Former students convicted of terrorizing
Grade and Benner change pleas, face 30 days for 2006 bomb threat

Jared Thurber
Contributing Writer

The president’s office has overspent its budget by an average of $388,000 every year for the last four years, according to financial reports. Office supplies, paper—all those line items added up.

But the way the system worked, it never really mattered. Realistically, prior to 2007, there was no “real” budget in place to be overspent.

When a department at an institution like USM doesn’t have practical, transparent accounting practices, it’s prone to develop a “structural deficit,” said James O’Brien, the administrative assistant for the president’s office.

A structural deficit, he says, occurs when financial responsibilities of the department grow, but its budget stays the same. He gives the example of increasing pay-rates based on a 3 percent inflation rate.

“You’d assume that the account that you use to pay that person would be increased to accommodate the change. That wasn’t the case here.”

According to O’Brien, the amount of money budgeted for the president’s office remained the same from 1991 until last year. Although the president’s office is but a grain of sand on the USM beach, the lack of accounting, which allowed for overspending, was symptomatic of the university as a whole.

“Under the [former] Chief Financial Officer, Sam Andrews, the strategy was spend first, we will find money later,” O’Brien said. “Some departments consistently have an excess of funds at the end of the year, while others consistently overspend their budget.”

Andrews was the CFO for more than 30 years, and, according to O’Brien, “he knew where pools of money were.”

Money sloshed back and forth between pools to cover departments who overspent. His office, the president’s office, was one of the over-spenders.

To get some perspective on this method of budgeting—which to some extent might seem reasonable to those of us who slosh money back and forth between a checking and savings account to make sure nothing bounces—we called up a few people in the financial advising business.

In regards to the old “spend first, find later” strategy, Mark Dorsett of Northeast Financial said that, “by definition, that is not a budget.”

It sounds to me like a case of poor planning, nobody seemed to be doing any accounting,” said Larry Dwight, a financial advisor at Morgan Stanley & Co.

“It is best to pay as you go, put some money aside in a rainy day fund, create a budget and stick with it,” he said.

The $8.2 million question recently, especially given the fact that model how to engage in dialogue with others who may not share your beliefs.

This semester, the team of associate chaplains has created a series of programs designed to discuss topics such as sex and sexuality, money and the environment.

Reverend Andrea Thompson-McCall is the USM interfaith chaplain, also serving as director of the office of community service and civic engagement. Shirley Bowen, an ordained priest in the Episcopal Church who serves as the massman/Episcopal chaplain appointed by the Diocese of Maine, describes Thompson-McCall and her job as “helping to support students in their spiritual lives on campus.”

Bowen says that there are three duties of chaplains at USM: “serving our own faith and students, collaborating as an interfaith team in a larger context and producing educational programming to engage people.”

On the number of students involved, Bowen says there are “hundreds of students who are exposed to the work at the inter-faith office.”

There has been a recent increase in student involvement over the past few years, to which the hiring freeze and what it has saved (and lost)

Faculty and their job security

Professional staff scared to breathe

Finding new ways to pay for classified staff

Abigail Coffey
Staff Writer

Whether religious or not, many students have walked by the interfaith chaplaincy office on the Portland campus. In case any were wondering what goes on inside the little white building, it’s more than just a campus church.

The chaplaincy aims at “supporting religious and spiritual life in all of its expressions” and continues to do so through the education of beliefs, values and ethics.

The office supports a variety of religions and faiths and student, including the Bahá’í, Christian, Jewish, Intervarsity (evangelical Christian), Muslim and Pagan associations, clubs and fellowships.

For those looking for a place to reflect, students and faculty members can visit “A Space Apart,” a room located in the interfaith office on the Portland campus, next to Payson-Smith. The chaplains encourage anyone to visit, meditate or pray alone.

The chaplains—recognized leaders for each represented group or faith—meet monthly to plan events, which include “fish bowl” topics that model how to engage in dialogue with others who may not share your beliefs.

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The $8.2 million question lately, especially given the See BUDGET page 18

From Brandeis to Egypt to Maine
Introducing President Selma Botman

Sarah Trent
Executive Editor

When you talk to Selma Botman about budgets and 26 programs and community and university morale, her eyes glaze over. It’s not that she isn’t interested, and she’s certainly articulate—it’s just that autopilot has kicked in.

See BOTMAN page 5

Seder Dinner
As Americans, we often take our freedom to question for granted. The Jewish Seder Passover dinner is a place for all to question their freedom and discuss ideas. The event asks people to question: how is this night different from all other nights? How am I different tonight?

Those questions, along with many others, were raised this past last week at the USM

See DINNER page 5

Bringing faith to campus
Interfaith chaplaincy gives space, resources to all students

Abigail Coffey
Staff Writer

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Everyday on cable news networks across the globe stock-tickers are showing more red. The “almighty dollar” is doing little to earn its title as it drops in value, and the already cash-strapped state of Maine is sharpening the budgetary machete for a new round of cuts.

“Recession” can be a scary and alarming word, and even more alarming to a university that is striving to earn its title as it drops in value, and even more alarming to a university that is slowly discovering its own financial woes.

How might a national recession affect USM?

UMaine system administrators promise that academic quality is the first priority, but can a school like USM – in the face of multi-million dollar deficits – weather the tough economic times ahead?

Timing is everything

“This came at a really bad time,” says Charles Colgan of the recession. Colgan is a professor in USM’s Muskie School of Public Service. and chair of the State of Maine Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission.

“USM built up budget problems when things were going well then things crashed along with the nation and state as they weakened. USM is not the type of school that can easily deal with sudden economic downturns, he says, "this university is under-funded in good times.”

Add to the list of problems a looming budget deficit of $8.2 million, which USM has addressed by taking out an internal UMaine System loan, set to be paid back by 2014.

The community has been left asking what led to such a deficit. Marky budgetary and reporting practices have been blamed. However, UMaine System Chancellor and former USM President Richard Pattenaude has a different view.

“The budget system made it harder to ‘understand where we were,’ he says, “but it didn’t cause the budgetary problems.” Instead, Pattenaude sees declining enrollment as a more viable answer.

Finance professor Joel Gold points to what he calls “an unfair share” of the UMaine System allocation to USM as a likely culprit – USM has gotten about 30 percent of the allocation for the last 30 years, despite doubling in size.

Gold sees growth as a worthwhile goal for USM, and one that is already showing some positive return.

“We spent a lot of money, (under former president Pattenaude) but you need to do that sometime to keep the university going,” says Gold. “Pattenaude grew the university despite low budget money, but I think if you look at the campuses and the faculty, you’ll see that (USM is) a lot better than it has been.”

Flat-funding & tuition increase

A troubled Maine means a troubled USM, according to Colgan, and the latest round of budgetary cuts by the state legislature reflects this. The UMaine System has been “flat funded” for the upcoming fiscal year, which means that it will receive the same $187 million from the state that it received last year.

“This is basically a cut” says Colgan, noting that the practice of “flat funding” doesn’t take into consideration issues of inflation, the slumping economy, or massive energy cost increases.

USM has very few low-impact strategies available to deal with economic problems.

Termination of positions and tuition increase are some of the only means through which the school can control its finances, and both are met with fierce opposition by faculty, staff and students.

A tuition increase is currently in the works, to be decided upon at a May 8 meeting of the Board of Trustees. Pattenaude hopes that the increase can be kept under ten percent, though others think this is a low estimate.

“Tuition increase is the resource of last resort,” Pattenaude says, but he recognizes that pre-existing budgetary problems like those at USM are made even more dramatic when the state budget doesn’t increase.

Pattenaude does note that the system will increase financial aid at the same rate as tuition in an effort to ease the burden on students.

Looking forward

Colgan helps the state of Maine to prepare its annual economic forecast, given this year at a breakfast in January, but even he admits that it’s hard to see what’s coming.

“This recession has had a lot of surprises in it,” Colgan says. He mentions the collapse of the fifth largest investment firm, Bear Stearns, earlier this year, as one major surprise. A rapidly falling dollar and skyrocketing gas prices are some of the other unforeseen events in this current slump.

Colgan foresees Maine as only experiencing a mild recession with some job loss followed by quick job recovery. He expects this mild recession to last until 2011, but notes that in that same year, Maine’s Brunswick Naval Air Station will close for good, meaning a huge loss of jobs and state revenue.

Colgan wants to wait until all the numbers are in to make his final predictions on Maine and USM saying, “it really depends on things not being a lot more surprises.”

This concludes our three-part series covering the economic recession and its effects on USM, its students and the community. Part one, by Abigail Caffey, looked at the job market and prospects for USM graduates. Part two, by David O’Donnell, examined the historical effects of national recessions on USM enrollment. Part three, by Matt Dodge, put USM within the context of the state, looking at how the national and state-wide struggles will fit alongside the university’s own financial hard times.

Goodbye, Keith Witherell

USM lost an important member of its staff when IT director Keith Witherell passed away unexpectedly last Tuesday. Witherell, who was 49, had been with USM since the mid ’90s, when he was hired to teach computer courses in the School of Business. Witherell eventually left the classroom for the IT help desk, and was promoted to the position of IT director in 2006.

Witherell is also remembered as a passionate musician, taking piano lessons during his childhood in Cape Cod and performing throughout his life.

He was also an active member of the local theatrical scene, serving as director for the Lyric Music Theater of South Portland; most recently, he directed the music for the theater’s production of “Man of La Mancha”.

An active member of his community, Witherell also served on the Cape Elizabeth School Board. His funeral service was held on Sunday April 27 at Hobbs Funeral Home in South Portland.
Lenore Allen, in a blue state, is Senator Collins, despite being elected of
years. That's because
personalities since the early 1990s,
the first primary political campaign
become a first-time campaigner. He feels
that it included "complicit, lenient
she was a victim of that crime."
In cases like this, he said, "if
himself as a candidate for the
and development course at USM,
his current obituary.
was an improvement over
the School of Law in Portland.
the vice president of student and
the United States Senate."
"She's a very nice girl," he said,
Maine Community College.
that she had to take it."
"We're happy she can get on with
her being in the car, the fact that
her being in the car, the fact that
"20 years working in education
4, 2006, threat. Both pled not guilty.
the School of Law in Portland.
"She's a very nice girl," he said,
Maine Department of Public Safety.
the vice president of student and
was released in May.
facing a maximum five-year
prison term, each was sentenced
to 30 days in a county jail.
A federal bomb threat charge
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that the idea just materialized out of nowhere.
"We're happy she can get on with
her life after her 30 days."
"we're happy she can get on with
her life after her 30 days."
"we're happy she can get on with
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We've been involved in Maine
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From FAITH page 1
Bowen credits McCullin in "creating a balance of chaplains." The interfaith chaplains work outside of the office, they are well liked and help out in other aspects of USM. They are often invited by departments to collaborate on projects, as with RA training and the One Campaign, which helps to end global poverty. They are a belief-in-action community.

Bowen summarizes the goals of the office as "rediscovering and exploring what it is you believe in, integrating how students live their lives, as well as helping students be able to be in a respectful relationship in faiths that are not your own."

Saying such as "love thy neighbor as yourself" to be consistent with how you live your life, according to Bowen.

A written in the office says "and who does not want to be treated with love?" It's a question that's easier to answer than most want to believe.

The chaplancy is a place for students who are trying to find meaning in their lives and "just need help with the journey." From the open space in the office to the calm aura the office provides, everyone who enters is welcome and treated with respect.

The services offered there are more than just traditional ones, such as noon-day prayer service, meditation, counseling, as well as composing music.

Bowen understands that not all people are religious, but realizes "even if you don’t believe in it, it’s nice to have biblical references."

For more information on how to get involved, e-mail interfaith@usm.maine.edu or visit www.usm.maine.edu/studentlife/chaplaincy.

From DINNER page 1

Gorham Faculty Dining Room, when Southern Maine Hillel – the Jewish division of USM’s interfaith chaplaincy – hosted a Seder for all interested students and community members.

I was able to attend the traditional Jewish dinner. Once there I immediately greeted and felt welcomed by all.

Once everyone got settled at their tables (which were quite impressively adored), the ‘leaders’ began the interactive recounting of the Exodus from Egypt. The readings included phrases in Hebrew and an explanation of the Passover, as well as punctuated symbolic foods such as “wine” (white grape juice), dipping a green vegetable in salt water and eating matzah.

While unfamiliar with the customs, I tried my best to gain a better understanding of Jewish history. After re-telling the journey Moses and the Children of Israel went out of Egypt, one member sitting next to me jokingly asked me if I knew what happened at the end. When I said no, he replied, “they escaped.”

All joking aside, attendees were asked what they were thankful for, and even helped out with the readings.

The first part of the ceremony was the meal, which included hard boiled egg, kugel, charoset, matzah ball soup, gefilte fish, matzah lasagna, potato kugel, carrots and macaroni. Even the children got involved with the “hiding of the matzah,” winning candy prizes at the end.

I was especially surprised to hear two little girls sitting at my table reciting some of the lyrics in Hebrew. I admired their knowledge of the religion at such a young age.

In the final remarks, a gentleman from Gorham House elderly home spoke up to thank everyone for a wonderful time. He wanted everyone to know how grateful he was to be invited and accommodate within the group.

I felt his happiness, and was glad I was there to experience such a community event.

At the dinner were more than just members of the Jewish community, but also Muslims and Christians alike. It was refreshing to see everyone together thoroughly enjoying each other’s company.

Southern Maine Hillel is directed by Fae Silverman, who also serves as the Jewish chaplain at USM. Fae is credited as being another chaplain in “doing a fabulous job in her first year here.”

Selma Botman’s Middle Eastern studies might benefit USM

From BOTMAN page 1

Botman is moving into the USM president’s house in Gorham on July 1 to begin her new role as USM’s queen bee – but in the meantime, she’s still working out of the City University of New York’s chancellor’s office, which means that she’s not yet immersed in the daily goings-on of USM.

When she came to Maine a few weeks ago to talk at a local USM-related meeting, I snagged the chance to sit down with her, hoping to introduce her to Free Press readers in a way that other reports couldn’t.

We started by talking about the office directly to get involved.

Navigators Christian Fellowship
Navigators Christian Fellowship
Bob Atkinson, Baha’i Chaplain
Bob Atkinson, Baha’i Chaplain
- 780-5078 or Atkinson@usm.maine.edu.

Muslim Students Association
Mehdiya.tahil@maine.edu

COURTESY PHOTO

Students and community members gathered last week for a traditional Passover Seder in Gorham. The event was run by Southern Maine Hillel, a Jewish student group operating under the interfaith chaplaincy office.

Student-initiated and student-run organizations offering opportunities to gather with others, regardless of religious or spiritual interests for support, personal growth, cel-

From INTERVIEW page 1

Botman left her post last year.

"Pattenaude left his post last year. It tucked away next to the art gallery house – her new house – which is about who she is, and how that in

I met her in the president’s "I was expecting a hug from, rather than that sand and rooted herself in academic

As an undergrad, Botman went to Bates but found that "once I'd gotten involved in the political science department

"The Middle East is a region of some turmoil," she said. "Any way you live your life, according to Botman, "that's what I want to do."

By that point she had also directed the interfaith chaplaincy at USM. Fae is credited as being another chaplain in “doing a fabulous job in her first year here.”

So in what did she seem inter-

They are a belief-in-action community.

Bowen sand in other aspects of USM. They involved in the administration of the UMass System, involved in academic affairs while maintain-

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The modern way to barter

Jared Thurber
Contributing Writer

Trade is the world’s oldest form of commerce, but in today’s capitalistic society, it has taken a back seat to the monetary system of exchange. But in Portland, thanks to The Trade Exchange, barter is back, and it’s better than ever.

Located on Center Street in Portland, The Trade Exchange acts as a bartering middleman, facilitating trade between area businesses by setting up a credit-based system through which members can exchange goods and services. “It’s great for small businesses with excess inventory or anyone with a product or service that has perceived value,” explains Natalie Ladd, the sales and marketing manager at the Trade Exchange.

Firms, local auto mechanics, and karate classes.

Even funk/rock band Color Blind can be found in the directory, offering live music.

Established in 1977, Trade Exchange was established as a way to facilitate large-scale trade between local businesses and groups. According to their website, barter accounts for $290 billion in sales annually worldwide, and is growing at a rate of 15 percent per year.

The exchange currently has more than 300 member businesses in the area.

Upon joining Trade Exchange, members are given a “trade card” that works like a credit card, allowing them to make purchases at any member merchant, and deducting the cost from their line of invested credit.

The Trade Exchange is not a non-profit organization. While there is no fee paid to the company to enroll in the program, an annual due of $195 trade dollars is required, as well as a 12 percent commission on all trades.

In this way, the group says it can generate new business for clients of our exchange network.

There is also a showroom that members can shop in which carousels are used. “The advantages are obvious — students can perform extensive research, communicate with one another, find information on classes, meetings, and school happenings — all while fulfilling an attendance requirement.”

So it is no wonder that this blossoming of technology, sometimes referred to as “ubiquitous computing,” may also be causing a backlash.

Many evidence against laptop use in classrooms is simply anecdotal, but an article in the April 2008 issue of the journal “Computers & Education” published results of a recent study which found a negative correlation between laptop use in class, and the overall performance of the students — including how clear they felt the lecture material to be.

The study also found that more than half of the distractions reported in class were related to laptop use by other students — email, instant-messaging, web surfing, and occasional audio alerts that are completely out of their control, just a few feet away.

Laura Fellows
Intern

Three students sit in the back corner of the room, laptops in front of them. As two more amble over, using laptops out a power strip from their backpack, allowing all five to plug their computers into the nearest outlet. Two begin playing “World of Warcraft,” while others simply check their e-mail and surf the web.

Is it a LAP party? A Friday night gaming session? Not quite — it’s a USM classroom.

In a year when many analysts say that laptop computer sales could finally eclipse the stationary desktop, it is no wonder that situations like this are becoming more and more common. Many USM buildings are equipped with wireless internet access, allowing students and faculty to connect to the internet across campus without a physical plug-in.

The latest distraction

Think cell phones are bad? Try laptops

Library lends laptops

Did your hard-drive commit suicide? Or just don’t have a laptop? Lucky for you, the Glickman Library lends more than just books. You can’t bring them to class, but they have several laptops available to borrow for set periods of time, provided they remain in the building.

So if you’re sick of the computer lap (or listening to your roommate’s music while you’re studying for finals), ask for a laptop at the desk in the first floor lobby. All you need is your USM ID.

She says that computers in the classroom are extremely helpful when used correctly, but sees many students using them for games and other things during class. “That, to me, is a total no-no.”

The university has no overriding policy; decisions are left up to individual professors, and most seem to agree that the biggest problem is not the technology itself — it has a lot more to do with the respect and responsibility of students.

As DelSignore observes, “A lot of kids don’t have respect for their professors.”

Laura Fellows
Intern

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The study also found that more than half of the distractions reported in class were related to laptop use by other students — email, instant-messaging, web surfing, and occasional audio alerts that are completely out of their control, just a few feet away.

Many schools have begun integrating laptops into classes, which gives a greater level of control to the professors. In this scenario, laptops can be quite helpful — but when unregulated, things have a tendency to get out of control.

“I think they should be used more for note-taking in class,” says sophomore Erin Nadeau, “but aren’t really being used for that.” While she occasionally brings her laptop to class, she usually uses it to catch up on homework rather than Facebook. According to English Professor Shelton Waldrep, laptop use in the classroom is “a growing issue.” While he admits that laptops can be helpful for quickly finding the answers to questions that may not be available in textbooks, he is beginning to feel uncomfortable with how often they are used.

“The real problem is that the student doesn’t make eye contact with me or other students,” he says, “and I tend to try to engage students in discussion.”

Certain classes typically ban laptop use altogether. In creative writing courses, internet access is often seen as a distraction; many art history classes require the room to be as dark as possible, so that slides can be examined in detail.

Shirley DelSignore, a junior engineering major, believes that laptops themselves aren’t the problem — it depends on the people using them.

“I can type faster than I can write,” she says. “I take notes on my laptop, so they’re more organized.”

Library lends laptops

Did your hard-drive commit suicide? Or just don’t have a laptop? Lucky for you, the Glickman Library lends more than just books. You can’t bring them to class, but they have several laptops available to borrow for set periods of time, provided they remain in the building.

So if you’re sick of the computer lap (or listening to your roommate’s music while you’re studying for finals), ask for a laptop at the desk in the first floor lobby. All you need is your USM ID.

She says that computers in the classroom are extremely helpful when used correctly, but sees many students using them for games and other things during class. “That, to me, is a total no-no.”

The university has no overiding policy; decisions are left up to individual professors, and most seem to agree that the biggest problem is not the technology itself — it has a lot more to do with the respect and responsiblity of students.

As DelSignore observes, “A lot of kids don’t have respect for their professors.”
they certainly helped by teaching me,
really think that my education at this
always been competitive have become
market at exactly the wrong time –
university.

That I'm "getting out at the right time,"
also winding down.

itch (I swear I'm not involved in the
And, after
What do I mean by education?
On the other side of the spectrum,
A lot of faculty, administrators and
have been telling me lately that
based on the turmoil going on at this
University.

On the other side of the spectrum, a
lot of professional journalists have been telling me that I’m entering the market at exactly the wrong time—newspapers nationwide are cutting back, and the support for us who have always been competitive have become even more so. Well, call me naïve — because I likely am — but I’m really not all that worried. Now, this might sound like a sales pitch (I swear I’m not involved in the new USM marketing campaign), but I really think that my education at this poor, cash-strapped university has had a very large role in the comfort I feel leaving it. What do I mean by education? It’s not about the classes, although they certainly helped by teaching me both how and why to think. But it’s also about people. When I came here I took an incomplete – because it showed me that no matter how much time I have to do things, I’m not going to feel any more motivated to do things I don’t want to. And it was the time I sprained my ankle in lacrosse and had to try something else everyday, to properly and comfortabely tape me up so I wouldn’t keep doing the same thing over and over again.

How about the time I rode from Gorham to Portland in the passenger seat with the student administrator, and was reminded that no matter what someone’s position is, or he she was once wearing your shoes – and that maybe you can still tell us where to find new ones.

It’s definitely the time a teammate lent me her car so that I could drive to my grandfather’s funeral, and I crashed it along the way – because no matter how much you screw up, people understand, and things rarely are unremediable.

I can’t forget the freshman roommate who was so cool that she somehow convinced me to start smoking – and then the one, horrified look she gave my best friend that told me I’d better stop, because if I was willing to sacrifice this from my best friend wanted something with no doing to with me.

Yes, we all had our “bad day” on the one time my car got the boot, which is a pretty damn good reminder that it’s usually to best to bear all the time, and not just when I need to. Though it’s probably a cliché, it seems that I have learned far more from my failures than from my successes – although encouragement has certainly helped me along.

This means that, if history stands, I really have nothing to worry about. In fact, I can see up and finding in a job or a relationship or a situation that’s not so cool, I’ll get it out of my head, and I’ll have learned something.

And if the opposite happens, if I find that dream job/life, well, that’s pretty cool too.

The trick, sometimes, is knowing when.

USM has suddenly begun to realize that the great direction it thought it was headed in was also destructively than anyone realized along the way. And, while $8.2 million is a bigger mistake than I ever hope to make, I feel what happens from here on out will come under the context of having learned from it.

Journalism, likewise, has been heading in strange directions, and probably without people or producers even realizing it. It’s going to be my job to learn from the errors of others, and to make a few mistakes of my own, to figure out what works and what doesn’t as I try out this whole post-college world.

I’m a little afraid to graduate, to be without the “I’m a student” excuse for slacking, but if history stands, slacking a little – and getting a nice kick in the pants reminding me why I shouldn’t be from my own mistakes.

So goodbye Free Press and my read-
ners, thanks for keeping me in check – I too badly needed something occasionally telling me when some-

and goodbye USM. Although to be honest, I’ll probably be around – and that the time to fill out job applications is now...

Sarah Trent  
Executive Editor

Students must help make USM greener

You may have read in the April 7 issue of the Free Press about USM’s attempt to measure its movement towards a sustainable campus through STARS – a new tool for measuring progress.

Students and faculty alike have joined forces in an extremely motivated attempt to figure out where we are going in terms of environmental friendliness. The STARS program measures all aspects of university function and its effects on the environment. Drawn from green house gas emissions caused by electricity and heating usage to the organic/non-organic food supply USM has been collecting data on all aspects of it. As a participant of this project, I have been measuring such green house gas emissions from a 2005-06 baseline. The results have been inspiring; however, USM still has a lot of work to do if it wants to reach its goal from 3,107,12kwh.

That is a pretty impressive feat and could be attributed to large-scale attempts across campus with the need to decrease our environmental footprint. This is not to mention the fact that at least a portion of that electricity was produced from renewable energy sources.

In addition, USM has undertaken at least seven LEED approved building and remodeling projects, improving the environmental integrity of our facilities. Many of these buildings use energy conservation and also pull from alternative energy resources that decrease electricity and fuel purchasing.

The goal for USM is to be “carbon neutral” by 2015, and USM has still consumed about 16,622,541 KWH of electricity says something about the state of our sustainability: we still have a lot of work to do if we are to meet our carbon-neutral goal – emitting little to no CO2 into the atmosphere.

Letters to the Editor

A Thank You Note  
Dear Student Body,

I just wanted to thank all of the wonderful drivers who work in the Woodbury Campus Center main lot. Over the years my car has sustained a wealth of dings and dents from you parking too close and slamming your door into mine. I recently bought a newer vehicle and within a month received the biggest scratch yet! Just the other day I watched someone slam into someone else’s bumper and drive away to find another spot!

I’m just fed up with the general lack of respect for other people and their property. We’re all busy and in a hurry to get to class, but that doesn’t make it okay to make the other person double park or smack someone else’s car with yours.

So goodbye and respect your fellow students and their vehicles.

Emily Senior

Free Press Never Looked Better!  
From 1989-1991 I was the executive editor of the Free Press. We had a bunch of Macs networked and thought desktop-publishing was the greatest invention! I got to tell you, when I poke around the Free Press online today I get flashbacks and goombumps...you are doing such a terrific job with tech.

Moreover, the print-version of the paper has never looked better. You are doing such a great job.

And remember, as you get ready for finals and field campaigns and, once again, have to pass the torch to an executive editor-to-be, don’t let anyone get you down! Keep up the good work!

Andrew J. Levesque  
USM Alumnus

Jake Chamberlain  
Guest Columnist

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We have been continually expanding our university with sustainability in mind, but if everyone, especially the student population, is not of the same frame of mind, we will never be able to reduce our energy usage enough.

Our administrators have been making great progress, but it’s unfair to place this responsibility into their hands alone. We, as students, have to be far more active in the process in order for these goals to be achieved.

And there are resources available for us to do so. Did you know that there is a fund set aside for the environmental sustainability office specifically set aside for student initiated sustainability projects that will demonstrate improve the university’s ecological footprint? Any student can tap into this fund as long they have the ambition to do so.

The Honors Student Organization, for example, is in the process of writing a grant proposal for this fund, in order to continue their “Greening the Honor’s House” project.

This project is an attempt to assess the environmental impact of the energy consumption at the Honors House (202 Bedford Street) and to transform the facility into as environmentally friendly a space as it can be.

After having switched all of their incandescent light bulbs to CFLs and making constant efforts to reduce electricity and heat consumption, the Honors group has been working towards dipping into this student sustainability fund in order to push forward some bigger intensity projects such as possibly improving the insulation in the building to improve heating efficiency.

All of these initiatives are such as in, sustainably improving the facets of university life that they must commonly interact with; or riding their bike to class; or supporting student-driven green campaigns and so on, we can together, with each other and with our professors and administrators, and this admirable university-wide effort to help sustainability and carbon neutrality at the University of Southern Maine.

Jake Chamberlain is a senior in the Honors Program.
Thank you Free Press
To the editor and staff at the Free Press:
Thank you so much for all your support with calendar listings, articles and terrific reporting on subjects relating to women and gender studies. We are so grateful for this wonderful article on Kate Bornstein (Oct. 29), co-curricular events, the Freedom Bus to LA for a conversation event (April 10) and the cancellation of Magic Mike (April 21).
Getting the word out to the USM student community and the wider community, and you all have done a fabulous job! On behalf of the departments and programs that have been involved with this academic year, we thank you!
ROCK ON!
Gabe Demeuse
Diversity/Scholarship Liaison

Discrimination During UMO Pride Week
A very close friend of ours rented a room at a hotel in Bangor because of the UMO Pride Week drag show, so myself, my sister and our friends all went to the hotel to stay and help stuff and start getting ready in the room. The queens and three Colby students who were doing a project for a class had all come to the room to get ready for the show and film a documentary on the drag community.
It was so warm in the room. We asked the woman running the desk if the AC was on yet; it was not, but she came to the room to see if the heat was on. We asked her to ask why there were so many people in the room. We explained we were going to the Pride Week show at UMaine and she was fine with that.
Then two queens went out to have a smoke, and came back to find the woman standing there to say we had to leave – other patrons were upset and uncomfortable seeing men in makeup and dresses.
They said we were breaking fire code – which we understood, however the woman had been to the room TWICE before and hadn’t said anything about the fire code.
So everyone packed a few of our friends went to talk to the woman. She wouldn’t give us the money back because the room had “already been used” (for two hours)!
The person who rented the room said she wasn’t leaving unless she got the room money and key de- posited back, so the woman said she was going to call the cops.
Another queen asked to speak with the manager – who was not even called. She told her “I’m from California, understand this culture and am not prejudice… but this is MAINE”.
The fact that our friends were discriminated against in Bangor, Maine really sickens us.
No one should ever stay at the Bangor Motor Inn – they are unreasonable and unwilling to adapt to circumstances that may make others feel uncomfortable.
If you are a paying customer in a hotel, you should be given the right to privacy of whatever happens in your room.
If you choose to get dressed in drag in a room that you paid good money for, you should not be forced out because you are “different.”
Pride Week is about being true to who you are and we don’t care if you’re from California, Tibet, Maine, Canada, Israel, or wherever. This is discrimi- nation and it should NOT be tolerated.

Ashleigh & Adrian St. Pierre
Senior, Bakalar Hall
Senior, Brunswick High School

Economics 101
To the Right,
If you know anything about macroeconomics, you understand that recessions are caused by the understandable and periodic loss of optimism by the average consumer and businesses who rationally cut back on capital spending when there is a finan- cial or economic climate in the economy declining.
So the people running the economy are peri- odically pessimistic and that’s why the economy sometimes gets into recessions. Good idea, started by Dustin Gilbert in his recent “From the Right” (April 21), is empirically false and completely falling apart as we write macroeconomics.
If we had the time, we could enumerate six other such errors in this. But we won’t bother.
Dustin Gilbert

My goal with “From the Right” was not to promote argument, but rather to influence action.
Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and John McCain are always talking about change – Barack is try- ing his campaign on “change.”
Change, however, is not just talking about it. It requires action to actually change what you believe is incorrect, unjust, or unfair.
This column was my way of taking action, and it was prompted by one substantial change in my life: my belief in God.
Over Christmas break I went to North Carolina to visit some old friends, including Jeremiah, the son of a preacher.
When I was still going to school with Jeremiah, he had told me about his church, and I was in- trigued. I wanted to see the differ- ence between a southern Baptist church and the Catholic church I was baptized in.
In the first time I went, the service was, to say the least, different. There were very few synchronized prayers or rituals. The choir made me feel like I was at a concert.
Then, after the service began, the preacher, Jeremiah’s father, said his word of God like nothing I’d ever seen or heard before. He whispered it, he yelled it and he used analogies to prove His exis- tence.
At the end of the sermon he encouraged those who were not to regret the experience, and help from the Lord to come up and kneel at the foot of the cross and His pupil. I didn’t go up. I didn’t know what to do. I simply observed.
When I went to North Carolina over Christmas, I knew I’d return to Jeremiah’s church. I looked forward to it. I looked forward to hearing his father preach and being inspired. According to whom? Words and Images accept submissions from all of the art- ists. This is why we’d hoped to insert the art after the proof, providing more time for responses. (And why didn’t they see the two wonderful covers. Are they not images?)
It’s an ignorant thing to say, as Howard does, that congratulations letter usually “tells the artist that unless the journal is noti- fied that the congratulatory letter usually “tells the artist that unless the journal is noti-
fi-
rmation letters from all of the art-
ners. It’s strange to see her write an article about the lack of understanding about basic macroeco-
nomics.
Dustin Gilbert
Professor of Economics
Junior Economics Major
Words & Images
Dear Editor,
I write in response to Jenna Howard’s one-sided article “Words + Images published without images” (April 21). I was the managing editor for the 2008 issue.
Last year, Jenna Howard was one of the art edi-
tors. It’s strange to see her write an article about the lack of understanding about basic macroeco-

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Benjamin Rybeck
Professor of Economics

Do not hallucinate.
LETTER FROM YOUR STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

Hello USM Students,

This is your first report from me, Ben Taylor, your new Student Body President. While I’ll be working on some things over the summer, I’ll save a lot of the important stuff for these letters when we come back in the fall.

Let me first congratulate outgoing Student Body President A.J. Chalifour on a job well done this year. Even working closely with him all year, I had underestimated the amount of work he put into the position, making valuable connections and working on a myriad of issues. In the past two weeks, I’ve gotten a glimpse of his work this year, and I can say it will be a hard standard to surpass, although I plan on giving it a go.

There’s a lot to be said about this year in general. The university found a new president, the current administration dealt with a budget crisis, and student involvement itself dealt with a lot of difficulties.

However, as someone who has been able to watch all these things develop, I will say I am lucky to come in and be able to work with a fairly clean slate. There are a few carryover items from this year, but for the most part, and due to the hard work of a lot of people this year, I have a long leash in deciding where I can be most useful for the students.

And indeed, I have a good idea of where I plan to put a lot of my efforts. You heard a few times from my predecessor about Change ’08, a conference in which involved students from a variety of backgrounds came together to talk about student involvement as a whole. That conference has led to a few successful spin-offs, whose work you will see over the next year and beyond.

More important to me, however, is getting the help and opinions of those who are currently not involved at all. There was a lot of talk last summer about approaching specific groups of students and getting them plugged into involvement activities based on their interests. For instance, a group of marketing and business students would be better trained to set up a series of events which would actually draw people and which could eventually fundraise enough money to bring a well-known musician or band to campus, and a specific plan is much more likely to draw the attention of these students than simply asking them to “get involved.”

There are plenty of opportunities for co-curricular activities, to use the education buzzword, in which students can get involved and help build the university, but also at the same time get practice to the skills they are learning in the classroom.

There are also plenty of students interested in other things besides their major, who never see the opportunities to pursue these things because of poor publication of student groups and their events. I’ll leave you with this revelation, which came to me at a meeting about USM’s brand image and how it markets itself in future. Just like the university itself, USM student involvement is a struggling brand. It’s not that involved students don’t put in enough work, or that uninvolved students are just apathetic and don’t care about USM. It’s that some activities just aren’t competitive with the alternative, whether that is going out to the Old Port, or even sitting in a dorm room playing video games or watching movies. Those events that are competitive aren’t publicized enough.

Even with very limited resources, a little creative thinking can go a long way when thinking about what might be able to compete with a regular Friday night out. Anyways, I hope all of you have good luck with finals, and have a good summer. I hope to see you all again when we return in the fall.

Sincerely,

Ben Taylor
Student Body President

PERSPECTIVES

Introducing... The lunch ladies (and gentlemen)

Interviews and photos by Karl Rawston

You see them day in and day out as you pass by them in the line for sandwiches or the cash register. But do you know who they are? We wandered through Aramark services on both campuses seeking out some of students' favorite cafeteria staff. Not all of them were forthcoming, including everyone's favorite, Jan, in Gorham, who showed us away. Here are the ones who could bear having a recorder and a camera aimed at them. Interviews are in order of photos, from left to right.

Senayet Shihamit
Title: Supervisor
Home: Westbrook
Aramark tenure: Five years
Past jobs: managing a rent a car company in the United Arab Emirates
And movie? I love action movies.
What do you think about the election season? Let’s not go there.
What are your thoughts on spring? Ahh, I wish the whole year was spring. I love it.
What’s your favorite food? Ingera (Ethiopian Bread). I make it at home. It’s made with Teff flour, which you can’t get in the U.S. But I order it online. It’s grown only in Ethiopia.

Brenda Williams
Title: Head Deli Cook
Home: Waterboro
Aramark tenure: Six months
What’s your favorite book and movie? Gone with the Wind and Gone with the Wind.
What do you think of the election season? Very confused and disappointed, I’m not very impressed with our selection of candidates.

What’s your favorite food to make at work? Pizza
Least favorite? Tuna Fish
Any words of wisdom? My mom always says that trying only gets you red eyes.

Megan Hebert
Title: Barista, Cashier
Home: Gorham
Aramark tenure: Seven months
What’s your favorite book? I don’t really read that often. The last book I read was a little kid’s book about balloons to the child I was babysitting.
What are your thoughts on spring? I’m really excited for spring.
Favorite food? Probably potatoes, because all these things make a whole bunch of different things and they always come out delicious.
Favorite food to make? Smoothies
Least favorite food to make? When I try to use the grill and I don’t know what I’m doing.
Words of wisdom? Stay in school as long as you can and get a degree.

Sandra Deluca
Title: Deli Cook
Home: Portland

Aramark tenure: Eight months
Favorite movie? Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.
What do you think of the election season? I think I’ll have to vote for Barack. I think it is time for change.
Favorite food? Chocolate
Least favorite food to make here? Chicken Caesar Wraps
Words of wisdom? I have three 23-year-old sons and they don’t even listen to me.

Andy Tukey
Title: Bleecker Chef
Home: Portland
Aramark tenure: Nine months
Last movie you saw? ‘There Will Be Blood’ with Daniel Day Lewis.
What do you think of the election season? Interesting couple of candidates, Clinton and Obama, but I’m kind of jaded by the whole two-party system.
What are your thoughts on spring? It’s a little warm for spring right now. I walk everywhere; I’m surprised that it is already almost 60 degrees out.
Favorite food? Tuna Snack, real rae.
What food to make at home? I just like cooking for people, sling the plates across and saying how it’s going. Least favorite food to make here? The mushrooms, because everyone else doesn’t like how they smell when I cook them and I hear it.

William “Gee” Garrison
Position: Grill Cook
Home: Portland
Aramark tenure: On and off since 1999
What’s your favorite book? Basically The Bible.
What do you think of the election season? It’s good to have a woman and a minority. It’s not the same old same old. I think the way change is, it’s having a woman and an African American. Could be a change, a good change.
Least favorite food to make here? Mexican, it’s good, but I don’t like making it.

Any words of wisdom? The way we see things and look at things is not always what we really see. I think love and peace and knowledge is one of the best things we have on this earth if we use it.
Jeremy Green, a familiar figure to USM art students, stands in the new location of his art supply store, The Art Guru. He recently moved to Church St. from his old location.

**Gorham’s Art Guru**

**Mary Jones**

*Staff Writer*

You may have seen him hanging around the art department in Gorham, a tall, lean man with long brown hair and beard to match. He’s the Art Guru, who also goes by Jeremy Green. He owns the Art Guru, an artist supply store in Gorham.

Recently, the Guru has been closed and the windows covered up. But not to worry, the store has only moved. It’s now located on Church St.

“This I think is a better location,” he said. “(Students) don’t have to drive.”

High rent prompted the move to the new, smaller space. Originally, Green wanted to relocate the store to the floor apartment of his home, but the town’s fire code demanded that he put in a sprinkler system throughout the building. The high cost led him to look elsewhere and he decided on the Church St. location.

The new space is much smaller than the old, but “less daunting” to fill with supplies, he said. “Guru means teacher,” he said, adding that more than just selling supplies, he teaches. He plans to use the first floor apartment as a teaching space, where he hopes to teach subjects like mixed media. He also hopes to turn its three bedrooms into studio space for students.

Conveniently located next to the Center for Movement in downtown Gorham, the space is a stone’s throw away from campus. There’s a common kitchen with a microwave and fridge. He plans to rent out the rooms for $200.

**Becoming the Guru**

Originally from Connecticut, Jeremy Green moved to Portland in 1987 where he began working for Artist Craftsman Supply. There he learned all about the different qualities and types of art tools and mediums. He continued to work there almost continuously until 2004, with a four-year hiatus dedicated to travel.

On a visit home during this break, his motor home took a turn for the worse on Portland’s million-dollar bridge -- it broke down, leaving him stranded and homeless.

This loss prompted the need for a more permanent settlement. He purchased a house in Gorham, where he still lives today.

He began working for Artist Craftsman Supply again, traveling around the country looking for new store locations. Eventually ACS gave him the opportunity to set up his own store, under the condition that he’d have to travel around the country looking for new store locations. Eventually ACS gave him the opportunity to set up his own store, under the condition that he’d have to travel around the country looking for new store locations. Eventually ACS gave him the opportunity to set up his own store, under the condition that he’d have to travel around the country looking for new store locations.

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See GURU page 17
Making music in the English department
Ditch ‘critical analysis’ and take Dylan instead

“...if I can, simulate the experience of getting lost in the music and finding words to live by.”
- Richard Abrams

Richard Abrams teaches Bob Dylan. But not in the department you’d expect – Abrams is an English professor. And Dylan: his poet. His class, one of the many ‘topics in literature’ courses numbered ENG 150, is always popular. We decided to sit down with Abrams and ask about why he loves – and teaches – the classic folk/rock/blues/country artist.

FP: When were you a folk/rock/blues/country artist.
Abrams: I was in college at McGill in Montreal; about ’65 I think. I asked a friend of mine, “so what is this with Bob Dylan?” and he said, “he’s a new folk singer who swallows his words.” I thought that was a pretty good description of Dylan, even now. I grew up with folk singers, some of whom went on to become semi-famous. When I was in high school I just loved radio. It took a while for the penny to drop with Dylan. I liked him but I don’t think I was absolutely sold on him. I liked particular songs, ‘Free-wheelin’’ was a great album, but not till ‘Bringing It All Back Home,’ that was such a leap on Dylan’s part, I was flabbergasted. You know, you expected different things form a rock career back then. You did not expect fifty year careers.

FP: What did you expect?
Abrams: With Dylan you figured he’d be around for a few years as an influential folk singer, then he’d crest and then he’d go the way of Elvis Presley and he’d make movies about Hawaii and Las Vegas. You didn’t really expect that a pop singer, someone you could hear on the radio or buy a record of, would be a force influencing national thinking. So the kind of thing that Dylan became was itself a novelty. It wasn’t that he was filling the slot. There was no such creature in American life before this.

FP: Has there been a surge in interest in Dylan with the recent movies coming out?
Abrams: Oh, definitely! It doesn’t hurt that there’s a huge surge in the kinds of things Dylan’s doing. Whoever would’ve thought that he’d do his autobiographies? It had best-seller status. Whoever thought he’d do a radio show as a D.J. for old music? It’s the best, most innovative radio show I’ve ever heard. ‘Theme Time Radio Hour,’ on subscription radio, online.

FP: How long have you been offering the Dylan class?
Abrams: Five or six years off and on. It started as a senior seminar, fewer people; they do more of the work, present papers. It’s much easier when you don’t have crowd control problems of 26 people.

FP: Has it always been packed?
Abrams: Absolutely, unfortunately. I get email appeals from people who want to join over the number and they say, “just one over the number” and little do they realize that they’re number 17 over the number.

FP: Is it true there aren’t any books officially assigned to the class?
Abrams: This is the first time I have not assigned books. I do really like a particular biography, Howard Sounes “Down the Highway,” and there’s that other book, ‘Don’t Think Twice it’s Alright,’ but all I do now is make it a recommended reading. To me, I have the feeling that I’m starting things in people’s minds that will continue on for a long time and maybe in the summer time they’ll have time to read that biography. And this is the first time I’ve ever given quizzes on the material. I want the text to be the music. I want people to be absorbed in the music.

FP: What do you mean by absorbed?
Abrams: I grew up with this music and had the experience that nobody in the class has had of waiting for a next album to come and sometimes wondering if there would be a next album or whether Dylan was going to stop producing. It seemed touch-and-go quite a few times in his career. I’d like to, if I can, simulate the experience of getting lost in the music and finding words to live by. As Dylan said in “I and I”, “I’ve made shoes for everyone even you, but I go barefoot.” I want the music to mean the most to people. I don’t want to encapsulate it as a reading experience.

FP: How has the class changed over the years?
Abrams: I think the really interesting thing is that it’s changed with students’ attitude about Dylan. He is certainly not a relic anymore. People have a feeling that they are overlapping with a bit of history, serious history.

FP: The title of the class is “Bob Dylan and his American roots.” Tell us about the “roots” part of the class?
Abrams: My idea is that you don’t really understand the past by looking back at it, you have to look forward toward it from what came just before. With regards to the course, there’s just not enough time, but it seems to me pretty important. I feel I do absolutely the bare minimum tracing out, in the first month of the class, the history of American song. I love that part and I would like to expand that, but I have the feeling that most students would rather be doing Dylan and let Dylan spread out. But to me it would be sort of irrefutable if you paid tribute to blues, R&G, gospel, protest, country, protest revival and so on.

FP: So you’ve always given three or four writing assignments, do you change them every semester?
Abrams: I’ve modified last year for this semester. I’ve given a great deal more direction in the past and I’ve decided I don’t want to do that. I’ll tell you something about this bunch of people in there, you get a very creative and iconoclastic crowd compared to many, many, other classes that I teach as a regulation literature teacher and I want to capitalize on that. I’m hoping that less direction means more creativity.

FP: Favorite Dylan albums:
Abrams: Blood On The Tracks

Favorite Dylan song:
“Brownsville Girl and Sad Eyed Lady of the Low Lands”

Three Dylan albums to have:
The Times They Are A-Changin’, Highway 61 Revisited, and Blood On The Tracks

ENG 150 Topics in Literature: “Bob Dylan and his American Roots” textbooks (try any one):
Howard Sounes, “Down the Highway”
Andy Gill, “Don’t Think Twice, It’s Alright”
“Last Easter”: Laughing All the Way to the Grave

Alex Merrill
Staff Writer

June is in the late stages of breast cancer, having had an unsuccessful mastectomy and several rounds of chemotherapy. Her prognosis is grim; yet it is her friends who experience the most difficulty in coming to grips with her mortality.

Bryony Lavery’s “Last Easter,” staged by the USM department of theatre and directed by theatre faculty member Thomas A. Power, is the story of June (Michelle Lee) and her three closest friends: Leah (Megan Leddy), a straightlaced American ex-pat; Joy (Kate Caouette), a gravel voiced lush; and Gash (Derrick Jaques), a drag queen.

Gash in particular displays the most pronounced craving for diversion, whether it be anonymous sex or desperate attempts at humor. The play is book-ended by the corny jokes that Gash tells; tired little Vaudevillian set-up-and-punchline groaners, which the viewer imagines Gash tells; tired little Vaudevillian set-up-and-punchline groaners, which the viewer imagines Gash has culled from his drag show. The jokes that the Gash character tells create a framing device for “Last Easter”; they are the flimsy artifice that separates the play’s glib, privileged characters from the grim reality of their friend’s declaration of defeat after a long battle with cancer. All of the cast do solid physical work; Lee and Jaques in particular craft compelling physical performance.

Lee displays June’s unflinching stoicism and incremental bodily decline in every movement she makes onstage; as her character gets sicker, she shrinks in stature; the audience really believes that she is both dying and coming to terms with her death.

Jaques, sinewy and lithe, has a commanding stage presence as the melodramatic Gash. Ledy does a nice job in a relatively thankless role as Leah, the most earnest of the group of friends, and Couette seems to drop their guards a bit too readily; in certain moments, they are definitely “playing” sad.

This causes the production to become slightly heavy-handed in parts; a major mistake when staging a play with such downbeat subject matter. However, when Gash and Joy are confronted with the prospect of acting as June’s euthanizers, both actors ultimately get back on track. Their mixture offlippancy and genuine love and concern regains equilibrium, and they are able to come to terms with their given roles, even as they flit about and frantically manufacture scenarios far more dramatic than the ones that actually transpire at the play’s end.

“Last Easter” boasts a particularly impressive set, designed by junior Bobby Wilcox, with giant bay windows and raised platforms that allow the players and director to utilize a large percentage of the mainstage. A wonderful overview of the work of this great artist. He has a show up right now through July 27, at the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) in Boston.

If you missed it, you missed it: “Last Easter” closed Sunday April 27. The theater department will resume its regular production schedule next fall.

SUMMER READING

Your professor’s book pile

The last issue of the semester wouldn’t be complete without dreams of the rest and relaxation that USM students are yearning for. Here is a list of books for your travels, your beach bag, or to join you in that hammock.

Professor Matthew Killmer
Communication & Media Studies
Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser

“Great book, especially for those familiar with the movie. It’s a non-fiction that links agriculture to business.”

Homage to Catalonia by George Orwell

“I would recommend this book particularly to students in communication and media studies. It’s a story about the Spanish civil war from an insider’s perspective. Very relevant to today.”

Professor Ronald Schmidt
Political Science, Honors
This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War by Drew Gilpin Faust

“This is what I’m planning on reading. It’s about the private and nationalistic ceremonies by which Americans tried to deal with the unprecedented level of death involved in the Civil War.”

Mark Dannen’s Torture and Truth

“I’m reading it this summer for my own research. It is an examination of the policy decisions that led to a policy of torture in the “War on Terror.”

What I Loved by Siri Hustvedt

“It’s terrific -- a novel about the relationship between two families, that deals with art, ideas, tragedy and New York City nightlife in the late ’70s and early ’80s. A brief summary can’t really do it justice -- it’s just amazing.”

Professor Antonio Lopez Garcia
Drawings/ Paintings/ Sculpture by multiple authors; published by Rizzoli.

“A wonderful overview of the work of this great artist. He has a show up right now through July 27, at the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) in Boston.”

Vija Celmins published by Phaidon

“Celmins is probably the most famous Latvian-born artist in the world. She has lectured and been (an art) juror at USM.”

A Nervous Splendor - Vienna 1888-89; by Frederic Morton, published by Penguin

“A more normal, very readable book, it is about Fin-de-siecle Vienna, and the artistic and intellectual talents among them Sigmund Freud, Gustav Mahler, Arthur Schnitzler, and Gustav Klimt, who made a new world in the transition to the 20th century. This is also a book that you can take with you on an airplane.”

Compiled by Jenna Howard
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Senior show gets critique by Maine curators, pros

Jenna Howard
Arts Editor

The annual Bachelor of Fine Art student show, Produce, is showing at the Gorham Art Gallery now. The BFA degree is the most involved studio art degree offered at USM, and the 15-student group show showcases the art majors as they graduate from concentrations in sculpture, ceramics, photography, painting, and digital art.

The show’s name was the idea of Ben Lambert, a ceramicist in the senior seminar class who art was selected for the Purchase Award, a yearly tradition for degree offered at USM, and the degree offering studio art majors.

Produce can imply both process and product, important parts of the artist’s process. It seemed a perfect title for the show.

The four years (or more) of these contemporary artists’ early careers, evidenced in their learned processes, and culminated in the products of their creation don the walls of the Gorham Art Gallery.

Traditionally, this show sends off the art department graduates, with the student’s final critiques open to the public.

A guest panel of local professionals is invited to critique the student’s work, to prod and ask the artists questions. This week, the panel was Bruce Brown, curator Emeritus of the Center for Maine Contemporary Art; Susan Danly, curator of photography and contemporary art at the Portland Museum of Art; and, Deborah Wing Sproul, assistant professor of sculpture at MECA.

The “cold critique” begins with questions and impressions from the audience without advance notice. The artist statement or any opening comments from the artist. This way, the artist can see from the viewer’s standpoint, instead of vice versa, and is challenged to answer questions regarding technique, choice, subject matter; anything concerning the presentation of their work.

This week, the art focused on was portrait treating social discourse. Brianna Allen, Jessica Northgraves, Justin Lestsveque, Teresa MacHugh, and Mariah Wiggen each had a half hour of spotlight, critique and a chance to ask their viewers for feedback and insight.

To see these works for yourself, the gallery is open from Tuesday-Friday, 11am-4pm, and Saturday and Sunday, 1pm-4pm. The next and final critique will be held Thursday, May 1 at 4:30.

The artists

Brianna Allen spoke proudly. Her paintings, a series of five portraits against a dark gray wall, depict members of her family using color and a certain level of emotion to broadcast the relationship of the sitter to the painter, and her impression of the model’s personality. The panel marveled over the gesture and expressions she created. Working from life is Brianna’s focus, she says.

And she will continue it after graduation, when she plans to move to Alaska to paint portraits of tribal peoples. She hopes to stretch her subject from her personal relationship to them, to show their relationships to others or to our culture.

Her painting professor, Richard Lethem Brown, responded to her work by saying that “her exuberance in handling paint is vital and rare.” It is obvious from her paintings: she loves to paint.

Teressa MacHugh’s photographs in random order and sizes might depict dirty drunken nights of youth, but they’re alongside beautiful quiet moments that appear to fit perfectly, and add a timeless quality to a wall of her 17 selected photographs.

The images are literally snapshots of her life. She writes in her artist statement: “I don’t get up until about 2 p.m. I spend the next few hours searching for something or someplace to eat. I spend my nights with the people I cherish. These are photographs of those times.”

While Susan Danly, curator of graphics and photography at the Portland Museum of Art saw the wall of random photos as “a certain approach to life” in which life didn’t appear easy, Deborah Wing Sproul said that “raw quality” was most intriguing.

Six months of photography was narrowed down to these images, which range from the sweaty chest of a man playing guitar in a club to someone on the very edge of a roof in an orange-lit snowfall. When asked why she didn’t frame the pieces, students from the class reiterated the fact that in a sequence of many captured moments, fast-moving images, the instantaneous images were best displayed as impulsively as they were shot. Doug Lakota, her classmate, finished with the remark that from the little she knew her, “her images are her capture of life, rather than a cinematic fad.”

Justin Lestsveque meant to bring together two communities in an exchange on the human experience, on pain, and on coping with it, in “The Waiting Room.” His life as a member of the art community and the homeless community come together in the body of work presented.

His installation includes a sleek shelf from a doctor’s office, upon which are jars full of printed cards. The viewers were instructed to “draw where it hurts” on a card and to trade it for a card from the bottom shelf. These cards featured different colors representing different bruises. The interactive shelf was paired with portraits of hemophiliacs on the walls and photographs of their used gauze.

Through the touching, taking aspect of the project, juxtaposed with the doctor’s office setting and an art gallery, both places where touching is off-limits, Justin encouraged a community of hands-on in an otherwise sterile world of hemophilia.

The panel encouraged these concepts to be pushed into one another: community, conditions, interaction by literally pushing the shelf closer to the photographs of patients in natural surroundings, and unifying the shelving with the frames. Justin is the only student in the show who is not a senior; he has another year of work before graduating.

Jessica Northgraves says she is a portrait photographer. But her final project is not of people, at least, not at first. On one wall, she displays large black and white photos of rooms. Empty rooms. There are shots of beds that look like they’ve been slept in, but in the like they’ve been stepped on, and nails that could’ve just been nailed into the wall—or, that have been there for decades.

Older architecture seems to warp, and patterned wallpaper appears aged. “Wallpaper” is the title of the work, which includes another wall, painted black, and a small, pilloweshelf holds lockets open to photos of people. They are the people with connection to the rooms. Deborah Wing Sproul said she wanted her own connection to the rooms, not see the actual owners of the space. She preferred to be left to imagine the spaces as a place she could crawl into herself. And feel the textured wallpapers, and bed frames and crooked doorways and rugs.

Mariah Wiggen showcased six mounted photographs of herself wearing a white mask. One is of her painting in a studio, one shows her bartending at a Mexican restaurant. In one, she is under a man having sex. In another, she is hugging her sister in a kitchen. She is looking directly at the camera each time and means to send a message about the roles she chooses to take, as a woman.

As wearing the mask, which the panel found interesting and pressing on many levels, she was drawing attention to her role in what could’ve otherwise been ordinary photographs of ordinary situations.

STAFF PHOTOS BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

Students, faculty, and community members gathered for the art show Produce, a BFA thesis exhibition for senior art majors.

A woman admires Mariah Wiggen’s photography during the packed opening of Produce, USM’s BFA show.
BRANDON’S BREW REVIEW

“Summer Ale Showdown”

Unfairly speaking, every generation has its signature style of film. The 1970s: gritty, grimy, orange, and fascinated with the streets of New York City. In the 1980s, characters cleaned up and moved out to Las Vegas. There were really loud synthesizer scores, and problems were worked out during montages set to your favorite '80s pop songs. And it was good.

If we were to settle on a template for our generation, my vote has to go to stuff like The Savages. Beautiful, stiff, and clever stuff: peppered with obscure and delicate little folk songs, more sterile than a laboratory. In this installment of melancholy indie movie, Jon and Wendy Savage are depressed intellectuals, who upon taking brief pauses from their lives, realize that their dad has become very old and senile. There are many vague hints that he was only a slightly better parent than their mother, and she abandoned them as small children.

Just in time, father Savage’s eldest girlfriend suddenly drops dead at the beauty salon. The onus is now on his detached children to either take him in, or find the cheapest retirement home that their consciences will allow.

From the snappy trailer to the poster art by graphic novelist Chris Ware, The Savages was blatantly advertised as another quirky indie comedy about highly educated and emotionally damaged individuals — exactly what it turns out to be.

In the instance of coping with the darkness, Wendy (Laura Linney) is having passionless sex with her married boyfriend; while he makes love to her, she blankly stares around the room. Seeing that his dog happens to be laying next to them on the bed, she makes the creepy decision to reach out and hold his paw.

The emptiness. The despair. Are we nothing more than…animals?

When it comes to upper-class white angst, I will take Bill Murray mentally sliding because I enjoy the beer nonetheless. I would regard as a typical Kölsch, but I’ll let Shipyard always makes a decent beer, but I’m just going to mention some of these, and most beer drinkers will be perfectly satisfied with a six pack of them. They are all very drinkable, although nothing too surprising from any of them. If I had to choose a winner I’d go with Casco Bay. It’s light enough to throw back a few with some food on the grill and drink safely my friends!

I never thought I’d say this, but maybe there aren’t enough good movies. You gather up the stars, a good director and a dramatic real-life situation — and you pretty much have something by default. Think of the hundreds of already established characters there are to work with.

Charlie Wilson’s War tests this theory rigorously. It doesn’t have much of a beginning or an ending — it’s just a giant middle. But not a bad middle. It successfully taps into the part of us that knows our government has been bought and paid for, but doesn’t totally believe it. Maybe it’s just very lazy and shambolic?

In this installment of melancholy indie movie, Jon and Wendy Savage are depressed intellectuals, who upon taking brief pauses from their lives, realize that their dad has become very old and senile. There are many vague hints that he was only a slightly better parent than their mother, and she abandoned them as small children.

The hops and malt are rounded out smoothly with a caramel-like taste and it doesn’t have the same macro-flavoring of other summer ales. I’ll certainly be drinking some of this over the next few months.

All of these beers are decent summer ales and most beer drinkers will be perfectly satisfied with a six pack of them. They are all very drinkable, although nothing too surprising from any of them. If I had to choose a winner I’d go with Casco Bay. It’s light enough to throw back a few with some food on the grill this summer. Geary’s would be a close second.

The hops and malt are rounded out smoothly with a caramel-like taste and it doesn’t have the same macro-flavoring of other summer ales. I’ll certainly be drinking some of this over the next few months.

By David O’Donnell

The Winner...

Charlie Wilson by a long shot. It is incomplete, but seeing as it’s based on what must be a very interesting book – at least it doesn’t ruin it for you. Now let’s just sit back and wait for Oliver Stone’s George W. Bush movie.

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The USM Bookstores invite the class of 2008 to:

Celebration Graduation

You can pick up your Cap & Gown from any of the USM Bookstores between April 30th and May 9th.

Pick up your Cap & Gown during Celebration Graduation at any of our locations and be entered into a drawing to win many great prizes!

Food, Friends, & Festivities!

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Congratulations to USM Graduates and their families!

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Three alumni of different decades are being featured this month at the Area Gallery in Portland’s Woodbury Campus Center. The show, “Drawn to Abstraction,” features various levels of abstract art. Featured are Wolcott Dodge, ’86, Sean Hasey, ’97, and Ryan Wight ’07.

“We try to do alumni shows every few years to keep in touch with and support our alumni,” said Carolyn Eyler, director of exhibitions and programs for the Art Department.

Dodge’s fifteen paintings/collages were inspired from the geometric designs of mass-produced flooring. His own designs are often combined with real floor coverings as he explores the relationships between the unique and ordinary.

“I find one like the idea that the viewer experiences the various elements of the piece in succession, seemingly across time,” he said of the result. Dodge currently lives in Portland and earned his MFA at Vermont College.

Hasey focuses his work on a set of knives. Seen throughout his paintings are the knives, often loosely represented and very gesture-like creating a tension within the canvas space.

“By embracing the certainty of uncertainty I find my life beginning to take shape,” he said, “and within this paradox I find my arts begin to flourish.” Hasey has recently moved back to Portland from New York City.

Wight uses a mixture of sand, dirt and paint as he explores the natural relationships of gravity, reproduction and lineage. “The shapes and colors I use are developed from studies on organic materials surrounding me, plants, and animals are a few of my studied subjects,” he said.

After graduation Wight was selected for a Monhegan Artist’s Residency. The works shown at the Area Gallery were conceptualized during his stay on the island. Since then Wight has worked as a carpenter as he continues his art.

His advice to graduating students is that “it’s just really important to just have a space where you can focus on your work, especially when you’re on your own time.”

Drawn to Abstraction is up until Monday, May 4th.

Mary Jones
Staff Writer


About starting his own business “I was comfortable with it. I no longer had to work under a boss. I got to do what I wanted,” he said.

His previous relationships with USM professors from working at Artist Craftsman Supply helped support some of the students. Less than minutes by car from campus, the Art Guru became a convenient stop for all.

Now, he hopes, it’s even more convenient.
Implementing an annual budgeting process as well as requiring monthly actual-to-budget reports for all departments would help balance the deficit.

But, that $230,000 loss seems small up against the near $388,000 deficit of the president's office alone.

According to enrollment reports published by USM's Office of Information Reporting, from fall 2005 to fall 2006, credit hours decreased by 1,100.

Based on the 2006 in-state tuition rate of $180 per credit, that totaled a loss of just under $200,000. If the loss of credit hours followed the general distribution of students – meaning that 9 percent were paying out-of-state tuition, that number is closer to $230,000 lost over one year – and enrollment has been decreasing steadily since 2004. But, that $230,000 loss seems small up against the near $388,000 deficit of the president's office alone.

Many of the recommendations made by PricewaterhouseCoopers are already being put into practice at USM.

Implementing an annual budgeting process as well as requiring monthly actual-to-budget reports for all departments would help balance the deficit itself – nearly every department will have to implement layoffs and pay cuts.

Including the president's office, USM has a total of 4,500 positions in the university.

"As of right now, I am considering professional employees," said Laycock. "My salary is $47,000 per year." As of Sept. 1, he said, he'll become a classified staff member.

Meaning?

"He'll go back to being paid by the hour.

Picking the “low-hanging fruit”

"As you can imagine, when you have a freeze going, you don’t always have people leaving the positions you would (hurt), if you were going in and just evaluating which ones you could do without," Rabata said. "It’s a very challenging environment, because if somebody leaves and their position is not re-filled, you have to be very creative about how you’re going to cover the work."

Proven Mark Lapping refers to this as picking “low-hanging fruit.”

"Wrk,“ and "mrry" the oppor- tunistic, rather than strategic, cuts to be unfortunate.

"If your position wants to re-fill a vacant position, the vice president or equivalent of your university, should go out and meet with your financial officers and try to figure out how it’s going to work.

"When reviewing the positions: that it is a revenue-producing job, such as an exercise instructor who teaches paid classes and collects more than the position costs; positions needed to protect health and safety; jobs essential for legal and compliance reasons; and jobs which are critical to the mission of the university."

Lapping says the three-person committee is a case of putting together a small group that could act relatively quickly.

"My salary is $47,000 per year." As of Sept. 1, he said, he’ll become a classified staff member.

Meaning?

"He’ll go back to being paid by the hour.

Jared Thurber, Gwen Merrick, Leah Leavitts

Tyler Jackson, Meagan Dobson and editor

Sarah Trent were members of Matt Kiltmeyer’s newswriting and reporting class this semester.

Anticipating lay-offs

Professional staff feel in the dark, prepare for job cuts

Gwen Merrick

Contributing Writer

Cuts are coming.

But the general feeling among USM’s professional staff is that another round of layoffs is coming next year. Looking toward July 1, on which date many of them might be losing their jobs in USM’s effort to cut nearly $7 million from next year’s budget, they’re wishing only to be given a clearer picture of what’s happening. They’re wondering if they’re really going to be left in the dark.

Another factor is that USM’s budget is remaining tight. USM is taking steps to soften the blow for employees, but it surely seems that many of them want is communication.

"People can be more forgiving if they trust that their supervisi- tors aren’t keeping secrets from them," said one professional staff member, who did not want to be identified for fear of further jeopardizing her job. "Not knowing what the next step is going to be for survival is the hardest part."

USM’s professional staff work in offices across campus. They are salaried employees, whose job titles range from administrative assistant to accountant. They earn more than most classified staff. Many of them are married, but unlike faculty, they can’t earn tenure – which means that, look- ing ahead, if the university lays off millions, they anticipate taking the brunt of the cuts.

Interim President Joe Wood has announced the possibility of laying off as many as 30 people by July 1. During a recent meeting with the human resources director of employee benefits, the university is negotiating something new for this round of layoffs.

USM has negotiated a contract with the human resource consult- ing firm, Drake Inglesi Milardo, Inc. to offer services to some em- ployees who are facing job cuts. Employees with at least five years of continuous regular employ- ment at USM and who are work- ing at least half-time are eligible to meet with the outside firm for two months to work on everything from resume-building and job search to in-depth counseling and testing for new career oppor- tunities.

The normal fee for these services provided by Drake Inglesi Milardo, Inc. is $2500, but the lower rate of $1500 was obtained through negotiation and the firm’s desire to help the university at this difficult period.

"Judy Ryan [vice president for HR and planning] and I were looking for added ways to help employees deal with the stress and difficulties of layoff. We decided on this approach, got the neces- sary approvals and are moving ahead with it," Rabata said.

Michelle Drucker, USM’s HR director of leadership and or- ganizational development, works with USM’s employee assistance program. Through this program, she will offer a seminar for all USM supervisors, managers and directors on issues that arise during downsizing.

"It’s the uncertainty of the situa- tion that people are dealing with. They’re trying to help with that," Drucker said.

The seminar offered infor- mation on downsizing and layoffs from laid-off employees as well as remaining employees, how to con- duct lay-off meetings, how to support remaining employees and minimize adverse effects.

One employee who attended the seminar said that the information was very valuable, "but we don’t know where the cuts are going to come from, so the whole time I was there I was wondering if I was going to have to use this training, and just hoping that I wouldn’t.

Beth Higgins, director of advis- ing services at USM, says morale is still high.

"Naturally, my staff reads the paper, and are somewhat con- cerned about their job security and their students," Higgins said. "It’s my responsibility to touch base with them, to clarify what we can do. Right now, everyone just has the intention of success with the students and the classes that they teach.

Few professional staff were will- ing to be identified by the press – but all felt similarly that morale is lower than people in higher positions’ section seem to suggest. Employees are nervous, they say, adding that the lack of information is a breeding ground for mistrust and rumors. All were afraid of pushing the envelope one centimeter too far by talking to the newspaper, and being put on "the list."

"Everyone is feeling similar emotions," one staff member said. "Anxiety, frustration from lack of information and wondering when the other shoe is going to drop.

Ultimately, the assistant’s posi- tion was cut in an effort to save the seminar program, a cut that even the university president didn’t want to make.

"I told her as soon as I knew that her position was being examined so that she would have time to pre- pare," Higgins said.

"We were ready," Higgins said. "We grieved, but she didn’t col- lapse with the news. It just seems like a more humane way to deal with it, and there’s no reason why this can’t be done on a more con- sistent basis."
This media studies class spent several months investigating various aspects of USM's budget. Though the rest of the class's work is not printed here, their help, tips and advice over the semester were integral to the development of these stories.

Job security in a budget crisis

Some faculty are safer than others

Leah Peabody

Contributing Writer

USM reports show the money to pay classified staff has shifted from state-appropriated funds to grants, gifts and fundraisers. The use of state funds to pay classified employees has been halved in the last three years. The money allotted by the state – along with tuition revenues – has decreased university-wide, forcing the university to decide between cutting positions or finding new ways to back the paychecks of classified staff.

Classified employees are those paid hourly wages as opposed to salaries, and can be found in many departments throughout the university; including administration, facilities management and the library. More than 60 classified positions have been cut since 2004.

According to Jim Bradley, president of the classified staff union (ASCUM, the Associated Clerical, Office, Laboratory and Technical Staff of the University of Maine), while many salaries are now being paid for through grants, gifts and fundraisers, the university still pays a portion of their benefits, which can be up to 43 percent of their salary.

USM's budget crisis went public last fall. The administration took an $8.2 million loan from the UMaine system to cover the current hole and anticipated deficits, but a recent PricewaterhouseCoopers audit suggests that USM is not fully aware of the exact figure of its debt. It is in the wake of this crisis that even more employees have been left bracing themselves for lay-offs.

While classified positions have been diminishing for five years, union president Bradley says in the future, classified positions may not be the ones at risk. “My hope is that those position eliminations will target administration personnel, as USM has a boast-ed administrative structure,” Bradley said. Many of those personnel are professional staff, who often have higher-paid, salaried positions.

“Should USM not stand by their promise to keep layoffs of the classified staff to a mini-mum, and do not include top administrators in position eliminations, ASCUM is prepared to launch a major PR campaign to draw attention to the situation and put pressure on USM to do the right thing” Bradley said.

The recent audit cites the lack of previous budget planning and an account for certain inevitable changes in paying their employees, such as employee raises or cost-of-living increases that have occurred due to the rising cost of housing and heating oil.

This has a huge effect on clas-sified employees, who tend to be the least paid on campus while trying to earn a living wage in one of Maine’s most expensive cities.

While the average yearly pay of USM’s classified employees is $26,354 a year, classified staff in specific departments – for example, the division of university outreach – have average salaries as low as $16,575 a year.

Often not mentioned are the sev-erence and sabbatical pack-ag-es the school still pays many former presidents and deans and faculty, which cost the UMaine System $3.9 million each year. Despite these figures, Donna Swemana, the director of budget, said she believes the university is starting to move in the right direction toward mending their financial crisis. When asked how she felt about the university’s ac-tions, Swemana responded, “I’m not just about budget cuts and hiring freezes, we need to consider how to reorganize and look at the big picture, and how to become more efficient and streamlined.”

Bradley said he believes the university is taking much needed measures by finally assessing their programs and structures.

“They must finally decide what it is USM wants to focus on and stick to those areas,” said Bradley. “We can’t do it all. We shouldn’t do it all. I’m cautiously optimis-tic that when this is all over, USM will be a stronger institution.”

As decisions are made, we will try to keep the community informed via our website, www.usmfreepress.org. This is the last printed issue of the semester. We also print once in the summer.

Leah Peabody
Contributing Writer

Faculty salaries and benefits make up about 51 percent of USM’s budget. That’s upwards of $50 million that the university can’t really touch when it looks to cut nearly $7 million from next year’s budget to start moving USM back into the black.

Tenured faculty are almost guaran-teed to keep their jobs, barring legal complaints, and both full and part-time faculty are protected by their respective unions.

Looking to the 2008-09 fiscal year, which begins July 1, USM’s administration is still unsure of – or has not yet announced – how many positions will be eliminat-ed.

Those who will feel it the most are part-time faculty whose con-tracts are expiring and adjunct fac-u-lty who work part-time and are hired to fill the fluctuating needs of the university. Neither position is eligible for tenure, though con-tracted employees who are main-tained for more than six years receive a permanent position, which is a sort of tenure, making it difficult to remove their positions.

Departments affected by these kinds of cuts will have fewer people running programs, and some may be asked to teach extra courses.

Mark Lapping the interim pro-vost, said that this is “a very op-portunistic approach and is not a strategic one. That bothers me greatly. This means, in reality, that because of several retirements a thriving major like theater has lost several people to retirement or departures.” He adds that he feels it’s critical to restore and refil these positions as soon as pos-sible, and to fill them with tenured or tenure-track faculty. “But the reality is that we will have fewer part-time and fixed length faculty (adjuncts) here at the university in the coming year.”

Real “Moving Forward” newsletter written by Joe Wood detailed the fact that USM is not yet sure about how many positions will be eliminated for the upcom-ing fiscal year.

“At this point,” said Thomas Power, a theater professor and head of grievances for Associated Faculties of the Universities of Maine, “the administration has told AFUM that they do not plan to let any full time faculty go other than by attrition or retirement.”

He says that any attempts to terminate full-time faculty will be taken “very seriously and demand accountability in the event that any such termination occurs.”

He also agrees with provost Lapping, in that he believes the loss of faculty through attri-tion could have negative effects on departments if the wrong people leave.

In regards to budget cuts and staff eliminations, Wood hopes to have a final decision, final total dollar amounts and the impacts of the cuts announced internally in early May.

Meagan Dobson
Contributing Writer

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THE WRITE STUFF
by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

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The Free Press | April 28, 2008

NEWS

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS
1 Tropical tree... 55 Extremely pale
2 Open-handed... 56 Football coach’s... 58 Act like a...
9 Radio switch... 59 Immense... 60 Clamping...
13 Hand-come... 61 Camp shelter... 62 Part of EMT... 1
14 Metered vehicle... 15 Cathedral... 16 Corral for cows...
18 Book of maps... 19 Letter before tee...
20 Airplane... 21 Molars and incisors...
22 Have an evening meal... 23 Heating unit...
25 Playful pranks... 28 Nudge...
29 Tummy muscles...
32 Pizzeria appliances...
33 Snake-like fish...
34 Get ready, casually...
35 Prohibits...
36 Number of Little Pigs...
38 Cajun veggie...
39 Chinese side dish...
40 garment border...
41 icy precipitation...
42 Baba...
43 Salty waters...
44 Statistical diagrams...
45 Secured, as a skate...
47 Fly like an eagle...
48 Book’s name...
50 Broadway performer...
52 Car-tank filler...

THE DOWN
1 Walk back and forth...
2 “Too bad!”...
3 Outdoor parking areas...
4 Got together...
5 Beer mugs...
6 Memory failure...

THE WRITE STUFF
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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

1 3 6
6 5 8 2
3 7 9 6 5 8
1 8 2 3 6
4 2 1 8 3 7
5 6 8 2 1
7 8 4 6 2

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Study medications will be provided and you will receive reimbursement for your time and travel.

For more information please call: 602-7205
Women’s Outdoor Track
Landy honored by LEC
Senior Hatti Landy (Acton) was named Track Athlete of the Week for her efforts during the week of April 14-20. During that stretch, Landy led the Huskies to a second place finish at the Bowdoin College Allocco Relays with two first place finishes in 100-meter hurdles and the long-jump. Landy set a school record in the 100-meter hurdles event with a time of 15.46 seconds.

Men’s Outdoor Track
Wheeler and Spaulding garner weekly honors
Senior Curtis Wheeler (Derby, VT) and junior James Spaulding (Lewiston) each received weekly accolades for their performances during the week ending on April 20. Wheeler was awarded Track Athlete of the Week honors for his record-setting effort in the 5,000-meters at the Maine State Collegiate Championships where he broke his previous school record with a time of 14 minutes, 54.65 seconds. Spaulding earned Field Athlete of the Week recognition for school decathlon records he set at the Holy Cross Decathlon event.

Men’s Lacrosse
Tough Keene game ends season
The Huskies finished their season Saturday with a tough 15-2 loss to Keene State. Keene will enter the post-season as the number two seed in the conference. Sophomore Alex Plante (Lewiston) and senior Shane Biltings (North Berwick) scored fourth quarter goals for USM to prevent the shutout, and senior goalie James Suriyodorn (Deer Park, NV) made a heroic effort with 17 saves in the game. The Huskies finished 4-12 in the season.

Softball
Huskies win thriller to split with Bridgewater
Junior Sabrina Mills (Wesford, MA) singled home the winning run to give the University of Southern Maine softball team an exciting 5-6 win in the opening game of a double-header, which the Huskies split with non-conference opponent Bridgewater State. The Huskies dropped the second game of the twinbill 3-2 in a five-inning game that was called due to darkness. The win leaves the Huskies’ record at 16-17 overall for the season.

Men’s Tennis
Stevenson and Warren take LEC doubles title
Though the Huskies on the whole couldn’t pull out another conference championship – the team settled for second place in the LEC – Josh Warren (Hermon) and Derek Stevenson (Raymond) took their own title in the doubles tournament, competing in the number one slot. Warren typically takes both the doubles and singles win in conference matches, but lost his final singles round 6-0, 6-2 to UMass Boston’s Jovan Jordan-Whitter.

Athletic training program helps, is fed by, USM sports
From TRAINERS page 24

... game, one such student is seated on a table, a bag of ice on one of her legs. She’s Jess Hobgood, a senior. Another woman comes up to her -- her sister, Liani -- and they begin to reciprocally apply tape to one another.

Last semester, Jess’s studies took her abroad to the Dominican Republic. There, the medical aspect of the work was very much on display, as her group traveled up along mountains and entered into remote villages. There were no athletics involved.

“We were just the only health care they got,” she recalls. The trip was organized by an organization called Partners in Rural Health. Physicians and Peace Corps volunteers accompanied students in an extreme example of hands-on learning.

According to Ben Towne, professor and director of the program, this emphasis on practical experience is not just helpful, but completely necessary: like more and more programs that are producing certified athletic trainers, his students are not just required to pass their classes and a written test, but a final, “practical exam.”

“Sometimes this can block a student from graduating, but rightfully so. “We want students to feel completely comfortable there,” says Towne.

Down on the softball field, two other students, sophomores Jasmine Quarles and Amber Shorty, now accompany Gerken. They’ve supplied the water for the game and keep an eye on the athletes as they warm up. Ideally, their services will not be required from here on out.

Like many others, they point to the hours involved in this line of study as one of the most difficult aspects -- they are expected to put in 150 clinical hours, looking over the shoulder of a professional or having one look over theirs.

“...it is another job in addition to school,” says Shorty. “You just don’t get paid for it.”

Let us know what you think, write a letter to the editor.
freepress@usm.maine.edu

Puzzle answers from page 20

SPORTS

The Free Press | April 28, 2008
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SPORTS

HUSKY HERO

Interview by John Forrestell

Name: Shannon Kynoch
Year: Senior
Major: Social Work
Sport: Basketball, Lacrosse

FP: You’re from the great state of Vermont, which is known for its cheddar cheese, do you enjoy cheddar cheese?
Shannon: Very much so, cheese is one of my favorite foods.

FP: I enjoy cheese very much too. Do you have any other favorite foods?
Shannon: I really like tootsie pops (the blue kind), dill pickles and macaroni soup.

FP: You’re a two sport athlete at USM, who got you started with athletics?
Shannon: Well, when I was in about the second grade I started doing recreation sports in my hometown. I played pretty much all of them when I was little, then I ended up sticking with basketball and softball in middle school and high school.

FP: How come you didn’t play softball at USM?
Shannon: I was coming off of a really intense basketball season, and I didn’t think I could do it again for softball. I know they play a ton of games in their season. When my junior year rolled around Sue Frost asked if I would be interested in playing lacrosse. I knew that it wasn’t as many games and I could be flexible with it, so I figured why not?

FP: You’re pretty well known on campus, is there anything you want the rest of USM to know about Shannon Kynoch?
Shannon: I think if you know me, you know me and I don’t really hide too much. I’m always looking for a good time with good people. I’ve heard that because I’m six feet tall people are intimidated by me but there’s absolutely no need for that, I am the biggest pansy in the league!!

Mike Tardiff
Columnist

Before I met USM baseball coach Ed Flaherty, I already knew a great deal about him. I knew about his playing career at the University of Maine, his two national championships, and the storied baseball program he’s put together here at USM. He’s also known to high all tall his eldest son was.

But it didn’t strike me until this week, when I first shook his hand, that the center of the Maine baseball universe is located in the Costello Sports Complex. Since the venerable Dr. John Winkin stepped down as coach at Husson College earlier this year due to health problems, our own coach Flaherty is becoming the new face of baseball in the state of Maine, and with good reason: he’s everything.

Sitting beside Flaherty in the dugout following the Huskies’ come-from-behind win against Thomas College, I was, for one of the first times in my life, strapped for words. I didn’t want to ask any stupid questions or annoy the legendary skipper.

Instead, I simply asked the impact he’s had outside of just box scores.

Harold Ryan is arguably the best shortstop in all of college baseball, a lock to be an early round pick, and, I might add, the ideal candidate to make Maine baseball at the highest level.

If you don’t believe me, check out a little blog called Flah’s Journal, a project of his that can be found at vucommodores.com. I certainly don’t think Ryan learned how to be such a great role model without one of his own.

The good baseball genes aren’t all that coach Flaherty brings to the table. He’s also a consummate and well-liked teacher, or so I’m told many.

In fact, on the same day that I met him after the Thomas game, I heard a fellow student behind me tell one of his buddies that “Flaherty is awesome in class and that he couldn’t wait to take another one. And this is not to mention the renowned baseball clinics that he puts on every year for local athletes.

It is one thing to be a good coach, but it is another thing to be an active member in a community. This is what made coach Winkin such a special coach and makes him such an important person, not just to baseball, but to the state of Maine. He didn’t just fill out line-up cards or teach proper pitching mechanics.

He improved the community through his service off the baseball diamond, not unlike Flaherty.

I don’t think anyone can sufficiently emulate the work that John Winkin did around the state. After all, it was on coach Winkin’s field that I played my high school baseball games and it was the program that coach Winkin built just a few decades ago that produced the likes of Flaherty, Mike Bordick and others.

But if there is anyone who can even come close, it’s the guy you’ll find sitting quietly cross-legged in a dugout at Towers field when the Huskies are playing ball.

Mike Tardiff
Staff Writer

The USM baseball team flexed their offensive muscles last week and picked up three non-conference wins before heading into the final stretch of conference play. Led by juniors Anthony D’Alfonso (Westbrook) and Chris Burleson (Portland), the Huskies slugged their way to come-from-behind wins against Thomas and Endicott and coasted by Bates to move their overall record to 22-9.

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But if there is anyone who can even come close, it’s the guy you’ll find sitting quietly cross-legged in a dugout at Towers field when the Huskies are playing ball.
Top left: Freshman Steve LaLeau (Saco) competes in the 110 meter hurdles. This weekend he placed fourth in the New England Alliance championship race.

Top right: It’s rare when seniors Curtis Wheeler and Nick Wheeler (Derby, VT) aren’t leading a pack. Curtis just set a school record in the 5,000 meter race, for which he was given the conference track athlete of the week award.

Left: Junior Brenna Widdis (Gorham) is seen competing in the high jump, an event she took fourth place in this weekend in the Little East Conference championship.
Women’s lacrosse earns first round bye, second round at home
Kendrick leads Huskies to 18-15 win against Keene

Sarah Trent
Executive Editor

The women’s lacrosse program will stick to the benches on Tuesday afternoon – while other Little East teams are vying for a place in Thursday’s semifinal round, USM has earned its first playoff bye – and first home playoff match – in recent history.

Heading into Saturday’s game against rival Keene State, they knew it would be a tough match – they’re a “fast, strong, good team,” said head coach Sue Frost.

But more than that was the mental game: winning would keep the Huskies at number two in the conference behind defending champion Eastern Connecticut, and give them a first-round bye in the tournament. Losing could have dropped them as low as number four, depending on how other conference teams performed in their final matches.

But Frost and her team felt prepared. “I ate, drank, slept Keene for the last week,” she said. “I knew it would be a tough match – in recent history.

In a game featuring strong defensive play and an incredible seven goals from freshman Kristy Kendrick, the Huskies swallowed a defensive play and an incredible two weeks ago, winning 8-9.

And it paid off.

“UNE was a formidable opponent,” she said. “I was really pushing for our team to play in the conference semi-finals in Gorham on Thursday. The conference is waiting on a game to play in the conference semi-finals in Gorham on Thursday.

Senior Matt Brule takes a shot toward the goal at UNE. The Huskies dominated much of the second half, but lost their grip just at the end, finishing 8-9.

Following the loss, coach Malcolm Chase brought his guys into a huddle while UNE did a cheer and lined up to shake hands. “I told them that’s exactly the kind of game we want to win in,” he said. “UNE was a formidable opponent,” he said, and one of the only local teams against which they can play a good, solid match.

After a second loss on Saturday to Keene State, the men’s lacrosse team ended its season 4-12. But lax addicts have no fear, the women’s team is playing in the conference semifinals in Gorham on Thursday.

Giving & receiving: athletic trainers at USM

David O’Donnell
Sports Editor

To the last several generations of athletes, the presence of an athletic trainer is nothing special – they’re in the dugout, on the sideline and in the clubhouse. They stand watch at games and events and at many practices. Their job is to work with injured athletes before and after events and throughout the long road to recovery from anything serious.

But to the general public, there is room for confusion. While athletic trainers have existed in school programs for nearly a century, in our past or another, it is only in the past several decades that the profession has enjoyed any bona fide recognition.

“The 1970 was the first time athletic trainers were even certified,” says Matthew Gerken, head athletic trainer at USM’s own department.

For people who were tapes, they were massage therapists, just kind of jack of all trades.”

So it was more or less natural that their role solidified into something they could rely on when their bodies needed work. Over time, that person’s expertise and training became more and more medically oriented.

On a Thursday afternoon, Gerken sits beside a cushioned table in the department’s offices. Junior Thomas Boothby is on that table, and Gerken is running a small sonogram device along the lacrosse player’s leg.

Unlike the diagnostic machines you’ll find in hospitals – typically attached to the bellies of pregnant women – this is one is therapeutic. If all goes well, it could assist Boothby in recovering from a muscular injury.

The machine is eventually put aside, and Gerken begins to stretch and massage the affected area.

Athletics training is still – to use a term many here use frequently – a young profession. Despite their certification and prominence, they are in the midst of a struggle to be considered private health care providers in the eyes of most insurance companies. This has so far been accomplished in only a few states.

Often the debate arises as to whether or not, at this relatively early stage in their existence, they might consider changing the name of the profession. This might help professionals like Gerken avoid confusion from coaches and the community.

“Oh, it can be confusing,” says Gerken, “where people think -- oh, a trainer. ‘I go to my trainer at the gym.’ But what we do is much different. We are health care professionals.”

Gerken’s department does not just provide these services to USM athletes, but also actively trains and educates students to do the work themselves.

There are currently 30 students working their way toward a bachelor’s degree in athletic training here at the university. It’s not difficult to see a circle here -- athlete becomes injured; athlete works closely with an AT in the diagnostic, recovery and rehabilitation process; if an injury proves to be serious or persistent enough, or the player isn’t look- ing toward a career in the pros, that athlete may have just found a whole new way to stay involved in sports.

As Gerken gets ready to head over to the diamond for a softball