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An electrical fire in the boiler room of The Sullivan Fitness Complex forced over 100 people at the gym and the adjacent day care center to evacuate the building at 12 p.m. on New Year’s Eve. There were no injuries.

The fire was caused by a short circuit in the building’s backup electrical system. According to the Department of Facilities Management, a hole in one of the aging battery cell casings drained the battery of its fuel, creating the short circuit.

The University plans to update the antiquated system sometime next week, says Dave Barbour, Interim Executive Director of DFM. It is unknown how much the project will cost.

The acrid stench of burning plastic was the first thing that anybody noticed at the gym. An unidentified patrol informed Lifeline Fitness Administrative Associate Pat Rich that there was a terrible smell in the basement hallway outside the office. Rich noticed the smell as soon as she opened the door to investigate. She walked down the hallway to find the source. As she neared the boiler room, the smell grew stronger.

“I was coughing, because the smell was gagging me,” she explained.

Rich notified Administrative Manager Wendy Benson-Sargent, who after confirming the odor in the south stairwell immediately phoned DFM. Although no smoke or fire was visible, Benson-Sargent could tell something was wrong.

“When you’ve been in the building for 10 years, you can tell when something is off,” she explained. Guy Durichek, a mechanical trades worker for DFM, had just started his lunch break at the nearby Patnaude last week announced until the Fire Department arrived.

Durichek said that the fire was small, but that prudent action was the best course.

“It wasn’t a raging inferno,” he admitted, “but it was in a very sensitive area. Not knowing what could possibly happen… I thought that would be the proper procedure, just to avoid the disaster of someone getting injured.”

Barbour says that the size and location of the fire were the primary reasons that the fire detection equipment did not alert the building’s occupants of the danger.

Mechanical areas on campus are outfitted with heat detectors, which only go off when temperatures in the room reach a threshold of 160 degrees. The normal operation of some of the equipment can sometimes produce smoke, explained Barbour, which could result in false alarms if the areas were equipped with smoke detectors.

The age of the batteries is believed to be the prime cause of the fire.

“Would they say they were well past their shelf life,” Barbour admitted last Tuesday morning.

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Obama is currently working to effective fiscal stimulus, which functioning credit market. banking system is essentially a the economy by pumping bil. loans has effectively halted the inability of people to procur cover their function. “The basic near right,” he said. The basic forecast is based on a set of pre. doesn’t work when there are unpredicted forces intervene. “All things being equal, the stimulus package should help... but we don’t know if that will happen successfully, or if it will be enough.” State governments are hoping for a piece of Obama’s stimulus package to shore up widespread budget shortfalls. However, given the depth of Maine’s current budget crisis, whether the University of Maine will get any of this money is uncertain. “With Baldacci’s position... the University will be well back in the line in terms of any kind of stimulus that the state gets,” said Hillard. Both economists agree that the impact of the current recession on state universities is nothing new. “We have been through this before,” says Colgan. The recessions of 1975 and 1991 were the worst in recent memory for state universities, he says. “Those two both saw pretty heavy cuts to the university system... there were a lot programmatic cuts, layoffs, and so on.” Hillard remarked that state support of publicly funded universities generally drops during times of recession, but due to increasing energy and health care costs. As USM’s CFO Dick Campbell notes, “as we become more environmentally based society, it drives up energy costs.” A state appropriation of -2.7% for Fiscal Year 2010 also means that the UMS will have a less money than the previous year, followed by anemic 0%, 1%, and 2% increase for 2011 through 2013. The Chancellor’s cost saving plan targets three specific arenas of action. – administrative stu. and financial services, academ. programs and services, and structure and governance. Administrators, Cladent, and financial services are the day-to-day support services that keep the university running, and cover everything from financial manage- ment to IT, facilities management, student billing, and loan process- ing. According to Pattenade’s report, which can begin quickly by consolidating services, and rethinking the way they are performed. Cost savings targets for this arena are between $17-20 million. One idea already in the works proposes sending out student tuition refund checks electronically, instead of through the mail, saving the state thousands of dollars in postage. The second arena of action, academic programs and servic- es, will be handled on a slower-paced timetable, to ensure that the quality of education does not suffer. The proposal aims to save between $6 and $10 million by eliminating or combining redundan- dant or under-enrolled programs and courses. “All things being equal, the success of Obama’s stimulus pack- age is difficult to predict. “From Budget on page 1 By this optimistic forecast,” he warned. By most accounts, Colgan’s forecasts have historically been accurate, though he is the first to point out that “the dismal sci- ence” is not an inexact predictor of human behavior. “For the first three quarters of 2008, my forecast was relatively on track,” he half-joked at the beginning of the presentation, “I did however miss the collapse of the financial system.” Colgan explained that accurate forecasts of economic trends are predicate upon certain assumptions about the economy holding true. “Economic forecasting, like weather forecasting, is actu- ally a self-fulfilling prophecy, of the way it behaves itself,” he said last Thursday. USM economics professor Michael Hillard agrees that forecasting can be problematic when unpredictable forces intervene. The basic problem that forecasters face is that they can only extrapolate from what they know today, and what they know from the past recent... Extrapolation doesn’t work when there are sudden turns of events. Colgan says that this years forecast is based on a set of pre- requisite policy initiatives being put in place to stave off future decline. “If those assumptions are wrong, I’m not going to be any- where near right,” he said. According to Colgan, before the economy can begin to recover, credit markets must first re- cover their function. The basic inability of people to procure loans has effectively halted the flow of credit. The Federal Reserve’s attempts to stimulate the economy by pumping billions of dollars into the stalling banking system is essentially a futile pursuit, he says, without a functioning credit market. Colgan says the next step is an effective fiscal stimulus, which newly inaugurated President Obama is currently working to draft into law.
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Division of Student & University Life: Supporting student learning and success
USM's Green Team releases fall report
Window warriors urge us to shut it

Danica Koenig
Staff Writer

Walking through Luther Bonney this past semester it was hard to miss the group of campaigning students who called themselves the "Window Warriors." This was the most recent campaign of the USM Green Team, whose past efforts in the fall of 2006 involved covering light switch covers with stickers bearing the phrase "Flip It Switch It Turn It Off." Their most recent campaign focused on conserving heat by shutting open windows. At the end of the semester the Team released a report of the campaign results during a public forum on December 18th at USM's Wishcamper Center in Portland.

The Green Team of '08 comprised of five students from Professor Nancy Artz's BUS 798 course, "Environmental Practicum." Besides being part of this experiential learning class, the campaign helped USM to meet the goals of two environmental initiatives it has signed, the Governor's Carbon Challenge and the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment.

The goal of the campaign was to try to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by the University while also trying to cut heating costs. Professor Artz states she was very pleased with the amount of greenhouse gas that was reduced due to this campaign, but in her opinion there were more important successes of the campaign. She is most proud of how much her students learned and the amount of general awareness they raised.

"We changed behavior for some individuals that will last beyond the two week period we measured," says Artz. "Just because we only saved so much greenhouse gas emissions from Luther Bonney over a two week period, doesn’t mean that people aren’t thinking about their behaviors in Masterton or Payson or Smith or at home and will do so over the long term."

Artz also adds how extremely impressed she was by the effort and work put in by the students of her class.

"My students were great, really great," says Artz. "They did the project entirely on their own. They designed, ran, and evaluated the project. They can only learn so much from lectures and multiple choice tests. At some point you have to do it."

"My team felt very good about the results because it showed that our actions were noticed by the USM community and people were actually listening to the environmental needs of USM," says Artz. "Other than the experience of running a real social marketing plan as a small team of students was a unique and eye-opening experience into the realm of marketing that we all will surely remember for a long time."

Despite the positive reception by the majority of the student body, there was the occasional negative comment. "Someone wrote, 'Climate Nazis' across one of their fliers. But overall, Artz says she has noticed an increase in environmental awareness at the University since 2006.

There was a greater receptivity to the campaign goals," says Artz. "I think there has been a shift in cultural acceptance of climate change and human cause of climate change."

In the long term, it faces a likelihood of deeper cuts in the coming years, and a major restructuring effort is underway. "We’re entering a new world and a new reality," says President Forhan.

"Dr. Forhan will have major input in how we implement a new strategy," says President Forhan.

"Dr. Forhan will have major input in how we implement a new strategy," says President Forhan.

"I don’t assume it’s going to be easy, nor do I think it will be easy," says Artz. "It’s important that people know what’s going on and be able to find you." says Forhan, who plans to open a second office in Gorham in addition to the existing space in Portland's Law building.

"If I see [students] sitting on a bench, I’m not averse to asking ‘hey, you – what do you like about this place?’" says Amanda. "I’m not averse to asking "hey, you - what do you like about this place?"

Aside from channeling student concerns to the President’s office, the provost is expected to provide a similar link to the school’s faculty. For that reason, members of the search committee focused as much on each candidate’s prior lives as scholars to their academic accomplishments.

Following B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of California, Forhan earned her Ph.D. in political science from Johns Hopkins University. She has written and edited several books, with particular focus on medieval French writer Christine de Pizan, prized by many to be Europe’s first female to do so professionally.

Forhan may be asked to return to the classroom to teach in her area of expertise, as Botman is doing with Egyptian political history this spring. But Lapping points out, as he prepares to assist in the transition, that much of his weekday is largely tied up in the budget crisis. He says that the focus of his job has shifted in recent months, and that this month the UMaine system has given its chief academic officers a daunting agenda: "To change the system, by collaboration."

In her scholarship, Forhan has been fascinated with the metaphor of the "bodily politic" to describe the roles of people and groups within an institution. In that spirit, even she has a hard time stepping down the role of provost at USM.

"We are all interdependent," she writes. "...sometimes a provost is an eye or an ear, or a heart or a hand, or an arm or a foot, but so is everybody else!"
Remember to love
Changing the world through transcendence

Taryn Yudaken
Staff Writer

Lately, I have spent a lot of time thinking about human nature. I’ve been thinking about collective consciousness, and how greatly our emotions really affect our lives.

There are two emotions that all human beings stem from—love and fear. Positive emotions like happiness, excitement, joy, and peace are rooted in love, whereas negative emotions like anger, sadness, greed and jealousy are rooted in fear.

In our society we are bombarded by fear, and therefore we literally breed it. While mainstream media often leaves people feeling insecure, inadequate, and in need of constant material possessions, our lives are focused around competition, petty judgments, and dramatic relationships.

We fear that we might be unsuccessful without the latest gear, that we might miss out on something, so we push ourselves through school — much of us with the main goal of money, not inner potential to evolve. I think we should all recognize the power of love in human evolution by remembering to love. By extending positive feelings to strangers on the street, the cashier, a person on the bus-anging as important information.

I recently discovered an uplifting story about changing people’s consciousness from negative to positive. A man named Michael Rosenfeld, was in a line at Starbucks one morning when he encountered an unpleasant driver behind him. The driver was honking the horn at him, cursing for him to pull up (which, due to the line, Rosenfeld could not do). Well, instead of ignoring the situation, or even retaliating, Rosenfeld pulled up to the window and proceeded to pay for his tea, and the breakfast of the pay (and his four family members) behind him. When the presumably iritated man pulled up to pay and was told that his order had already been paid for, the disheartened driver was astonished, but to be followed by professional “journalists,” who are between the norm and develop some original opinions in a case of exile from a certain group of people. All these fears keep humanity in a box, a great big messy mountain.

Washington to document the fact that EXTREME TEMPERATURES, and SUB-ZERO CONDITIONS; With an urgent and serious tone, newscasters mentioned “artic air” coming in from Canada a few hours late-night block of courtroom judge shows, followed by my now-close friends, Ellen, Phil, and of course, The Big O. By six o’clock the evening news was a welcome refuge of substance and information.

Or, it was, as major cold front moved eastward a couple weeks ago, the night’s top stories became an avalanche of warnings about EXTREME TEMPERATURES, and SUB-ZERO CONDITIONS. With an urgent and serious tone, newscasters mentioned “artic air” coming in from Canada a few hours late-night block of courtroom judge shows, followed by my now-close friends, Ellen, Phil, and of course, The Big O. By six o’clock the evening news was a welcome refuge of substance and information.

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To whom this may concern:

On behalf of USM’s “Supporting Student Parent Task Force”, I am writing in response to Nicole Bergeron’s article “Breaking with Tradition” that was published in the December 1, 2008 issue of The Free Press. This article highlighted the challenges that one non-traditional student faced when she returned to college while juggling a family at the same time. While the University provides opportunities for students who have personal and career aspirations that will yield them later success, the simple logistics of just getting out of the house in the morning can be a major obstacle for students who have children. Many of our student parents also juggle jobs and have children and are looking for resources that can help them care for their children. The fact that many of our student parents do persevere and succeed is an inspiration to all of us. My hunch is that those who are successful have someone in their lives that they can lean on. But what happens to the students who don’t have this kind of support?

The student in this article described the feeling of isolation that exists for her at USM, exacerbating the every day hurdles of parenting young children. One of the challenges to providing support for this group of students is that we don’t have a mechanism for identifying students who are also parents. Unless someone volunteers that information, brings their children to USM and registers USM Child and Family Centers, there are no identifying characteristics that can categorize a student who has children (unless, of course, you look closely at the dark circles under their eyes or the sweet smell of talcum powder wafting from their person).

In the past year, the Task Force was established by various University departments in response to this dilemma. The membership includes students, University Counseling Center, Advising, Student Life, Early Student Success, Residential Life, Child and Family Centers and LAC/Multicultural Student Affairs. The group is charged with the coordination of University and community resources, providing a welcoming atmosphere for student parents and discerning what student parents need in order to provide the resources that they need in order to be successful. Our challenge has been and continues to be: how do we know who is a student parent? And, how can student parents connect with each other?

One of USM’s strengths is its diverse student population. Several of the students profiled on USM’s website specifically mentioned the benefits of having older students in their classes. We need to celebrate the enrichment of their experiences that add to the depth of what they bring to USM. So, Got Kids? If you do, there are many people at USM who care. For more information, please contact me at lmoses@usm.maine.edu

Sincerely,

Lori Freid Moses
Director
USM Child and Family Centers

One Maine, One University

Maybe I’m the most naïve student on campus, so someone please set me straight.

Here we are cutting books, computers, faculty, and progressive programs like EYE in order to try to cut $2.7m from USM’s budget, and trying to do so without reducing the quality of education. Does it seem like we’re trying to swamp this financial by with a proverbial sledgehammer? By the way, the order for the entire University of Maine System is to chop $11.2m.

UMS’s (University of Maine System) website boasts ‘7 Unique Universities. One Amazing State’. What’s the benefit of having 7 unique universities? Implicit in this statement is that they all operate separately, which in fact they do. As a result, there are 7 unique budgets and expense structures. I wonder if we combined all those budgets if we’d see opportunities for some significant economies of scale. Did we split some costs 7 ways? If so, wouldn’t this mean 1/7th the cost for some items that could be shared, like electronic functions, data bases, forms creation, administrative functions, billing systems, etc.? If you’re ride pooling, 7 unique people pay 1/7th the cost each to get where they’re going, right? Would we have 7 times more buying power through combining purchases of supplies, utilities, capital purchases, etc.? Towns with unique businesses are finding that by combining their strength they are able to rival the strength of giant nationals, and build stronger local communities. What about consolidating redundant colleges, i.e. sciences, education, art, business, etc., and sharing more resources?

I hope we’re not too proud to open ourselves up to this kind of thinking. In my mind, it just makes us smarter, and after all, we are a higher learning institution. Maybe our slogan should read something like ‘7 Amazing Universities (in one). One Unique State’.

Peter Brown
Junior
Class of 2010

Letters to the Editor

January 20th 2009

My inauguration experience

Jennifer Willard
Contributing Writer

January 20, 2009, I was a witness to the fulfillment of Martin Luther King Jr’s dream that people who share the values and the beliefs of their character and not the color of their skin, are more than twice the population of Maine stood before, behind and around the Capitol Building with more people spilling out of the gates like the march of the penguins and walking the streets of DC in hopes of finding a giant Jumbobron where they could catch the start of a Fourth of July parade.

People standing in lines to enter the Mall chanted “Yes We Did” and “Obama Obama.” The mood was celebratory, punctuated by the air filled with energy and a sense that all of us were somehow connected. Connected as Americans with a newfound purpose.

People from Romania, Trinidad, Sweden and every state in America acknowledged the same feeling of unity as if a wall separating us had come down. We were listening to each other as a people sharing our challenges, without an ideology that separates – for indeed the time of ideology is gone replaced with a hope that united.

The call of our new president, “Let us begin the work of making America” was heard. Only through “hard work, honesty, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism” choosing to take responsibility as citizens and participants in our future.

It was a Clinton call of 49 years ago when another young handsome man challenged the youth of America saying, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” That generation put us on the moon, gave us the Peace Corps, legislated an end to...
Confidential, voluntary HIV testing is now available for USM students at both the Portland and Gorham Health Centers of University Health and Counseling Services.

Cost is $35

The cost for HIV testing is covered as a benefit for students who have purchased the USM Sickness and Accident Insurance offered by the Chickering Group and underwritten by Aetna Life Insurance. Other forms of payment include cash, check, credit or debit card, or placing on your student bill.

For more information contact Gorham Health Center, 110 Upton Hall at 780-5411 or Portland Health Center, Modular Unit at 780-4211 or check our website at www.usm.maine.edu/health. Health Services is part of the Division of Student and University Life: Supporting student learning and success.
Port City Music Hall seeks to fill two voids with one stage

David O’Donnell
Staff Writer

504 Congress Street has been home to a lot of business in the past two decades, and unfortunately for a string of entrepreneurs, it hasn’t been any of them for very long.

Rob Evon is the latest to take an active interest in this prime piece of downtown real estate, smack in the middle of Portland’s arts district, just around the corner from Monument Square. And he isn’t worried by the recent history.

“I think our music industry contacts will speak for themselves,” he says, as delivery men unload the first boxes of liquor into his Port City Music Hall.

“Nobody’s gonna be able to touch what’s happening here.”

Finally, this weekend, the public has been able to enter the space that Evon snatched up last fall, in a high-profile sale that also pecked the interest of Todd Bernard, founder of nearby SPACE gallery, who likewise hoped to exploit its potential as a major music venue. He’s now looking elsewhere.

Not only is Port City rising out of the ashes of this beleaguered property, its aim is to fill a niche left wide open several years back with the closing of the historic State Theater - where an empty ticket booth still juts out onto the sidewalk a few blocks away.

The State Theatre was, for many years, Portland’s premier medium-sized arts venue. As Free Press columnist Jeff Beam pointed out on these pages last April, it “wasn’t as big as the Civic Center, but bigger than a club or bar” - meaning intimacy for the music lover, and a private bathroom for the band.

“Portland didn’t need another bar where you can play live music,” Evon says. “Right now, Portland needs a music venue that can provide services and amenities that nationally touring, professional artists require.”

For the State, that meant the likes of Bob Dylan, Phish, John Fogerty, or Jimmy Eat World. The more modestly-sized Port City, with a capacity of about 660 bodies, still hopes it can attract the sort of acts who have bypassed Portland on their recent New England tours.

And so far, they have. Indie rockers OK Go, for instance, just penciled in a gig between shows at Boston’s Paradise Rock Club and San Diego’s House of Blues (March 13).

Jazz icon John Scofield stops by on April 2nd. A February 6 performance by Derek Trucks Band is already sold out.

Not bad for a venue that has yet to secure its liquor license.

“Let’s get this damn water out of here!” jokes bartender Chris Lopez, pulling bottles of Dasani from the refrigerator to make room for bottles of beer.

Tonight’s show will be another attempt at the “soft open” originally planned and advertised for a week ago. The club’s opening had finally planned and advertised for a week ago. The club’s opening had been postponed when it became clear Port City wouldn’t be licensed to serve liquor as a Class I auditorium. This classification is something Evon has fought for rather than more easily-attainable bar or lounge clearances.

“We’re trying to set a new precedent in liquor law interpretation and enforcement.” Evon says. While he explicitly rules out hosting all-ages shows, he would like to welcome an 18+ college crowd from time to time.

For tonight, at least, he and his crew have nothing but praise for state senator Justin Alfond, who just helped them work out a last-minute solution: a one-night license to get the alcohol flowing for the show that begins in six hours. Early next week however, it’s back to city hall.

Beginning in 1988, 504 Congress was one of several former department stores to sit abandoned and boarded up until Portland’s downtown renaissance of the mid-1990s. In ’97, it reopened as the trendy Keystone Theater, one of many “dinner and a movie” joints that were then predicted to be the future of cinema.

By 2003, the space had morphed into OZONE II, a short-lived, chem-free dance club for teenagers.

It was soon sold and converted to The Stadium sports bar, which despite plastering its title across the massive facade, eventually receded toward the Free Street half of the property. Its ownership then caused a splash in 2006 by announcing their intentions to use the extra space to open a Hooters franchise.

“It would have been Maine’s first incarnation of the global restaurant chain, famous for its waitresses’ tight tank tops and short-shorts. The city council responded with a special ordinance to prevent it from opening.”

The liquor license ordeal is indicative of Evon’s larger aims with his new establishment - his first music venue, having previously helped found both an on-location recording service and an organic food company.

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That means buying only all-new sound equipment for his deluxe floating stage, and having the acoustics tested and perfected by the same experts who normally work with Jay-Z and Steve Miller Band, so be it. He’s not going to let a little recession spoil his dream.

“We’re looking to cater to a higher-end clientele, higher-end demographic, people with disposable income,” he says. “I don’t like to do anything half-assed.”

Portland’s Sidecar Radio became one of the first to play the new Port City Music Hall, opening a Saturday night show with Fear Nuttin Band.

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Nick Downing keeps viewers guessing. While he may be a sculpture major, his portfolio of works show a vast creativity and incorporation of many mediums and techniques.

Above: Downing displays a variety of sculptural pieces that he has created during his time at USM.
Left: One of Downing's metal sculptures.

Free Press: What is your major and concentration?

Nick Downing: My Major is Art and Entrepreneurial Studies with a concentration in sculpture. I also have a minor in art history.

FP: What year/class are you?

ND: I am a senior, but I am anticipating being back for another semester in the spring.

FP: What is the medium that you work the most with?

ND: I work in several mediums but the two that I work in the most are hardwood and steel. I really like materials that present a challenge and have some innate character. In the last few years I have also gotten into ceramics quite a bit.

FP: How would you describe your artwork?

ND: I would say that my artwork is largely based in craft. The part of art I enjoy most is the actual physical making of the work. It is a meditative experience for me. I love watching glowing metal take shape under my hammer or the challenges of revealing and working with the character of wood. I often create functional art. I really like the idea of integrating art into everyday life, I have a mug that I made that I drink tea out of almost every day.

FP: Where do you get ideas/draw influence from to make your art?

ND: My inspiration can come from just about anywhere but I often find inspiration in nature and literature. I also love ancient art. Medieval reliquaries are some of my favorites and Japanese metal and lacquer work also. A few years ago I saw some miniscule seal stones from the Middle East that were thousands of years-old, they are just tiny bits of rock crystal carved with these incredibly detailed and complex pictures I had never even heard of them and I was so amazed that something so exquisite could be almost completely looked over in all the art history classes I have taken. Discoveries like that fuel much of my creativity.

FP: Do you have any continuing themes that you find pop up in your work often?

ND: There are a lot of themes in my work, I occasionally get obsessed with things and they will show up again and again. Recently it has been birds, roots, spirals and human hands. Through out the years, the human figure, animals of all kinds, and arcane imagery such as green men and Celtic knots have also featured prominently in my work.

FP: What are you currently working on (in your spare time, for class etc)?

ND: Currently I am working on refurbishing my forge, which I hope to use to do some advanced blacksmithing techniques for my independent study this semester. I am also assisting Professor Hewitt with a project he has in Brunswick in March, I have been back here for track since January 6th and in addition to the forge and the project with professor Hewitt, I have also made some small eating utensils for campers, but I dressed them up so they are fairly aesthetic. I also built a hilt for a fencing sword that I hope to use fairly soon, and I've been, with the gracious allowance of Professor Schneider, throwing lots of mugs as a fundraiser for the Art Student's Union.

FP: How do you see your art fitting in after you graduate?

ND: I am really not sure exactly what I want to do after I graduate, perhaps volunteer for a while. I don’t think I want to be a studio artist, at least not right away, because I do not think I have the discipline, but I would really like to get a job in an arts related field, one that has regular hours and a steady pay check would be ideal. I have also considered going into art restoration because it has to do with science, history and art, which are things I am passionate about.

FP: How do you see your work go? Do you have any plans, techniques, mediums you’d like to try or get into?

ND: There are always things that I want to try. For ceramics I would love to get into wood firing because I think that creates some really beautiful effects. I would also like to try glass blowing, I have done a little lampworking and I loved it, but I have never made any sort of vessels and I would really like to. I would also like to get into jewelry more. I have experimented with stone setting and silver work, but I have had very little formal training and that is something I think would really benefit my work.

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Lunch with Wyeth

by Anne McCormack

There was an array of food that sustained us through the storm that left up to 20 inches on much of Maine. We began with several pounds of salmon pink Maine shrimp, right off the boat, which we dipped in a blend of white vinegar and melted butter. Seedless crackers were drawn through garlic hummus, and then we ventured to town for crisp wood-fired brick oven pizzas. The next night, Rosey made dumplings with three dipping sauces (ginger, one with orange and garlic, and one hot and spicy) and a vegetable loaf. For lunch we delved into a cast iron Dutch oven full of pulled pork, the recipe of which follows. Serve on any time of bread or sandwich buns.

An animated films remain afterthought at Academy Awards

Jake Cowan
Staff Writer

The 2009 Academy Award Nominations were announced last Thursday with a sound no louder than a “thud.” The lackluster Oscar push of this year’s nominations left much to be desired from last years onslaught of intellectual and intriguing titles. “Slumdog Millionaire” seems to be this year’s favorite for best picture, already taking home the Best Picture award at the Golden Globe’s and the Golden Globe’s Best Picture award (Drama) along with many other accolades from around the world. I could spend this time detailing the differences between this years and last years Best Picture nominees, but you can’t blame the Academy on the quality of movies released in the past year. Instead, I’d like to focus on blaming the Academy for overlooking one of the best films of the year, Pixar’s “WALL-E,” and allocating it to a category which is not even a category. The Best Animated Feature Category was created in 2001 in order to commend the work done by animators and directors in this particular field of work. The Best Animated Short award has been given out since the 5th Academy Awards in 1932. Until 2001, feature length animated films (70 minutes or longer) were judged equally alongside live-action films - 1991’s “Beauty and the Beast” becoming the one and only animated feature ever to be nominated for Best Picture.

With the rise of CGI animation, competing distributors, and the millions and millions of dollars brought in by any new children’s CGI film, it seemed only fair to give this booming technological and money making genre its due at the Academy. What is unfair is placing “WALL-E,” one of the most critically acclaimed and celebrated films of the year, into an animated film category whose films only add to the perception that American animated films is a sandbox genre: replacing artistic merit and meaning for sight gags and loose plots in order to cater to children. Official Academy Awards rules and regulations state that any film nominated in this category is not banned from being nominated for Best Picture.

See WALL-E on page 13

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But if “Wall-E”, an intellectual, post-apocalyptic, social commentary, romantic film that can only be understood by adults, yet loved by children at the same time can’t be nominated for Best Picture, than what hope does the future of American animation have?

In 2002 Japan’s “Spirited Away” took home the award for Best Animated Feature. France was nominated in this category for “The Triplets of Belleville” in 2003, Japan again for “Howl’s Moving Castle” in 2005, and last year’s “Persepolis” marked another nomination for France. Starting in 2002, I was ecstatic to realize that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was finally taking notice for the groundbreaking techniques and complex thematic elements used in animation in other countries around the globe. Various nations, besides France and Japan, use and view animation as an art form. Not to say America doesn’t either, but it is hard to gain respect for a genre that’s normal function is to entertain children with fluff piece CGI films or teenagers and twenty-somethings with cheaply made late-night comedies (I’m looking at you Adult Swim!).

Another confusing twist in this year’s Best Animated Feature Category is Israel’s submission, “Waltz with Bashir,” a fully animated feature detailing various Israeli soldiers’ experiences in 1982’s Lebanon War. The twist here is that it was nominated for Best Animated Feature, but Best Foreign Film – no doubt a more prestigious award than Best Animated Feature. So why wasn’t “Waltz with Bashir” placed with the other animated features? And why weren’t any of the post past foreign animated films nominated for Best Foreign Film? It can’t be for lack of prestige! “Persepolis” won the Grand Jury Prize and was nominated for the Golden Palm at 2007’s Cannes Film Festival, two of the highest honors any film can receive. There is also no rule against films double-dipping in categories. In 2000, “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon” was nominated for Best Foreign Film and Best Picture, taking home the award for Best Foreign Film. So, if the fully animated film “Waltz with Bashir” is nominated for Best Foreign Film, than wouldn’t that automatically place it among the best animated pictures of the year?

The Academy needs to do something about the hypocrisy faced with Animated Features and their role in America. What’s the final kick in the pants to this story? “Wall-E” competition: Disney’s “Bolt” and Dreamworks’ “Kung Fu Panda.” Want a tidy solution to this problem? Separate the kiddie animated films from the mature animated films. An even easier solution? “Wall-E” should have been justly nominated for Best Picture of the Year.

From the sweet/milk stout category, I picked Young’s Double Chocolate Stout, which is available at most specialty stores in either 550 ml bottles or tall-nitro cans.

Those who like stouts for their residual sweetness and smooth drinking will love Young’s offering. A deep dark brew capped with a mocha colored head, this beer wafts chocolate on top of chocolate on top of roasted barley—not surprising given the beer’s name. The drinking follows suit with strong chocolate notes backed up by a real English ale quality. The roasted barley seeps through with hints of fruitiness, probably a result of an English-style yeast. Drinkability with this stout is not a problem as it is as smooth as it is chocolatey.
Dimples may be cute, but they are an inherited genetic flaw. They are caused by a fibrous band of tissue that connects the skin to an underlying bone.

For more random facts go to: mentalfloss.com/amazingfactgenerator
The USM women were busy over break. While most of us were away with family, food and drink, the Huskies were ascending the national rankings – all the way to 15th in country. But now, in the rigor of conference play the Huskies are clawing to gain traction and stop a mid-season plunge in conference play.

Coach Mike McDevitt’s squad tore through the early part of the season, amassing a 1-2-1 record with their only loss coming to a sold out Mary Hardin-Baylor squad during their winter trip to Texas. But since that start, which included wins over teams like Keene State and Bowdoin College, the Huskies have found themselves on the losing side of games against Western Connecticut, Keene State and Rhode Island College.

The recent rough patch started with a surprising loss to Rhode Island College, where the Anchormen shot their way to a 72-64 overtime victory. McDevitt calls the game a “perfect storm,” noting RIC’s uncanny ability to knock down shots.

Immediately following this upset loss, USM suffered one equally as surprising to Western Connecticut who beat the Huskies by 15 points, 66-41, a testament to the amount of parity in a conference.

“We didn’t play like ourselves, we didn’t play with expediency, against Western Connecticut,” Senior forward Nicole Paradis (Skowhegan) said. “But, keeping in line with the ups and downs during conference play, the Huskies bounced back to an authoritative win, thrashing a lesser UMass-Boston team 69-44.

This last weekend, the Huskies looked to continue their strong play against rival Keene State, who they beat handedly earlier in the season.

No such luck. The Huskies dropped yet another game - this time 66-44, sliding their conference mark to 4-3. But with a new coach and a host of new faces, the Huskies are still poised to make a run at the LEC title. If they want to achieve that goal, however, they’ll need to learn from past experiences in conference play, a sentiment that Captain Stacy Kent (Northwood, NH) has tried to instill in her teammates.

“You learn the most from your losses. We’ve learned and those losses are in the past,” the Huskies leading scorer said.

With any luck the Huskies have gleaned can help them in their upcoming games. A pleasant surprise thus far has been the offensive prowess of Kaylee Demillo (Jay), whose 13 points a game has been the perfect compliment to the well-established scoring attack of Kent and Paradis. Demillo has led the Huskies in scoring in four of the last five games, including scoring outbursts of 29 and 23 against Rhode Island College and Eastern Connecticut respectively.

USM looks to put an end to their LEC woes when they play host to Plymouth State (Tuesday) and UMass-Dartmouth (Saturday) this week.

Hang’ with Mr. Tardiff

Mike Tardiff

Let the games continue

With the economy in the toilet and the state looking to make ends meet, a conversation has arisen about the importance of sports. Though most of the discussion has focused on high school sports, no level is immune to the ill-effects of budget cuts. Sports, especially those involving student-athletes, should be spared at least a little – because of their ability to unite people and soften life’s roundhouse blows.

And by no means am I trying to conjure up images of the triumphant baseball games that were played after 9/11, complete with soaring eagles and F-15s.

No, this is a different time of year. It’s the sort of thing you might find at the Sappi paper mill or at the local grocery store.

It’s the conversations about the neighboring town’s point guard or the running back from down Portland-way.

No matter what else, sports have the unique ability to bring people together, even during times of Blackberries and Podcasts. At the high school and small college level – untainted by mass media coverage, huge revenues and greed – sports pack gymnasiums and bring people together like nothing else I can think of.

Check out the Civic Center during tournament time in February. From the smallest Maine towns like Vinalhaven, to the state’s only legitimate city, Portland, people flock to watch the thrill of watching 15 to 18 year olds compete.

And while the conversations about budget cuts don’t call for doing away with tournaments as a whole, they are asking for smaller fields and shorter seasons.

It’d be a shame if any fewer games were held. It’d be a travesty if, for even one less night in the dead of winter, two communities couldn’t be soldered together by the heat of athletic rivalry.

Yeah, maybe I’m romanticizing a purely mathematical situation. But I dare anyone to name one other instance where so many people come together to rejoice in a single thing.

And this, of course, fails to mention the unquantifiable impact of sports on young people. For it is through sports that friendships are forged, lessons are learned and younger generations ward off the unfortunate childhood obesity problem.

Ask a USM athlete sometime if they could put a price tag on all things sports. My guess is they’ll probably tell you it’s priceless. And, well, they’re right.

No matter how many dollars and cents are saved by scratching games off schedules, the losses to our state, as a whole, will throw us even more in debt, if only in a different way.
Oats, blankets and humor
Hillary Hall’s formula for success

Sarah Violette
Staff Writer

When most people attempt to do something new for the first time; whether it be playing an instrument, learning to surf, running a marathon, or jumping over a bar that stands anywhere from four to five and a half feet tall, they generally are not very adept at it. It takes time to master the skill. One must practice the technique often and be well coached enough to someday be able to Vernmont. The pamphlet tells me Castleton State Spartans from Huskies were playing the was right.

On Jan. 16, I soon discovered I out. When I went to their game. As co-captain of my own article, and consequently attend a cited at the chance to write this hockey player myself, I was ex-

Hillary Hall started high jumping on a whim, now she hopes to leap into the USM record books.

Joanna Gaube (Woodstock, CT), a Freshmen business major and current left wing for the Huskies is one of those recruits, and she says hockey was the main reason she came to USM. In total Gaube has played the sport for nine years, accrediting her brother for the reason why she started.

"I started playing hockey because my older brother plays and I wanted to be just like him and overtime I started to enjoy the game. I love the fast pace and the idea of being on a team." She also says that she has great support from her family, especially her dad who attends all games "regardless of the distance."