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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

UM system takes hit in proposed state budget

Citing weakened tax base, bill calls for more layoffs, decreased financial aid



DANIEL MACLEOD / NEWS EDITOR

UMS Chancellor Richard Pattenau testifies in Augusta before Maine lawmakers concerning the Governor's proposed appropriations bill for 2010-2011. The biennial budget calls for more sacrifices from the UMaine System.

Daniel MacLeod

News Editor

According to Governor John Baldacci's proposed budget for 2010-2011, the University of Maine System may not be able to maintain all seven campuses due to projected budget shortfalls over the next two years.

"Ultimately, the ability to maintain seven separate viable universities offering higher education could be at risk," the bill states.

But according to state senator Justin Alfond, current state law prohibits there being less than 7 college campuses.

"The idea that one of the UMaine colleges would be shutting down could not happen under Maine state law," he said.

Alfond could not say why the governor's draft implied some campuses could be at risk.

"This is being put forth by the governor and his staff... I'm not

sure what the governor is meaning by this language," he said.

The current draft of the appropriations bill projects an \$18 million shortfall for the UMaine system in 2010, and a \$28 million shortfall in 2011.

According to the bill, approximately 150-300 positions in the UMaine system may need to be cut to offset these deficits.

"Both faculty and staff at all seven universities would be affected and students would most certainly realize the impact of reduced course offerings and student services," the bill states.

Last Tuesday's public hearing at the Augusta State House provided an open forum for the public to weigh in on Baldacci's proposed 2010-2011 biennial state budget.

The hearings were conducted by joint senate committees of Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Education and

See **BUDGET** on page 4

Strategic plan released

New draft envisions very different USM by 2014

Matt Dodge

Executive Editor

The second draft of USM's strategic planning plan, "Preparing USM for the Future 2009-2014" was released on Feb 12.

The plan is a culmination of input from USM faculty, staff, and students, which lays out a vision of massive reorganization of the university's mission, and organization.

The four working groups, made up members of the USM community, were asked to consider the arenas of engaged education, interdisciplinary, access, and the "three campus, one university" nature of USM. This is part of an effort to restructure the university as a "far leaner, more focused institution" according to the strategic plan.

With the current economic downturn taking its toll on the state's tax base, the strategic plan emphasizes a paring down of USM's mission to help the university get by in time of insufficient state appropriations.

The strategic plan aims to narrow the university's focus by

identifying which programs and activities are "essential to USM's mission." However, USM's Mission Statement is currently being revised as part of the strategic planning process.

The plan is set up as a list of goals identified by the working groups, and their suggested courses of action.

These suggested goals include a "re-energized advancement effort" to be organized under the incoming Vice President for Advancement, which the university has narrowed down to three candidates.

The plan also aims to improve retention and graduation rates by developing a "student success initiative" to be lead by newly appointed Provost Kate Langdon Forhan.

Perhaps the most drastic suggestion outlined in the strategic plan is the proposal to create location-specific missions for each of USM's three campuses.

In an effort to improve proximity and access to classes, and cut down on time spent commuting between campuses, the plan envisions Gorham as the "home to

USM's residential student population."

The draft cites Gorham's athletic facilities and large number of undergrads as "instrumental in recruiting high school seniors interested in team and intramural sports."

Under the plan, Gorham would become the home of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Core curriculum, as well as applied science, engineering, and technology.

The Portland campus, home of the Muskie School, Law School, and School of Business, would become the center of professional and graduate education. With Gorham focusing its resources on undergraduate needs, Portland could be structured around upper-level education.

In addition to cutting down on time spent commuting between campuses, this restructuring would allow USM's future marketing efforts to differentiate between campuses by their academic offerings, instead of their geography.

See **STRATEGY** on page 7



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

Sophomore forward Kristi Violette (Readfield) puts up a shot last week against Rhode Island College. Violette played a pivotal role in the Huskies playoff run. Thanks to Violette's 17 points and eight rebounds per game, USM claimed their 19th conference title in 23 years.



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Politics Primer:

The Free Press guide to Obama's first address

David O'Donnell

Staff Writer

No, it was not a State of the Union Address, just a prime-time speech to both chambers of Congress that *happened* to be broadcast on all major television and radio networks.

President Obama stopped just short of uttering the staple line - "the state of the Union is strong". But how about the state of his administration, whose first few weeks were significantly rougher around the edges than anybody anticipated?

First, a string of Obama's appointments fell apart, with several nominees being exposed for sloppy tax practices (Tim Geitner, Tom Daschle, Nancy Killefer), investigated for corruption (Bill Richardson) or waking up one morning and realizing they were conservatives (Judd Gregg). All this from a team that was hyped by

the press as being super-stringent in its vetting practices.

The rest of the time, he'd been pushing a massive stimulus bill through Congress, aimed at shooting two birds with one stone: creating jobs by rebuilding the country's "crumbling infrastructure." Or, as Republicans see it, just plain killing the notion of smaller government and lower taxes.

Obama's plan (actually drafted by the House, revised by the Senate, and then haggled over by the lot of 'em) ended up allocating \$787 billion of government money to be spent over the long and short term, to create construction jobs but also finance government programs, from food stamps to health insurance to the National Endowment for the Arts.

Some of the arguments for how and why these initiatives would be a boon to the economy were abstract,

to say the least. Thus the Republican booing on Tuesday night, when Obama congratulated his bloc on passing a "recovery plan free of earmarks." While the bill didn't contain "earmarks", per say - bits of obscure spending tacked on to shore up votes - that was only because such things weren't merely tacked on. They were load-bearing elements of the structure.

But to get outraged that a president used weasel words to hype his accomplishments would be like cursing him for not appearing on TV wearing hot pants. On Tuesday night, Obama made one last case for his successful, if controversial, stimulus package, and then went on the give us a sneak peak at his new and even more ambitious plans for the national budget.

Here are some highlights and lowlights from the big night:

Change

For better or worse, Obama has turned out to be a little bolder than some predicted - this is not the second coming of Clinton. It may be the second-coming of FDR. After years of lazy spending increases against rhetoric of smaller Government, this is very motivated spending increases, mostly advertised as such.

War Change

In a major departure from one of the more irksome Bush administration practices, Obama announced that his budget would actually account for war. Bush's budgets allowed for lower spending projections by leaving out things like troops and tanks.

Loose Change

Then he goes and overprojects savings. For instance, though Obama long planned to cut back in Iraq and reverse the Bush tax cuts, the new budget measures its cost savings against a fantastical scenario in which these would have continued at current levels for a full decade.* (Observation courtesy of Slate's John Dickerson).

Transparency

President Obama dropped a new website, *recovery.gov*, which is supposed to allow citizens to track how our tax dollars are being spent. So far, it does not even remotely fit the bill - just a bunch of opaque press releases and pie charts.

Back to School

In his speech, Obama pledged that anybody willing to volunteer in their communities would get the governments' support in paying for college. Details on that may develop, but the budget makes clear that the government is moving away from subsidizing independent student loans and instead getting ready to pump more money - far more money - into Pell grants.

Learn to Stop Worrying

Obama pledged to eliminate "cold-war era weapons systems we don't use." Sounds great, but weren't a lot of those cold-war era weapons systems unused by *design*? (See *Dr. Strangelove*.)



Above: Barack Obama addresses a joint session of Congress, flanked by Vice President Joe Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Deans posts to be filled

On Feb 26, USM President Selma Botman announced on her blog "The 21st Century USM" that she will recommend two candidates for deans positions at Lewiston-Auburn College (LAC) and the College of Nursing and Health Professions (CNHP). This announcement contrasts with her previous decision to leave the positions unfilled.

Last December Botman cited the unpredictability of the economic crisis when she decided to halt the search for new deans until a "clearer path" was decided upon.

However, as a result of listening to people's concerns about the issue, on July 1st two new deans will likely become part of the USM community pending the approval of the UMaine System board of trustees.

Botman has advocated Joyce Taylor Gibson, associate professor of education at the Graduate School of Education at the

University of Massachusetts Lowell, to a dean's position at LAC. Botman describes Gibson as "a strong community leader", who is known for "backing under-represented student populations."

Judith A. Spross, a professor of nursing at USM, is being recommended as dean of CNHP. With previous experience as a clinical specialist in oncology and pain management nursing, Botman cites Spross's knowledge and background as making her an excellent candidate for the position.

To read President Botman's blog, visit <http://usm.maine.edu/pres/>

— Abigail Cuffey

Grad student gets Darwin grant

Following in the tradition of Charles Darwin 150 years ago with his groundbreaking theory of evolution, USM grad student Erik Pietrowicz is embarking on a year-long project along with scientists from around the world to promote evolutionary sciences. The results will be posted on a blog to be set up in the near future.

Pietrowicz, who is working towards a master's degree in biology, received a small grant from The Society for the Study of Evolution, whose goal is to promote the study of organic evolution in all its aspects.

Susan Ryan, a researcher at the Gulf of Maine Area - Census of Marine Life program, is working with Pietrowicz to develop a series of lectures, courses, and educational resources for a project called, "USM Celebrates Darwin." Events will be sched-

uled throughout 2009 to promote their project.

Maine's intricate coastline and diverse habitats offer researchers a rich environment to study evolutionary science. The Census of Marine Life, a global network of researchers who assess and explain the diversity, distribution, and abundance of marine life in the oceans, selected the Gulf of Maine as the ecosystem pilot study for CoML, where everything from whales to microscopic plankton are studied for their contribution to biodiversity in the ecosystem.

Results from CoML's research will be used to determine the most effective ways of managing our coastal areas in Maine and around the world. In 2010, CoML will release the first comprehensive analysis of their findings from the past to the present as well as their predictions for the future.

Eventually CoML will contribute their research data to Ocean Biogeographic Institution, an or-

ganization that provides marine biogeographic data, from all over the world, for free over the internet.

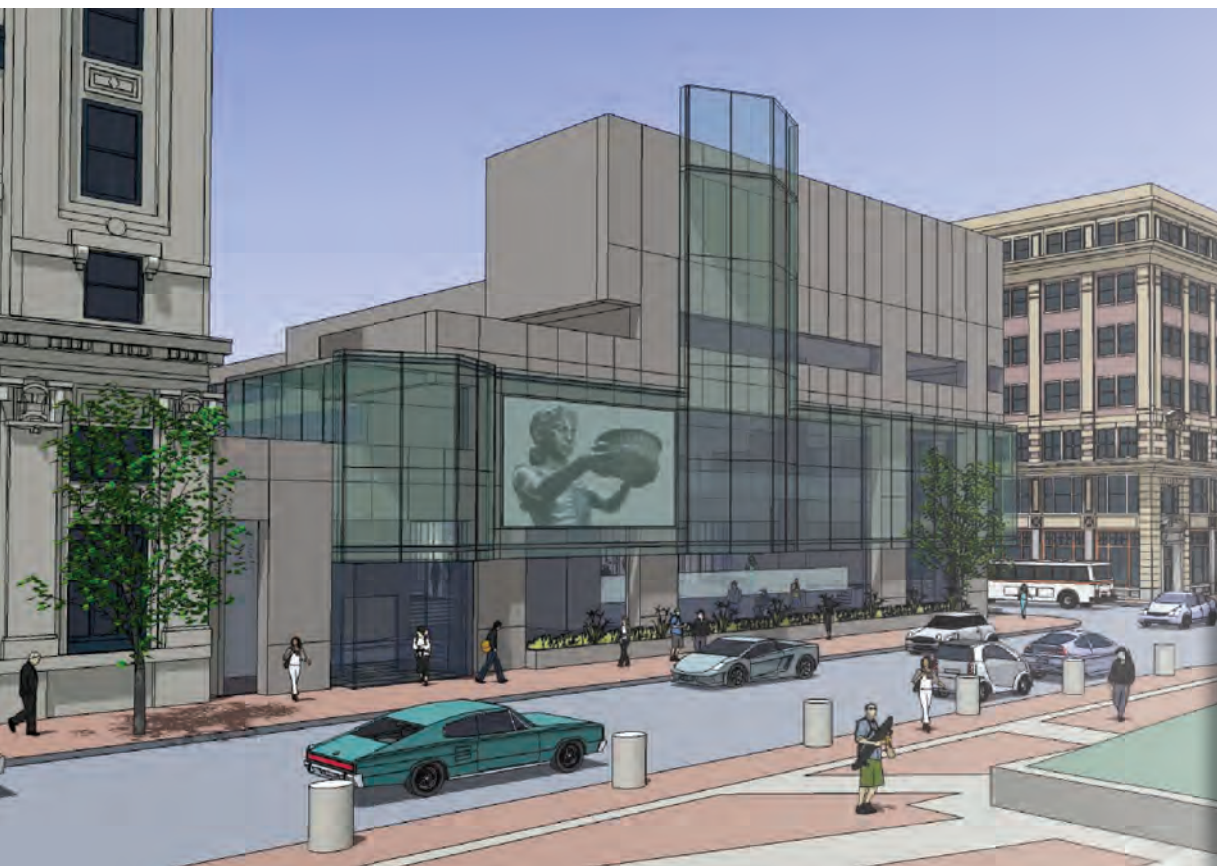
OBIS publishes data on the spatial and temporal distribution of marine species around the world. Their website gives anyone with internet access the benefit of this knowledge at no cost. OBIS believes educational and research programs will save time and money by being able to access their website.

For more information, visit: www.obis.org
<http://www.usm.maine.edu/gulfofmaine-census/>

February 12, 2009 marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his pivotal book, "On The Origin of Species." Though Darwin's theory of "natural selection" has endured much controversy, it continues to have a profound affect on science.

Portland Public Library gets facelift

Defying recession, renovations scheduled for April



Rendering of the upgrades to be done to the Portland Public Library. Rendering done by C. Michael Lewis & Scott Simons Architects.

David O'Donnell

Staff Writer

It's been a rough year for libraries.

While Glickman got a brand new facade this spring, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony to boot, it was still only a facade - the University's budget problems have sapped its acquisition and technology funds for the foreseeable future.

Venture further in-town, and you'll find a public library system that's had to grapple with layoffs and struggled to keep its locations open since last spring, after a plan to close the west end's Rieche branch unleashed a storm of epic proportions, as President Botman might say. The branch ended up getting a big reduction of its hours instead, and now even the main branch keeps its doors closed on Mondays.

But despite the recession, the public library has some fairly major bright spots in its future. Some are related - as in, why wouldn't a place that hands out free stuff thrive at a time like this?

And some are purely incidental. After years of raising funds, answering to voters, extensive planning and calling in late fees, the Portland Public Library is finally ready to start renovating its downtown headquarters.

If that doesn't do much for you, take a peak at the 30-year old structure before demolition begins on April 1.

"People have no reservations about telling us how they feel about it," says Heather Tiffany, Director of Development and Programming. "And we listen to comments - it's not safe enough, too uninviting, doesn't smell very good."

The smell and the 1970s color scheme will probably not survive a year of heavy construction, which will force most of the stacks out into a warehouse (you can still request anything) and cram the daily crowds into a single room in the basement.

Again, not a great year for libraries, but Tiffany sat down with the Free Press to talk about why she and others are looking forward to 2010.

Free Press: So this renovation has been a long time in the making.

Heather Tiffany: The bond vote for it went out in 2004. So in 2004, Portland voters granted us \$4 million, and the li-

brary agreed to raise matching funds. That's how it started - and yay, in 2009, we've got 3 million and change raised. Which is enough to legitimately start the project.

We'll keep going with the fund raising as we begin phase 1 of the construction. As we've gotten a plan finalized and it becomes more of a reality, people get excited about it again.

FP: What is the major theme of the new development?

HT: The idea is - it's a big building, which is great, but it needs a lot more usable space. In some places, there's a lot of curvy walls and alcoves and holes in the floor - things that make it hard to put books on the ground.

It's also a very uninviting building, as it stands now. We want to be respectful of the place it has in Portland and the history of Portland architecture, but we hear that a lot from the public.

FP: It's not especially politically correct, but one of the biggest complaints about any library is that it essentially becomes a homeless shelter during the day.

HT: The best thing in the world about the library is that we're the last bastion of democracy. Our job is to serve the public, so if you come in here and act right - you're going to be served. That's not going to change.

FP: Have you found yourselves designing around that at all?

HT: Well, that said, the point of much of the redesign is to lay it out so things are more safe and welcoming. In fact, we'll make every effort not to be more exclusive, but we will set it up in a way that makes everybody happier, more comfortable. People will be able to go straight to their space to do their thing.

One of the things about the way it's set up now that I think is really very bad, to get to our children's room you have to go through the main floor, down the stairs, past the public restrooms and a long, dark hallway. That's scary when you're eight years old! That kind of thing will be solved.

FP: One of the things that has floated around in many of the different plans is a cafe of some sort.

HT: There's a cafe, and this is one of those things that is split into both camps - part is funded, part is not. The cafe will be facing the street, and we will have seating right away so that you can run across the street to Zara's or the public markethouse and come right back with something to eat while you work. But the second part is the kitchen, and we're not sure about that yet - if it does happen, we would find a local company that wanted to run it.

A major idea behind this new design was to put noisy things together and quiet things together, so that everybody gets the best use. So the cafe, the public computing, teen area and the lending desk are all next to each other - those are very high-energy areas. Upstairs will be the quieter spot.

FP: Is there anything about the new layout that will be particularly welcoming to college students?

HT: In some ways, the biggest advantage we can give college students has already come - we recently implemented free wireless, and that's been a huge success.

One of the things that happens to people now is that, especially if you're not from Portland, you walk in the door and have absolutely no idea how or where to do what you need to do. You can see the confusion on their faces. Yet we have a reference desk and a collection that make it much easier to do good research and paper-writing.

I remember when I was in college my university had a horrible library - decent collection, but it was not laid out well at all. And as a result, I didn't use it nearly as much as I should have.

FP: So you've been camping out at the entrance and observing peoples' habits?

More Tantalizing New Features

Teen Center - one of the 3 new entrances to the library will drop teenagers directly into a special teen library with dedicated workspaces and computers.

Children's Library - no longer relegated to the basement, the kid's section will be on the main floor and feature a playplace, story center, and a place to stash strollers.

Open Late - The Rines Auditorium will expand by 30%, and additional meeting rooms and an art gallery will be accessible independent of the rest of the library. The new flexibility will allow parts of the library to be open for evening performances and first Friday art walks.

Hello, Times Square - One of the most glaring and yet unfunded aspects of the new plan is a giant video monitor on the Congress St. facade that will project messages and video out over Monument Square. The plan is to advertise the library and local events, but also to provide a public screening of fun things, like Presidential inaugurations, and vital information during emergencies.

HT: This is actually an area where the American Library Association and other organizations have done a lot of research. And we've held community meetings throughout the entire process - our last one is on March 4, in fact.

FP: But with more people doing their research online, you must be looking toward becoming more digitally-oriented...

HT: It's funny - in one sense, yes. Libraries have to constantly think about the way people get information, and we have to serve the needs of the public and get them whatever media they're trying to get. But in another way, and this is one way I'm impressed with the new design, is that it welcomes change. It's set up so that when things change, we'll be much able to adapt this space to however people need to use it.

I suppose if we came to a place where libraries were irrelevant, we'd have a lot to worry about.

FP: Do you see that possibility at all, with something like Google Books?

HT: Google does not believe in freedom of information and access for everybody - it's just not their priority. That is what we do, that's our mission - to make sure every single person can get what they need, art and information, to make their life what it needs to be. There are services that have aspects of that, but no replacement.

Don't stay home!

**March
2nd - 8th**

Monday, March 2nd
Fooooo!

This week might be the best week of the year in Maine. Why? Because it's Restaurant Week! All of your favorite restaurants will be serving specially priced three-course meals and holding special events all throughout Maine. This is a perfect opportunity to try that restaurant you've always wanted to go to but couldn't afford. Visit restaurantweekme.com for all participating restaurants and events.

Tuesday, March 3rd
Eat with the President!

Join USM President Selma Botman for lunch at the Woodbury Campus Center in Portland, then for Dinner at the Brooks Student Center in Gorham. Sit down with the President and let her know about your USM experience and ask her those dire questions that only the President can answer. RSVP is required. To RSVP visit: www.usm.maine.edu/pres/rsvp. Lunch in Portland: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m./ Dinner in Gorham: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4th
Ice Ice Baby!

Take a break from all those rough and tumble Portland Pirate games and see how graceful ice skating can be when the 2009 U.S. Synchronized Ice Skating Championships hit Portland from Wednesday through Saturday. That's four days to check out all the coolest moves ice skating has to offer. \$25 a day or \$60 for a four day pass/ Cumberland County Civic Center/ 1 Civic Center Square, Portland/ Visit theciviccenter.com for schedule

Thursday, March 5th
Smokin!

Do you enjoy the finer things in life? If smoking cigars and sipping wine is your bag, then head over to the Portland Harbor Hotel where premier cigar maker Davidoff will be providing the cigars to complement exquisite wines from Ravenswood and Shipyard. The two cigars are worth more than the ticket cost alone! Light appetizers will be served and a cocktail cash bar will be open. \$32.50/ 5:00 p.m./ Portland Harbor Hotel/ 468 Fore St., Portland/ portlandharborhotel.com

Friday, March 6th

Can you still feel the butterflies?

Not able to get tickets to the already sold out Jimmy Eat World "Clarity" tour? Don't fret, Jimmy Eat World is coming to Maine by way of The Minus Scale. The Minus Scale (a great band in their own right) will be transforming into Jimmy Eat World to perform songs from one of pop punk's most influential acts. Part of the Pop Punk Heroes Cover Night series. \$10/ 7:30 p.m./ The Station/ 272 St. John St., Portland/ Visit ticketmaster.com and search "The Station" for more information



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Saturday, March 7th
Ski and Board for cheap!

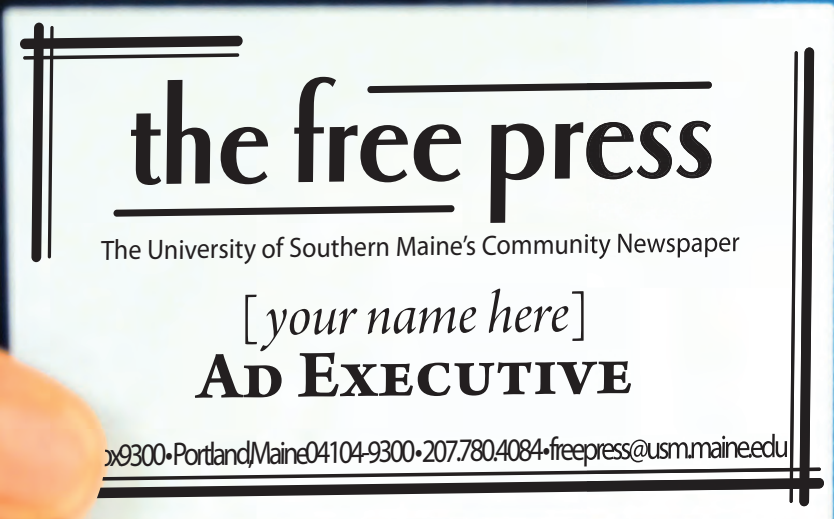
Take advantage of the recent snow storm and get some last second skiing and snowboarding in before the season ends. USM is taking the first 18 students who sign up to Sunday River for a full day on the mountain. \$35 covers unlimited lift ticket and transportation. Bus departs from Sullivan Complex in Portland at 6:15 a.m. and will return at approximately 6:45 p.m. For more info and to reserve a seat call 780-4939.

Sunday, March 8th

Dust off those snowshoes!

Get some winter exercise in by snowshoeing up and around the freshly dumped snow on Pleasant Mountain. This challenging adventure is sponsored by USM and open to all students. \$7 covers gear and transportation. Bus departs from Sullivan Complex in Portland at 8:30 a.m. and picks up at the Brooks Student Center in Gorham at 9:00 a.m. Approximate time of return is 4:00 p.m. For more info and to reserve a seat call 780-4939.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Great Lakes trio - Great story!

Thank you very much for the story about the Great Lakes Trio women's hockey story. I am the uncle of Danielle Ward, one of the players mentioned in the story. I would like to wish her and the University Of Southern Maine success as they move forward. I have been a hockey fan all my life and have played some, too. I used to be a rink rat at Munn Arena, home of the Michigan State team, when I was going there.

Larry Launstein Jr

USM day care closing

"Tough times call for tough choices."

I'd be willing to bet we've all heard that one more than once in the last few weeks. Businesses, and individuals, are having to make sacrifices they might never have dreamed of making in another kind of economic climate. I'm a pragmatist; I understand the big picture here. USM is facing a shortfall of \$2.7 million, and so cuts are going to have to be made, and I think we're all worried about where and what those cuts are going to be. All of us, that is, except those students who know that they are no longer going to be able to attend USM next year. Why? Because they're working parents or caregivers, and they no longer have daycare for their children.

I understand that the university is facing huge deficits. I also under-

stand that this crisis calls for harsh measures – at least, I understand up to a point. But let me say this: why is it that when the axe falls, it falls disproportionately on those least able to accommodate yet another burden? In a state where women were earning 76 cents to the man's dollar in 2007, why should we be making it harder for those women to get degrees that might qualify them to at least be making more of those 76 cents? I'm certainly not saying that all the students who utilized the daycare center here were mothers, but in the recession, shouldn't we be trying to make it easier for people to make enough money to feed their families? This is obviously a difficult question, and it doesn't have easy answers. But while the hard decisions are being made, our principles are even more important. Just as an individual's character is not who she is when life is easy, but who she is under pressure, so it goes for our university. Dedication to the students here isn't necessarily what happens to keep the learning core intact; it's what happens to ensure that those students who can least afford to lose that core, don't.

Kt Crossman

President, Gender Studies Student Organization

Want to be heard?
Write a letter to the
editor.

E-mail our
executive editor,
Matt Dodge
at
mdodge18@gmail.com

or go to our website

usmfreepress.org

and click on
"Letters to the
Editor"
to send us your
thoughts

A Feminist Focus

Disowning stereotypes

Taryn Yudaken

Staff Writer

When I was a kid, no one ever explained to me what feminism was.

I had in my head an idea that it was something having to do with feminine women, but that was only because of where the word sounded like it came from. I had no idea.

About a year ago I started becoming really interested in learning more about this "feminism" thing. A really strong gut feeling told me that it definitely had something to do with my life.

I took a feminist perspective class, and once I started reading the books I was hooked. I had found a subject that made complete sense to me--and I absolutely loved learning about it. The more I read the more I understood, and I knew from the start that there was no way out. I felt like a feminist from class one--and I'm almost one hundred percent sure it's going to be a lifetime dedication.

I feel most at home when I am surrounded by like-minded women-in women's studies classes, at the Women's Resource Center, and even sometimes at good old Styxx. But when I'm in more mainstream places, which is pretty much everywhere else, I frequently feel like I am the odd one out for labeling myself as someone that believes in equality. How crazy is that? As much as people say to me "Oh, I believe that everyone is equal," there is no end to their sexist, racist or homophobic jokes, which leads me to think that they might believe in a vague sense of equality, but have deeper prejudices that are incredibly hard to disown. Like most others I have these prejudices too, and just like everyone else, they are only there because they were conditioned and taught to be. Unlike many people I know

though, I very consciously try to challenge my little prejudices. When someone cracks a joke about, let's say, Jews, my first instinct is to laugh at the stereotype and brush it off. First off, I'm Jewish myself, and with the history I know, there's nothing I should be laughing about. But it's sometimes difficult to stand up and say "Hey! That's actually not funny" when everyone else is laughing. This could happen with any stereotype, and the more I learn about the damage these stereotypes cause, the easier it has become for me to point out that in fact, they are not humorous, but indirectly life-threatening to many. Because we separate ourselves so much by our backgrounds, our races, our orientations and our genders, it is so difficult for so many people to grasp that we are all humans, all created the same way, and all deserving of equal respect and rights.

All the negative connotations associated with the word "feminist" have been bothering me a lot. I have realized somewhat recently how many people I meet assume feminists are all hairy, man-hating lesbians. This is upsetting, since the whole point of feminism is equality--to drop stereotypes, and realize we're all human and we're all going to have to work together if we ever want to improve the world.

I know that sounds like a huge and vague mission, but it's really not if we're prepared to take small steps. One step for me, includes clarifying (to the best of my ability) that feminism is not about women thinking that they are superior to men. It is about feminists believing that all women and men are deserve equal rights. And feminism isn't only about defending women, it's indefinitely related to defending all minorities -- different races, classes, genders, and sexual orientations are all included in the giant fight for equality.

From **BUDGET** on page 1

Cultural Affairs. On March 2, the committees will wrap up four weeks of open hearings before going into the working session, when they will draft changes into the bill.

According to the current budget draft, Maine faces a revenue decline of \$330 million over the next two years. To counter this, the Governor proposes reducing baseline funding for higher education by \$6.3 million over the next two years.

"The same economic factors that are driving revenues down are also increasing the demand for government services," Baldacci stated in the budget's cover letter.

The diminished funding will also impact Maine state financial aid for college students. The bill proposes a curtailment of \$1.3 million in Student Financial Assistance program, through the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME).

Last Tuesday afternoon, UMF junior Colleen Morgan stood before the two joint committees and explained why the state should maintain funding for the Maine State Grant.

"If it weren't for this funding, I would certainly not be in school right now," she said.

A full time student, and mother of a four year old, Morgan cited next year's tuition increase of \$500 as being a burden she will not be able to bear if the state follows through on it's proposed cut.

"I'm already struggling to pay for school while I work 20 hours a week and take 16 credit hours of classes," she said.

Beth Bordowitz, acting CEO of the Finance Authority of Maine testified before the committees, explaining that FAME is doing everything it can to provide affordable education to Maine students given the circumstances.

"Since this program assists students who frequently are not eligible for other need-based financial aid, we are doing the best we can to maintain the same number of students as last year... by reducing the award amounts," she said.

At the same time, she concedes that even small a reduction in Maine State Grant award money has a drastic impact on students.

"We know that cost is one of the largest deterrents for students pursuing post-secondary education... even a \$200 reduction in an award amount can have a significant impact on some students," she said.

As part of Baldacci's emergency supplemental budget last November, FAME was forced to cut \$687,000 from the Student Financial Assistance program. This cut resulted in a \$60 curtailment of award money per student.

According to the draft, the slow progress the university system has made in keeping up with necessary repairs may be halted completely. Ultimately, "the condition of campus facilities would deteriorate" as a result of this backlog of deferred maintenance.

The committees credited the University of Maine System's efforts to streamline the statewide university through the proposed restructuring plan. The second draft of this initiative was released on Feb 12.

Pattenaude testified before the committees, maintaining that his office is doing all that it can to maintain services for university students.

"We understand the enormous financial challenge facing our state," he said.

"We are prepared to do our part by looking within our own organization to control costs and mitigate tuition increases."

But according to the proposed budget, the university may be forced to do more to keep its programs running.

"Tuition may be increased beyond an average 6% and/or university-based financial aid may be reduced impacting affordability," it states.

According to Appropriations and Financial Affairs committee member Richard Rosen, the bill won't be completed until sometime in April. However at that point, the state legislature will receive the new economic forecast, which could delay the bill's completion further.

"We're shooting for mid April to try to get this thing resolved, but that's another one of those things that might delay us a bit," he said.

President Obama's newly approved stimulus package remains a dim light on the horizon, though it's impact on the UMaine System is unclear, says Alford

"The reality is that we still don't know what the final numbers are going to be," he said.

According to Alford, whatever the state gets will be split up between the K-12 and higher education systems.

"That's not going to go very far when you're talking about 15 distinct campuses."

Making it official

Botman swearing in set for April

David O'Donnell

Staff Writer

July marks the one year anniversary of Selma Botman taking over as President of USM. And just two months before that, the university will finally get around to inaugurating her.

Citing a desire to beat the cold, the Presidential Inaugural Committee announced Saturday, April 25 as the day that students, faculty, and administration can join former USM president and UMS chancellor Richard Pattenaude to welcome Botman to the job she has held - some might say weathered, since last summer.

While the university is in no fiscal condition to throw a party, the Committee has raised private funds for a minimalist event slated to celebrate the financially-struggling university as much as its new figurehead.

"Dr. Botman would really love this to be a celebration of USM and our students and faculty," says Rosa Redonnett, who has led the planning committee. "What we're really trying to do is fill out the event with different things people can see or experience to get a taste for what we do here."

Planners are currently working with heads of the music and art departments, as well as organizers of the annual Thinking Matters

festival, to decide which students and projects to showcase.

The ceremony will also feature remarks from some of Botman's old colleagues from CUNY, Tufts University and UMASS Lowell. On the eve of the inauguration she and her special guests plan to attend the theater department's opening night performance of *Sylvia*, directed by senior Joelle Clingerman.

Pattenaude, who served as USM's President from 1991 until 2005, recalls his own inauguration ceremony as a vital part of his acclimation to the school. His was held at the Sullivan Gym in Gorham. Though his parents were too old to attend, organizers managed to provide a live audio feed to their home in Seattle.

"It was a wonderful and meaningful celebration," says Pattenaude, who will lead Botman's at Hannaford Lecture Hall in Portland.

The facility is already outfitted for sound and video to be fed into overflow rooms, something Redonnett expects to utilize.

While Botman has plenty of time to prepare her remarks, she's quick to note that she won't be taking the responsibility lightly.

"Inaugurations are signature events in a university's history," she writes. "It's also a way for a new president to affirm her commitment to the community and the university, to its faculty, students and staff."

From **STRATEGY** on page 1

LAC would continue its focus on interdisciplinary studies, online classes, and adult education, as one of central Maine's few institutions of higher learning.

The strategic plan is currently open for review and comment, and any suggestions submitted through March 6th will be taken into consideration for the next draft of the plan.

Next week, The Free Press will take a more in-depth look at the strategic planning process, and get reactions to the proposed changes from USM faculty, staff, and students.

Check out the second draft of USM's Strategic Plan, and offer feedback at <http://usm.maine.edu/spp/>



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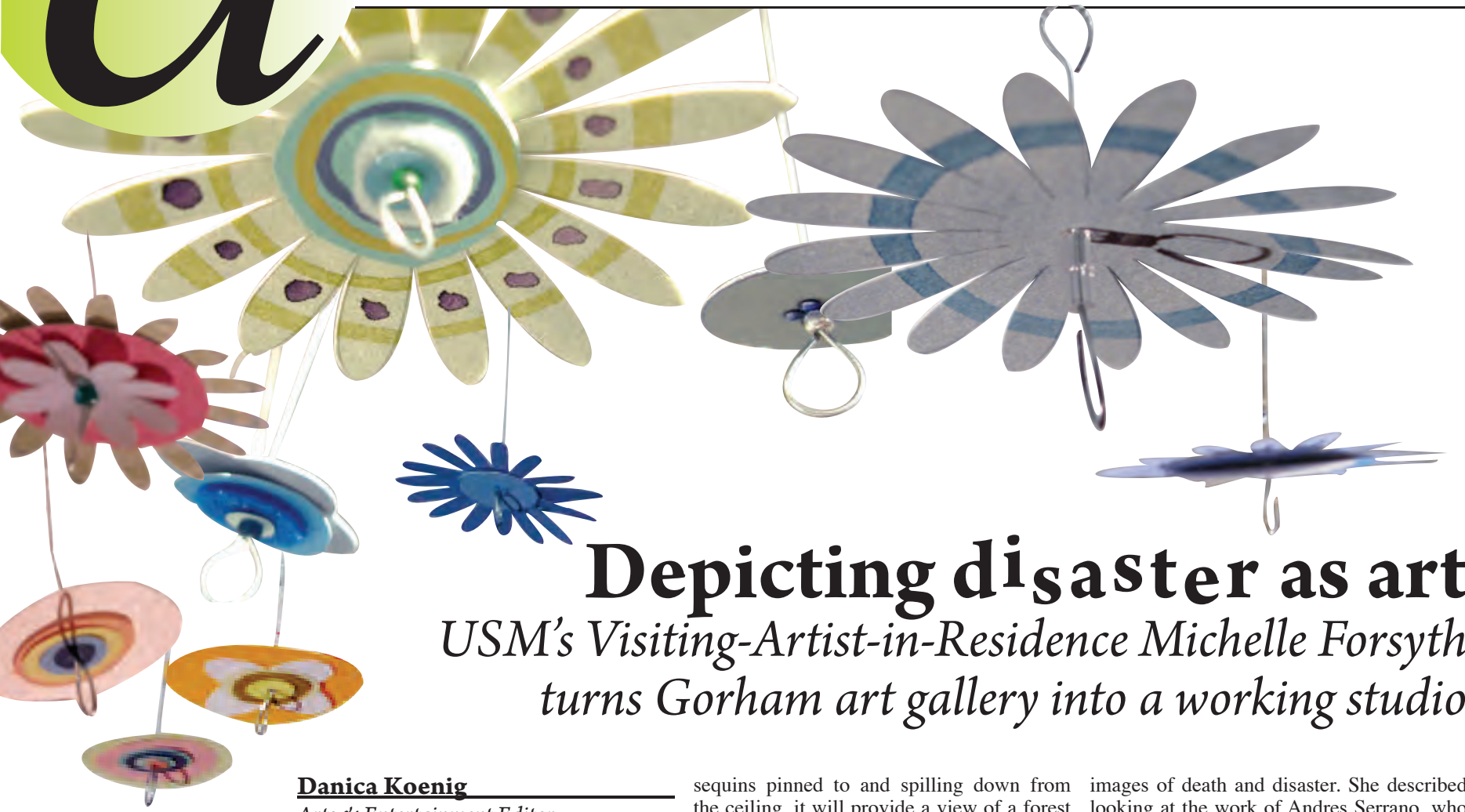


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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Depicting disaster as art USM's Visiting-Artist-in-Residence Michelle Forsyth turns Gorham art gallery into a working studio

Danica Koenig
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Below:
Michelle Forsyth working on
Canopy at the USM Gorham
art gallery, photos from www.michelleforsyth.com.

Michelle Forsyth recalls that she came face-to-face with danger at a young age; from age eight until age sixteen she lived on a sailboat every summer with her family. Forsyth recalls how every day was filled with anxiety: helping her father steer clear of rocks, battling the winds, and fear of shipwrecks. The disaster novels about shipwrecks her father left laying around didn't help ease her anxiety either. Years later this childhood anxiety and danger would transform into inspiration for her art.

Forsyth, USM's Visiting-Artist-in-Residence has turned the USM Art Gallery in Gorham into a working studio for her latest installation titled "Canopy", which she is creating with the help of USM art students. It depicts the disaster of Maine's 1947 fires. Using thousands of tiny cut out pieces of paper and

sequins pinned to and spilling down from the ceiling, it will provide a view of a forest canopy as seen from below.

Forsyth began to get interested in disaster images when she began graduate school in 2001. She began to collect clippings and images of disasters from newspapers and websites, which began to inspire her art that depicts scenes of death or destruction.

She attributes this fascination with such images back to her childhood years on the sailboat.

"When you live on a sailboat you really get a sense of nature. The vistas of these amazing waterscapes influenced my practices, as well as the idea that you are immersed in nature. A lot of my work also stems from images I see of disaster, like images from places like the New York Times and ogorish.com," said Forsyth.

She said there were many photographers who inspired her to create art from horrific

images of death and disaster. She described looking at the work of Andres Serrano, who is famous for his photographs of corpses at morgues and Izima Kaoru, a fashion photographer famous for depicting his models as if they were dead. She found herself wanting to transform these horrific images into something beautiful, into art. She began to do needlepoint and paintings based on some of these images.

Forsyth cited that one thing that has always been important to her art is the process. She was inspired early by artists who had long and complex processes to their work, such as Yayoi Kusama who often painted on nets, sometimes for 40 hours at a time without a break. Her experience has led Forsyth to take on projects that take a long time to complete.

"I am very enamored by the process of making work and I often spend a couple of months completing one project," said Forsyth.

See VAIR on page 10



Internet television on the rise

Time to turn off your TV for good

Dylan Martin

Staff Writer

With the increased original content, overall video quality and syndication of television shows from major networks, Internet television is becoming bigger than ever, and I invite you to join the revolution. Many of us know how it started. Google Video and YouTube launched in 2005, and from then on hundreds of thousands of videos have been submitted, ranging from Vlogs (video blogs) to cute animal videos to music videos of up-and-coming indie artists. Now YouTube and Google Video are two of hundreds of Internet TV sites and the number of original content has grown exponentially.

Here is an incomplete list of my favorite destinations for Internet TV and why you should definitely check them out. Readers beware: it gets a bit geeky.

This wouldn't be a legitimate list if I didn't include Hulu.com. Hulu is, very easily, your answer to cable television. The website syndicates popular television shows from channels such as Comedy Central, NBC, PBS, Fox, G4, Bravo and Disney Channel. The best thing about Hulu is that a lot of episodes are released the day after they premiere on television. It's not a bad trade-off for students and teachers who are hard at work on a week-night and aren't able to see the original airtime of Tuesday night's Daily Show. Besides The Daily Show, my favorite shows to watch on Hulu are the "Colbert Report," "Saturday Night Live," "House," "24," "The Office" and "Lost." Of course, I still prefer to watch some of these on the original airtimes due to my own obsessions ("Lost," "24"), but it's a great site to

fall back on if you can't manage to turn on the tele in time.

Next up is AdultSwim.com/Video. This is for anyone who grew up during Nickelodeon's best years with "Rocko's Modern Life," "Ren & Stimpy" and "Angry Beavers." Adult Swim has a very strong arsenal of adult-oriented cartoons (not porn, sorry), anime and other strange amalgamations involving the creativity of hysterical and bizarre people such as Tim Heidecker and Eric Wareheim (Tim and Eric Awesome Show: Great Job!). If you have a special place in your heart for outlandish humor and downright strangeness, Adult Swim is for you. My favorite shows include "Tim and Eric Awesome Show," "Robot Chicken" (stop-motion animation by Seth Green), "The Venture Bros.," "Harvey Birdman: Attorney at Law" (featuring Stephen Colbert), "Home Movies" and "Metalocalypse."

For your video game needs, GameTrailers.com has a lot to offer for fans of Nintendo, Microsoft, Sony and PC games. While it mainly features trailers and HD footage of upcoming games such as Resident Evil 5 and Killzone 2, GameTrailers has a few channels streaming original content about video games. If you remember the good ol' days of

the G4 network (what used to be a video game channel, now more like SpikeTV), you'll remember original shows such as G4TV.com, Judgement Day, Filter and Portal that were 100% dedicated to video games. GameTrailers has brought back that kind of dedication with channels like ScrewAttack, GTTV, Bonus Rounds and Retrospectives. The Angry Video Game Nerd is one of my favorite shows on the ScrewAttack channel. It features a 20-30 year old video game nerd who plays it old school and reviews rather unknown video games from the past, often to his great frustration and demise, and hilar-

ity ensues. Retrospectives is another cool channel streams special videos that look back at popular game franchises such as The Legend of Zelda, Final Fantasy and Grand Theft Auto.

Last but not least, there is Revision3.com, an Internet TV network completely dedicated to all of computer geekdom and beyond. Revision3 is one of the spiritual successors (besides TwiT.TV) to the network television channel, TechTV, that was mercilessly crushed by the hands of G4

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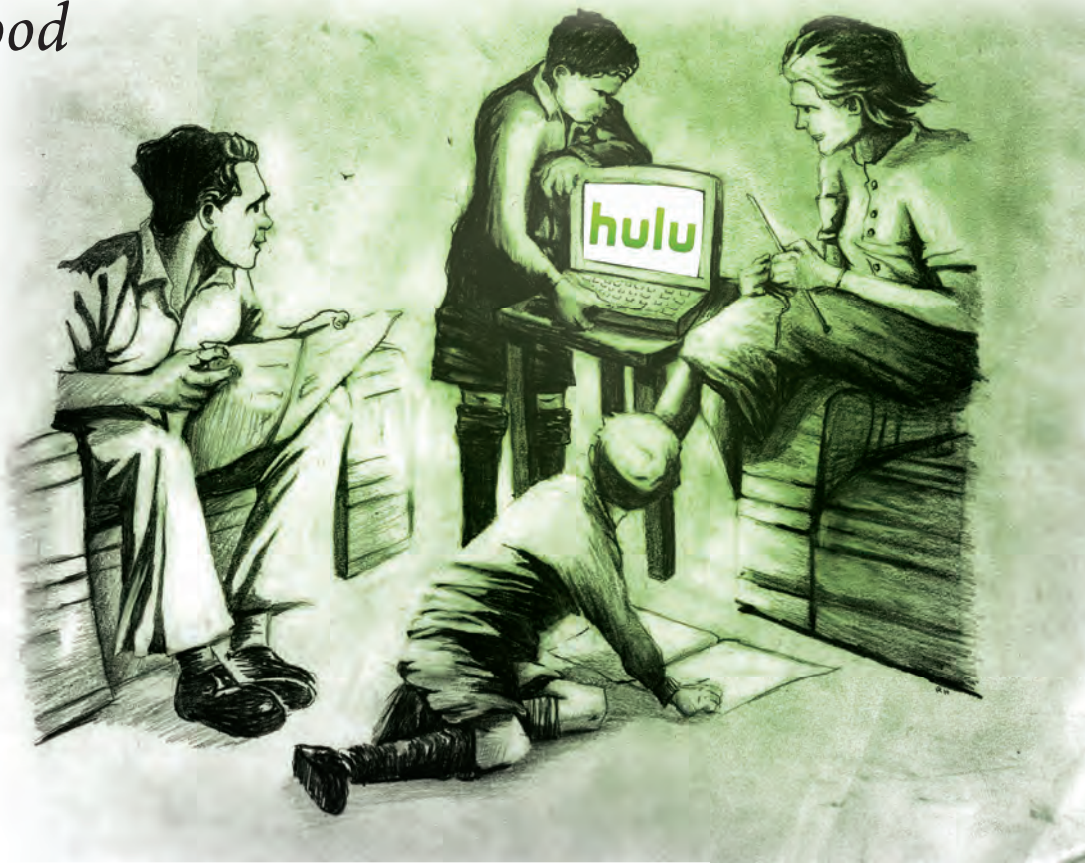


ILLUSTRATION BY

RANDY HAZELTON / PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Huak

Review of Portland-based band's new EP

Tyler Jackson

Staff Writer

Portland's post-punk quartet Huak has an incredibly agitated sound—it is loud, fast and heated. The songs take turn after turn, stop, go, stop, go and explode. They seem to be powered by some sort of schizophrenic engine over which they have no control.

Jake Lowry and Joel Glidden's guitars are jagged, crunchy and often panned to the left and right like a pair of armed guards. Stephan Hanson seems to have undertaken a role of leadership with his bass playing—his parts keeps the songs reigned in. Drummer Mike Cunnane, who also plays in the RattleSnakes, is a clever timekeeper and pounds his kit with a Keith Moon intensity.

Lowry sings with both a contained, hushed tone and a distressed scream. Glidden's background vocals are often featured in a call-and-response fashion.

It is remarkable how a quartet so frantic can remain completely

trussed together. Though Huak is all over the place, they seem familiar with every direction they take.

Lowry and Glidden work at Critical Insights, a market research polling company on Exchange Street. The company surveys the population on topics ranging from hockey equipment to heating oil, but most commonly, politics.

The 2008 election was Lowry's fourth tracking poll cycle. The nature of the work, on top of its tediousness, has inspired many Huak lyrics.

"The only time the opinion of the masses is ever referenced is once every cycle," he says.

"Stats and Demographics," from their new EP "Modicum," is the direct result of these concerns. The song begins with a jiving post-punk swagger and builds to a nervous monologue about the polling cycle.

"It's an election year/ and it feels so good to finally count again," Lowry sings.

Modicum, which was spotlessly recorded by Peapod Recordings helmsman Ron Harrity, is a suc-



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

Jake, Stefan, Joel and Mike of Huak practice in their small space off Congress St.

cinct 5-song demonstration of Huak's dark vivacity. Lowry says the EP is the most accurate representation of Huak's sound and ideas. Peapod will release it next month.

The EP's opener, "Monument" is a good example of the temporariness of the band's ideas. The song's six-second intro is im-

mediate and catchy and could rightfully be expanded into a song itself. But, as with each subsequent portion of the song, it moves on to the next thing. This economical approach—packing as many ideas as possible into three or four minutes—works well for Huak. The fleeting nature of their songs' parts illustrates

their interest in always playing something new.

The EP's big surprise is the instrumental "Secret Trees," which began as a 20-minute studio jam. Ron Harrity, whom Lowry calls a "master of Pro-Tools," cut up

See HUAK on page 11

Bringing back Burlesque:

USM student groups reintroduce Portland to Burlesque on March 12

Danica Koenig

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Burlesque performances are traditionally humorous theatrical productions, a form of musical and theater parody in which a play or other piece is adapted in an often risqué and sexual manner. Rarely are true Burlesque performances seen anymore. But on March 12 the Portland community will have the chance to see an updated Burlesque show put on by our very own USM community.

The USM Gender Studies Student Organization and Women's Resource Center will produce "Burlesque, Burlesque!" a show of skits, comedy routines, dance, and song on March 12 at One Longfellow Square, Portland.

Danielle Bernier, the secretary of the Gender Studies Student Organization in charge of finances for the show, said she expects the show to be a lot of fun.

"It will basically be a variety show, burlesque dancing, some dancers from the drag show, as well as different types of dance styles," said Bernier.

The show will demonstrate the transformation of Burlesque from its original form to today's neo-burlesque art form. This new

feminist art generally involves a larger range of performance styles- anything from drag performances to modern dance to strip teases. Neo-burlesque also gives all genders the chance to express all sorts of sexualities, as well as other experiences. Due to sexual content, this show will be 18+ only.

Bernier and others state how important they think this art form is, especially because we don't see much of it in this area.

"Burlesque is a traditional, well-respected dance style that is underrepresented in Portland. I think it is important that we as USM students add to the eclectic liveliness of Portland," said Bernier. "The aim was to bring this style back and to bring to question women's roles in history, things like that."

Some of the featured acts of the show include The Dirty Dishes Burlesque Review, Atomic Trash! Bunny Wonderland, Whistlebait Burlesque, The Kings of the Hill, The Dynamic Dictaphones, and Honey and Suckle Duvet.

Bernier said that along with adding to the cultural scene of Portland the show will help with publicity for the USM groups putting it on.

"I expect to see some great performances that will help promote diversity and encourage Portland

community members as well as the USM community to participate and support the Women and Gender studies program at USM," said Bernier.

A show like this takes the planning, organization and time of many people, such as Tori Randall, who is the main organizer of the show; Gabe Demaine, who has been a driving force for the publicity of the show, and also a mentor to the GSSO; and many others.

For Bernier and others the show is very important personally to them. Bernier said that the show is also related to what she has been studying at USM.

"I am very excited for the show," said Bernier. "It is also very important to me as a Women and Gender Studies major to put what I learn about gender and sexualities in the classroom into practice in the community."

Performances are at 7 and 9 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, at One Longfellow Square, Portland. The suggested donation for this benefit for USM's Women's Resource Center and Gender Studies Student Organization is \$8 public, \$5 students. To buy tickets, contact Longfellow Square at 761-1757, or www.onelongfellowsquare.com.

From VAIR on page 8

The images of death and destruction that she had surrounded herself with for years did at one point begin to deeply affect her so much she needed a break.

"The images of death and blood really started to affect me psychologically. I started getting really emotionally affected by my work," said Forsyth.

To cope she took a break from this subject matter and began a second body of work on a different concept to give herself a break. She began to do paintings of ocean scenery, mostly inspired from her childhood at sea.

Soon however, she found herself once again wanting to transform images of death and disaster into art.

She is currently in the middle of a project back home in her studio titled the One Hundred Drawings Project. In this series of work Forsyth decided she actually wanted to go acquire her own images to work from. She has been collecting images of disasters from the last 100 years in the US, and then she takes pilgrimages back to the disaster sites and takes her own photos. She'll then create the paintings from both images.

Out of the 100 intended paintings, so far she has documented 30 sites and completed 20 paintings. Each of the paintings in the series also has an accompanying narrative that tells the story of the disaster.

"I'm really interested in the personal stories that go along with each of the disasters," said Forsyth.

The exhibit she is working on here at USM is on the same subject as the rest of her work, but in some ways is unlike anything she has ever done. Rather than working by herself, Forsyth has had the help of USM art students in creating Canopy. She said she has thoroughly enjoyed the collaboration of the students so far.

"We'll be filling in the entire canopy by March 20th," said Forsyth.



The workspace of Forsyth in the Gorham Art Gallery.

She also states that her students have been extremely helpful and insightful; one of her students even suggested the material for the basis of canopy.

"It's nice to have that interaction with students because then I have this body of people that have this knowledge of different materials. I learn a lot about my work from students that come in," said Forsyth.

This installation is the largest piece of art Forsyth has ever done.

"It's my Mount Everest," she said.

This is also the first time Forsyth has created an exhibit with the public watching the process, rather than creating in the privacy of her own studio. So far though, she has enjoyed the challenge.

"I wanted to challenge myself and put myself out there in a way I've never done before," said Forsyth.

Visitors are welcome to come watch Michelle Forsyth work in the Gorham gallery and meet her from 1-4 p.m. on Fridays and 1-5 p.m. on Saturdays through March 20, 2009.

Canopy will be on exhibit in the Gorham art gallery through April 8, 2009.

Vagina Monologues



Performers: Emmy Raviv, Shaunice Jordan, Rachel Church, Mary Ann Benson, Desiray Roy, Aimee Chaput, Samantha Parker, Hannah Bendroth, Whitney Vinson, Erin Doyle, Kate Smith, Caitlin O'Reilly, Meredythe Lindsey, and Ava Hellewell

Taryn Yudaken

Staff Writer

Rarely do you hear the word 'vagina' spoken multiple times within a two-hour period, unless of course your profession happens to be gynecology. It is also rare for the subject of an entire performance to be about vaginas, unless of course you are talking about "The Vagina Monologues."

On Friday the lights dimmed and fourteen women took the stage in a semi-circle of girl power. The opening started with the girls talking about how they were worried about their vaginas and what to call them. Many different vagina nicknames were tossed around stage and the conclusion was that because we never really get to, women "secretly love talking about their vaginas."

"The Vagina Monologues" are not for the faint of heart. For some women there was surely embarrassment and a certain strangeness about this unexamined subject. For other women it was liberating to collectively analyze the vagina, a neglected topic of conversation.

Some of the performance was hilarious, while some was incredibly depressing. What all the words had in common was their poignant power, and their ability to stir the female soul.

The monologues performed at USM this year were about everything ranging from rape, insecurity and anger to orgasms, hair and reclaiming the word "cunt." One story was about a woman who reached the age of 72 before having her first orgasm, all due to a bad experience she had as a teenager with a guy who insulted her vagina's wetness. These kinds of stories illustrated a deeper sense of the women-hating that goes on in this world.

Most devastating were the monologues about rape. "My Vagina Was My Village," "The Little Coochi Snorcher That Could" and "Say It" were heart-breaking stories of women whose vaginas were invaded, torn apart, raped, bruised, damaged and lost in a world of hurt. In between monologues some sobering facts were shared about the rape, violence, genital mutilation and other horrors that occur around the world. In case the devastating foreign country statistics weren't shocking enough, right here in

the U.S. over 200,000 women are raped every year. And those are just the reported cases.

To balance out the pain a little there were monologues intended to make the audience laugh-which they did with great success. Some of the highlights include "My Angry Vagina," "Reclaiming Cunt" and "The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy."

"My Angry Vagina" was a sort of rant against the constricting forces society puts on vaginas--tampons, douches, and those wonderful metal tools at the dreaded gynecologist. One girl "reclaimed cunt" in a series of pleasurable screams and giggles. One of the funniest was "The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy," where one woman imitated different kinds of orgasmic moans--clit, vaginal, combo, almost, right on it, African American, Jewish, Catholic, uninhibited militant bisexual and many more, all the way to the final moan: the surprise triple orgasm moan, by which point the audience was in absolute hysterics.

The show ended on another sobering note with a very real video of women in the Congo who are being raped as a "war tactic" right now. By the end of it people were wiping their eyes again-it was incredibly moving and very depressing.

This year's V-day Spotlight Campaign is on the Democratic Republic of Congo and the femicide that is happening there right now. Hundreds of thousands of girls-from ten month old babies to 70 year old women-have been and are still being systematically raped. Our world is an atrocity, where the pain and damage put upon women everywhere is often lost, floating around in a deep, dark hole.

Despite all the intense emotions, and undoubtedly because of them too, the Vagina Monologues were absolutely amazing. All in all it was an incredible, moving and fabulous show, and if you have never seen it, next year is waiting for you!

The Vagina Monologues were written by Eve Ensler in 1996 and have been performed yearly all over the U.S. to raise awareness of violence against women, in a fight to save vaginas everywhere. All proceeds from USM's performance this year are going to the Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine.

From **HUAK** on page 9

the song and assembled a three-minute collage from its best parts. The piece is tied together by an electronic bossa nova beat and intermittent reversed guitar leads.

Last month, Huak and the RattleSnakes opened for the influential Boston post-punk band Mission of Burma at the Space Gallery. Lowry says the show, which sold out, was the best thing he's ever been a part of. The members of Huak cite Burma as a direct influence and were struck by their generosity.

"There wasn't any rock-star pretension at all, which is something I really value," Lowry says.

Huak shows are notorious for their punk rowdiness and intimacy. Lowry feels that Portland lacks enough venues for those types of performances.

"I like playing in living rooms and garages with people standing two feet from your face," Lowry says. "I want to influence people the same way I was influenced by going to shows at the Well."

The Well was an all-ages venue on Forest Avenue operated by the Salvation Army that closed its doors in 2001.

Huak's next performance is at the Empire Dine and Dance on March 20 with the Portland pop group The 500s and the rock quintet Isobell.

www.myspace.com/huak
www.peapodrecordings.com

From **TV** on page 9

execs who didn't think computer technology was an important enough subject for its own channel (ahh, anger!). While I don't watch shows on Revision3 very often, many of them do have a strong following including DiggNation (a video companion to the popular news-aggregating site Digg.com), The Totally Rad Show (a show that covers the facets of geek culture such as video games, comic books, DVD boxsets and more), and System (a DIY show that teaches the common geek how to build awesome things such as lightsabers, USB battery packs, a portable N64 and more).

There are many other internet TV sites out there such as

Oscar results

Who made bank and who went home with just a gift bag

Kaitlyn Creeny

Staff Writer

The majority of audience members usually know who is going to win before the big night goes down. However, it is always exciting when the academy decides to shake it up and shock movie buffs and critics alike.

"Slumdog Millionaire" managed to snag the Best Picture and Director Categories; this was expected if you had watched the build up before the Oscars filled with other award shows. Personally, I would have liked the voters to go for either "Milk" or "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" because it would have come from left field and made the show less predictable. However, "Slumdog" was a most worthy movie and I defend its greatness. A director who I felt was left out of the competition completely was Christopher Nolan of "The Dark Knight" phenomenon.

I narrowed it down to Sean Penn or Mickey Rourke for Best Leading Actor in a movie and was pleased that one of them received the title. Although Rourke's struggles in life and Hollywood

mirror his performance in "The Wrestler," perhaps giving him the statue would have been too predictable. So I respect the final decision, except for the fact that Clint Eastwood for the throwback badass film "Gran Torino" was noticeably absent.

Kate Winslet's award for Best Actress and Heath Ledger's posthumous Best Supporting Actor were conclusive long ago, so no shock there. Thankfully, Penelope Cruz won the Supporting Actress division. I say thankfully because her performance was so emotionally raw and courageous for a Latin-American woman, an ethnicity that the Oscars usually choose to ignore, no matter how masterful the execution.

"Wall-E" winning was expected. However, the believed shoe-in for Best Foreign Film, the animated "Waltz With Bashir" lost to the seemingly unknown "Departures from Japan." My second runner was France's "The Class," therefore this shocker made little sense to me and possibly a lot of others.

"Frost/Nixon" and "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" had the worst luck.

Typically the Oscar only nominates about seven movies, and they take up numerous spots on the voting ballot. Personally I would have nixed "Frost/Nixon" from the competition early on for being far too overrated, which the voters ended up doing for me. Ron Howard's "political force to be reckoned with" managed to win a total of zero golden men. "Benjamin Button," did slightly better with a threesome of Oscar men. However, all its awards had to do with the visual effects (Best Makeup, Visual Effects, and Art Direction).

The predictable Oscars seemed to follow the continual pattern of generations before them- relying on previous award shows to select their front runner and follow through, unless they want to mix in something outrageous. Little-known movies rarely win, but if they do they win big. Release dates can either kill or revitalize a movie. And lastly, the names behind the movie are what count the most.

Now moving on to the host of the Oscars. Sexiest Man Alive/X-Men elite Wolverine was terrific in my opinion. How could you hate

his multi-tasking charming opening and strong follow-through for the rest of the night? You could tell he was genuinely thrilled to be hosting, which is an element most hosts lack. Switching it up from stale comedians to a movie star with an edge was a daring move for both the Oscars and Jackman and made them both winners in their own sense.

With no golden stud to take home, at least the elite of Hollywood had a pricy grab bag of goodies to soak up their tears. Due to the economic crisis that certainly hasn't inhibited these celebrities so far, price reduction was evident to even their eyes on Oscar night. Cubic zirconia jewelry was given instead of diamonds, and charity was even mentioned. However, the repeated "recession setbacks" must not have included ten thousand dollar exercise machines, ultra costly sunglasses, European handbags, "detox juice," and couture clothes. It's nice to see that you can never lose when you're in Hollywood!

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The competition heats up

WMPG holds fourteenth annual Cajun Cookin' Challenge



MATT DODGE / EXECUTIVE EDITOR



ARTHUR PAGE / STAFF WRITER

Top Left: Chef Jeff of Whole Foods Market ladles out some seafood gumbo. Top Right: Looking to get burned, members of the USM community pack the Woodbury Campus Center for the Cajun Cookin' Challenge. Right: Colleen Kelley serves up a spicy dish from her Washington Ave. restaurant, Silly's.

Matt Dodge

Executive Editor

USM's menu got some local flavor peppered into the mix on Tuesday when WMPG held their 14th annual Cajun Cookin' Challenge.

The familiar strains of New Orleans jazz, and dangling strands of beads brought out the "Fat Tuesday" atmosphere, and the spicy dishes warmed up a student body in the thick of a Maine winter.

Chefs from some of Portland's favorite eateries, and a lone amateur, cascaded upon the Woodbury Campus Center, spice racks in tow, to compete for the title of Cajun Cookin' Champ, and raise money for WMPG.

Back-to-back champions Bayou Kitchen brought the heat with their spicy gumbo, and won style points for their glistening ice carving bearing the restaurant's name. "I liked Bayou Kitchen's" said one discriminating pallet "it started spicy, and got to be kind of sweet."

Forest Ave favorite The Great Lost Bear returned for their third

year competing in the Challenge. With a table featuring a jackolope festooned with an impressive collection of beads, the chefs offered up a seafood gumbo, along with GLB's signature dirty rice and beans.

Chowders are a regular menu item at GLB, and the spiced up gumbo put a N'awlins flair on a New England classic.

"It's nice to be part of things like this in the community" said Chef Dough MacConnell Jr, who likes to pair his spicy food with a Long Trail Ale.

WMPG Station Manager Jim Rand was a standout in the amateur competition. His "Land of the Lost" jambalaya, named after his weekly radio show, was the lone entry in the category, and took home the trophy for the fourth year in a row.

Aramark's spicy pork was a surprise favorite among the crowd, featuring a chili-laced kick that many thought was sorely missing among some of the other entries. "It was the only spicy one," agreed USM student John Wise Jr.

First year competitor Silly's Restaurant seemed undaunted by the Cookin' Challenge, and added another dimension to the cook-off by serving up a vegan Cajun item.

"We try to cater to different dietary needs," said Silly's owner Colleen Kelley, who ended up walking away with the Challenge's top prize for best Cajun dish.

Chef Jeff from the Whole Foods Market ladled out the seafood gumbo and described the recipe as "a real team effort" from the Whole Foods team.

"We asked every store department for input," said Chef Jeff "one employee had even lived in New Orleans for a while."

Meanwhile, Whole Foods' Barbara Gulino educated tasters on the Canadian roots of the Cajun culture.

The Cajun culture might be most commonly associated with the bayous of Louisiana, but it can actually trace its roots to the groups of exiled French-speaking settlers of Southeastern corner of what is now Canada.



MATT DODGE / EXECUTIVE EDITOR

With this lineage in mind, the Whole Foods team came up with a recipe featuring fresh Maine shrimp, and nitrate-free sausage.

The Fat Tuesday festivities continues that night with Sylvain and the Cajun Aces at the Empire Dine and Dance from nine until Ash Wednesday rolled in.



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Contact Executive Editor, Matt Dodge
mdodge18@gmail.com



GET OUT!

by Brandon McKenney

Daydreaming for spring

Unless you really like hitting the slopes, this winter hasn't been that great for you. These large snowstorms have made activities like winter cycling, running, and pond hockey almost impossible at times. After our last big storm I found myself struggling to get outside, and as this past weekend rolled around I realized I had nothing for this week's "Get Out!" column. Sure, I had run some errands around town on my bike, and I'd walked to class, but other than that I had spent most of the week inside toiling away at school work. I almost bailed on this week's column, but I think now is a great time to talk about setting goals for the summer.

The transition from winter to spring is the worst part of the year in my opinion. You're sick and tired of all the problems that come with winter and you just want spring to show itself. Not to mention you've got that pessimistic groundhog telling you to button up for a bit longer. While this time of year may not be great for actually getting out and having some fun, it's perfect for preparing to enjoy your spring and summer to the fullest extent possible.

The best way to set your goals is to write down a summer bucket list. Hiking is always on the top for me, and this summer will be

no different. I have yet to get up north to hike Katahdin, but this year I plan to make the trip. I've also put down the goal of hitting as many 4k foot peaks as I can. Also on the list is my first time participating in the Trek Across Maine, a 3 day, 180 mile bike ride from Newry to Belfast. Kayaking, rope swings, camping, and running are all on there as well, along with a few top-secret trips that have been in the works for a few years.

Along with creating a summer bucket list, I'd recommend taking the next few weeks to get your gear in order for whatever you plan on doing. Now is a great time to get that bicycle tuned up for the bare pavement, or make sure your hiking boots are up to the task of whatever peaks you throw at them. Being fully prepared for the summer will make checking off as many goals as possible all that much easier.

And while it may look bleak outside as I write this, with another foot of snow expected to come tonight, I'm still optimistic that groundhog was wrong. I for one am going to be ready for the summer months, even if I have to daydream the time away until they come.

Husky Highlights

WRESTLING

Morin defends 165-pound title, garners second rank nationally

Junior tri-captain Mike Morin (Fryeburg) was selected as the number-two ranked wrestler in the 165-pound weight class in the final edition of the d3wrestling.com national rankings. This ranking comes after Morin punched his ticket the National Championships for the second consecutive year by capturing the New England Wrestling Association title for his weight class.

BASEBALL

Baseball picked to win LEC in coaches' poll

Little East Conference coaches picked Ed Flaherty's Huskies as the team to beat in this year's pre-season coaches poll. The Huskies, who will be led this season by seniors Anthony D'Alfonso (Westbrook) and Chris Burleson (Portland), received five first

place votes and netted 61 total points. Conference foe Eastern Connecticut was second in the poll with two first place votes and 55 points total.

MEN'S INDOOR TRACK

Even, Vigeant set school records

Freshmen Tim Even (Stoneham) and Justin Vigeant (Wells) of the men's indoor track and field team both set school records in the first day of competition at the New England Intercollegiate Amateur Athletic Association (NEIcAAA) Championships. Even's record-breaking performance came in the 800-meter heat where he blazed along the banked track en route to a time of 1 minute, 55.31 seconds, besting the previous record of 1 minute, 55.22 seconds. Vigeant then broke the school's 200-meter record with a time of 22.47 seconds, which beat the previous mark of 22.68 seconds by .21 seconds, led by AJ Marden (Victory, VT), who won the event.

HANGIN' WITH MR. TARDIFF

by Mike Tardiff

College coaches earn their keep

When UConn men's basketball coach Jim Calhoun was pestered by a freelance journalist about his \$1.6 million salary he bluntly responded "Not a dime back."

In a video clip that's circulated around the internet and raises the ire of sports fans and political activists alike, Calhoun berates the journalist for being stupid.

Calhoun's blow-up, coupled with a sagging economy raises more universal question: how much are these coaches really worth?

My answer: every dime.

As Calhoun made it clear in his quasi-interview, his team is responsible for attracting over \$12 million to the state: a figure I think is quite conservative, but nonetheless demonstrates his value to the university.

In pure economic terms, then, the return on the state's investment (e.g. Calhoun) is something

to marvel, especially in these economic times.

Calhoun has almost single-handedly built UConn into a perennial powerhouse, giving the people of Connecticut something to cheer about.

This is not to mention the fact that Calhoun won his 800th career game, moving him into the pantheon of college coaches who have done so.

But does any number of wins translate into a massive, multi-year contract?

What if we extrapolate this situation to Maine where among the highest paid state officials sit some coaches in the UMaine System.

Is it okay, in a state where last year not a single sports program had a winning season at the Div. I level, to pay a coach over \$100k?

Absolutely.

While Tim Whitehead cashes in roughly a tenth of his counterparts in Connecticut (\$160,000) in base-salary, he's still making a hefty sum – twice as much as Governor John Baldacci, in fact.

And while some might question the virtues of such a discrepancy, Whitehead's impact to the UMaine campus is undeniable. Take hockey away from UMaine and what is there left to cheer for at a national level? The Engineering program? I don't think so.

The figures aren't readily available as to how much Black Bear hockey yields for the University, but when everything's taken into account, I'm sure it's more than enough to cover Whitehead's salary. After royalties, ticket sales, increases in enrollment and everything else, the cost of keep-

See TARDIFF on page 14

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Courtesy of USM athletics

Huskies fall to top-seed

Men's basketball fails to advance

The USM men's basketball team became Rhode Island College's 13th consecutive victim as the Anchormen handled the Huskies 73-57 in Little East Conference first round action.

The 13th-ranked Anchormen led wire to wire, ending the Huskies season and upset bid.

RIC coach Bob Walsh credited his team's first-half defensive effort for sparking the team's win.

"Our half-court defense really took their will away," he said.

The Anchormen dominated USM over the first 6:10 of the game, holding the Huskies without a point, in effect setting the tone for the remainder of the contest.

Freshman Sean Bergeron (Kennebunk) did his best to keep

the Huskies in the game. His basket with 9:27 remaining in the half notched Huskies back to within nine points, 18-9.

However, RIC was not to be denied as they reeled off a 19-6 run and built a 37-15 half-time lead.

Bergeron spearheaded another run late in the second-half with a three-pointer that closed the gap to 61-49 with 2:45 remaining. But the 11-0 run was not enough as the Anchormen made their free throws down the stretch.

Bergeron led all scorers on the night with 21 points on 8-for-12 shooting from the field.

The Huskies finish their season with a 5-21 mark overall and 2-12 standing in the conference

New England College nabs USM in overtime

Huskies' season ends on sour note

Unbeaten in their six previous overtime contests, the USM men's hockey team fell victim to the law of probabilities, losing 4-3 to New England College on Saturday in ECAC tournament action.

The Huskies allowed a goal at the 5:29 mark in the extra period to end their season.

USM came out of the gate with no signs of letting NEC end their season, jumping out to a 2-0 first period lead thanks to goals from junior Christ Travis (Scituate, MA) and Josh Giordani (Quincy, MA). But the Pilgrims chipped into the Huskies' early lead before the end of the first period with a goal at the 16:34 mark.

NEC tied the game on a power-play goal at the 14:29 mark in the

second, which made for an exciting finish.

Freshman Dan Rautenburg (Cape Elizabeth) notched an unassisted goal with 8:45 remaining in the contest. But his efforts wouldn't be enough as the Pilgrims netted the next two goals of the contest en route to the win and a chance to host the remainder of the ECAC tournament – a seeming improbability to start, since the top three seeds in the conference all fell in early round action on Saturday.

The Huskies finished their season 11-12-3 overall and 8-8-3 in ECAC action.

Senior goalie Jamie Gilbert (Lewiston) finished his career with a 30-save performance.

Women's hockey headed to semis

Team earns first bid since 2003

Sophomore Amanda Shorey (Ayer, MA) tallied two goals in the first period to give the USM women's hockey team all the firepower they needed to advance to the ECAC semi-finals with a 3-0 win over New England College in Gorham.

Shorey's efforts coupled with a shut-out by freshman goalie Kristen Gresko (Phoenix, AZ) proved to be the winning formula for the Huskies who advance to their first semi-final in six years.

The sophomore's two goals came within 3:08 of each other in the latter stages of the first period and helped the Huskies end their

two-game losing skid. The goals were Shorey's third and fourth of the season.

Sophomore Mary Vaughn (Brunswick) added the proverbial cherry on top with a late-third-period power play goal.

Gresko's efforts in goal were buttressed by a strong defensive effort by the Huskies who made timely clears and limited the Pilgrims to just 18 shots on goal.

Freshman Katie Paradis (Rochester, NH) racked two assists for Huskies.

The win improves the Huskies to a 14-8-4 mark on the season.

SCOREBOARD (2/13 - 2/28)

Men's Basketball

	2/14	
Rhode Island College		USM
86		72
	2/17	
Plymouth State		USM
71		47
	2/21	
USM		Western Connecticut
88		72
	2/24	
Rhode Island College		USM
73		57

Women's Basketball

	2/14	
USM		Rhode Island College
71		56
	2/17	
USM		Plymouth State
74		66
	2/21	
Western Connecticut		USM
62		59
	2/24	
USM		Rhode Island College
61		49
	2/28	
USM		Western Connecticut
56		41
	2/28	
USM		Eastern Connecticut
64		59

Women's Ice Hockey

	2/13	
USM		Nichols
4		1
	2/14	
USM		UMass Boston
1		0
	2/20	
Salve Regina		USM
3		2
	2/21	
Holy Cross		USM
3		1
	2/28	
USM		New England College
3		0

Men's Ice Hockey

	2/13	
Connecticut College		USM
3		2
	2/14	
USM		Tufts
5		5
	2/20	
USM		New England College
2		2
	2/21	
USM		St. Anselm
4		3
	2/28	
New England College		USM
4		3

Upcoming Games

March 6

Wrestling NCAA Division III Championships @ Coe College 11 a.m.

Men's Ice Hockey ECAC Semifinals @ TBA

Men's Indoor Track ECAC Division III Championships @ Tufts time TBA

Women's Indoor Track ECAC Division III Championships @ Tufts time TBA

March 7

Baseball @ SUNY - Farmingdale 10 a.m.

Men's Indoor Track ECAC Division III Championships @ Tufts time TBA

Women's Indoor Track ECAC Division III Championships @ Tufts time TBA

Men's Ice Hockey ECAC Championship @ TBA

Women's Ice Hockey ECAC Semifinals @ TBA

Wrestling NCAA Division III Championships @ Coe College time TBA

March 8

Women's Ice Hockey ECAC Championship @ TBA

Baseball Suffolk @ Farmingdale, NY 10 a.m.

From **TARDIFF** on page 13

ing Whitehead around becomes more palatable.

It's a given, however, that Whitehead's success has yet to come close to his predecessor Shawn Walsh's. But those are mighty large penny loafers to step into.

Whitehead's salary is probably the easiest to justify.

Looking down the line of coaches, there are others who fit into the six-figure bracket. Jack Cosgrove, UMaine's football coach and Cindy Blodgett of the women's hoops team both have base salaries in excess of \$100,000.

With the women's hoops team in the toilet, it's getting harder and harder to make a strong defense for Blodgett's salary.

Nevertheless, her revitalizing quality cannot be understated. With her presence alone she's piqued people's interest in women's basketball. Plus, it takes time to rebuild a program that has been, in recent years, a revolving door.

As for Cosgrove, his salary merely reflects the league in which he plays. The Colonial Athletic Conference is arguably the best league in the entire Football Champion Subdivision (FCS), formerly D-I AA. Cosgrove has to compete with powerhouse football schools like Delaware and Appalachian State on a regular basis for players and resources.

In the end, college coaches do make a lot of money. But, like everything in the world, if their value weren't worth the initial investment, then they'd probably not be around very long.

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Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 thru 9.

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

RANDOM FACT!

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Newsday Crossword

CRITTER CLAMOR by Gail Grabowski

Edited by Stanley Newman

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Biology and chemistry: Abbr.
 - 5 Grade-school basics
 - 9 Sheriff's group
 - 14 Constructed
 - 15 "Spoiled" tot
 - 16 Take place
 - 17 Poker payment
 - 18 Org. for those 50+
 - 19 Weighing device
 - 20 Warehouse area for trucks
 - 23 Biblical boat
 - 24 Handed-down tale
 - 25 Poke fun at
 - 27 Had control of the wheel
 - 30 Aspen head covering
 - 33 Venomous snake
 - 36 Military opponent
 - 38 Major blood vessel
 - 39 Wild animal's home
 - 41 Even score
 - 42 Christmas song
 - 43 Called balls and strikes
 - 45 "Bedtime" tale
 - 48 Itsy-bitsy
 - 49 Make untidy
 - 51 Take an oath
 - 53 Repeat exactly
 - 55 Light currents of air
 - 59 Young bear
 - 60 Chocolate-and-nut candy
 - 63 Appears to be

- 65 Prefix for dynamic
- 66 Jeans color
- 67 Not frilly
- 68 File-folder features
- 69 "Now it's clear!"
- 70 Send an invitation for
- 71 "So what ___ is new?"
- 72 Midterm or final

- 8 Mar. 17 honoree
- 9 Opposite of neg.
- 10 Special event
- 11 Cornfield guard
- 12 Pout
- 13 Before, in poems
- 21 Memo starter
- 22 "By all means!"
- 26 Abbr. on a "Wanted" poster
- 28 Dog docs
- 29 Gives off
- 31 Suit to ___
- 32 Lacking color
- 33 College grad
- 34 Identical
- 35 Twerp
- 37 "That hurts!"
- 40 Send again, as an application

- 44 Twosome
- 46 Rudolph's prominent feature
- 47 Three-foot measure
- 50 School-support org.
- 52 Cottontail
- 54 Make happy
- 56 Quiz answer
- 57 Some quiz answers
- 58 Clay-pigeon sport
- 59 Cartoon frames
- 61 Dinner, for one
- 62 Spheres
- 63 Resort with hot springs
- 64 ___-cone (summer treat)

DOWN

- 1 Itsy-bitsy
- 2 Kayak kin
- 3 Luggage attachment
- 4 Like some rye bread
- 5 Run out on
- 6 Boast
- 7 Dietary starch, for short

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	
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17					18					19					
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				53				54		55			56	57	58
				59				60		61	62				
63					64		65						66		
67							68						69		
70								71						72	

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- Speaker must be a graduating student, eligible to participate in commencement and have no more than 9 credit hours to complete at the end of the 2009 spring semester.
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- One speech per graduating student may be submitted.
- Two students may collaborate on a speech, but only one student will be permitted to deliver the speech and sit on the commencement stage.
- Speech should be addressed to the University community in general, including traditional and non-traditional students, family members, guests, faculty and staff.
- It is suggested that the speech reflect the student's experience as a member of the University community.
- Selection is based on quality, originality of content and oral presentation.

Presentation Requirement:

- **One or more selections from all entries will be orally presented before the selection committee on Wed., April 8th from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in Rm. 423-24 Glickman Library, Portland Campus.**
*If you submit a speech, please block out this time on your schedule. You will be notified by April 1st if you will be invited to present before the committee.

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Friday, March 13, 2009, 4:00 p.m.

Please return (or fax: 228-8210) cover sheet and speech text to:

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- The selected speaker will be honored with a University of Southern Maine Chair with engraved name plate graciously donated by the USM Alumni Association.
- For any writing assistance, you are encouraged to contact the Portland Learning Center, 253 Luther Bonney Hall; or Gorham Learning Center, Costello Sports Complex

Some things never change

USM women claim LEC title, advance to NCAA's

Sarah Violette

Staff Writer

The USM women's basketball team continued to be the model of consistency, claiming their 19th Little East Conference Championship in 23 years on Saturday.

Despite a coaching change in September, a slew of new faces and a rocky stretch in conference play, the Huskies were able to defeat Rhode Island College, Western Connecticut and Eastern Connecticut in a span of five days to capture the crown and an automatic bid to the national title.

The third-seeded USM team started their tournament with a 61-49 win over Rhode Island College in Gorham before heading to Eastern Connecticut for the balance of the tournament. There they picked up a 56-51 win over Western Connecticut before downing top-seeded Eastern Connecticut in the final game 64-59.

In the championship:

USM held Eastern Connecticut scoreless over the last two minutes and junior Nicole Paradis (Skowhegan) and sophomore Kaylie Demillo (Jay) sank three pointers to up-end an Eastern Connecticut comeback bid.

The Huskies led most of the second-half, but with three minutes to go the Warriors parlayed a jump-shot and two free throws into a 59-56 lead. But the Huskies stingy defense forced the Warriors to miss their final four shots of the game and forced them to foul.

Senior Stacey Kent paced the Huskies with 15 points on 5-for-8 shooting while Demillo finished with 14 points, five rebounds, two assists and three steals.

Sophomore forward Kristi Violette finished off an impressive LEC tournament with 12 points and seven rebounds of her own.

The win gave the Huskies a 2-1 season series advantage over the Warriors after splitting the regular season series.

In the semi-finals:

Trailing by 11 points midway through the second-half, USM ratcheted up their defensive effort and made 10-of-11 free throws en route to a massive run and a spot in the LEC championship game. Over that stretch, the Huskies held Western Connecticut to 1-of-8 shooting and forced eight turnovers during that stretch.

The Huskies, who shot a dismal 35.7 percent from the floor, used remarkably efficiency free-throw shooting (24-of-33) to overcome their offensive woes.

Violette had a monster game for the Huskies, netting a career-

high 22 points and ripping down eight boards. Violette led the USM effort at the charity stripe with a 10-for-11 effort.

The Huskies forced 26 Colonial turnovers and total and held a previously red-hot Eastern Connecticut squad to 7-of-22 shooting (31.8 percent) during the second-half.

Sophomore forward Kristi Violette (Readfield) paced the Huskies over the three game stretch, averaging 17 points and 8 rebounds.

In the first round:

The Huskies controlled the boards and utilized a patient offense to come away with a 61-49 win over the sixth-seeded Rhode Island College Anchorwomen to advance to the semi-finals.

USM took the wind out of RIC's sails after the Anchorwomen climbed to within three points with 7:30 remaining in the game. It was at that point freshman guard Nicole Garland (Portland) drained a three pointer from the corner, which sparked an 11-2 run down the stretch.

Violette led the Huskies with her ninth career double-double, leading the team with 17 points and 10 rebounds on the night.

After an inauspicious first five minutes where the teams traded baskets, the Huskies took temporary control.

Both Violette and Kent combined for a total of 21 points in the first half alone, with Kent sinking three crucial three pointers and Violette going 5-for-6 in the paint with two free throws.

The resilient Anchorwomen clawed their way back, though, and went on an 8-0 run of their own to make the score 27-22 at the half.

USM remained calm despite RIC's stealthy comeback and continued to play a patient game, waiting for their opportunities to arise rather than forcing them.

"We were playing a junk defense; a triangle and two for most of the game," McDevitt said.

"We really had to improvise and just make the right read. I thought we did a good job of hitting the

open player and then deciding where we should go next. Instead of having the luxury of running a structured offense we had to think on our feet a little bit and hopefully take a good shot."

The Huskies came back with a strong second half, committing only two turnovers and dominating the boards with 27 rebounds.

As the game winded down, lone Senior Stacey Kent seemed to breathe a sigh a relief as she celebrated with her teammates.

"It is a different feeling for me to know that if we lose this game then that's it," Kent explained. "Today I decided to forget about that thought and just play."

This relaxed state of mind seemed to work to her advantage as she finished with 16 points, including four

critical three pointers that caused major momentum shifts.

"We know when its crunch time, we've got to get it done," Kent said.

The win was the Huskies' 20th of the season, marking the 29th season in a row the squad has reached the mark. The streak spans three coaches from the legendary tandem of Doc Costello and Gary Fifield to the newest member of the club, McDevitt.

As a whole:

Violette's finished the tournament averaging 17 points and eight boards per contest, while Kent chipped in with 12 points a night.

But it was the Huskies powerful defensive stands, solid free throw shooting and timely three point baskets that proved to be the winning formula.

The Huskies will look to continue their winning ways in the national tournament.



Freshman guard Renee Nicholas (Sebago) dribbles by Rhode Island College defenders. Nicholas and the Huskies beat the Anchorwomen 61-49 en route to a berth in the semi-finals. USM won the LEC title.

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