nail everything down.

Does anyone in particular stand out as being an inspiration to you for pursuing art?
Buckminster Fuller. He was an honorary professor at Southern Illinois University when I was an undergrad -- at that point in time he was talking a lot about building geodesic domes. He gave a talk in a class that I was in, and he was brilliant. He talked for hours without notes, just off the top of his head. His ability to think as a designer but also as a humanist -- that was very inspiring.

So you see art as more than just self-expression?
I do, I see creativity and innovation as being basic impulses that are at the essence of any discipline, and somebody like Fuller is drawing off a lot of different disciplines, and contributing in a way that brings these different sets of knowledge together.

Do you feel it’s important to have a balance between the rural and the technological sides of things?
Absolutely, I like those extremes. I don’t have a bias towards high-tech or low-tech, and I believe that you have to find a balance. Let’s face it, if there’s an ice storm like we had, and the lights go out, you’re not going to be using your computer but you can still pick up a stick and dip it in mud and draw.

Which of the two campuses (Portland and Gorham) do you like better in terms of the general atmosphere?
I can’t choose. That sounds like a cop-out and maybe it is. They’re different in the way each functions and in the feel, so I’m back and forth, and can appreciate what each has to offer.

Jan Piribeck
Art Department Chair

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The Bob Marley Show

David O'Donnell
Sports Editor

Last Thursday, comedian Bob Marley performed a free stand-up set at the Brooks Student Center in Gorham. I caught up with him afterwards to talk a little about leaving Los Angeles, remembering Maine college life, and not being able to get into his own shows.

How often do you try to make it to USM? I come, gosh, it seems like once a year now. It depends on where I live, like when I lived in LA I didn’t come much. But I always try to do it, cause you know, it’s USM, it’s Portland, I’m from here.

Do you perform at many colleges? Colleges, I like to do ‘em, when I first started — oh gosh, I would do like 40 or 50 a year. And then when I moved to LA I stopped doing ‘em all together.

It’s weird because I’m 41. I don’t feel like I disconnect with them, because I never made my set about being you, know, an older person. I just make it about whatever’s funny. I still feel like I connect with them. Some guys get to a point where they’re doing a lot of political stuff, and they can’t connect with the audience as much.

Have you ever done political material? Some. The only political joke I’m doing right now is, I say people can’t decide if they want to elect a woman or a black guy. I think we can solve the whole problem, we just have to get Rupaul to run. I just do goofy stuff. I try not to get preachy or anything. There’s nothing wrong with that, but the biggest mistake you can make with an audience is if they don’t believe you, you’re screwed. Fortunately for me, they believe me as a goofy, dumb white guy.

One who’s back living in Maine. Yeah, I lived here when I started, then I was in Boston for two years, then LA for 11. I moved back almost three years ago. I’m still working a lot out there, I go out next month for a show on E! and one on CBS.

And I’m doing a sequel to Boondock Saints this summer.

So I go back and forth. I don’t do as much road work because I’ve got three kids, but I’ve been pretty lucky. It’s a wicked crapshoot.

Does your act change a lot when you go out of state? Oh yeah, some things, but not everything. Anything that’s super-specific about Maine you can’t do. That’s a big question, people are like “how do you work anywhere else?” And I’m like, well, I’ve got 13 CDs, there’s probably 11 and a half hours of stuff. Every album has 15-20 minutes about Maine, and the rest is stuff I can do anywhere.

It’s just that when I’m in Maine, I really try to put my finger on the pulse of all the folks here. It’s fun. It’s like joking around with your family. See MARLEY page 13

See MARLEY page 13
Dreaming and designing

“This is going to look just right,” says Elissa Levin as she wraps a navy blue sash around her body and skips a couple steps across her hardwood living room floor, which is covered in pieces of fabric.

It’s almost midnight, three days before the WMPG fashion show benefit, and the 22-year-old political science major is busy putting the finishing touches on a piece that she’s designed for the event, held last Friday at the SPACE gallery.

The young designer is passionate about sewing. She’s dressed in a frilly black knit-ted top with a large black and white skirt that grazes her knees. The skirt is belted and her hair is pinned.

“It’s late, but she looks like she could be ready for an appearance at a chic cocktail bar. Her personal style, she says, is some-thing that influences her work.

Levin’s goal is to create beautiful pieces without wasting anything.

The entire bottom-half of a black party dress is bulging with what looks to be hun-dreds of pieces of colorful scraps.

“They’re all old tee shirts,” she says with a smile. “I really believe in using what’s lying around, instead of consuming more and more. Art should not be wasteful.”

Levin returned to USM last semester after she spent two years in Cape Town, South Africa, where she got much of her inspiration.

She has given names in African dialects to each of the three pieces she is putting in the fashion show. The piece made up of scraps she calls Emasithandane, which means, ‘we must all love each other’ in Gauteng.

It also happens to be the name of a children’s home in South Africa, to which Levin plans to donate the proceeds of her dresses if she sells them.

Direction from downstairs

In the basement of SPACE on Friday night, Elissa Levin and twenty other design-ers are finalizing their finishing touches for presentation in the fashion show. They’re all visibly sweating.

Backstage, Levin is pinning and spray-ing the brown locks of USM photography student Sarah Reece, attaching tulle here and there.

While most of the models got their hair and makeup done by professionals from Akari, who were on-hand to doll up models a few hours before the start of the show, Reece arrived after they’d packed up.

“This dress is so full of color and ex-citement,” Levin instructs as she wraps and tucks pieces of the model’s hair, “but you’ve really got to work it with your walk, come out with so much energy, because without it, the dress won’t scream like it should!”

Sarah agrees with a squeal of excite-ment. Clearly, she’s thrilled to be ‘work-ing it,’ and it’s almost time to take to the catwalk for a quick-run through before the doors were opened to the public.

The 8 p.m. dress rehearsal is the first time the models are taking to the runway and learning their place in the run-list for the 9 p.m. show.

Lights, camera...

The runway, raised about five feet off the floor, follows halfway down the right-hand wall of SPACE Gallery before turning and jetting into the crowd, who is standing around the catwalk on both sides for the fourth annual WMPG fashion show.

The event, as planned, is packed to capacity, something that organizer Paul Drinan has come to expect.

He’s been helping with the show since it’s beginning in 2005, and has taken on more and more with each show, this year directing and producing the event.

His background in event management, he says, has included working at the Oscars in L.A. and Civic Center-sized functions with thousands of people involved.

The former professional model has been trained for the runway, and has walked catwalks in nearly every major city in the country, so he took it upon himself to train the models who wanted pointers during the week before the show.

Downstairs, designers comb their models for any flaws in their garments or pace for the catwalk; champagne comes out and toasts are made between designers and models; groups of women are lacing corsets and talking about quick clothing changes or feverishly debating between shoes.

Photographers sparkle the gallery with flashes. Run-lists are corrected, and the lights go down over the crowd.

Ready to call it a night

“This was the best show yet, by far,” says Drinan, the event producer at the end of the night. He credits new theatrical lighting for making the show really punch. “In terms of attendance and the production itself, best show yet.”

WMPG’s own Goober (Michael Manning) and Caitlin Corbin stepped up on the day of the event to DJ the evening’s show, something Drinan commends.

Confusion during planning had left a hole in the program, leaving music in the air until the last minute.

The audacious, self proclaimed “pro-moters of awareness and discussion under-represented in mainstream media,” WMPG has done it again, holding a bustling gala that represents local designers and the art they produce, from their hearts and hard-wood floors.
Summer in the city?
Job search, apartment search, my digital hitchhike toward New York City

Tyler Jackson
Columnist

As I write this column, which was due about two hours ago, I am a stressed out student. I know I am not alone.

The semester is coming to an end, the rest fiercely uphill. On top of my classes and an independent study, the $250 speed- ing ticket I got a few days ago isn’t sitting well with my empty pocketbook, and I’m attempting to figure out my summer.

I have faith that it will work out if I persist, but damn, things are not moving forward. I am trying to work and live with my girlfriend in New York City.

That is what I want; I’m willing to do anything to make it happen. I have applied at least fifteen jobs and internships, put my current room up on Craigslist for sublet and asked at least ten people about a room in New York for the summer.

So far, I got nothing.

And having to do everything online, I feel like it’s that much harder to literally put my foot in the door.

At first, I figured it would be ideal to pursue an internship relevant to my studies, but at this point, I’ll wash dishes.

I’ll hand out flyers. I’ll be a telemarketer. I’ll work in a kennel of rabid dogs. I will do anything full-time, short of prostitution.

The whole idea started this winter while freezing my ass off alone here in Portland. My girlfriend was in a tropical paradise for two months and I decided that summer, I needed a change. Badly.

We came up with the basics of the idea — I’d sublet my place for a nice, paid, media-related internship, we’d get a room for June through August after her semester was up and we’d live happily through the summer.

There were obvious hurdles we knew we’d have to consider. I’m a broke musician and she’s a broke filmmaker. I know we’re all starving artists at heart, but New York is where I want to be after graduation, and it ain’t cheap.

I spend so much time crafting individual cover letters, stretching the stretchable details of my experience and qualifications.

I really try to make them look pretty — I mean, I would hire me. But as of now, all I’ve received is one polite rejection letter from the internship I wanted most.

Some of the apartment search has been entertaining.

One potential roommate said, “I’m so laidback that my blood pressure is dangerously low.”

“The tenant must love cats,” he went on. “Hmmm, actually, as of this afternoon the cat’s gone missing, so scratch that.”

The apartment search seems more hopeful than the job search, but it is implausible to sign on any sublet without having a job secured beforehand.

I will do anything to turn his life upside-down. I will do anything to make it happen. I really try to make them look pretty — I mean, I would hire me. But as of now, all I’ve received is one polite rejection letter from the internship I wanted most.

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The festival will include films from all over the world, ranging in style from suspense to documentary, animation, drama, comedy and romance.

The films have been chosen by a committee that includes many USM ASL students and faculty.

This year, “Nice N Easy,” a twenty-minute film, presents a comical warning about the consequences of taking drugs at discos.

“Loveless, Lonely and a Loser,” a nine-minute English film shows us poor, clumsy Adam. No matter what he does to try and impress the woman of his dreams, it just won’t work.

 Supported by his two best friends — whom girls adore — Adam begins his hunt to find his very own lady. Cursed with misfortune and bad luck, will an accidental love ever fall his way? British Sign Language and English subtitles will be included.

Director Wayne Betts, Jr. presents “The Deaf Family” and “A Permanent Grave,” two feature films including ASL and Subtitles.

The first is a movie sitcom that follows a family from job-hunting to pyramid money-making schemes, holder than these pretentious people to oblivious “grass-roots” folks.

“The Deaf Family” gets the deaf community to poke fun at itself in hysterical situations.

The second film is a drama about a high school teacher who makes a grave mistake that could turn his life upside-down.

Each genre offers opportunities for the deaf artists who made them to present original statements about the deaf experience.

Sixth Annual Maine Deaf Film Festival

Wayne Betts Jr., a 25-year-old filmmaker and creator of Moonshake, his own production company, will be speaking and showing films at the sixth annual Maine Deaf Film Festival on Saturday.

Jenna Howard
Arts Editor

As a deaf child, Wayne Betts Jr. watched E.T. for the first time, and knew instantly that he would be a filmmaker.

After years of education, including time at Rochester Institute of Technology’s School of Film and Animation, he has reached his lifelong goal. He’s even founded a multimedia production company.

Betts will be the honored guest speaker at this year’s Maine Deaf Film Festival, held for the sixth year at USM next week.

The USM Linguistics Department and the American Sign Language Club of Maine will host the annual Deaf Film Festival this Saturday, April 19. The festival will feature eight hours of film, videos and discussions by Betts, educators and members of the deaf community.

The festival will include films from all over the world, ranging in style from suspense to documentary, animation, drama, comedy and romance.

The films have been chosen by a committee that includes many USM ASL students and faculty. This year, “Nice N Easy,” a twenty-minute film, presents a comical warning about the consequences of taking drugs at discos.

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Each genre offers opportunities for the deaf artists who made them to present original statements about the deaf experience.

Cultural and technological changes since the early days of Hollywood enable the deaf to tell their own story in their own language and in their own way.

As a result, what has come to be called the “New Deaf Cinema” has emerged.

Films will be interpreted for both hearing and deaf audiences as appropriate.

The first film session shows from 1-5 p.m. on April 19. The second session is 6-10:30 p.m. Both are in USM’s Talbot Hall in Luther Bonney Hall, Portland. An open reception with refreshments will go on from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Woodbury Campus Center Amphitheatre. Tickets are free for USM students, and can be bought for the entire day or half day by the general public.
Students do roam

Studying abroad at USM

Chantel McCabe
Staff Writer

It is, in fact, a small world. And with the many options available through international and domestic study abroad programs at USM, traveling that world has never been more convenient.

Each year, hundreds of students go through a somewhat lengthy process to apply to study in other parts of the world. Courtney Albin, who is studying in Rome this semester explains that “you have to apply, get recommendations, submit transcripts, choose classes, apply for scholarships, etc. It’s like applying for college all over again.”

Kimberly Sinclair, the associate director in the Office of International Programs and National Student Exchange, says that only some of the programs that USM works with require interviews before you can be accepted.

Once you are accepted, the exchange program process is simple. All the classes you take abroad are based on the same credit system as USM. Housing options, both on- and off-campus or with host families, are researched to fit your needs and convenience and even food eaten on campus can often be arranged depending upon the university you decide to attend.

Before students embark, USM planners help them compile a budget of expenses.

**Why go through the process?**

“Students want cultural growth, career goals, more diverse experiences, to expand their resume, learn about their ancestors and some just want to travel,” Sinclair said.

This year, popular destinations for USM students were Italy, France, and Latin America, however, this varies every year. Changes in the cultures around the world have inspired people to travel to more unusual destinations, such as Hungary and Dubai.

Both summer and semester programs are available. With some traveling programs offered through USM’s summer program, students don’t have to make the travel plans, they participate in a planned package of travel and study. The popular choice last year was to go to Thailand for a course about Theravada Buddhism.

As far as knowing other languages, this is not a necessity in order to study abroad—not all programs require you to speak the language of the country to which you are traveling. There are programs offered in countries like England, Scotland, Australia and New Zealand where English is the official language.

If you choose to go to a non-English-speaking country, there are usually at least several classes offered in English. The office encourages you to have some prior language lessons, and ask that you take a language course while you are there, but neither are mandatory.

A concern for some student travelers is safety. Sinclair assured that USM takes this seriously into consideration. “The office works with the students to find safe and comfortable programs to suit each individual.” This is one of the first things covered at the student’s pre-departure orientation.

Another concern is often price. Sinclair pointed out “there are all price ranges, depending on the programs and the length of time spent, and where you go. The programs that are within U.S. borders make it very affordable and still provide a very different cultural experience.” There are many programs to which you pay USM tuition rates, and to which your financial aid applies, as well as non-USM programs that offer a variety of price ranges and scholarships.

Some programs offer internships. For example, there are many opportunities for students in the school of business for international training. They allow students to go to the business capitals of the world, like China and India. Service learning has also become increasingly popular—there is an annual trip to Belize through the social work program, as well as trips to the Dominican Republic through health sciences.

Albin, from her current home in Rome, describes her experience. “From the hundreds of people I’ve met to the natives within the countries—and the multiple countries I have seen, I have learned more than I could ever have imagined in a classroom in Maine. I’m taking some core requirements here. One is art history, another is history, so I’m in Rome and actually get to see the Colosseum and the Roma Forum, etc. It is fascinating. All in all, the process is long and at points tedious, but in the end I can’t imagine being anywhere else. It makes you grow as a person. I’m living in an Italian residential area with four other Americans but the entire apartment is Italian. I have no choice but to try and fit in.”

Albin has been to Venice and Florence, studied and skied in Switzerland, traveled to Prague and will soon be going to Greece, Sicily, Capri, Tuscany, and Amsterdam. She encourages others to stop up and take part in one of these fulfilling experiences.
Marla Olmstead is the alleged child prodigy who not only produces works of art beyond her years, but abstract ones at that. Prior to her, that kind of expression was uncharted territory for a child prodigy.

At age four, Marla was a renowned modern painter with work that sold for up to $25,000 a piece. By age five, her career started to unravel after an expose by 60 Minutes which cast doubt on her abilities. She could never seem to perform on camera -- not even hidden camera. It is a stroke of luck that director Amir Bar-Lev avoided this from the very beginning, originally to document her rise to fame. Instead, he’s there in the living room as Charlie Rose informs the nation that Marla’s parents probably provide her with more than just love and encouragement.

But her success and the documentary raise more questions than just whether or not these people are con artists. It’s not even clear who is to blame for the family’s deeply uncomfortable position: themselves? The media? The bitter gallery-owner who first propped up Marla to jab at the larger art community?

The only person who evades suspicion is Marla herself. That she hasn’t completely blown her parents’ cover is a matter of luck and obliviousness, not deceit. With her innocence as a backdrop, My Kid Could Paint That is a rich, heartbreaking look at the life-cycle of a human interest story.

In gritty and un-cinematic fashion, The Mark of Cain enters deep into Russian prison life to explore the long and complicated history of its tattoos. Over the last century, inmate body art slowly evolved to the point where a person’s skin told a lot about their life story.

The new stuff, laments one elderly convict, is “rubbish.” He proudly displays fading portraits of Stalin, Lenin and Engels on his own chest, grazed by his bushy white beard. While the practice is forbidden in prisons, that hardly phases the tattoo artists.

An actor could be a waiter the day before, and then he could audition for a part and be huge in six months. For a comedian, there’s no way that’s gonna happen. Ninety-nine percent of them are so humble, not like rock stars and actors.

Do you still take a beating?

Yeah, you still have shows that are awful.

The thing I like about comedians is that they’re accessible and approachable, they’re not like rock stars and actors.

And while the complex body art makes for a very curious custom, the hole it appears to be leaving is just as unsettling.

The Winner...

As My Kid Could Paint That mother Laura Olmstead says in the film, her family unintentionally handed the filmmaker pure “documentary gold.” They had something interesting no matter what was done with it. It’s even more impressive because you don’t come away feeling like you’ve just sat through a very special episode of To Catch a Predator.

Comedian Bob Marley at the Brooks Student Center in Gorham. Although we let him in, he once found himself locked out of his own show.

Bob Marley brings the show back to Maine

From MARLEY page 9

And you went to UMaine Farmington?

Yeah, ’92, health major. Community health education (laughs) -- so now I’ve been a comedian for 17 years.

I did it my junior year in college and just kept going. I started in the spring, and I was doing it pretty much every week in my senior year.

I would drive from Farmington to Boston and do shows down here -- I was always crankin’.

I showed up on Orono one night and went to go into the show room, and the guy at the door was like “hey, the show’s not open yet.” And I went, “hey, I’m the comedian.”

He didn’t believe me. So I went into the hallway and just sat down. Thirty minutes after the show was supposed to begin, he finally comes over, “so you’re really the comedian, aren’t you?”

What were some of your comedy idols back in college?

I loved the old guys -- Buddy Hackett, Don Rickles. Guys like Seinfeld and stuff, they were just coming up through at the time. And now I’ve met most all those guys, you know.
Pearl and Ahmed open a clinic to promote peace

From PEARL page 1

Memorial Lecture on Genocide and Human Rights

Toward the beginning of the discussion, Ahmed characterized the view of many Muslims as “gross misunderstanding.”

The two also noted that there are dangerous misperceptions coming from all sides. They cited a 2006 study by the Pew Research Center that found Westerners view Middle Eastern Muslims as violent and intolerant fanatics. The same study also found that a majority of the Middle Eastern Muslim world sees Westerners as selfish and immoral as well as violent and fanatic.

While he realizes that most stu-
dents will never be able to have such an experience, he wishes his classes would take a stronger inter-
est in these issues.

“Watching the news would be a start,” he said. “And after that, taking advantage of discussions like this here on campus.”

In a similar vein, Pearl says not to underestimate learning more about your own culture.

He says more people need to read and learn about these cultures, and then to go out into the world and engage with others.

“Talk and express yourself,” says Pearl. “Go to other coun-
tries, like my son Danny did. Spread friendship, smile and make friends.”

The end of the event gave the audience the chance to ask ques-
tions. One question, regarding foreign policy decisions our next president might make, brought Ahmed as a point about his home country of Pakistan.

Ahmed explained that the ma-

From STAND page 1

PROGRAMS page 1

She was partially involved in the plan created by the phys-

ics program, which she says got people involved who had never said anything before.

Eric Favreau, a sophomore senator and geoscience major, said that although students were not involved in creating the plan to revive his depart-

ment, faculty took time during classes to tell students about their action plan.

“Geoscience found out that they actually make money for uni-

From NEWS

Departments present plans to avoid suspension

Plans

Provest Mark Lapping said that he was pleased with the cre-

ativity of the responses that pro-
grams were able to make to the threat of suspension. The Free Press is being given the chance to review the 26 programs’ pro-

posals – but not until next week.

“The meeting, Lapping was able to share some abbreviated ideas of a handful of programs:

Statistics – working more with local professionals and professional development – working with several identified firms to connect learning with real-world applications – extending across the UMaine system to offering USM math to the four Maine schools without math degrees

Environmental Safety & Health – came up with private funding

Arts & Humanities (LAC) – offering degree as a comple-

tion-degree at York County Community College

From STAND page 1

While the U.N. doesn’t call the Darfur conflict a genocide, saying in 2005 that “genocidal intent appears to be missing,” the Coalition for International Justice says that more than 400,000 have been killed and 2.5 million displaced.

Last week, STAND screened 7 Days of Deluge on the Gorham campus. The film is about a photojournalist who spent more than a year in the Darfur region.

On this Tuesday, April 15, the Portland campus will welcome two Darfur refugees as guest speakers.

“STAND seeks to educate on Darfur genocide”

“Darfur: The Devil Came on Horseback” is about a photojournalist who spent more than a year in the Darfur region.

Last week, STAND screened “7 Days of Deluge” on the Gorham campus. The film is about a photojournalist who spent more than a year in the Darfur region.

While the group has been con-

centrating on educating others in their on-campus events, the rally is where the real action begins.

Although the USM chapter is concentrating only on Darfur, the USM Student Union is also pushing for action in Burma, Congo and other conflicts around the world.

In the Southeast Asian nation of Burma (officially called Myanmar), a Buddhist-majority nation, the regime in power is using its military to control and disrupt the lives of civilians. The Burmese Monks have beenpushing for help and independence from the regime for years.

In the central African nation Congo, local armed militia groups are fighting attacks from the Congolese government. The conflict resembles what hap-

pened in Rwanda in the 1990’s when Hutu and Tutsi pople, is deeply rooted in the his-
tory of the country and has for so claimed roughly 4.5 million lives according to the International Rescue Committee.

It’s going to take more than three USMers to enact change, STAND hopes their up-

coming events will be a start.

Spreading the word about their group to other departments and students on campus, they are trying to spread their message across and get their peers in-

volved.

“Please that people are re-

sponsive to,” says Petrovskis, “and that they realize they really should know more -- and do more.”
UPCOMING GAMES

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

**Monday, April 14**
- Men's Lacrosse @ New England College           4 p.m.
- Women's Lacrosse vs. BATES             4 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 15**
- Softball vs. UMASS BOSTON (double-header)      3:30 p.m.
- Men's Tennis @ Bridgewater State       3:30 p.m.
- Baseball vs. BOWDOIN                   4 p.m.
- Women's Outdoor Track @ Bowdoin Invitational 4 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 16**
- Men's Outdoor Track @ Holy Cross Decathlon 12 p.m.
- Softball vs. ST. JOSEPH'S (double header)    3:30 p.m.
- Baseball @ Colby                      4 p.m.

**Thursday, April 17**
- Men's Outdoor Track @ Holy Cross Decathlon 12 p.m.
- Baseball vs. ST. JOSEPH'S            3:30 p.m.
- Softball @ Bowdoin (double header)     3:30 p.m.
- Men's Lacrosse vs. PLYMOUTH STATE      4 p.m.
- Men's Tennis @ Colby               5 p.m.

**Friday, April 18**
- Women's Outdoor Track @ Bowdoin         TBA

**Saturday, April 19**
- Baseball @ Plymouth State (double header) 12 p.m.
- Men's Lacrosse @ Castleton State         1 p.m.
- Softball vs. EASTERN CONNECTICUT (double header) 1 p.m.
- Men's Outdoor Track @ State Championships (Colby!) 1 p.m.
- Men's Lacrosse vs. MITCHELL           2 p.m.
- Men's Tennis vs. MITCHELL        2 p.m.

**Sunday, April 20**
- Baseball vs. WHEATON              1 p.m.

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

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JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

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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Outing club makes big impact on campus

From OUTING page 20

“We had a blast. Some of my greatest friends are people here in the outing club,” he says. The goal now is to see that more of them come from Gorham, where they’ve recently expanded their presence. Outings are always organized to pick students up from both campuses.

“A lot of these trips are hour and a half car rides, and that’s a good way to meet somebody you don’t know,” says Berry, whose job it is to secure equipment. “The bond only gets stronger as you’re hiking.”

But if you can’t make it for any of the team building, members still want to see that you have the means to get outdoors.

They’re working with the recreation department to keep a well-stocked “gear closet” to provide things like backpacks, crampons, and ice axes — anything that might not make it into the average dorm room — for anybody who needs them.

Another valuable resource is a pair of memberships to the Maine Rock Gym. For $20 paid to the club, any student is welcome to use the passes throughout the school year, as long as someone else hasn’t already claimed them for that day.

It’s not a bad deal, considering one trip on your own, including rentals, costs the same amount.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 18-20: Rock climbing, Acadia
APRIL 25-26: Biking/camping trip
MAY 12-13: Whitewater rafting
Contact usm.outingclub@gmail.com for more details.

Adding adventure to orientation

David O’Donnell
Sports Editor

When you think of “new student orientation,” you’re likely to imagine a packed gymnasium full of name-tagged freshmen.

Maybe they’ll separate out into groups for a power point presentation or two.

Trust games, anyone?

In an effort to reach out to a new class of USM students, the Southern Maine Outing Club is trying to supplement the school’s official offerings with a new program all their own: an Outing Club Adventure Trip, or OCAT.

“We’ve been hearing a lot from people about how orientation is…lacking,” says Favreau. “So the OCAT is an obvious effort to drum up interest in the organization; it’s also aimed at the older commuter students.

He also thinks it’s a good grassroots effort toward improving retention, an area that has been a struggle for USM in recent years.

“OCAT is a good opportunity for people to see how fun it can be to camp out and share their experiences. After a night on the water, they’ll head back to USM, where classes begin just a couple of days later.

In the absence of college exercise, the trip will be aimed squarely at enticing freshmen with six veteran dorm mates.

The first OCAT trip, offered next year to students moving into the “outdoor experience” floor of Dickey-Wood Hall, will connect 24 incoming freshmen with six veteran outing club members. They’ll divide into groups – one heading to North Conway, another to the Bigelow mountain range, and the third to the Rangely Lake region.

A first three days of backpaking, the groups will return to their vans and head for Sebago Lake, where they’ll reconnect, camp out and share their experiences.

After a night on the water, they’ll head back to USM, where classes begin just a couple of days later.

Favreau has big plans for the club, including getting more involved in Gorham and introducing the outdoors to freshman orientation.

Huskies secure crucial win versus UMass Dartmouth

Double-overtime victory brings women to 3-1 in conference

The Huskies toppled those numbers on Saturday, when they beat their rival at home in double overtime, 10-9.

The game was fraught with penalty troubles, including five penalties and several yellow cards.

Head coach Sue Frost was not pleased with the calls, some of which were on what she called “beautiful checks,” but was proud that her team pulled through and took the win.

“We stepped it up and got over what was going on,” she said.

The game winning goal came from junior Caitlin Albert (Scarborough) with less than 50 seconds left on the clock in the sudden-death overtime period, which came after the first six-minute overtime in which each team earned one goal.

Albert had two goals in the win, and senior Justene Dorr (Gorham) led the team with three.

Other points came from freshmen Mary Vaughn (Brunswick) and Kristy Kendrick (Waterboro), and sophomore Jess Knight (Alfred).

Senior goalie Katie Quartuccio (Poughkeepsie, NY) had 13 saves.

With the win, the Huskies improved to 4-6 overall and 3-1 in the conference. They have one more of the last five games. They play next on Monday versus Bates in Gorham.

Baseball

Huskies earn key split with Eastern Connecticut

4/11 – Sophomore Mark Schmidt (Gorham) pitched 5 2innings in relief of injured Collin Henry (Penobscot) to help lead USM to a 4-2 victory over conference rival Eastern Connecticut. Schmidt allowed only two hits and one run and improved his record to 4-0. The Warriors came back to win the night-cap of the doubleheader, 9-6, in seven innings.

The Huskies are currently 15-7 overall and 4-2 in conference play.

Men’s Indoor Track

Haggerty and Hutchins get NEC Awards

4/11 – Senior Adam Haggerty (Heron) and coach Scott Hutchinsonreceived NEC awards for their performances in this winter’s season by the Little East Conference. Haggerty, one of the top pole-vaulters in New England, took home field athlete of the year honors while third-year coach Hutchinson was named Rookie Coach of the year.

Haggerty was twice named field athlete of the week by the NEC and defended his pole-vault title for the fourth consecutive year. Hutchinson garnered his second coach of the year honor after receiving the same distinction for his work with the men’s cross country squad. The two helped lead the Huskies to their first ever Maine state championship.

Women’s Lacrosse

Huskies plunder Achor-women

4/10 – The women’s lacrosse team opened with an 11-7 halftime lead and maintained a late-game rally by the Rhode Island College Anchormen to secure a win in conference play. Senior Justine Dorr (Gorham) led the pack with three goals and two assists while freshman midfielder Kristy Kendrick (Waterboro) counted three goals and assist of her own. Freshman attack Mary Vaughn (Brunswick) also had a hat-trick including two key goals that helped Southern Maine build their four-goal half-time advantage.

Women’s Track

Spring track and field ready to roll

ATHLETICS

4/10 – The track and field teams had a good day at the Maine State Track & Field meet in Portland. Three wins and three seconds on the track, and a first place finish in relays.

Huskies host men’s volleyball in ECAC tournament

4/11 – The men’s volleyball team earned an at-large bid into the New England Collegiate Conference tournament. They face the Burrards in the first round at 1 p.m. to try and win their eighth straight match.
Kristina Grondin

Year: Senior
Major: Health Sciences
Sport: Softball

FP: How long have you been playing softball?
Kristina: Since I was 9 years old.

FP: Did you fall in love with it right from the start, or did someone push you towards it along the way?
Kristina: When I first started out playing, my parents said that I didn’t like it, but about a year went by (without playing) and I got back into it and started playing on a little league team and as I got older I played ASA ball (and) it became my favorite sport.

FP: What other sports did you play growing up?
Kristina: I danced, played tennis, basketball, gymnastics and cheerleading.

FP: So what made you want to stick with softball into your later years?
Kristina: I just got more involved with the sport, I played on a lot of summer teams. I had to choose between softball and the other sports and I just grew to like softball more than the others. I stuck to it pretty much all through school; I put a lot of hard work and dedication into one sport in the off-season so I could be the best I could be when the season came back around.

FP: What is the fastest you’ve ever hurled a softball?
Kristina: I believe right now I throw high 50’s, low 60’s.

Husky Scoreboard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Record</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>4/6 – Rhode Island College 3, USM 1</td>
<td>4/6 – USM 7, Rhode Island College 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4/9 – USM 11, Husson 10</td>
<td>4/10 – USM 13, Salem State 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>4/10 – USM 8, Salem State 7</td>
<td>4/10 – USM 12, Salem State 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Men’s Tennis

4/6 – UMass Boston 5, USM 2
4/8 – USM 6, Rhode Island College 3
4/10 – USM 9, Thomas 0

Men’s Lacrosse

4/6 – Western Connecticut 14, USM 4
4/8 – Colby 10, USM 5
4/10 – UMass Boston 9, USM 6

Women’s Lacrosse

4/7 – Curry 16, USM 10
4/10 – USM 16, Rhode Island College 13

MIKE TARDIFF

Columnist

I know a few Huskies who are looking for a good home. This isn’t a classified ad: they play baseball, softball and lacrosse. Their fields, wet and brown, are so far unplayable.

After the long snowy winter and with fields that take forever to dry, our athletes have been forced to travel all over -- to play their home games.

The softball team has used St. Joe’s and the University of New England as surrogate homes, baseball heads to fields in South Portland, and the lacrosse teams have hosted their opponents on the turf fields at Deering High School and Portland’s Fitzpatrick Stadium.

And it’s no small wonder how these games have been played in Maine at all. A lot of kudos have to go out to the athletic programs for being as resourceful and resilient as they are.

After all, it’s not easy playing spring sports in southern Maine. Even when the snow stops flying and the fields are clear, the winds howl and the temperatures are, well, less than tropical.

The other day I watched the baseball team absolutely battle it out in a home/South Portland game against Husson College.

The cold air made me and the ink in my pen pretty lethargic. I wanted to climb into the backseat of my car and start a small fire.

But the players and coaches handled the game with a great deal of resolve. Even though they were playing on a field not their own, a field that didn’t have a scoreboard or an abundance of seating, the Huskies battled for the entire three and a half hours (which, to me, seemed like nine and a half).

When Husson tied the game in the ninth inning, Coach Flaherty rallied his troops and took home a hard fought win. In more ways than one, it was, as Flaherty told the Portland Press Herald, a game of survival. These stories aren’t uncommon.

I’ve drove by Fitzpatrick Stadium one blustery night and saw the women’s lacrosse team pummeling St. Joe’s. Last week the softball team, borrowing fields in Standish, came away with a double-header sweep of Salem State.

Not only is it impressive that our players can compete under some of the most adverse conditions, but there is something to be said of the community’s willingness to rally behind our teams and give them a place to play.

I hear often enough that USM sports sometimes get snubbed by the city of Portland or the local media, and while that might hold a few teaspoons of water, the fact of the matter is that it’s pretty impressive that our teams can find local places to play with relatively few problems.

Arguably the most trying part of playing spring sports is that, for teams like the baseball and softball team, a large chunk of games are played in short succession in unfamiliar places.

Through our athletic administrators’ willingness to collaborate with and/or compensate different entities in order to get games played, this element is mitigated, at least a little.

By not continuously postponing games or canceling them outright, coaches and people like athletics director Al Bean are ensuring that our players are given the best opportunity to succeed. This should not go without notice.

With any luck the school will win the Powerball and our fields will be modernized with a heavy dose of artificial turf.

But until then, the MacGyver of our athletic programs, Flaherty, is looking for a good home. This isn’t a classified ad: they play baseball, softball and lacrosse. Their fields, wet and brown, are so far unplayable.

As the Free Press is now hiring arts writers, inquire at 92 Beford Street, Portland between 9 and 1.
The Huskies have a winning week
Men take one of two in important contest vs. Eastern Connecticut

Matt Dodge
News Editor

The Huskies improved to an impressive 15-7 after a busy week, earning three wins in their last four games. A robust offense delivered 41 runs over the four-game week, with the defense keeping opponents in check by allowing only 24 runs.

On Wednesday against Husson College, an offensive battle went the Huskies’ way as the hot bat of sophomore Chris Burleson (Portland) lit up on Husson’s pitching, earning him four runs, including two doubles and a triple.

A late offensive spurt by the Husson in the top of the ninth was soon quelled by the Huskies in the bottom of the inning as junior Ryan Gaffney (Salem, NH) reached second, setting up junior Ryan Pike (Saco) who singled off the left field wall to bring Gaffney home and close out the game.

Thursday brought a 13-2 trouncing of Salem State as the visiting Huskies exploded in the second inning, scoring eight runs off eight hits and a walk.

USM’s 15 hits included a sixth inning homer by senior Eddie Skeffington (Everett, Mass.) and four runs in the seventh to seal the victory.

The Huskies split a Friday doubleheader in an important conference pairing against Eastern Connecticut, winning the first game 4-2.

Sophomore left-hander Mark Schmidt (Gorham) entered the game in relief for injured sophomore starter Collin Henry (Penobscot) during the forth inning. Schmidt sparked during a 5.2 inning relief stint, in which he allowed only two hits and one run.

In the nightcap, the Huskies couldn’t rally back after falling behind to Eastern Connecticut 5-0 in the first three innings.

Ryan Pike offered a glimmer of hope in the eighth with a grand slam during the five run inning, but Eastern Connecticut reliever Chris Wojick dashed any comeback hopes with a solid closing performance.

The Huskies play at home this week on Tuesday versus Bowdoin and Thursday in a doubleheader versus St. Joe’s.
If you smell-la-la-la-la what Luke Robinson is cookin’

Michael Tardiff
Staff Writer

When Luke Robinson saw The Rock step into a WWE ring in eighth grade, he was sold.
Now 23, the senior business major is living out his childhood dream.
He’s a professional wrestler.
Last week, he sat in the Luther Bonney computer lab studying videos, explaining to me the nuances of great wrestling.

“Remembering Doc Costello

MATT DODGE
News Editor

An important and historic member of the USM community, Richard “Doc” Costello, passed away last Monday at the age of 87.
Born in 1928 in Burlington, NJ, after battling cancer.
Born in 1928 in Burlington, NJ, he came in 1953 to what was then Gorham State Teachers College as the coming athletic director in 1955, a job he held until 1990.
Hardly content to give up the hardwood courts for a desk, Costello continued to coach both the men and women’s basketball teams even after becoming athletic director.
He is the only coach at USM to win 200 games with both men’s and women’s teams.

“Wrestling is the greatest entertainment. Nothing else can sell out arenas 52 weeks a year.”

-Luke Robinson

Student Luke Robinson poses for the camera on the ropes of a wrestling ring.
This 23-year-old is getting a degree at USM because it’s the only way his parents will let him follow his dream to become a professional wrestler.

Branching out

The USM Outing Club gets bigger, better

DAVID O’DONNELL
Sports Editor

This semester, Eric Favreau took over as president of the USM Outing Club, one of the university’s most active student organizations.
This group, which has an email list-serv of nearly 500 students, functions as a core of between eight and ten tightly-knit group, and expand into a full-fledged campus resource.
According to Clymer Barry, an officer in the organization, reaching out to other groups and securing funding are two of Favreau’s strengths.

“Because of how involved Eric is in student government and other clubs, it has really allowed us to have some new connections,” Barry points out.
Favreau and company have tried to make the most of this semester, in typical outing club fashion.
Early on in the semester, there were a series of winter hikes around the area. Over February break, they took a leisurely trip to a cabin in Greeneville for some skiing, hiking and snowshoeing.
One winter climbing trip took them to North Conway, where they initially set out to reach three separate Mountain peaks.
The first day, they met with strong winds (approximately 60 miles per hour) on their way up Mt. Washington, forcing them to turn back.

An attempted re-do the next day was met with a mix of hard, wet snow, to the point that they could hardly see one another.
On their third and final try the next morning, they got to the very same point on Mt. Washington as they had reached the first day. The wind, however, had increased by an additional 20-30 mph.
And yet to hear Favreau tell you, sounds like one of the highlights of his school year.

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