

# the free press

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

## Books on hold

*With budgets slashed, USM's libraries put hope in a digital future*



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

*USM's libraries were among some of the hardest hit through the school's loss of \$2.7 in state funds. Book acquisition and technology upgrades are expected to suffer as a result.*

### David O'Donnell

News Editor

When President Botman announced \$2.7 million in budget cuts last month, perhaps the most sensitive point was the dismissal of 65 faculty and staff members.

All done, she insisted, while adhering to a motto of "do no harm to the classroom."

But just moments earlier, she also mentioned draining funds from what amounts to a central artery in any University's academic profile: the libraries, which

would immediately see a jolting loss of \$300,000.

Botman has said that the figure amounts to a freeze on book acquisitions. David Nutty, director

See **BOOKS** on page 3

## Day without a gay

*GLBTQ activists organize strike in response to Prop 8 success*

### Taryn Yudaken

Staff Writer

This Wednesday is the day when all gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders, and straight allies are encouraged to participate in a strike against the passing of Proposition 8 and the losses that the gay movement worldwide are experiencing.

On this day, participating involves calling out of work as "gay" (or as a gay ally), and using the time off to volunteer. It also involves eliminating yourself from the economy by keeping your computers (and the like) off, not making any purchases, and shutting down your company if you run one.

For those of us who can't afford to miss school or work, it is encouraged that we still find

some time on December 10th to volunteer, or at least let people know that we support gay rights, including marriage, in whatever ways we can.

"I think it's a really interesting idea because it can show the impact that the gay community makes. My fear is that most people who take the day off won't do any volunteering, but just use the time off to stay home and relax. I think devoting the day to service is a really positive thing. We had four really huge losses in this election that were devastating on so many levels. If people have the ability, I would encourage them to support LGBT rights and human rights in general by volunteering, and even just by speaking out, whether at work, or class, or to a family member. It is a day to encourage people to

do what they can to participate in the process in any meaningful way." -Sarah Parker-Holmes, Coordinator of the Center for Sexualities and Gender Diversity at USM.

"We've reacted to anti-gay ballot initiatives in California, Arizona Florida, and Arkansas with anger, with resolve, and with courage. NOW, it's time to show America and the world how we love. Gay people and our allies are compassionate, sensitive, caring, mobilized, and programmed for success. A day without gays would be tragic because it would be a day without love.

On December 10, 2008 the gay community will take a historic stance against hatred by donating love to a variety of different causes." -daywithoutagay.org

## Faculty Senate postpones EYE requirement.

*Course will not be required for freshmen until 2010*

### Matt Dodge

Executive Editor

The USM Faculty Senate voted in favor of dropping the Entry Year Experience – or EYE – course requirement for incoming freshmen of the Fall '09 semester. In their monthly meeting last Friday, the Senate voted 16-7 to postpone making an EYE course required for next year's freshmen class.

The EYE courses, introduced last January as a part of the new curriculum, were conceived as an interdisciplinary introduction to higher education. First year students who might feel daunted by the impending list of general education requirements are given a chance to broaden their horizons with these unique course offerings.

Political Science professor Michael Hamilton introduced the issue, noting that only 44 of the necessary 55 sections of EYE courses needed to accommodate all freshmen have been developed.

"We are unable to deliver the number of sections we know we need to fulfill the requirement", Hamilton said.

Hamilton voiced his concern that requiring students to take a course for which there were not an adequate number of sections could make for a "scheduling and [public relations] disasters," or end up in an overcrowded class that would detract from the conceived intimacy of the courses.

"With the shortages we face in available sections of EYE, we are undermining the principles of the

new curriculum," said Professor Susan Feiner.

EYE courses such as "HIV/AIDS: Science Society and Politics" and "Shopping: American Consumerism" draw from different concentrations and seek to excite first year students about the wide range of courses and subjects, while giving them a feel for the education at the college level.

"This is the first time 90 percent of students have heard the word 'interdisciplinary,'" said Media Studies professor Dennis Gilbert.

President Botman also addressed the Faculty Senate, and along with Chief Financial Officer Dick Campbell, discussed the impending \$2.7 million curtailment of USM's state funding.

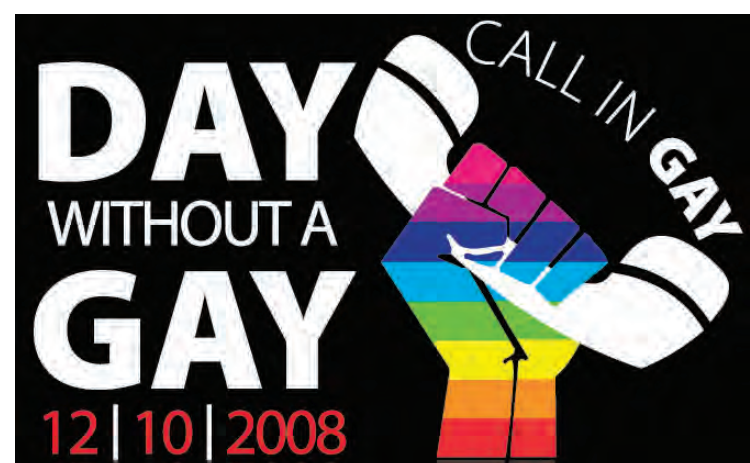
"I don't have to belabor the point that we are in exceedingly hard times," said Botman.

Calling the search to cut \$2.7 million an "excruciating task," Botman also pointed out that these cuts would likely not be the last due to what she called "anemic" tax revenue in Maine.

"The moment we find those dollars...we might be looking at further cuts in 2010, and 2011," said Botman.

Botman told the Senate she is not content to slowly whittle away at USM in the name of budget cuts – what she called "death by a thousand cuts", but rather, would like the university to re-imagine itself, and become more financially sustainable in the process.

See **SENATE** on page 3



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**From SENATE on page 1**

"If I were to imagine USM in ten years, it would be a very different place," said Botman.

Business department representative Bob Heiser shared his concern with Botman regarding how announcements of budget cut. With so much of USM's funding coming through tuition, he felt the school must mediate how it's perceived in the media if it wants to attract students.

"I don't want our brand to be undermined by the media," Heiser said, who suggested tasking the marketing department with addressing the issue.

CFO Dick Campbell also presented USM's budget for the cur-

rent and upcoming year, which has been carefully reconsidered in light of current and future cuts.

Both Botman and Campbell admitted that USM's budgeting practices have historically be very undisciplined, with Campbell describing his primary job as "conducting triage" in his two years in the school's CFO position.

"This university has been very decentralized in it's budget." Said Botman, who also suggested the creation of a budgetary advisory committee, to provide oversight and advice to the administration as it seeks to keep tighter watch over its finances.

**From BOOKS on page 1**

of USM libraries, paints a somewhat more complicated picture.

He confirms that USM's libraries will not be purchasing much in the way of new materials through at least June, when the fiscal year wraps up. Typically, librarians would be reviewing new and recommended titles to add to the school's collections year-round.

But it doesn't end on that, as Botman put it, "excruciating" note. Nutty is also shelving plans to upgrade and replenish the supply of student computers at all three branches (an endeavor separate of the technology budget, which has also been squeezed.)

Planned and much-needed furniture upgrades, as well, will be put on indefinite hiatus.

Worse, the library system must now dip into gift funds usually reserved for special purchases, in order to maintain its databases.

"I normally wouldn't go to the gift account for something like that," says Nutty. "But this is an extreme situation."

Both Nutty and Botman insist there is a silver lining, in that its collection of academic journals will not be effected over the next several months.

Nutty chooses to be cautiously optimistic about the future, discussing budgetary woes only as they apply to the coming semester.

"The rest of this year is going to be tight, no question about it," he says. "It's not something any of us want to do right now."

But President Botman has indicated that the financial situation will be similarly bleak, if not markedly worse, in the years to come.

**A Wider Net**

Aside from funding, there are two topics that tend to dominate talk of libraries in the early 21st century: the shift online, where

everything from books to journals to audiobooks (formerly "books-on-tape") is instantly accessible in digital form, and laments about what's being lost in the shift from paper.

Speaking with the Free Press last month, President Botman waxed nostalgic about the labor involved in browsing well-stocked, traditional libraries.

"Theres a personal joy that comes from roaming the stacks of a library and finding unexpected books on the shelves," she said.

Nutty doesn't get too choked up. For him, the transition couldn't come quickly enough, with the total freeze on acquisitions coming after years of complaints about USM's physical collection.

"Oh yeah," he says with a laugh. "We get comments [from faculty] that they wish we had newer books, more materials."

"That's when we usually talk about electronic access."

It's not that digital books - be they text, pdf or audio files - cost the libraries less money. Few publishers have cut prices much alongside the format transition, even though expenses such as printing, book-binding and shipping are all eliminated.

"The big advantage is access," Nutty says. "Because instead of having it in just one of the three libraries, and having people drive to a specific campus to use it, it's available to all students, no matter where they live, 24/7."

"I'm all in favor of it - its been part of my vision for where the libraries are going for a long time."

He estimates that the school's journal collection will be completely electronic in two to three years, aside from the few holdouts that publish only in print.

Another leap comes from a state grant issued before the economic meltdown, which will provide USM's libraries with download-

able audiobook offerings in a copy-protected but somewhat flexible file format that can be played on PCs, cell phones, iPods and other devices.

The technology comes from Overdrive Inc., and the list of titles is still being selected by committee. The University is planning to launch in time for the spring semester.

With so much content coming from servers instead of shelves, library officials are seeing the budget crisis as a prime opportunity to better recognize and serve what Nutty calls the "two libraries."

One is the physical space, which will need to become more comfortable and accomodating as its role becomes less about book storage and more about providing technology, facilities and assistance.

The second exists online, via the website that Nutty's offices have managed to upgrade and expand in-house, and on the cheap, even as the administration has halted renovation of the school's larger site due to the budget problem.

And through the library's site, it's hoped, USM's students can easily access its journal subscriptions, new audiobooks, and an instant messenger application that provides immediate access to reference librarians.

That, and regular old books.

Even if USM can't afford to buy them outright, the new site makes it easier for students to access the stacks at UMaine's more affluent members, and beyond.

"We can now get a book from anywhere in the state, or New England, or in the country," says Nutty. "If you get us a citation, we can usually get it to your desktop within days."

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## Deferred maintenance

Building repairs and improvements delayed across three campuses.

**Daniel MacLeod**

Contributing Writer

In light of USM president Selma Botman's November 24th announcement that an additional \$2.7 million will be cut from an already anemic University budget, the Department of Facilities Management may have trouble funding critical repairs.

According to a Facilities Management breakdown of estimated deferred maintenance, USM's backlog of maintenance and upgrade costs totals \$60,587,000 for all three campuses.

However, Facilities Management's interim executive director David Barbour maintains that this estimate only includes construction costs in the primary classroom and administrative buildings.

"It's actually about a hundred million," he said last Friday afternoon. "There's another half on top of that in what we call 'soft costs.'"

These "soft costs" include additional engineering and architectural services and permits for modifications and upgrades to existing classrooms and buildings.

USM aims to model all of its classrooms after technologically integrated rooms like 209 Luther Bonney Hall, according to Dan Warren, maintenance supervisor for the Portland campus.

"Ultimately, the university would like to have all of their classrooms look identical to that... It's a very high tech classroom."

But with revenue decreasing across the board for USM, upgrades seem to be out of the picture for the foreseeable future, as Facilities Management struggles with a shrinking budget to keep essential utilities operational.

"The administration is funding substantial amounts of money for deferred maintenance," says Warren. "[The goal is] hopefully to continue that process in the future. How the state shortfall and most recent round of budget cuts are going to affect that, I don't know."

According to Barbour, the department currently has \$250,000 budgeted for the year to address the school's "critical maintenance capital list." The list includes 20 or so essential repairs, with a total estimated cost of \$1.3 million.

The current budget for deferred maintenance allows for the replacement of an electrical transformer for the transformer vault in the basement of Luther Bonney Hall, and upgrades to the heating plant in Gorham. Barbour says that both of these upgrades are critical to keeping the University online.

"We're going to be replacing some expansion tanks at our heating plant in Gorham. If those failed, and they're getting close to that now, we'd lose the whole campus," he says.

Barbour commended the recent work of Chief Financial Officer Dick Campbell in allocating the funds needed for these important repairs, but says that future funding of USM's critical repairs list is still uncertain.

See **DEFERRED** on page 5

## MECA and USM

The art school has a lot to offer, but USM helps round out the college experience for some students.



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

While Maine College of Art on Congress St. is one of the regions leading art institutes, some students are lured to USM for diversity and structure.

**Danica Koenig**

Staff Writer

The Maine College of Art (MECA) attracts art students of all levels, from recent high school grads to professional artists. Founded in 1882, it is the oldest educational arts institution in Maine. Its gallery, the Institute of Contemporary Art, has been hailed as one of the finest art spaces in the Northeast for the exhibition of contemporary art. Though MECA currently enrolls about 447 undergraduate art students, it is not an ideal college

for every art student. For various reasons, every year a number of MECA students transfer to USM, whether to continue art or pursue another discipline.

The MECA campus, comprised of four separate buildings all located within a four-square-block area in downtown Portland, is not set up like a typical college campus. Some USM students who have transferred from MECA cite this absence of a campus community feeling as one reason for preferring USM.

"The MECA campus was divided up in different segments of the city off of Congress Street so people were kind of disconnected from each," says Jackie Reis, a fourth year USM student who transferred here last fall from MECA. "At USM I definitely felt a sense of community."

Reis also states that she was impressed with the way USM offered her so many services while she was still a MECA student.

"When I was sick I went to USM health services," says Jackie. "I bought my art history books at the USM bookstore; I even ate at the Portland Hall dining facility. In many ways I was taking advantage of USM as a USM student would except I wasn't attending classes here."

Another downside to MECA that Reis and other USM transfer students stated is the lack of diversity among the students, a strength that USM inevitably has because of the variety of academic programs students here study. Aubin Thomas, a third year USM student who transferred from MECA in fall 2006, describes how the diversity in the academic subjects here at USM creates a more exciting atmosphere.

"Art schools have a different feeling to them because their diversity is limited as

everyone attending is doing some type of art," says Aubin. "At USM, however, we not only have different types of people but also a variety of majors. I feel that, for me, it provides a more interesting atmosphere."

Reis explains that this diversity among USM students has been a challenge for her, but interesting and exciting nonetheless.

"I wanted an environment that was more conducive to my learning and to be around people who were different from me because that's how it is when you enter the real world," says Jackie.

Thomas says that the disorganization of MECA's administration offices was another factor in her decision to transfer. She recalls an experience when the MECA Financial Aid Office claimed that she had not submitted her tax forms when she had seen them on the desk during her last meeting.

"I became very frustrated with the administration and the way that the college's business affairs were being run. It was very disorganized," says Thomas.

The countless USM students who transferred here from MECA are attempting to dispel the myth that you need to go to art school to be an artist. The USM art program continues to attract more and more artists every year, with the current ages of enrolled students ranging from 16 to 84. Jackie says her time at both schools has taught her that the most important component of an art education is the individual artist.

"There are times where I miss MECA and feel less like an artist because I don't go to an art school anymore, but I realize that I can do my artwork anywhere and get the same education at USM if I'm willing to work and learn."

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# Provost profiles

## Matt Dodge

Executive Editor

A search committee made up of fifteen representatives from USM's faculty and staff has narrowed down the Provost search to four candidates, and campus visits are underway. Two of the four candidates making the rounds last week, and another two scheduled to stop by this week.

While the decision ultimately lies with President Botman, this week's open meetings with Dr. Bahman Ghorashi (on campus Monday and Tuesday) and Dr. Kate Forhan (Wednesday and Thursday) aim to give the USM community a chance to meet and greet the universities' next chief academic officer.



## Betty Rambur, Ph.D.

Dean, College of Nursing and Health Sciences  
Professor, Health Policy and Nursing  
University of Vermont,  
Burlington VT

Running on: Long resume of research projects, and plenty of experience on committees similar to the one evaluating her candidacy.

"I am particularly interested in creating environments that align institutional incentives, including resource allocation, with strategic directions. This long-standing interest has been refined through my work in health policy, institutional governance, and academic administration."



## Linda Vaden-Goad, Ph.D.

Dean, School of Arts & Sciences  
Western Connecticut State University

Running on: Being pretty in-synch with President Botman, who has the final call on this selection. Like Botman, Vaden-Goad has experience cultivating a relationship with High Schools to bolster enrollment and student success. She's also nuts about strategic planning, having done some of it in her time.



## Bahman Ghorashi, Ph.D.

Interim Dean, College of Engineering, Cleveland State University  
Director, Fenn Academy  
Professor of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering

Running on: Being an over-achiever. He promises more of what he's done with his students in the past, initiating a slew of new programs. To quote his cover letter: "New Graduate Student Luncheon; Graduate Student Focus Groups; Staff Kaizen Luncheon and Recognition; new probation/dismissal review procedures; AdoptAFreshman program, graduate student technical writing & oral presentation workshops taught by a professional; and a focus group to assess the recruitment and retention of international graduate students."



## Kate Langdon Forhan, Ph.D.

Dean of Arts and Sciences  
Northeastern Illinois University

Running on: Change! Langdon cites her experience in helping turn around Northern Illinois University, and her willingness to develop and enact big reforms. After quoting Chicago architect Daniel Burnham on the topic of blood-stirring magic, she goes on to say in her cover letter: "The bold vision of USM's strategic plan has that magic." Open to interpretation, perhaps, but USM's strategic plan is still in the planning process.

From DEFERRED on page 4

"We're a little unsure as to what's going to happen in the next fiscal year and the following one. We thought we had funding for the next 3 years, but now that's going to have to be scooped probably, and go towards the deficit we are going to have to make up."

In the meantime, Facilities Management remains understaffed in an anxious University

environment bracing for an additional estimated 65 job cuts.

"[CFO Dick Campbell] is trying to not impact our department anymore than he has to. We are pretty much below minimum staffing levels as it is, particularly now with the additions of [the Wishcamper Center and Osher Map Library]," says Barbour.

The University of Maine System is banking on a \$60 million bond request through the State Legislature to cover needed

repairs to all 7 campuses. The bond request was approved at the November 18th meeting of the University of Maine System board of trustees.

The fact that this bond request is aimed almost entirely at building maintenance makes it unusual.

"We typically brought bond requests in the past for new construction," says Campbell.

Projects like the Wishcamper Center, the Osher Map Library

and the John Mitchell Center were all funded to some extent through State of Maine bonds.

The temptation to construct new buildings at the cost of keeping up on necessary repairs is endemic of capital management on the national level, according to Campbell.

"The idea that we don't maintain what we build has been a problem everywhere," he says.

If passed, the proposed bond would address \$8.2 million in

costs for deferred maintenance and energy efficiency upgrades to Bailey Hall in Gorham, and Luther Bonney Hall and the Law School Building in Portland.

Still, with an overstretched local and national economy, Barbour is doubtful that the University of Maine will get the full amount requested.

"I'm not expecting to see 60 million dollars. If we can get some money out of it, we will be very happy."



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To whom this may concern:

I know times are difficult right now, so I would like to invite you to my presentation, titled "Dirigo, Maine's First Student Team Aboard the Weightless Wonder: Exploring Altered Gravity's Effect on DNA," from 2-3pm on Dec 11 in the Luther Bonney Auditorium.

We, team Dirigo, had an exciting and very unique opportunity to experience weightlessness and collect some exciting data as participants in NASA's Reduced Gravity Student Flight Opportunities Program. We would like to invite you to this presentation so you may have the chance to meet our team members, learn about the data we collected, and hear about our experiences.

December 11th is also the day we find out if we will be accepted for a return trip this coming year.

Sincerely,

*John Wise, Jr.*  
Dirigo Student Team Leader/Flyer  
Undergraduate Student  
Wise Lab of Environmental & Genetic Toxicology  
University of Southern Maine  
(207) 210-8644

Sustainability at USM- One Idea

We are a group of USM students concerned with sustainability in our community and we humbly ask for your feedback on our list of concerns. The first is the definition of "sustainability," what it means literally, and what it means to Greater Portland and USM. The word sustainability has taken on a life of its own as a classic buzzword. Sustainability might be defined as, "the ability to use resources wisely while considering the overall effect on the local community, the environment, and the world."

Using the word sustainability and other jargon, people, businesses and institutions report that they are spending resources wisely and limiting their "carbon footprint." Any person or entity can talk the talk, but it is hard to walk the walk. We want to put forth an effort that will make a significant environmental and financial impact, where enough participants get on board.

Money has been a big issue lately at USM. Not only has cash been difficult to come by, it is very difficult to track. Confusion and trouble with finances at USM has increased the need for creative and cheap sustainability projects. There are some very sensible energy investments that cannot be made simply because there is no money. Projects like new heating systems simply cost too much, and it doesn't matter that they would eventually pay for themselves and reduce our carbon footprint. Simply put, there's no money for the typical sustainability projects.

Our ideas therefore must be based on the fact that there's no money at USM and we believe we found a fiscally implementable project. There is no student recycling center on the Gorham campus and running a recy-

cling center 2 days per week surely wouldn't cost that much money, in fact it could make money if staffed by work-study or volunteer students.

Besides bottles, cans and other recyclables, there are other items that need to be handled more responsibly by students. Batteries and old electronics containing lead are continually being disposed of in environmentally unfriendly ways. A recycling center would provide an environmentally friendly transfer station for these items, so they may be disposed of properly.

Any students with interest, concerns or comments on this issue please contact [Benjamin.skillings@maine.edu](mailto:Benjamin.skillings@maine.edu)

Sincerely,

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

## GUEST COLUMN

by *Tabatha Woodside*

Dear Sandra Eustis Bracket and President Botman;

Parking has been a huge issue, this year due to the added Hannaford Conference Facilities and the WishCamper Campus for Ollie Students. I have been a student at USM since 1999, as a non-traditional single mother who relies on commuting both to the university and to my children's schools. As you know I pay a semester fee to access USM's parking facilities. All semester I have been fuming at the fact that parking is again out of control, just like the years leading up to the construction of the parking garage. Until now, I have held back my opinions as I have so many other things, on a day to day basis, to worry about that taking the time to speak on my behalf and my fellow students behalf on these issues has been something I have not been able to address. However, my hand has been twisted too far this time, and I cannot stand quietly by while this discrimination towards students at USM takes place any longer.

First and foremost, the students of any college should always be the first priority of the University. However, there are blatant and not so obvious signs that this is not the case here at USM. For instance, Conference attendees have access and on some occasions free access to the parking garage, where their only destination is the building connected to the parking garage, the Hannaford Conference Center. To make matters worse, these individuals who have the time and money to find other resources to get to the conference do not, instead they take up students study time, travel time and family time, so we have to fight for a parking space somewhere near the campus. Its an insult to us the students, to be asked to park near Baxter Boulevard, to then wait for a shuttle, that if we are lucky, comes every fifteen minutes, to then make it to our classes, after walking from the Campus Center to our classrooms. As an added slap to the face, as the lucky students that do find parking in the garage, we have to parade by a mezzanine that 90 percent of the

time is not being occupied, with a sign saying that "This Area is Reserved for Private Functions" and is roped off from us. Words cannot explain how irritating it is, when everyday we have to walk to our classes and be reminded that we are not even welcome in our own university.

There are two brand new facilities located on USM's campus, but specifically not for the majority of USM's student population to utilize. We cannot sit and study in the Hannaford building and from personal experiences I have received many 'disgusted looks' while entering the Wishcamper Center, which has plenty study areas fully equipped with comfortable couches, chairs accommodating laptops, and even equipped with a roaring fire place.

On the other hand, I see students waiting for computers in the computer lab, lugging laptops and backpacks full of books that no one should have to lug from Payson Smith Hall to the Library at the other end of campus just to find a place to sit and work. People crowding the couches in

a hallway in Luther Bonney's second floor. Professors cramped in shared offices in the toxic basement of Luther Bonney. I could go on, with my connections both through professors and employees at USM, with lists of injustices and ridiculous conditions within the University of Maine system, but then I'd have to apply for a Thesis to be added to my degree.

As for the request, to park near Baxter Boulevard to make things more convenient for the corporate influences that are clearly calling the shots at this public institute, I am going to have to refuse to accept that I should play second class citizen to a fully catered conference that just happens to be scheduled on the last two days before finals at USM. This blows my mind away, and is a complete and utter violation of our rights as financial backers of the University of Southern Maine.

Tabatha Woodside  
Senior  
English Literature Major  
Class of 2009

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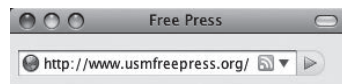


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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Page 10. . . . . Band tour guide part II

Page 12. . . . . Winter movie preview

Page 12. . . . . Brew review

## The notorious gentlemen of MINTFILMS



Members of Mint Films get fired up in the Sullivan Gym weight room while posing for the Free Press.

BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

### Jenna Howard

Arts and Entertainment Editor

It was approaching midnight on Ferry Point Beach as the Mint Films team pushed to finish filming their 2008 short film, a scene in "This We Have Now" called "Jess & Andy." After several hours of shooting, the tide came in and stranded Jeff Griecci's Jeep on an island of sand in the distance. Griecci, director of photography and founder of the production team, didn't think twice. He was focused on capturing the scene just right.

Halfway through shooting, sirens and blue lights were headed for the band of actors and crew. Approaching them with spotlights and dogs, the police began to interrogate the group, "You're not allowed here! Don't you know you need a permit for this? Who wants the fine? The fine for being on this beach is \$500!"

Sweating, Griecci pleaded with the officer. They couldn't leave! His Jeep was parked on what was now an island, surrounded by water too high to drive through. The officer asked when tide would go out. Griecci, who's spent much of his life on beaches, judged, "One hour, sir."

"If you're not gone in one hour," the cop said, looking at his watch, "I'm sending another patrol unit, and you're going to be fined."

In the next sixty minutes, the Mint Films team finished the entire second half of the scene. They packed the equipment in the jeep, drove over the sand (the tide going out as Griecci predicted), bumped over the dirt pathway to the parking lot, and pulled

off the beach, exactly as a cruiser pulled in.

This is the essence of Mint Films. Besides, say, six other characters yet to be introduced, who bring a mix of professionalism and sheer hilarity to the group, USM students, or as they call themselves "four, five, seven-and-a-half year veterans of the program." The gentlemen who make up Mint Films met in Southern Maine, bringing individual talents together to the film company Griecci started in high school. Since its move to Maine, Mint Films acquired a strapping team that plays hard, and works even harder.

"I think the group we've assembled here, we take this seriously. Every one of these films are on my resume, even "Swamp Goblin". I've met guys who are completely comfortable letting me do what I want to do, or say 'ehh, Parker, that's not a good idea,' I trust these guys to give me feedback. And they do, we're constantly shooting ideas off each other," says Parker Newton, who graduates from the USM theatre department with a concentration in acting this semester and has plans to move to New York City in eight days to pursue producing. "That's what I want to do. But you've gotta know that all I want is to make enough money to be able to take the Fung Wah back here to make movies with these guys."

To understand their process, take the means "Swamp Goblin", their latest short comedy, was created. "One of us says, okay there's a contest coming up. We all took the weekend off. We sit here, usually I'm pacing," says Parker. "Barbo takes

notes and searches for anything and everything online." (doing this even during the interview.) Parker explains the idea stemmed from his latest interest 70s horror films. "I said I wanted to make a horrody (horror-comedy), and the ideas kept getting thrown in, until we said...let's do it." Ten hours later, they'd constructed the suit for a swamp creature. Twenty-four hours later, Andy Sawyer was slathering makeup on Parker. Forty-eight hours later, they had the finished product.

For something as large-scale as their recent full-length feature, "Transition of Minor Skies", they met twice a week for two months before beginning shooting, simply coming up with ideas, scripting, based on a mood Griecci wanted to capture.

"When you have this many people who get the job done because they love what they're doing, you are working with the best people you could ever ask for! Derek will come back with the film completely soundscaped—"

"Sound sculpted," Derek Gierhan corrects him. "A year ago, they asked me to do some music for them...and they still do." With three more credits to go, Gierhan graduates USM in the Spring. He's credited for creating the somber ambience in Transition of Minor Skies, and creating swamp sounds with a 12 inch Casio keyboard and an accordion.

Griecci recognizes that it's the other's accomplishments that drive him. "It keeps me on my toes when I know Ian is writing

## The Gentlemen

**Jeffrey Griecci**

Director / Camera Love Maker

**George Anagnostakos**

Writer / Improv' Extraordinaire

**Charles Parker Newton**

Producer/Talent

**Ian Carlsen**

Scribe/Talent

**Andrew Sawyer**

Scribe/Talent

**Andy Barbo**

Producer/Boom Op

**Derek Gierhan**

Soundscaper

**Corey Anderson**

Boom Op, Tech man

Check out the Mint Films group on facebook where fifteen links can connect you to most shorts and trailers, or view all of their short films on youtube.

See **MINT** on page 11

# Into the great wide open: part II

## The Leftovers continue their Canadian adventure to Ottawa and Montreal

**Andy Rice**

Staff Writer

11/15 - OTTAWA, ON - CAFÉ DEKCUF



Ah, waking up with your drummer's arms wrapped around you...how comforting. Well, we were at a Comfort Inn after all; Adam must have been having quite the dream. North Bay looked different in the morning light, or maybe I should say in the sunlight, because it wasn't exactly morning anymore. The past two days had given us rain for our drives, and I thought this might look better. Today's great adventure would take us to the home of the PG-13's and Canada's capital, Ottawa. It was Kurt's turn to drive. Oh no... As we weaved through multiple lanes and onto the highway our GPS (that we switched to the "British English" setting) read that we would be at our destination in four hours; not a bad afternoon drive, that is, until it started down-pouring. I guess I had been wrong to hope for some Canadian sun; a sun that I don't think I've ever seen while in Canada. The same single-lane roads that brought us into the middle of nowhere would have to get us out, but within the rain and unfamiliar roads I was clenching the "Oh, s\*\*t" handle for the duration. Pat called Adam and the conversation went as follows:

"Hello Pat."

"Hey. There's a diner coming up soon that's apparently really good and cheap, you guys wanna stop?"

"Yeah, sure."

"Cool, and oh yeah, tell Kurt to stop driving like a grandma."

"Okay."

The rain let up a little as we stopped in the middle of what seemed like a one-block town. The view from the diner parking lot was, for lack of a better word, majestic. A mist was forming between the trees of an island in the center of a fast-flowing river. If our cars were in neutral they would have fallen into the abyss of giant rocks and churning water. Sadly, they didn't have any postcards available when we walked in. However, they did have the type of crowd that immediately notices that you're not from there. Two scruffy-looking, horribly stereotypical Canadians were sitting on bar stools sipping coffee as our group of eight trudged past. However, a good hearty breakfast was well worth the glares, and I'm sure the waitress didn't mind our business.

We had to get moving. As we closed in on Ottawa and Jeff's house, the sun poked through the

clouds just before it was swallowed by the horizon. Jeff's terrifyingly cute pit bull greeted us at the door as we threw our bags down and rested. Nothing is more relaxing after a long drive more than a game of Madden '09. (Yes, we're in a band and we also play sports video games, sorry.) The time was soon upon us, however, to exit Jeff's palace and drive a few miles to the club. Café Dekcuf had hosted The Leftovers twice before, and had never failed to deliver a superior show. But this time there was a different aura.

On the immediate corner of a busy street, the club loomed large in our minds. The few times we had been here before had processed two of the best shows we'd played in the northern hemisphere. Another local band, and good friends of ours, The Visitors, were also playing alongside the PG-13's. On this cold and rainy night, the youth seemed to be hiding away from the local show, probably drinking in a nearby hideaways. It was okay, we would end up doing the same soon after. However, on this night, a dedicated and much appreciated crowd came, sang and danced, and that's all that mattered. After the show, friends from every year of our previous visits to Canada came to offer their support. A good friend and loyal tour supporter by the name of Berger took the crowd in for an after party; never an act taken for granted, especially when the host offered Matt and I a little taste of a preferred Canadian substance. Salvia is legal in Canada but in the States the rumors are as tasteless as a neo-Nazi rally. By the way, I don't condone any of this. Let's just say that Matt saw a piece of human candy. A trip back to Jeff's and another game of Madden rounded the night out at 5 am.

11/16 - MONTREAL, QC - KATACOMBES



When we woke up at 1 in the afternoon, Adam and I started the day with a quick game of NHL '09. For some reason we had to get the new video games out of our system. An XBOX 360 is kind of out of the price range of a college student / band member. Once we showered with a broken showerhead which we had to aim, the trip continued. By the end of this night we would be home in Maine. But we wouldn't think about that just yet. First we would stop back in town and meet the rest of the PG-13's for a brunch. Breakfast for us (at 2 pm) but lunch for them. The diner had hosted us the years before and Pat

had remembered that the same waiter would be serving us. This included some free hot chocolate, which was a welcomed luxury for four broke dudes.

The drive to Montreal would only be about two hours but we knew what was ahead of us overnight. The drive that loomed over our heads all day was a six hour trek from Montreal to Portland. Adam had it worse; to Boston he would go. Once we were in the city it didn't seem as breathtaking and refreshing as the first time we had been there. The multiple strip clubs and bars rounding every corner didn't compare to the lack of people out and about on this Sunday night. The club called Katakombes was home to most of the punk and underground rock acts that screamed through this part of town, but tonight it seemed as though everyone had given up on the local scene. But then again, I can't complain. It was the last show of the tour and we were about to drive another six hours to get home in time for Monday's classes (what kind of "punk" band are we?). The show wasn't a complete bust however, as some appreciative fans paid for some shirts and CD's to help us get home. Little did we know that the adventure wasn't quite over.

The drive home (beginning at 11 pm) is always an interesting one. The first trip in '06 started with a solo-sober Adam driving a van full of drunken, Slayer-singing miscreants all the way home. However, this time we would split the driving, and believe me, there were enough obstacles to keep us in check. Somehow we misread the GPS while trying to find a gas station, but got lucky in finding one just minutes before it closed. It wasn't raining at all, which was surprising for a trip by The Leftovers in Canada. However, as soon as we crossed the border, (which is ten times easier getting back in) the snow began to fall on the mountains of New Hampshire. Yeah, it's absolutely beautiful if you're not driving through it. We switched drivers just in time for me to have to deal with the flicking on and off of the high beams, trying to figure out which one I could see with more clearly. I was immediately scared of hitting a wild animal with no vision of oncoming traffic. Then the snow let up. I would be alright. Only the normal drive from Sunday River to home was left. As we turned around a corner wedged between rows of pine trees and countless other evergreens, Matt uttered a word almost under his breath.

"Deer."

Before I knew what he had said I saw the body of a deer running full speed at my car from the side of the road. What do you do when



COURTESY OF THE LEFTOVERS

Left to right: Adam Woronoff, Kurt Baker, and Andrew Rice.

this happens? My natural reaction was to slam on the breaks, which meant that my Ford Focus went screeching for about twenty feet before coming to a stop. However, in the middle of the breaks locking up, I heard the sound of the deer hitting somewhere on my car. I immediately got out and investigated. Looking back within the pitch black wilderness I saw no evidence of an animal. The deer survived, but my tires did not. The rest of the trip home was a little bumpier than the rest due to a giant block of rubber taken out of my front tire. The countless homes on the way south on Route 26 were illuminated by my high beams as we made the victory lap to Portland. Coming home at an unusually improper time always puts you in a new mindset. I would end up missing my entire day of classes on that Monday the 17th, since we didn't arrive back at our home in South Portland until 5 am. But what can you really say? Would you rather be on time for school or would you rather live your next few days knowing that the world was once within your grasp?

Look out for new stories next semester as The Leftovers look towards world domination. You can witness it at [www.myspace.com/theleftovers](http://www.myspace.com/theleftovers)

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## EPICUREAN EPICS

by Anne McCormack

# Shrimp season starts in Maine!

Maine's hardworking fishermen began netting and trapping in the North Atlantic's icy waters for sweet and succulent shrimp last week. This year's season, the longest since 1991, has been extended by 28 days, ending May 29, thanks to a projected abundance of the tasty shellfish, a taste of the sea in every one.

This recipe is quick, easy, variable, and with a baguette will be the ideal meal to look forward

to after a day of finals prep and writing papers. Its satisfaction will tide you through the night of school work and the carbs from the pasta will give you energy as well.

*Anne McCormack, former owner of the village bakehouse, is an English major who also teaches cooking classes at her farm in New Gloucester.*

### SHRIMP SCAMPI

COOK TIME: 12 MINUTES

1 pound fresh Maine shrimp shelled  
 1/4 cup butter & splash olive oil  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 3 cloves garlic, crushed

2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley  
 1/2 teaspoon lemon zest  
 1 tablespoons fresh lemon juice  
 1/2 pound linguine

Boil water for pasta.

In large pan, melt butter and olive oil. Add shrimp and sauté for a couple of minutes. Combine remaining ingredients just long enough to heat through.

Serve over linguine.

## JAKE COWAN ON: LACTOSE INTOLERANCE

by Jake Cowan

I will never be able to suck the milk out of a cow's udder. I will never be able to share the same ice cream cone with my significant other. I will never be able to eat string cheese; I will only be able to mercilessly whip someone in the face with it. Why am I destined to suffer this fate? Because I am lactarded.

Most plebians refer to lactardation as lactose intolerance, but in the science world, scientists use the term lactarded. Don't be offended by the suffix "-tard." Although considered taboo, it is an underused suffix that should be applied to more words. Why should lactards the world over suffer just because we lack the enzyme to properly metabolize the lactose sugar found in dairy products which makes us go poopy all the time? I'm saying right now that we shouldn't suffer anymore. We should grab fate by the balls then go suck the milk from a cow's delicious teat.

I've been a lactard for the past ten years of my life, and I still proudly eat pizza, milkshakes, and a variety of gourmet cheeses. I even fancy myself as a cheese connoisseur piling wheels and wedges down my throat even when it results in a male version of PMS cramps. Talk about facing adversity.

Lactard pills do exist for those not willing to suck up the aches and craps faced with eating dairy. But I decided long ago that they are nothing more than sugar pills. They don't work whether you swallow them, bump them,

or insert them anally. They'll only work if you're a faker that experiences the placebo effect. They are a sham; another cruel ploy by pharmaceutical companies to drain you of your money. They never work, and even if they did, I'm on the upper tier of lactardation. No little pill will stop my body from not digesting dairy. I experience my stomach stitches as a badge of honor: I bravely slurp down milkshakes knowing full well that they'll get a few jabs in, but in the end, I will rise victoriously.

Here are some fun facts about those who are lactarded: The vast majority of Asia, Mexico, and South America are lactarded including most African-Americans, Native Americans, and most Jews (see Wikipedia.com for more info). This makes perfect sense because I am a Jewish, Asian, Mexican, South African and Native American man. At birth, the doctor said I'd never be able

to be breast fed, but I persevered through massive bouts of diarrhea and a large diaper bill that my parents are still forcing me to pay off to this day - with interest! Being the exotic looking man I am, the recent boom in porn file sharing has helped immensely in paying my parents back. I'm the only one person who meets the high demand fetish of a Jewish, Asian, Mexican, South, African, and Native American man.

Take pride in your lactardation. No, you can't get a special parking decal, but you can fart all the time. And farting is hilarious. If lactarded, you will fart like 60% more frequently than non-lactards. Don't let the milkman bring you down! Eat cheese, drink milk, make friends with a cow or goat and fight the inevitable stomach pains that follow. Live your life free from the constraints of dairy and bless your little fart.

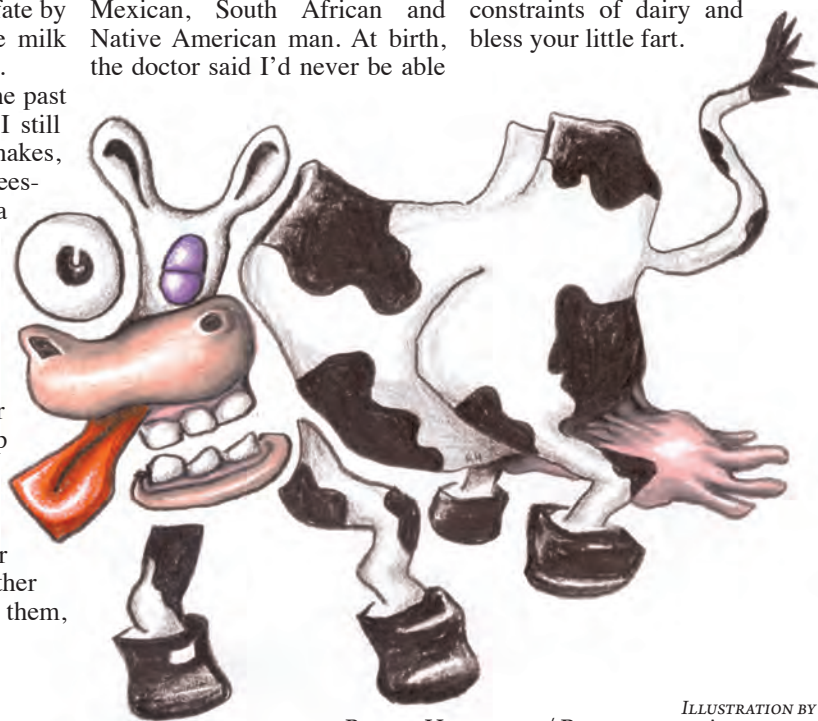
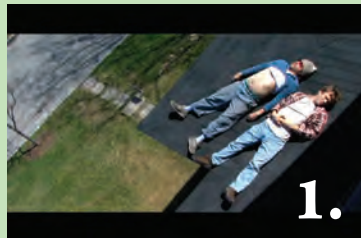


ILLUSTRATION BY RANDY HAZELTON / PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

## Mint Films picks their top five films:



1.

### 1. Transition of Minor Skies

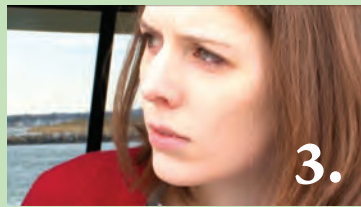
"This was the first full length feature we shot in Hi-Def, and probably the first full I've been really happy with," says Jeff Griecci, founder of Mint Films, named after a nickname he got for eating so much candy.



2.

### 2. Double Oh

"So much nicotine went into making this film." So much nicotine went into Andy Sawyer making this film.



3.

### 3. This We Have Now: Jess & Andy

"So many people went into making this. We made this for projects at USM, and it was our first time in High-Def." The last of four scenes is attributed to be a Mint Film. This film involved the police on Ferry Point Beach.



4.

### 4. Swamp Goblin

Although six hours of footage was erased during shooting, the product is flawless and involves a costume that took 10-12 hours to create. Another part of the team, Corey Anderson, played a big role in this one, behind the scenes. The rest of the guys credit him for having the best attitude of anyone they've ever worked with. "If we said, we need all this gear hauled a few miles into the woods, he'd pause, clap his hands together, and say, 'Okay!'"



5.

### 5. Bad Fruit

Talking fruit. Insults.

### From MINT on page 9

a play, Parker and Andy (Sawyer) are directing something, and a few guys are making music on the side. Then I see another film they're in. I want to be creating too! We psych up the other guys with our own projects." They must be psyched. They say it usually involves about fifty hours to create a three-minute short.

Their own projects also intermingle. Griecci and Barbo live together and are in a band called Grant Street Orchestra, Carlsen and Gierhan are in a band called Robber and Thief, Newton and Sawyer have been in countless plays together, acting, sometimes with Carlsen, even directing a play the other is in. The list goes on. But trust, they say, is the glue of Mint Films.

"I trust Derek to make a sick soundscape and Andy and Ian to get their lines as best, as funny as possible. That's the nature of us: a lot of trust" says Andy Barbo, USM Media Studies major, producer and boom operator, and also, as he adds, "lubricant to the Mint machine. I get shit done. I prep. I drive all over the place to find a prop. I gotta keep Mint moving."

Even the first partner in Mint Films is still actively involved, although he attended UMass Amherst and has gone on to work on the David Letterman Show, the Discovery Channel, and now

produces shows on Nickelodeon. George Anagnostakos, writer and improv' extraordinaire was never in the circle of Portland friends, yet, "It was an instant connection with him," says Ian Carlsen, "I was like holy shit, we're best buds."

Their relationship has translated into a number of successes, including being featured in festivals around the state and country. They were featured in the latest Portland Phoenix Film Festival, and competed in Portland's 48 Hour Film Festival this August. In this nationwide contest, teams have exactly 48 hours to come up with an idea, write a script, and then shoot and edit the piece, and submit it to judges. A technical difficulty burning the final disk caused the Mint Films' production "Double Oh" to be disqualified for being a few minutes too late. Thus, the only award they were eligible for was the People's Choice Award. They won it.

Setbacks like this are understandably discouraging but the group takes lessons from them with poise uncanny for a group of young twenty-something fellows. They all want to learn and grow and are all passionate about what they do.

"We're all not happy unless we're creating something," says Carlsen.

Newton adds, "Exactly. If none of us were going to school, and working one or two or three jobs, we'd be making a movie a week. Certainly." Everyone agrees.

"I get a lot of high fives," Newton comments on how the public receives their films. "The most gratifying thing is when people I don't know, and who don't know me, think I'm funny. People have come up to me, and said, 'Hey you, your stuff is funny.' That's a good day."

Currently, there is talk of an upcoming project, a possible 20-minute short film in the works. They're classifying it a 'Survival Horror,' but that's all they'll reveal.

Mint Films will show their latest feature-film, "Transition of Minor Skies", this April at a one-day screening at SPACE gallery. Cast and crew will be on hand to talk about the production, their work, and to take questions from the audience. Newton jokes that they'll have Swamp Goblin posters and cardboard cut-outs on sale alongside DVDs of the film. His eyes get big and I see the wheels start turning. Actually, he's not joking at all.

# Winter Movie Preview

By Kaitlyn Creney  
Staff Writer

## AUSTRALIA



Currently in theaters  
Hugh Jackman and Nicole Kidman

A mash up on multiple genres, "Australia" is a throwback to the era of classic epic romance films. Nicole Kidman plays an uptight English aristocrat who travels to the outback only to fall for a ruggedly handsome cattle driver played by Hugh Jackman. Their powerful performances in this movie have been generating a lot of buzz.

## MILK



December 12th  
Sean Penn, James Franco, Josh Brolin, Emile Hirsch, Gus Van Sant Directs

"Milk"'s release date has been pushed back numerous times which is immensely disappointing, because it is supposed to be a groundbreaking piece of cinema. The biopic follows San Francisco's first openly gay politician circa 1977, Harvey Milk who Penn embodies in this role (Oscar buzz has been present since pre production). Milk was tragically assassinated a mere eleven months later but the film shows what the gay community was going through not so long ago.

## MARLEY & ME



Christmas Day  
Owen Wilson, Jennifer Aniston and Alan Arkin

There's nothing like a good comedy to throw into the mix, especially since the winter months equal emotional dramas to filmgoers. "Marley & Me" is based on the book of the same name that follows a family in the making while the dog teaches them life lessons. The chemistry between Wilson and Aniston seems both cute and funny. Arkin who has been showing off his comedic chops in recent films (Little Miss Sunshine, Get Smart) will only help a movie that seemingly looks perfect.

## CHE



January 16  
Benicio Del Toro, Directed by Steven Soderberg

Che is the much anticipated biopic of Argentinean revolutionary Che Guevara. Judging from pictures and Del Toro's track record, one can only assume that the actor will take his character to the extreme. Che will be released for a week in its four-hour entirety (with a half hour intermission) in New York and LA.

Sometime in January the film will be released in two parts (The Argentine and Guerrilla) on the same day.

## NOTORIOUS



January 16  
Angela Bassett and Derek Luke

The biopic of Christopher Wallace, a.k.a. Notorious B.I.G., has finally arrived. Biggie is played by Jamal Woodard, who eerily resembles the late rapper. The bevy of talented supporting cast members looks to only add to the power of this film (Angela Bassett plays his mother). Everyone from Tupac to Lil Kim has a place in this movie. It may not be your taste but the film sure has weight to it.

## BREW REVIEW

by Mike Tardiff

# I'm dreaming of a wit Christmas

While most people think of robust beers during the winter, there is a wonderfully spicy alternative: Belgian witbiers (White Ales). And even though witbiers are often characterized as a spring/summer offering, their complex flavorings and spiciness make them the ideal counterpart to winter warmers. With varying hints of orange peel, coriander, white pepper and other spice, white ales are perfectly festive and delightfully light.

This week I had the opportunity to sample four witbiers from different breweries around the region.



### OTTER CREEK WHITE SAIL ALE

Middlebury, VT  
N/A ABV

Wafting a distinctly white ale aroma, this beer smells of orange and spice and everything nice. It pours a deliciously light color with some straggly sediment and haze characteristic of the style with a fluffy white head. But, regrettably, that's where the praise stops. Fairly watery and void of the unique yeastiness of a white ale, Otter Creek's offering is bland. The strong grainy notes of this beer override the intended spiciness and lead to a beer that falls flat. While it's a drinkable ale, it's more of a mediocre American Wheat than a witbier.

White Sail Ale pulled a Christopher Columbus and missed the mark here. But unlike Columbus, this beer didn't even stumble upon success.

**D+**



### LONG TRAIL BELGIAN WHITE

Bridgewater Corners, VT  
4.7 % ABV

Because I wanted to give Vermont brewers a chance to redeem themselves Otter Creek's debacle, I picked up Long Trail's spring/summer offering. Though this beer is typically available March through August, it's not uncommon to find a straggler six-pack this time of year. This beer, unlike its counterpart, is all about taste - almost to a fault. Pouring an inviting gold with a fluffy white dome of head, this beer smells like a bowl of Fruity Pebbles and lemons, and its flavor isn't far behind. A ridiculously drinkable and light beer, I can see why Long Trail pumps this beer out in the summer. With a strong lemony-cereal flavor, Long Trail's Belgian White is ideal for those who aren't into the more intense flavors of some Belgian Whites. The strong citrus flavor of this Belgian White negates (or at least holds hostage) the coriander this beer advertises.

If you liked watching the Flintstones and eating Fruity Pebbles as a kid, this is the beer for you. But, if you're looking to utilize the spiciness of witbiers to get you in the holiday mood, take a rain check.

**B-ish**



### UNIBROUË'S BLANCHE DE CHAMBLY

Quebec, Canada  
5.0% ABV

Unibroue's white ale is tremendously effervescent and has a pluming white head that sticks around for a while. With a more traditional aroma of lemon, spice and some background hops and grain, this beer smells more like tradition. Hazy with yeast sediment, this beer hits the style-mark perfectly in terms of appearance and wasn't far off on taste either. Light bodied and perfectly carbonated, Blanche de Chambly balances fruit and spice. Distinct notes of coriander and peppery-goodness seep through this beer but aren't overwhelming or forced. The crisp-dryness is a perfect alternative to the massive maltiness and cloying sweet taste of winter warmers. This beer does lack the yeasty fruit flavors of a good witbier, though, and is pretty expensive.

Definitely a good example of witbier style. Unibroue's Blanche de Chambly might be intimidating, but don't let the foil-wrapped bottle scare you - it's good.

**A-**



### SOUTHAMPTON PUBLICK HOUSE'S DOUBLE WHITE ALE

Southampton, NY  
7.0% ABV

Although originally leery of this higher-gravity version of the White Ale, I had to try it. Pouring the same golden-wheat color with a hazy tinge, this beer smelled more of citrus, apples and yeast than of alcohol - surprising given its gravity. Balanced and booming, Southampton Double White's flavor was spot on with that I think of as a Belgian White. Acidic upfront with lots of lemon, the spiciness and background yeast flavors make this beer special. There's plenty to grab onto with this beer and it got better with every swill. Surprisingly, the alcohol is only noticeable in its final descent, which provides tingly warmth in the throat. This beer holds true to its style and, despite its times-two approach, makes for a good wintertime diversion.

This beer is perfect for those who don't love the brutish wintertime ales but still want a full-flavored and warming beer for the cold.

**A+**

## GET OUT!

by Brandon McKenney



## "A little bit of MRG energy"

It's the first real snow storm of the winter, and while there's plenty of school work to be done before the semester ends, you don't want to be stuck inside all weekend. What can you do? There's not enough on the ground for sledding, but it's still gross enough to keep you from going for a run or bike ride. The ponds aren't frozen yet in the park so there'll be no hockey for at least another few weeks. Just when all is beginning to look bleak, like you'll be parking your bum on the couch all weekend, you remember about a little place called Maine Rock Gym (MRG for those

in the know). Of course, a snowy Sunday in December is the perfect time to scale some fake rock!

While I've only been climbing a few times, the atmosphere at MRG keeps me coming back. There is almost no intimidation, even for a novice like myself. While there are plenty of skilled climbers hanging around (literally), there's almost no chance of embarrassment. If you want to stick to the easy routes all day, that's fine by everyone else. MRG is all about having a good time and hanging out with people

who are there for the exact same reasons you are.

I stopped in this Sunday for about an hour for a quick climb with USM graduate Sarah Trent who happens to work at MRG on weekends. The hour was well spent, trying out my first time on the bouldering wall. Bouldering is a completely different beast from the top rope climbing found elsewhere in the gym, but it's also an even greater workout. The best part about climbing is that it's a full body workout, strengthening everything from your arms, to your core, to your legs. It even

tones your mind as you mentally attack each route.

So if you're looking for a winter time activity that'll keep you inside and warm, but still active, don't overlook the rock gym. If you're still a little nervous about trying it out for the first time, talk to Eric Favreau, president of the USM Outing Club. The club has a year round pass to the gym for two people a day. It's a perfect way to start out with someone who can help you get going.

ABOVE PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY  
PHOTO EDITOR

## From FIFIELD on page 16

After Fifield was presented a plaque commemorating the day and his former team held on for 61-47 victory over rivals Keene State, a reception was held in a packed Alumni Reception Hall overlooking Hill Gymnasium.

At the reception former players and colleagues gave remarks and shared anecdotes about Fifield's impact on their lives and the university.

Bean read a handwritten letter from Costello's wife Melissa that thanked Fifield for his contributions, and assured the coach that

her late husband would be proud of all that he has done.

Fifield also received a congratulatory letter from Casey Jones, former Boston Celtics player and coach, who Fifield worked with at a basketball camp at Norwich University.

Former player and assistant coach Lori Towle told of her initial interest in USM, which stemmed from a basketball camp she attended with Fifield at a very early age. Towle said it was this interaction that led her to transfer from Bowdoin College adding that Fifield "taught us life skills you can't learn in a classroom,"

like the importance of preparation.

Long-time colleague, baseball coach Ed Flaherty, illustrated Fifield's competitiveness by sharing a story of a golf trip in the 1990's. Fifield broke his foot on the second hole but continued for the remainder of the round and beat Flaherty.

"In coaching terms, Gary's a grinder," Flaherty said. "You watch this guy from outside and say 'this guy does it right.'"

Shannon Kynoch, a 2008 graduate of USM and assistant coach at St. Michael's College, remembered her coach's impact off the hardwood.

"Behind the foot-stomping, arms-flailing, choice-word-using coach, he was instrumental in my success," Kynoch said.

A relieved Mike McDevitt, Fifield's successor, joked: "There's enough pressure following in the footsteps of a legend, but to play Keene State on Gary Fifield day [is something else]."

Bean and former players also presented Fifield with gifts ranging from dinner at the Eastland Park Hotel to a basketball signed by all former players present.

Perhaps the greatest example of Fifield's impact has been the success of his former players. With no less than five of them coach-

ing at the collegiate level, Fifield has seen the women he's coached go onto become nurses, teachers and even CEOs.

Fifield fondly remembered a recent email from Angel Elderkin who played for him in the 90's. Elderkin is now the assistant women's basketball coach at the University of Virginia and spent her earlier coaching days under the tutelage of Pat Summit at the University of Tennessee.

"That's what has meant the most to me, where they [they players] are going," Fifield said in closing. "It has been a great day. I'll certainly remember it for the rest of my life."

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## From HOCKEY on page 16



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

Freshman defenseman Chris LaCount delivers a blow to a Middlebury player. The Huskies squandered a late 4-3 lead in the final three minutes to give the Panthers a 5-4 victory on Saturday.

however, saying that the team played as well as they would have otherwise since other players stepped up.

Coach Beaney was impressed with his team's heady play with the puck against a very skilled Middlebury team.

"Hockey's a game of turn-overs and we were a lot smarter with where we're turning it over," Beaney, whose brother coaches Middlebury, said.

Beaney said he was also satisfied with the improvement of his younger players who are getting more ice time and added that it's better to be playing well at the

end of the season, a sentiment shared by Loss.

The Huskies, who have played three nationally recognized teams in Norwich, Manhattanville and Middlebury, have played one of the hardest schedules in the nation thus far and hope to turn their experience against those teams into victories down the stretch.

"We've got games now that we're supposed to win," Loss said, adding that those games can't be overlooked.

The Huskies will hope to end their semester on a strong note when they play at Salem State on Dec. 12.

## Upcoming Games

## December 8

Men's Basketball v. UMAINE  
FARMINGTON  
7 p.m.

## December 10

Women's Basketball v.  
SALEM STATE  
7 p.m.

## December 11

Women's Ice Hockey v. MIT  
4 p.m.

## December 12

Men's Ice Hockey @ Salem  
State  
7 p.m.

## December 13

Wrestling v. AIC/ROGER  
WILLIAMS/PLYMOUTH  
12 p.m.

Women's Basketball @  
UMass-Dartmouth  
1 p.m.

Men's Indoor Track @  
Bowdoin Preseason  
1 p.m.

Women's Indoor Track @  
Bowdoin Preseason  
1 p.m.

Men's Basketball @ UMass-  
Dartmouth  
3 p.m.

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## RANDOM FACT!

Though it's rarely used, the word used to reference half a computer byte is a "nibble."

For more random facts go to: [mentalfloss.com/amazingfactgenerator](http://mentalfloss.com/amazingfactgenerator)

PUZZLE ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND BELOW

# PUZZLES

## Newsday Crossword

...EASY GO by Sally R. Stein  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
[www.stanxwords.com](http://www.stanxwords.com)

- ACROSS**
- 1 Call a halt to
  - 5 Short-term worker, for short
  - 9 Update, as an atlas
  - 14 Solitary
  - 15 A Great Lake
  - 16 Banish
  - 17 Stare at
  - 18 Horse's hair
  - 19 Mexican snacks
  - 20 Support insincerely
  - 23 Female deer
  - 24 Mural or sculpture
  - 25 Spills the beans
  - 28 Acting job
  - 30 \_\_\_ la la
  - 33 Spine-tingling
  - 34 Sector
  - 35 Search for bargains
  - 36 Visit for a while
  - 39 Quick kiss
  - 40 Chops (off)
  - 41 Standards
  - 42 After-tax amount
  - 43 Do OK in a class
  - 44 Rims
  - 45 Frying utensil
  - 46 \_\_\_ Lanka
  - 47 Plan carefully
  - 56 Accumulate
  - 57 Infamous Roman emperor
  - 58 Very uncommon
  - 59 Using few words
  - 60 Rip

- 61 Tehran's country
  - 62 Finished
  - 63 Mischievous kids
  - 64 Former GM make
- DOWN**
- 1 Unappetizing food
  - 2 Old Roman robe
  - 3 Merely
  - 4 Banana covering
  - 5 Musical paces
  - 6 Wipe clean
  - 7 Where coal is found
  - 8 Jury member
  - 9 Conclude a career

- 10 Precise
- 11 Rats' relatives
- 12 Frequently
- 13 Mexican money
- 21 Just sat around
- 22 Parking attendant
- 25 Conical tent
- 26 Build, as a building
- 27 Make a connection
- 28 Frolics
- 29 Change for a \$5 bill
- 30 Over yonder
- 31 Wanders
- 32 Rental dwellings: Abbr.
- 33 Sports cable channel
- 34 Menageries
- 35 Air pollution
- 37 Be at an angle
- 38 Where New Delhi is
- 43 Took a break
- 44 Mistakes
- 45 Pursuit group in westerns
- 46 Handbag holder
- 47 Past the deadline
- 48 Prayer ender
- 49 Barbecue locale
- 50 Prefix for freeze
- 51 Appear to be
- 52 Threesome
- 53 British noble
- 54 Person with a diploma
- 55 Cravings

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## HANGIN' WITH MR. TARDIFF

by Mike Tardiff

# Tree farms

Thanks to Earth's propensity for circling the sun, days are getting shorter. And with shorter days come few opportunities.

And thanks to reduced levels of melatonin many of us grow lethargic and want to sit on the couch all day.

An alternative? Well, whether you celebrate Christmas or not, Christmas tree farms can be a good place to start.

With a secure area to roam about and an array of activities to partake in, tree farms can be fun places to beat the seasonal affective blues.

Grab a thermos of hot cider and go find some wreathes to decorate or a Christmas tree to bring home to your apartment. Going on a search for the perfect tree can be exactly what it takes to get you into the holiday spirit or just get you out of the city.

Not to mention, when you're out in the grove, saw in hand, you'll get to meet some pretty interesting people. Whether it's the folks who own the place or the other evergreen pilgrims, there are a lot of impromptu conversations to be had when you're looking to kill an adolescent conifer. What can I say? It's a moment of unity.

Tree farms are also a uniquely Maine experience.

With the pulp and paper industry taking a hit on a weekly basis, it's nice to help out those who make their livings in the woods.

Plus, what are the alternatives. Tree lots are often in the least natural places (i.e. paved lots near Rite Aids) and are the easy-bake oven answer to meeting your holiday greenery needs. Couring through a tree farm is the truly sensual experience. The smell of spruce and fir, the taste of the

cider and the feel of winter's encroachment on fall coalesce into a good time had by all.

Unlike walking through the mall armed with a debit card, riding on the back of a Kubota tractor searching for something to cut, gives you to time to reflect, at least momentarily, on what the holidays are all about.

For those who aren't necessarily giddy about the hundreds of inches of snow on the horizon or the prospect of shoveling out your car, getting outside to enjoy the last reasonably days of fall is a relief. Not to mention, you'll be helping someone out at the same time.

Here are some places to check out:

- Beech Ridge Farm**  
Scarborough | 839-4098
- Boiling Spring Tree Farm**  
Dayton | 499-7919
- Hanscomes Tree Farm**  
N. Yarmouth | 831-2311
- Merry Christmas Trees**  
Windham | 892-8407
- Vining's Christmas Trees**  
Cumberland | 829-5723

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Dec 15-18:	(M-Th)	8 am - 7 pm
Dec 19:	(F)	8 am - 4 pm

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50% OFF Holiday Cards



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# Hockey loses heartbreaker

Two goals in three minutes leads Middlebury by USM

**Mike Tardiff**

Sports Editor

The USM men's hockey team was three minutes away from knocking off number-three-ranked Middlebury College on Saturday.

But two late flurries in front of net yielded a pair of scores and the Panthers remained unbeaten with a 5-4 win over USM.

Middlebury senior Ian Drummond capitalized on the skirmishes with a goal and an assist to help the Panthers remain unbeaten and overcome a late 4-3 deficit.

Drummond set-up teammate Ken Suchoski at the 17:31 mark in the third period to tie the game and then jammed his own shot past USM goalie Jamie Gilbert (Lewiston) with 29 seconds remaining to secure the win.

"Sometimes you get the bounces and the puck hits the side of the net, other times it bounces off someone and goes in like it did tonight," Coach Jeff Beaney said of the squandered lead.

The Huskies were leading late in the game off two goals from sophomore Zach Joy (Dover, NH) and scores from juniors Pat Noonan (Burlington, MA) and Chris Travis (Scituate, MA), but watched their record fall below .500 at 3-4 overall.

"We know what we can do when we get guys to play 60 minutes," Joy said of the near up-set, "But [Middlebury] showed what happens when you don't."

The Huskies, who were coming off a big 6-3 win over Williams College, were looking to put to-

gether a streak heading into the end of the semester.

Without three key players, the Huskies were somewhat satisfied with the trajectory of their season thus far.

"Every game we're getting progressively better and better," Joy added.

Now sitting at 2-2 in ECAC action, the Huskies will have to continue that trend if they hope to win their division and playoff games in Gorham.

The teams traded goals in the first period after Noonan negated Middlebury's early lead. Joy then gave USM a 2-1 lead with his goal in the first minute of the second stanza. Middlebury answered with two goals of their own to take the 3-2 lead heading into the game's final period.

Trailing by a goal, Joy struck again, tying the game at three off a pass from senior Kyle Smith (Auburn). It was Travis who found the back of the net at 14:17 mark in the third to give the Huskies their final lead of the game.

Senior captain Ben Loss (Wilmette, IL) saw some promising moments in the game but was still disappointed.

"It's different when you're leading the squad because you've got no excuse. You've got to find something about it to make you a better team," Loss said. "I think we've found guys we can rely on."

Loss was quick to dismiss the impact of missing players,

See **HOCKEY** on page 13

# Fifield Day in Gorham

USM honors coaching legend



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

Mike McDevitt shakes hands with his predecessor Gary Fifield. McDevitt, who replaced Fifield earlier this fall as head women's basketball coach, gave remarks about Fifield's coaching legacy during Gary Fifield Day in Gorham.

**Mike Tardiff**

Sports Editor

Hugs were in greater supply than jump shots on Saturday at Hill Gym. With former women's basketball players and coaches slowly collecting and reuniting in the gym, it was a time to celebrate.

It was Gary Fifield Day in Gorham.

Held as part of a Little East double-header with Keene State, the day honored the legendary coach who stepped down earlier this semester to focus on administrative duties.

Starting with remarks from both President Selma Botman and Athletic Director Al Bean, the day was chocked full of mem-

ories and anecdotes of Fifield as a coach, teacher and mentor.

"I think we all know about Coach's record, but what is less immediately measurable are the contributions he's made over the last 21 years," Botman said of the 13-time LEC Coach of the Year. "Coach Fifield will always be remembered as coach extraordinaire, but I'd rather remember him as a teacher and mentor."

Standing in the center named for the late Richard "Doc" Costello, Bean added to the high praise saying that "if this is the house that Costello built, it is very clear that Gary built the second floor."

Fifield established himself as one of the best coaches in the nation. During his tenure at the

university he compiled an incredible 541-86 record while guiding his Lady Huskies to 20 NCAA Tournament appearances.

Fifield addressed the crowd and thanked numerous people including former players, coaches, the administration, the fans and family. Always evoking the word "we," Fifield acknowledged the accomplishments of his program but added that he's not retired.

"People congratulate me on retirement, but I haven't really retired," he said. "I'm doing some administrative things and trying to bring prominence to some of our other programs."

See **FIFIELD** on page 13

# Punctuation mark

Huskies stomp Owls on Fifield Day

**Mike Tardiff**

Sports Editor

Gary Fifield got to watch his former squad beat-up on conference foes Keene State on Saturday. The Huskies busted out a 13-0 run early in the first half to lead 18-5 and never looked back, cruising to a 61-47 victory in women's basketball action.

Led by sophomore Kaylee Demillo's (Jay) 18 points led three Huskies in double-figures and paced USM to their sixth straight victory to open the season. The Huskies' win was their first in conference play.

Demillo finished the game shooting 6-for-12 to go along with four boards, three assists

and a pair of steals. Senior forward Stacy Kent (Northwood, NH) tossed in a quiet 17 points including key baskets down the stretch.

The Huskies posted a 12-point lead at halftime and played even with the Owls down the stretch to pick up the win. Unselfish passing on the offensive end and a strong defensive effort proved to be a winning formula for coach Mike McDevitt, who earlier this season was named the interim successor to Gary Fifield. The Huskies cleaned up the ice-cold shooting of Keene State (27%) and turned many of their misses into easy transition points.

USM, while not red-hot from the floor (38.6%), did their part to make timely baskets and never let

Keene State get too close. When Keene State closed the lead to five halfway through the second period, Kent answered with a big three-point bucket from the left-side, which keyed a 9-0 USM run and dashed Keene's hopes.

Junior Haley Johnson (West Simsbury, CT) and sophomore Kristi Violette (Readfield) cleaned up the glass, collecting a combined 22 rebounds for USM. Johnson posted a double-double with 10 points and 12 rebounds.

The Huskies return to action Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. against Salem State and will close out their first semester with a trip to UMass-Dartmouth on Dec. 13.



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

Sophomore Kristi Violette (Readfield) puts up a shot against Keene State. Violette grabbed 10 boards in the Huskies 61-47 win over the Owls on Gary Fifield Day.