

the free press

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

IN THE RED...

USM projects \$4.3 million deficit for 2010

Daniel MacLeod
News Editor

At last Tuesday's "Town Meeting" held in Gorham, USM President Selma Botman announced that the university's budget for 2010 is already projected to be \$4.3 million in the red.

This deficit may end up being larger if tuition from this year's summer session doesn't bring in \$3.9 million in revenue, Botman said.

"We don't know where the \$4.3 million [in] cuts will come from, but we do know that they will be very hard," she told the

nearly 100 people assembled in Hastings Formal Lounge.

Originally slated to be delivered on all three campuses, Monday's scheduled event in Portland was canceled due to the weather. The meeting has been rescheduled for March 11 at 3 p.m in the Hannaford Lecture Hall.

Botman cited the 2.7 percent decrease in next years pending state appropriations budget as being a prime cause of the budgetary gap.

USM's share of lost income from the University of Maine System's investments account for an additional \$1 million, accord-

ing to a printout distributed at the meeting.

Botman said that the university has no plans to cut additional jobs, though she stresses that current projections for the coming year could change.

"Although we do not anticipate any layoffs in [fiscal year] 2009, the situation in 2010 is very uncertain," she said.

At the request of the UMS board of trustees, the university is considering cutting degree programs that routinely graduate fewer than five students a year.

She emphasized that this does not necessarily apply as a strict rule for every department.

"I don't think that the trustees believe that we can have a university if we in fact eliminate chemistry and physics and Spanish," she said.

"The trustees might direct a couple of universities to work together so that students have access to certain degrees without perhaps having every single degree on every campus."

George Pattershall, assistant life safety systems supervisor for USM, asked Botman if the university planned to work with Southern Maine Community College to bring in new students and improve retention.

"I believe that the community colleges have an important place in American higher education," she said.

"Having said that, I believe that a community college education is different from a university education."

Botman says that USM faculty are currently working on a "2+2" plan to make the transition from SMCC to USM easier for students, by allowing a full transfer of credits and guaranteed admission for certain programs.

Pattershall, who is also a math instructor, believes that students

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USM students convene in D.C.

'Largest youth summit on climate change in history'



ARTHUR PAGE / STAFF WRITER

Karl Rawstron is one of 18 USM students attending the second annual Power Shift conference in Washington, D.C. The youth summit on climate change is said to be the largest in history.

Arthur Page
Staff Writer

Last Friday morning, a group of eighteen USM students set out on a ten hour road trip toward Washington D.C. to attend the second annual Power Shift conference.

Upon arrival, they received ID lanyards labeled with 'Leader' status before joining almost 12,000 other leaders at the conference, which organizers say is the largest youth summit on climate change in history.

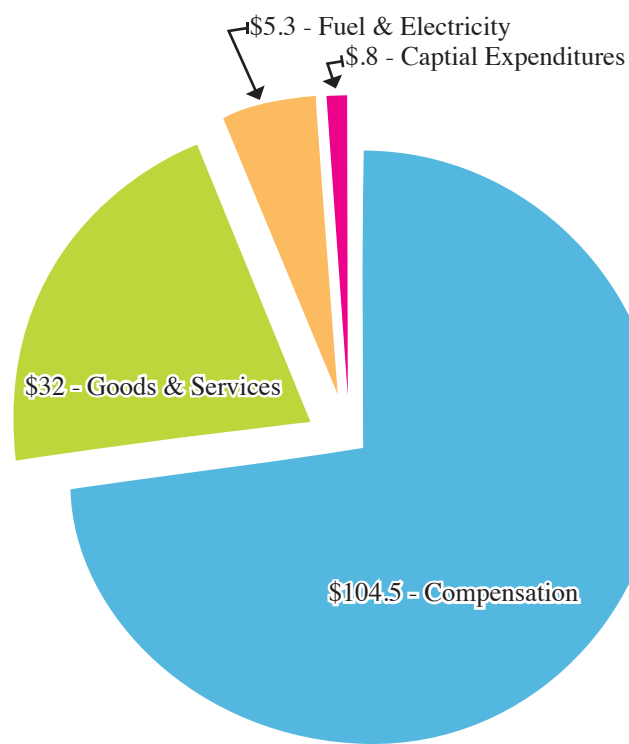
The purpose of the conference is to grow a grass roots renew-

able resource and climate change movement.

The conference was held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in downtown Washington D.C. from Friday through Sunday. Each of the three days

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Fiscal Year 2010 Projections



Total operating revenue	\$139.3M
Total operating expenditures	\$142.6M
USM's share net investment loss	(\$1.0M)
Fiscal Year 2010 deficit	(\$4.3M)

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O come all ye faithless

Student group aims defy stigma of atheism

David O'Donnell
Staff Writer

According to last year's Pew Research poll on the country's religious landscape, 71 percent of those surveyed expressed absolute certainty in the existence of a God. An additional 17 percent weren't without doubts, but counted themselves as believers nonetheless.

If you combine the remaining responses - from strong skepticism to outright rejection - you come to about 10 percent or less of the country that might entertain joining a group like USM's own SMASH, the Southern Maine Association of Secular Humanists.

"There's a big stigma attached to being a nonbeliever," says Andrew Lovely, the student group's founder and chair.

"Those of us who don't follow a religion and don't believe in a god, we're often thought of as immoral people, selfish people, and I don't think that's the case at all."

For Lovely and friends, it's a lack of faith in the Bible, the Tanakh, or the Qur'an that brings them together every Monday in room 327 of Luther Bonney Hall. And he doesn't mind comparisons between the gatherings, where members largely view God as an enticing myth, to those more well-known weekly meetings that take place on Sunday mornings.

"I don't hate that," he says. "I think religion has been so successful because of church providing a sense of community and hope."

The concepts behind secular humanism can be traced to deism - the belief that God exists through evidence of reason and nature, not through a supernatural revelation - which made its first splash in American popular

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who drop out in the first year need a reason to stay in school.

"I see a lot of these youngsters in my classes [with] no majors, no ties to the university," he said.

"A lot of those students over there could be coaxed into coming over here to get their bachelors, instead of just stopping at their associates."

Botman says that federal stimulus money received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, recently approved by Congress, would not provide a long-term solution to USM's structural problems.

"We are waiting for the state and [University of Maine] System office to give us some guidance, but it is unrealistic to expect any relief in terms of ongoing operating expenses," she said.

Botman emphasized that USM's best hope for balancing next year's budget lies in a total restructuring of the university, instead of just trying to keep up with setbacks caused by a rapidly declining global economy.

culture as early as 1795, with the publication of Thomas Paine's "The Age of Reason." The term turned into its current meaning sometime in the late 1950s.

But if the resistance to religious messages is a common thread between SMASH regulars - many of whom were raised in Christian families - they insist that it's the 'humanist' part of the equation that inspires their work.

"We agree with having compassion for all human beings regardless of race, creed or gender," says Lovely. "But logic and science are the best tools to understand the world we live in."

As a result, the group distances itself from the "new atheist" movement that has descended on the media over the past several years, with best-selling books like Richard Dawkins' "The God Delusion," eye-grabbing ads on the sides of buses, and films like Bill Maher's "Religulous" (though SMASH organized a trip to catch that docu-comedy over at the Nickelodeon last fall.)

They're not anti-faith, members assert, just non-religious. Their sessions tend to emphasize the intricacies of Darwin's theory of evolution, rather than trying to debunk Moses' account of the creation. They'd like to promote more atheist and agnostic involvement at local soup kitchens. Their interfaith dialogues aren't about arguing for or against a supreme being, just finding common ground.

"As a humanist group, we do not discriminate against anyone," writes founding member Christine Bullard, also secretary and treasurer. "Which means just about anyone is more than welcome at a group meeting."

Where exactly "just about" stops short may have been betrayed on a recent flier, currently plastered around campus. In addition to advertising their meetings, it also flatly states that the

"USM has no choice but to become a more streamlined university," she said.

USM's deans are currently in the process of drafting a plan to restructure the school's academic programs, and the second draft of the university-wide restructuring plan, which presents a long-term plan to reassess USM's role and mission, was recently released for public review.

Botman remained optimistic about the future of the university, and praised the efforts of the faculty, staff and unions to achieve compromise in the face of global economic decay.

"In the four higher education institutions in which I have served, I have never seen the degree of self-sacrifice and willingness to work together that I have seen at USM," she said.

Betty Hilton, a Gorham campus locksmith and Teamsters shop steward, shares Botman's optimism.

"faithful and intolerant need not apply."

Undergrad Gregor Clary is a member, but he also hosts his own lecture and discussion forum on Thursday nights in room 43 of Payson Smith Hall, where he tends to explore and advocate for a variety of alternative, metaphysical ideas.

"We're embracing concepts of infinity here," Clary says of his extra-curricular classroom. "Religion...is a control mechanism. It instills fear."

Yet even Clary found time to praise Jesus - if not in a revivalist sense - in his first lecture to nearly a dozen like-minded students. He also had no qualms objecting to the confrontational tone of SMASH's ad.

"I thought it might be controversial," admits Lovely, noting that the group has been fired up of late over the debate surrounding gay marriage, which California voters opted to ban in last November's election.

"But faith is believing in things without evidence," he adds. "And that does not conform with secular humanist ideals."

So what is it that brings the group together, rather than drawing them to longer-standing organizations devoted to science or philosophy?

For Lovely, it all comes back to the stigma, which he blames for keeping him silent about being his deeply-held non-belief until he came to USM.

"Being part of a minority can give people perspective on what it's like to have beliefs that most people don't like, and that leads them to be more tolerant," he says.

Ultimately, the same guiding principles apply to atheism as to formal religions, says Lovely.

"It's quite simply the golden rule. I think it's intuitive."

"The entire world is [experiencing a] shortfall right now, and everything is going to get worse," she said.

"We know it's going to be tough, but if we come together as a community, we can overcome. We can't let the university fail."

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were divided into three sessions which were either workshops or discussion panels.

After the last session had concluded, USM students were free to explore D.C. together for a few hours before the evening entertainment which featured musical concerts from such artists as Santogold and The Roots.

The sessions focused heavily on training leaders to organize their schools and communities when they returned home.

"Every panel and workshop that I went to made it worth it," said Elliot Heerchen, a USM senior who added that if he had to pick a favorite session, it would be the one concerning the impact of agribusiness.

"Whether you are learning in a workshop or just wandering around, people are just talking about issues," said Heerchen.

"People are talking about ways to set up a bike share in their campus community, or ways to lobby their congressmen to get more wind power to their local [area]," Heerchen said.

"I think it's just exciting as hell."

USM students who went to Power Shift said that they learned life skills which they'll use to improve the university and their community.

"I felt like I was drawing on my training tonight in this meeting already. So its very exciting, I love that I got to do that," said Heerchen.

Asher Platts, another USM student, said that a lobbying workshop, "just really made me realize how easy it is that I, as a citizen, can go ahead and can lobby representatives."

Platts said that he plans on using the skills he learned at the conference back in Maine. "I definitely look forward to using it at home here in Augusta as well as for local things like municipal boards of any town that I happen to live in."

Getting leaders educated, excited, and involved about the issues is exactly what that the conference organizers hoped for.

Although Power Shift representatives couldn't be reached for comment, the front page of their website outlines part of their mission is.

"Not only will we deliver our message of change to our elected officials, but we will continue to strengthen the climate and clean energy movement by infusing our nation's young leaders with new ideas, skills, connections with each other, and opportunities for employment and action," the site said.

Although the conference was officially over on Sunday, many leaders stayed through Monday for the planned lobby day event.

The organizers of Power Shift made arrangements for a rally outside of the Capitol Building and made appointments for attendees to meet with congressional representatives to lobby for stronger climate change legislation.

"The day was really exciting. We all got green hard hats and we were out on the lawn in front of the Capitol building. It was quite a sight to see this sea of green hardhats all rallying," said Platts, who was one of the few USM leaders who were able to stay until the rally.

After the rally, some attendees met with their representatives, but USM students did not to participate.

"We didn't partake in lobby day," said Alex Hoeplinger, the USM PIRG Campus Organizer. "It was pointless to lobby for two reasons. One, the timing that we would have lobbied would was 3:30-4 p.m. which means we would have gotten back to Portland at the earliest of 5:00 a.m. With all the snow we didn't want to risk it. Secondly, the people we would have lobbied [Chellie Pingree & Mike Michaud]... are both working in accordance to what we are doing, so to lobby them would be kind of pointless."

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University faculty react to strategic plan

Campus reorganization among contested issues

Matt Dodge

Executive Editor

The bold vision outlined in USM's second draft of the strategic plan aims to focus the university's effort and organization in a time of tightening economic conditions.

Released on Feb 12th, "Preparing USM for the future: 2009-2014," identifies some of the key structural and organizational problems at USM, and suggests plans of action for addressing them.

"This is the time where we can have major input" said economics Professor Joe Medley, who sees the strategic plan in its current form as a collection of discussion points still open to revision.

The plan is an attempt to guide USM's policy during a period characterized by a "crushing shortage of resources," said Medley.

The second draft of the strategic plan, created by four groups of USM faculty, students, staff, and administration, is now open to review and suggestion from members of the USM community.

While the plan has drawn some criticism for its proposed restructuring of USM's three campuses, many of the suggestions included in the draft have been well received.

"The plan recognizes a lot of things we do, and do really well," said Lydia Savage, professor of Geography and Anthropology.

Among these strengths, Savage mentions USM's commitment to "engaged teaching and learning" an idea also discussed in the plan, as USM's new "signature approach to teaching and learning."

"We already do a lot of engaged learning - labs, field work, conferences," said Savage. "In my own department I see undergrads working alongside faculty in nationally recognized research projects."

While the plan lacks a formal definition of "engaged teaching and learning," many USM faculty members are eager to offer their own interpretations of the idea.

"It's making sure students have ownership over their education, that they are active participants in it, not objects" said History professor David Carey.

By offering more opportunities for service learning, and bringing in guest lecturers, Carey feels that USM could create a sense of "community, and academic solidarity."

Medley was glad to see engaged teaching and learning addressed, but thinks that it is as much the student's responsibility as it is the university's. "We need to encourage students to make a

mental, emotional, commitment to learning," Medley said.

"They need to have their heads in class, not their cell phones," he added.

The one item in the Strategic Plan that has stirred up the most controversy is the proposal to restructure USM's three campuses, creating a unique "identity" and "location specific missions" for Gorham, Portland, and Lewiston-Auburn.

This restructuring would help to consolidate resources, cut down on commuting, and create a stronger central mission for each campus.

Under the plan, the College of Arts and Sciences, applied sciences, and many Core classes would be centered on the Gorham campus, while Portland would become the home of professional and graduate education.

Some USM faculty see this reorganizing as a costly and unnecessary process that also runs the risk of alienating students.

"I am concerned that by trying to identify each location's identities, we are going to end up fracturing the university community in a myriad of ways," said Savage.

"Frankly, I think we can do a much better job selling who we are to the community," she added.

CAS Dean Pam Edwards doubts the logistics and cost effectiveness of moving an entire college. On a cash-strapped campus, each dollar has to be stretched, and the cost of moving entire academic departments would be a significant financial burden that some can't imagine. "We can't get the money to hire someone to move a desk", said Edwards.

Ben Taylor, USM's student body president, was a member of Strategic Planning group that focused on the three campus issue.

"Core is a good idea to have in Gorham," Taylor said. "[But] you should be able to take second, third, or fourth year classes at either campus, [for] at least some of the majors that are more popular."

Medley notes that past surveys have showed that USM students prefer taking class in Portland (over Gorham) by a ratio of four to one.

"If that is where students want to be taught, that is where we will offer [courses]," said Medley.

"The university would be foolish to go against this."

Medley encourages students to get involved in the process.

"Student input into the Strategic Plan is central" he says, adding that by getting the opinion of the average student, "the whole process gets a hell of a lot smarter."

Baldacci proposes state borrowing for campus upgrades

Bailey Hall, Law Building would get money for repairs



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

USM's Bailey Hall in Gorham. If passed, Baldacci's bond proposal would address \$5.4 million in needed repairs to the building's classroom wing.

Daniel MacLeod

News Editor

Last Wednesday, Governor John Baldacci released the details of a state bond package that would provide \$6.4 million to USM for building upgrades and repairs.

Baldacci bills the \$306 million bond package as an "investment strategy," which would supplement the estimated \$900 million in federal stimulus money.

"We all know that the recovery package can't address all of Maine's needs," Baldacci said in a press release last Wednesday.

"Our economy depends on investing in our people, and giving them the tools they need to be successful."

If approved by the state legislature and Maine voters, the bond package would provide \$52 million for repairs and energy upgrades to Maine's higher education system. The University of Maine System's share would be \$30 million.

This amount represents a compromise between the Governor's office and the UMS board of trustees, who initially requested \$60 million last November.

"We were asked to scale our request back," said USM Chief Financial Officer Dick Campbell. USM's share of the original requested amount was \$8 million, and included money to renovate Luther Bonney Hall's heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) and electrical systems.

After conferring with the Department of Facilities Management, the university identified Bailey Hall and the Law Building as the two highest priorities on its list of deferred maintenance projects, said Campbell.

The bond package would provide money for repairs to the exterior of Bailey Hall's classroom wing. The building also needs a new HVAC system.

"Since that's such a large building, that would require about \$5.4 million to make a significant impact just to that wing," said Campbell.

\$1.4 million of the package would go towards repairs to the exterior of the Law Building, which would save USM money in heating costs.

"We have a large number of problems with leaking water and air," said Campbell.

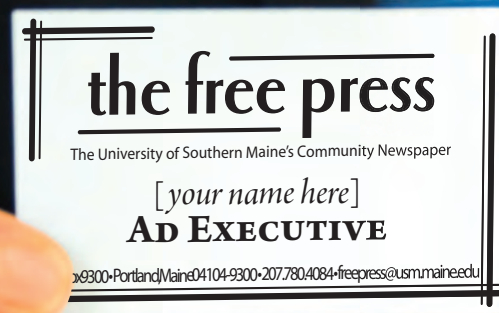
Although the bond package would only address a small portion of USM's list of deferred maintenance, Campbell says that USM will take anything it can get.

"We would not be able to do this level of work without state bond support," he said.

Maine lawmakers will review Baldacci's bond proposal this week, at which point they are expected to recommend their own bond proposals before deciding on the final package.

If passed by the legislature, the bond proposal would go to voters in two chunks. The first \$265.8 referendum would be voted on this November, the remaining \$40.4 million would be voted on in June 2010.

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Same-sex marriage debate comes to Maine

Passionate supporters demand equality in matrimony

Taryn Yudaken

Staff Writer

On the evening of Wednesday, March 4, a group of people gathered in USM's Woodbury Campus Center to discuss the Marriage Bill for same-sex couples in Maine. Representatives from Equality Maine and the Maine Freedom to Marry Coalition came to share some information about legitimizing same-sex marriage in Maine and what we can do to support the cause and the bill.

Darlene Huntress from Equality Maine started with some conversation about the lack of personal touch in politics and a related "aha!" moment that she recently had. While at a talk with a local senator, she watched as a lesbian couple tried to fight for their rights. As the senator was trying to talk about strategies, plans and timing without a hint of emotion or acknowledgement of the pain that same-sex couples endure, one of the woman stopped him to say "How many people did you have to ask for permission from when you wanted to marry your wife?" She then named all the legal representatives that she had to propose to in addition to her partner, as if asking someone to spend the rest of their life with you wasn't hard enough already.

Huntress said that thinking of all the same-sex couples who love each other so much and want to get married gets her out of bed in the morning. It is the driving force behind her passion to fight for equality. She says "when we

fight, we bring light to LGBT people and open doors for other issues that are important in our community."

Marriage equality is a civil rights issue, and grassroots organizations won't quit until there is justice and fairness in our society. For years our guests (Huntress, Patrick Wang, Katy Jayne) and hundreds of others have been working on a marriage equality bill that will be going through a judiciary committee this April. According to Patrick Wang, another Equality Maine representative, this committee frames the conversation regarding whether or not the bill should be passed in November. But there is hope. "Senators wanted to pass a civil union bill in Maine. With the grassroots organizers and lobbyists help, we were able to get them to shut down that bill and cosponsor our marriage bill." Civil unions just aren't good enough. All people deserve the option of full-blown marriage, and the recognition that nothing is inferior or less meaningful about whatever relationship they choose to have.

Right now Maine seems like a pretty queer-friendly state. Especially Portland. Of course we all know there have been hate-crimes here, but that is going to happen anywhere, and for the most part Portland is awesome about diversity; as Huntress said, it's been called "the mini San Francisco." On November 4, 2008, Equality Maine handed out postcards for people to sign in support of same-sex marriage. Their goal was to identify 10,000 supporting

voters in Maine. At the end of the day they had identified over 33,000.

That in itself is wonderful, but there is still much work to be done. Equality Maine is always desperately in need of volunteers. They have 4-5 weeks to reach as many across Maine as possible. As anyone who has ever been up north can guess, the further from Portland calls go, the harder it is to find and inspire people who believe in equality. According to Huntress, at least 100,000 people in Maine need to be mobilized. "When you give people a chance to participate in change, it's so empowering for them... It's going to take a small army to do this... You gotta fight for civil rights, you gotta make things happen yourself."

If you are at all interested in helping Maine become an equal state, please get in touch with Equality Maine. You can stop by their office in Portland at 1 Pleasant St. (entrance on Center St.), call them at 207-761-3732 or visit their website at www.equalitymaine.org

If you would like to support in another way, call your legislators today and leave a message with your name, number, where you live, and say that you urge them to support the Marriage Equality Bill. The number for the house legislator is 1-800-423-2900, and the senate is 1-800-423-6900.

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USM budget issues

Recently UMS announced that the USM budget cuts had achieved what is necessary for the current fiscal year ending June 30 and employees would not be asked to take furlough days.

The Lifeline and Childcare cuts were difficult, but they both relied on subsidies to the tune of \$500,000, which makes no sense when people

have access to a number of other exercise facilities and childcare facilities. They have months to make other arrangements. USM tax payer money and tuition should not be subsidizing services that are not critical to their operation.

However, when July 1 comes, it will be a new fiscal year. Pres. Botman inherited a difficult financial mess from former USM President now Chancellor Richard Pattenaude. Neither he nor any of his staff was held accountable for the 'creative accounting' and financial issues he left behind for the new president. The Board of Trustees chose to ignore the financial problems. The UMS office chose to ignore the financial problems. Those upset with the closing of Lifeline and Childcare might want to ask the Chancellor why in his role as USM President, he never audited accounts and worked with these departments on their deficits, instead of leaving this issue to be dealt with in a crisis.

Now USM is hit again, with the financial problems all businesses are facing.

We do not hear or see any leadership from Chancellor Pattenaude (UMS board or USM board) other than forming more "committees" and "study groups."

The Chancellor's salary is approximately \$220,000 in wages and another in \$90,000 in (medical, dental, retirement, car,...) benefits. His salary and benefit package is worth about \$310,000.

Has the Chancellor offered to lead these system cuts, or offer to take on some of his own hardship? In 2005, the average pay of hourly workers at USM was \$22,594 (plus benefits). If the Chancellor gave back 10% of his salary, this alone, would cover an hourly worker's salary for a year: allowing the worker to continue to feed and house their family.

There are almost 60 individuals at USM alone making over \$100,000 in wages this fiscal year. This does not include their benefit packages of \$40,000 - \$85,000 for health insurance, and retirement. So, these individuals are getting wages and benefits packages that are anywhere from \$140,000 to well over \$200,000. Those at USM with salaries of \$100,000 or more have total wages of close to \$7 million. This is not counting their benefits of another \$2.7 million. (See salary books available at USM or www.maineopengov.org)

If those employees making over \$100,000 each took a 10% cut in wages for a year - or two years, USM could save about \$700,000 per year and not lay off dozens of employees who are barely making ends meet and who need the health insurance for themselves and their families.

The administrators, faculty, and professional staff making between \$100,000 to \$220,000 who take a ten percent cut for a year or two, won't see much of a change in their lifestyle. But dozens of us, who fear a

layoff worry that a layoff will financially devastate us. We make slightly over minimum wage to pay rent/mortgages, groceries, support children, transportation,... (In 2005, the average pay of hourly workers at USM was \$22,594. This was much lower than the state of Maine per capita salary of \$29,973 and the New England salary of \$40,269. USM hourly salaries have been and continue to be very low.)

When hourly staff are laid off, USM only gives a one month notice and a few weeks of pay. Professional staff and faculty get more notice and months of severance pay. So, it is an easier process to lay off hourly workers.

Hourly employees are being asked to cut back hours, work in departments with less staff, work with older equipment, but where is the sacrifice on the part of the Chancellor, the President, and highly paid administrators, faculty, and professional staff at USM? Why put dozens of families on unemployment and food stamps, when a few well paid employees could help so many families? Is there any concern? Any leadership?

Why doesn't anyone cover what's happening right here with the University of Maine system and the lack of fiscal accountability that has been going on for years? Is asking people making over \$100,000 to take a cut of 10% so that dozens of people can keep their jobs and feed, house, clothe, and provide medical care for their families too much to ask?

Chancellors and Presidents at other school systems from Washington State, Middlebury, Washington University, Dartmouth, Pennsylvania, and others have offered to give up 5%, 10% or more of their salaries to show that their school's financial problems should also be borne by those who are the leaders. Some of those schools have said that those employees earning less than \$50,000 should still receive raises, but all those making more will forego raises - with many of those making more than \$50,000 taking cuts.

Why are the Chancellor and President silent on taking a pay cut? Where is the leadership?

Sincerely,

Hourly Employees

Statement of Affirmation for Gay Marriage

The citizens of Maine are in the midst of an opportunity to legalize gay marriage. Senator Dennis S. Damon of Hancock County has proposed a bill that would repeal an existing law defining marriage to be between one man and one woman. With deep support for this measure toward justice, progress, and equality, the Southern Maine Association of Secular Humanists would like to affirm Senator Damon's bill to recognize gay marriages.

We firmly believe in showing tolerance toward the beliefs, values and lifestyles of other people, especially when they differ from our own. The legal recognition and private celebration of gay marriage should have no detrimental impact, if any impact at all, on the livelihood of others. Since homosexual couples and parents already exist, the only change to occur as a result of this bill would be the extension of long deserved freedom and equality toward our fellow Mainers.

Of equal importance to us is having compassion for people regardless of their sexual orientation, for as human beings they have every bit as much dignity as anyone else and therefore deserve equal rights. As secular humanists, we can recognize the hardships of being a part of a stigmatized minority; through this we can understand that those who live outside the mainstream are just as capable of leading positive and meaningful lives. We urge others to be mindful of the feelings and aspirations of homosexuals wishing to marry and to consider how it must feel being disallowed to formally express your love to that special someone.

In consideration of these principles and of our nation's secular framework, we believe there is no rational basis for the prohibition of gay marriage. While some people may have religious objections toward gay marriage, the bill proposed by Senator Damon will state that religious institutions will continue to have control over their own religious doctrines and teachings regarding who may marry, as we believe they should. We believe religious dogma to be a private matter and to have no role in shaping public policy. Americans are fortunate for the separation of church and state to protect their freedom of choice in what to believe. Is it not about time for Americans to have freedom in choosing who to love too?

*The Southern Maine Association
of Secular Humanists
maine@secularstudents.org*

Social Irresponsibility - AIG et. al.

AIG has just asked us to send them another \$30B (billion: the minimum denomination used in bail-out speak).

I'm not an expert, but I'm told we have already extended \$150B.

I also seem to remember that after the first installment, AIG embarked on a \$444,000 retreat to reward top performers

...and after the second installment, went on a \$86,000 luxury hunting trip

...then, after a \$40B installment in November they celebrated with a \$343,000 trip to a swank resort in Phoenix.

How will they celebrate this time?

We've been repeatedly outraged over misuses of other 'bail out' remedies when we find out that the money was used for huge executive salaries and bonuses, and no real progress made on solving their (our) troubles.

Now, look into the reasons that these institutions are in trouble in the first place, I think we could conclude that Socially Irresponsible conduct was the major culprit. In other words, their irresponsibility to society.

If a neighbor needs a helping hand, and you loan them \$100 to help them get on their feet, how would you feel if you saw them that night whooping it up at the local club sporting some flashy new clothes?

If they showed up in the morning, looking sorry and asking for more help, what would you say?

Furthermore, how would you feel if you found that the source of their troubles is from fencing loans that aren't getting paid back, for say drug deals, or other illicit operations in your neighborhood?

How far from the truth is this wacky analogy?

OK, I've vented.

Does this stir any strong emotions in you??

Peter Brown

School of Business
Class 2010

Fellow Students of USM:

My name is Alex and I'll be graduating this spring. I have attended USM since the spring of 2006. Thinking back on my experience here, one of my biggest regrets was not getting involved with other students on campus sooner. While initially the flexibility of USM permitted me to have my job, social life and school, I came to realize that a part of my education was lacking. After getting involved

with one of USM's students group, with the encouragement of some other class mates, I decided to run for student senate for the '08-'09 term.

The experience has been worthwhile. Not only have I seen how organized groups order their business (a valuable skill for anyone who plans to one day serve on any board or committee), but I've also been able to lend a helping hand to some of the university's most passionate students.

The senate has the mission of trying to best serve the students by advocating on their behalf to the administration and the faculty, as well as overseeing the funding of various events that enrich the learning experience of students.

For those of you out there wishing to give back to USM, I encourage you to explore the opportunities provided for you by being a student senator. I especially implore our non-traditional students and students who have diverse backgrounds. I am one of those non-traditional students, being a 27 year old senior, and I firmly believe our campus should have elected voices that properly reflect the content, character, and diversity of the student body. In this way, we can shape a campus that serves us all. With greater guidance from our non-traditional body and more voices from diversity, we can make sure that our university goes beyond the 18-through-22 mold and fosters the gathering of inquiring minds of all ages and backgrounds.

I came to realize that part of my education was lacking.

If you feel you are too busy or can't sacrifice time at work to get involved, allow me to point out that there are many stipend positions on the USM senate. Bear in mind, these are not your regular work study jobs! (No offense to work study!) These positions require hard work and dedication in analyzing USM's various policies as well as charting out a successful course for university involvement.

Most importantly, I've learned that true education comes from helping all those around us explore and understand the truths of this world. Every one of us has a perspective that begs to be shared. I thank all of my fellow students for sharing our experiences, allowing us to leave this university better people.

Alex Sargent
USM Student
Class 2009

PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED

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mdodge18@gmail.com



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Page 9. USM's 'Turning Pages' exhibition

Page 10. DVD battle: Nixonation

Page 11. Review of "Coraline"

Two operas for the price of one

USM presents two one-act Puccini operas

Meghan McCaffrey

Contributing Writer

If you have always wanted to see an opera, but have never had the opportunity nor wanted to pay for pricey tickets, check out the two one-act Puccini operas "Suor Angelica" and "Gianni Schicchi," beginning March 13 at USM.

Full and professional operas are only put on once every four years by the USM Music Department. It is a rare and much celebrated event by the faculty and students of both the Music Department and the Theater Department.

Another advantage is the operas are in English, instead of Italian. Although some people claim there is much lost when English is sung instead of Italian, what is lost in translation can sometimes be gained in the audiences' understanding of the material.

Assunta Kent, the stage director, worked diligently to alter the setting in "Gianni Schicchi" from places in Italy to towns in Maine set in the 1920s.

"Houses in Quintole and land in Empoli provide little insight for Maine audiences, so I have remapped the opera over the Portland area," said Kent. "The rich older lady who must have the cottage on Peaks Island and the West End "fashionista" who must have the townhouse in Boston."

Every semester the vocal performance students do scene selections from operas, but the real thing only comes once every four years.

"I have been waiting to do this for a long time, and I'm really excited to do this with the orchestra," said Mary Clark, a fourth year Vocal Performance major who plays the role of Lauretta.

With the addition of the full orchestra, the music becomes very rich and emotionally powerful.

"Puccini's melodies are beautiful; beautiful for the singers and the listeners," said Music Director Ellen Chickering. "All are gathered into a rich artistic gathering."

The mixture of beautiful vocal and orchestral music, elaborate sets, lighting and costume design make the two operas a smart choice for classy entertainment.

The operas are put on by both the USM Music and the Theater Department, who are in charge of sets, costumes, lighting, as well as acting direction. The model for the set design was done by a USM alumni and graduate student, Alessandra Turati. The set also needed to be interchangeable so both plays could be done on the same stage, so Turati worked in several two-in-one set elements that could be flipped to become something else. The talent and hard work that went into this show displays the passion that the students and faculty at USM have for opera production.

"Suor Angelica" is a beautifully written tragedy that will wrench your heart- in a good way. A girl becomes pregnant and goes to a convent to have the baby. The baby dies and Angelica is so overwhelmed with grief that she kills herself, only to find out that suicide is a mortal sin.

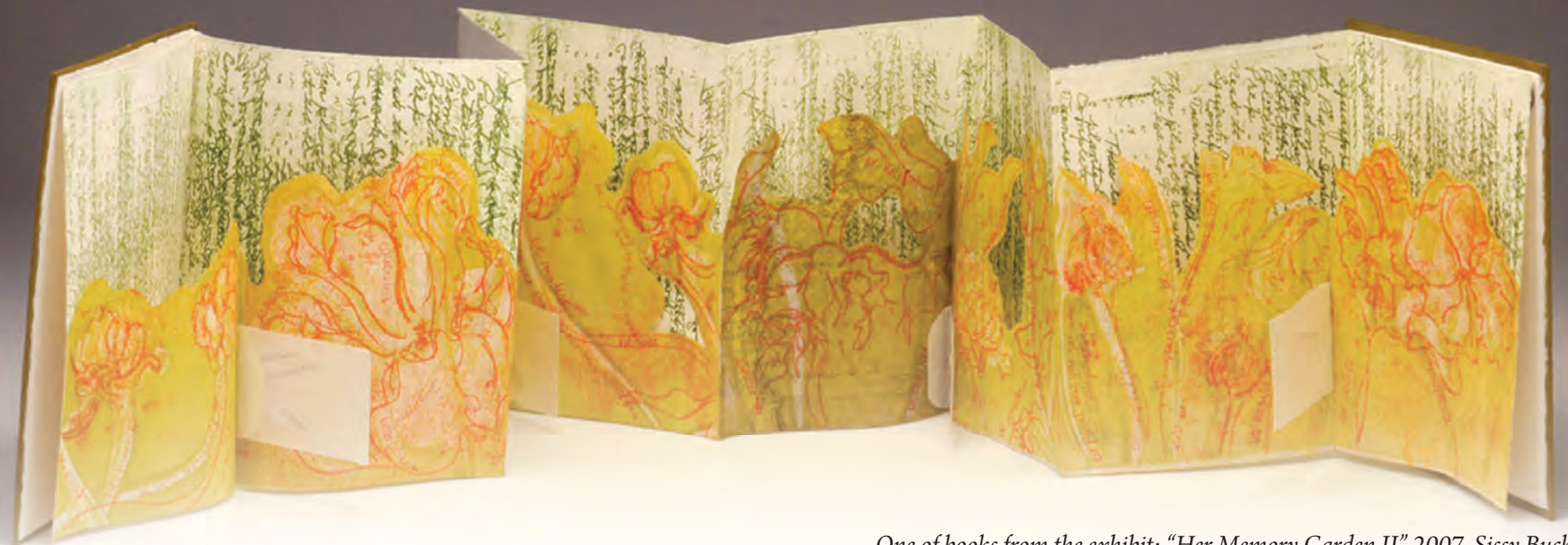
The second opera, "Gianni Schicchi," is a laugh-out-loud comedy full of over-the-top characters. Gianni, a country sleaze-ball, is hired by a greedy family to try and rewrite their deceased relative's will so they can inherit his many houses, a plane, and warp mills. It turns out Gianni's daughter Lauretta wants to marry Rinuccio, who is the nephew of the man who died. In the end Gianni takes everything



TROY R. BENNETT / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Top: Josh Miller of Southwest Harbor plays the title role in USM's production of Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi."
Bottom: Sarah Mawn of Lakeville, MA plays the title role of the tragic nun in Puccini's "Suor Angelica" and Jazmin DeRice of Windham plays the part of Zia Principessa.

See **OPERA** on page 11



One of books from the exhibit: "Her Memory Garden II" 2007, Sissy Buck

Filling books with art, not words

USM's Center for Book Arts' Turning Pages Exhibition

Gwen Merrick
Contributing Writer

There is something lovely about getting a new book; protecting the cover, trying to keep it crease free while you tear into the meaty text, ingesting each word, illustrating the story in your mind as you faithfully follow the narrative. When you reach the last sentence, you tuck your friend on a shelf where it waits to be revisited, borrowed,

or perhaps for you to walk by, tracing your finger down its spine as you reminisce over the time you once spent together. Maybe it is this brief, albeit intimate relationship we create with these friends, these stories, these collections of poetry, that make books such a powerful medium. But books, as it turns out, are not just for logophiles anymore.

There's something called Book Art, which you can experience for yourself by visiting the Turning

Pages exhibit on the 7th floor of the Glickman Family Library, on display until March 19. Book Art, as its title suggests, means books as an art object. Books are already art, you may say, carefully crafted literary works by an author as artist. But this is different. Artist's books come in a variety of structures and formats: traditional, unfolding accordion, boxes, fans and pop-ups. And while careful attention is paid in the creation of the binding, it's

the combination of its content and form that help generate its meaning.

Inspiration can come from anywhere, a pet, flora/fauna, current events or even a sardine luncheon, evidenced by the work on display in Turning Pages. These book artists, like the first people to transform ancient scrolls into the standard book design we know today, are redesigning books to suit their personal vision.

Turning Pages is the maiden exhibition of the new Kate Cheney Chappell Center for Book Arts at USM. The Center was established this fall through a gift from Kate Cheney Chappell, USM alum from '83. Chappell studied book art under well-known Maine book artist and USM faculty member Rebecca Goodale,

See **BOOKS** on page 11

An interesting and eclectic collection

Review of Peapod Recordings' Winter 2009 Compilation

Tyler Jackson
Staff Writer

Peapod Recordings has released a new compilation, Winter 2009—an overview of the label's 2008 releases and a preview of what's to come in 2009.

The 15-song collection is a solid assemblage of some of Maine's most eclectic and interesting musicians. Ron Harrity's growing Portland label boasts an impressive roster that covers a range of sounds and styles.

The compilation opens beautifully with "What Are We Gonna Do Now?" by Chriss Sutherland, a founding member of Cerberus Shoal and Fire on Fire who will release his second solo album, "Worried Love," in April.

The song is a stunning foray into an unlikely pop form. Sutherland sings passionately over a straightforward structure and lush classic rock instrumentation to create a timeless and beautiful number.

The second track is one of the compilation's most rambunctious, Huak's "Stats and Demographics" from the forthcoming "Modicum" EP, which



Winter 2009 Peapod album cover

was reviewed in last week's Free Press. It is a rigid post-punk clamor featuring sharp, dueling guitars, frantic drums and an anxious set of lyrics concerning the yearly political polling cycle.

Cougars Kill Cobras' seething "Death Machine," a terse, dark rocker that builds to a cataclysmic, unnerving close, compliments Huak's contribution. The two bands make up the raging and chaotic portion of Peapod's lineup.

See **PEAPOD** on page 12

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NCUA

DVD Battle: Nixonathon

David O'Donnell

Staff Writer

The last of the big Oscar contenders to land on DVD this spring will be "Frost/Nixon," April 21.

Until then, journalist David Frost will continue to reap the benefits of his 1977 gamble by filling that vacuum with the DVD release of the actual Frost/Nixon interviews.

It begs the question, since most people would probably only want to plunk down a few hours of their life, at most, on some 30-year-old television interview with a disgraced former president, what will it be - the real deal, or the Hollywood ending?

Despite the actual interviews being preserved for all to see, Ron Howard's adaptation of the Tony award-winning play makes great and dramatic leaps from what Americans tuned in to see in four separate, syndicated broadcasts culled from dozens of hours of interview footage personally funded by Frost himself.

The most obvious and well-publicized departure is one of those moments that, when it occurs on-screen, you may hear yourself whisper, "this better have happened, or zombie Nixon has every right to sue." It involves a drunken phone call between the two titular figures, during which Nixon almost seems to disregard the presence of another person on the line and just dives head-first into his pool of vendettas and insecurities.

It did and it didn't happen. Nixon never called Frost, but he was known to drunk dial lucky members of the press corp now and then. While that's the most glaring bit of fiction in the movie,

it's not the worst - and knowing why doesn't take harvesting Wikipedia for useless trivia. Just take a look at the interviews themselves.

The best thing about them isn't any divine revelation - except maybe that Nixon was unguarded enough to blurt out a line like "when the President does something, it's not illegal!" After all, the public already knew Nixon was guilty. It didn't need him to give a Clinton-esque fireside confession, since it already had

clearly condenses and rephrases key passages, practically creating a "confession" out of thin air. In the interviews themselves, Nixon denies even the plainest of misdeeds, and admits only to the vague notion of having probably lied at some point (me too!) and to the even more obvious crime of having disappointed the American public.

No, the true fun in these interviews is similar to the thrill people got from watching a certain cable TV comedian (read:



Frost/Nixon

Directed by Ron Howard
2009 Universal Studios

Vs.

Frost/Nixon: The Original Watergate Interviews

Directed by Jorn Winther
2008 Liberation Entertainment

The Winner...

I'd go with the real thing, because unlike the film, it allows the viewer to interpret what's going down; consider that Frost not only cut Nixon a hefty check to sit down for the interviews, a questionable journalistic practice, but also agreed to let him in on whatever profits resulted (a fact not disclosed in the film.) Where the movie pretends Nixon's aides tried to whisk him away as his facade began to crack, in reality his handlers encouraged all of it.

But if you want to see the seeds of our current paradigm, where every high-profile fall from grace results in a dutiful march into high-octane, televised self-pity, accept no substitutes. Nixon's the one!

Beat Poets

Portland Police Department read original poems at Thin Blue Lines

Danica Koenig

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Police are not generally associated with poetry. It is not often you get to hear the police officers of your city pouring out their souls in poetry they wrote, but on Thursday March 5 at the Portland Public Library the citizens of Portland got a chance to hear the members of the Portland Police Department read poetry they had written about what it is like to be a police officer.

The poetry reading, "Thin Blue Lines," was part of the Arts & Equity Initiative, which is a targeted arts project in which public officials improve their city through the arts.

Another part of the project was to make a calendar of the Portland Police Department, which they were selling at the poetry reading and contained all the poems read at the poetry reading. Proceeds from the calendar benefited the fund of

Sgt. Robert Johnsey who died last May of an accidental gunshot wound.

The officers collaborated on the poems with local poets, and either one or both of them wrote the final poem. The poems covered a wide range of topics, from how it feels to come face-to-face with a drug dealer shooting at you, to the mask and uniform that police officers feel they are always physically and metaphorically wearing. But all the poems had a common thread: describing the world of a Portland Police Officer through poetry.

Marty Pottenger, from the Department of Multi-Cultural Affairs in Portland and one of the organizers of the event did an introduction in which she stated that this is unlike anything that has ever been done before. She said it was a chance for Portland to see the police department through the "lens of a poem."

Officer James Davison worked with local poet Annie Finch on a poem, which they both read out loud together, called "Ride-along Haiku." It was based on a ride

she took with him in his cruiser to get an idea of what the job is like. It talked about how the police are here to deal with the stuff no one else wants to deal with.

Some of the poems dealt with some pretty heavy material; one that was read by local poet Michael Macklin who worked with an officer was about the difficult situations police officers find themselves in and how it affects them.

One line read, "One crack bust, a suicide, then silence."

Later the poem asked the question, "How do you protect your heart?"

A couple of the poems incorporated real questions and comments kids of the police officers had asked.

One of the lines from the poem read by Michael Macklin was, "Who are the bad guys, Dad? How do you know? Who do you trust?"

In a particularly moving poem Don Hayden put together a series of questions his son had asked him and used it as his poem, all of them perfectly capturing that

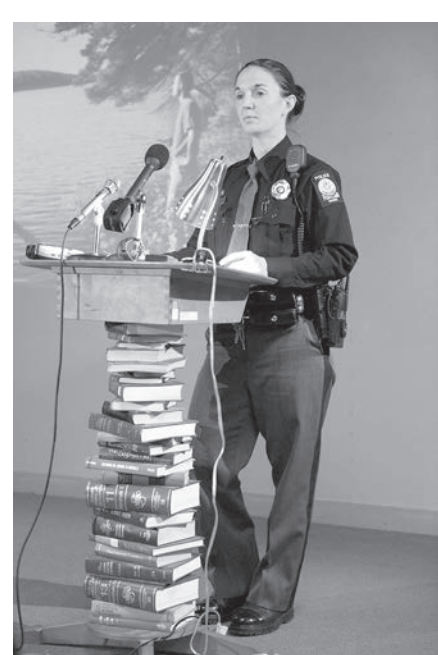
Stephen Colbert) turn the 2006 White House press corp dinner into the most ballsy, squirm-inducing piece of performance art George W. Bush ever participated in.

It's watching Nixon shift his pants, wipe his lips, pout, smile awkwardly and generally look defeated throughout the long stretch of Watergate questioning.

It's watching him go from full-scale denial, to trying to get off on a technicality and then finally resorting to sweet, simple pity. Twice, he describes crying at some point during the aftermath of Watergate, a shameless attempt at garnering audience sympathy - I wasn't around to know if it worked at the time, but it seems to do the job on David Frost. His jaw droops closer and closer to the floor throughout the segment, and he's suddenly speechless as Nixon concocts the non-answer of all non-answers.

There are a few points that should be made in defense of the dramatized version, aside from the fact that it's shorter and much breezier to watch. The obvious one is that the two men playing Frost and Nixon are masters, Frank Langella's being particularly haunting in capturing Nixon's ability to be as smart as he was deeply troubled (not to mention Gargoyle-esque).

The other bright spot is that the film doesn't rest on history, even if it endlessly hypes its twisted version of things. It is just as much a shot at profiling Nixon, while giving a big nod to the often under-appreciated art of interviewing powerful people, who even at their most dejected still have the chops, lawyers and aides necessary to make sure they can speak for hours on end without ever actually saying anything.



A large crowd gathered for Thin Blue Lines, a poetry reading featuring work by Portland Police officers and local poets in Rines Auditorium at the Portland Public Library.

balance of childhood curiosity and fear toward police officers.

See **POLICE** on page 11

From OPERA on page 8

for himself and the young lovers are able to get married.

As John Coons, who plays Rinuccio in "Gianni Schicchi," puts it:

"I think one reason that this show might be good to come to is because you are getting both sides of opera (comedy and tragedy). You are getting two operas for the price of one."

"Sour Angelica" and "Gianni Schicchi" are being performed at Russell Hall in Gorham on March

13, 14, 19, 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m.; March 15 at 2 p.m.; and March 17 at 10 a.m. for a student matinee (with piano only, no orchestra). The tickets are \$10 for USM students; \$14 for seniors, USM employees and alumni; and \$20 for general admission. Call the Theater box office at 780-5151 for more information; advance reservations are required.

From BOOKS on page 9

the Program Coordinator of The Center.

For this first exhibit Goodale felt it was important to pull from USM's own rich resources by inviting nearly 40 former students and USM alumni, all of whom are still actively creating artist's books, to display their work. Goodale believes that the work on display is a testament to the power of education's lasting impact on one's life. Some of these artists were students of Goodale's nearly 20 years ago and still continue to make books. Some artists in this exhibit are now in distinguished permanent collections, some are represented by galleries, and some teach Book Arts to students ranging from kindergarten through college.

You'll find the Turning Pages exhibit on the seventh floor of USM's Glickman Family Library, just to the left of the elevator in the Great Reading Room. One exterior wall of the room is made up of glass cases where some of the artists books are displayed. The rest can be found hanging on the wall or encased inside.

One hanging piece, Gyrus Repercussus, by Cat Schwenk of Freeport is a framed wall piece. At first glance, it's as if you're looking at a mounted entomology exhibit. Under the glass are seven carefully pinned butterflies, their bodies, like origami, formed from pages of maps. Perhaps a visual representation of the "butterfly effect," colorful land masses and bathymetric circles make up the scale wing design, enhanced with dots of paint.

USM alum Frank Turek of Portland has included his piece, Escapade, which is like an exhibit within an exhibit. The original cover of a book entitled Personal History becomes the new cover for Turek's work. The previous contents hollowed out, a box is installed in its stead to make

room for new material: images and compartments holding antiquated treasures. Escapade sets the reader up for an adventure. Although the piece can't be touched, from this side of the glass one can imagine holding the book, opening the compartments and embarking on a process of discovery.

The Turning Pages exhibit will hopefully challenge your understanding of what a book is. Part of the enjoyment of reading a book can be the tactile experience, holding the book at a distance most comfortable for you, flipping its pages. And although these books can't be held, seemingly frozen on one page under glass, I promise you, they can still be read.

There's a different kind of literacy involved that requires the deciphering of images coupled with, or instead of, words. You don't need to be able to read Arabic, for example, in order to understand the transparency text pages of Sue Walker's piece, Biblioclam 3. And Ellen Roberts' piece, Chords of Ideas, might engage your knowledge of color. As with most gallery art, the meaning you translate can be personal and unique. And as with most good books you find yourself more enriched by the experience of reading them.

The next exhibit sponsored by the Kate Cheney Chappell Center for Book Arts is Studying Books: Book Arts at Maine Colleges and Universities opens March 20 in the 7th Floor Reading Room of the Glickman Family Library. The exhibit will showcase the work of students from 10 different schools across the state.

For more information on the Kate Cheney Chappell Center for Book Arts, including a calendar of future exhibits, lectures and workshops, please visit

<http://usm.maine.edu/cas/bookarts.html>

From POLICE on page 10

"Hey dad, put any bad guys in jail today?"

"Hey dad, are you going to put me in jail?"

One extremely tough poem titled "Making sense" dealt with chasing a drug dealer who had called to say he had killed a couple of police officers. It talked about how one of the hardest things about these situations is filling out the paperwork after it's over, because then you have to try to make sense of a situation that makes no sense whatsoever.

Still some of the poems were more calm and peaceful, such as one written by local poet Martin Steingesser based on a ride-along

with a police officer one night. It was a quiet night for this particular police cruiser, and the poem was a description of the stillness and beauty of Portland at dusk on an autumn night.

One of the most moving poems was perhaps the one written by Sgt. Rob Johnsey who had written a couple of poems before he died. The poem was read by his fellow Officer Alissa Poisson, and described a beautiful lake scene that was projected on the wall behind Poisson while she read.

One of the lines read, "I visit as a stranger but want to belong, to a world that makes sense, not one that is wrong."

Review of "Coraline"

This generation's "Alice in Wonderland"

Kaitlyn Creoney

Staff Writer

I was like a giddy school chicklet back when I first saw the trailers for Henry Selick's new release "Coraline." Selick did such movies as the cult classic "The Nightmare Before Christmas" or the equally great "James and the Giant Peach." It is the first stop-motion animated feature to be shot entirely in 3-D and is completely trippy.

The closest comparison I can make is to call it this generation's "Alice in Wonderland."

Before going to watch Henry Selick's new movie I skimmed through the book it was based on, which was awful, boring and predictable.

This made me weary about traveling all the way to the theater, as books generally surpass their film adaptations. A lot of critics who had thoroughly enjoyed the book (God bless those nameless souls) had immediately condemned it as "transforming a classic into Disney fodder."

Thankfully, their opinions meant nothing to me because the film managed to be a balance of charming and creepy.

The film follows Coraline (voiced by Dakota Fanning whose voice makes us remember what it's like to be a child again) and her adventures.

These adventures mainly deal with the discovery of a hidden door in her new house that leads to an alternate version of her life.

Upon first glance this parallel reality is eerily similar to her life experiences, yet far superior. This idea of children effortlessly inventing creative alternate universes (or daydreaming as more mature people refer to it) has been explored before, but certainly not in this manner.

This concept is vital to both the movie and childhood, the idea of taking solace in the unknown and preferred.

Beyond any doubt both children and adults will cling to this movie like a fat man in a leather chair in August.

Coraline experiences what every child goes through: the

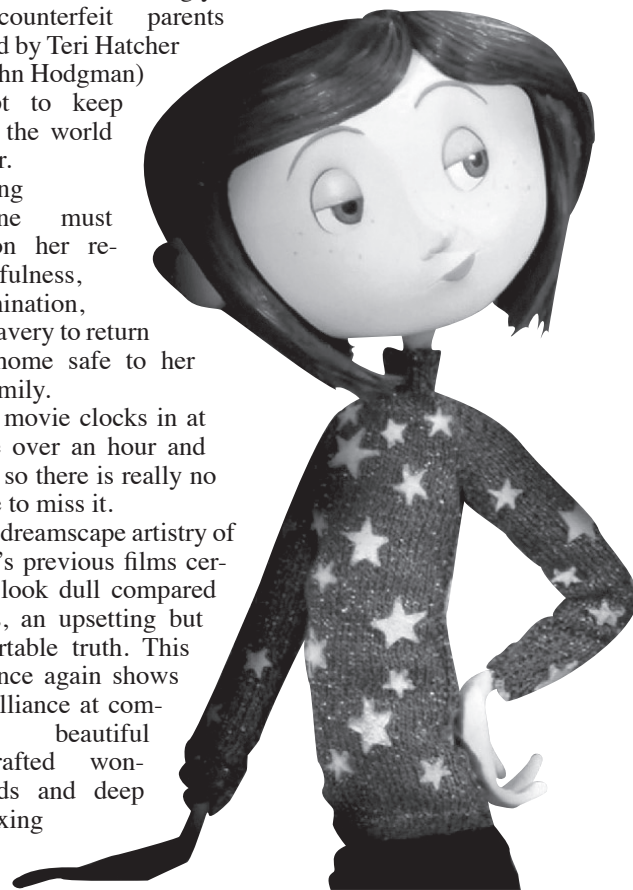
belief that her parents are absent from her life, natural boredom and feelings of being ignored solely because of her age. Her escape comes through this new life. As this reality begins to turn dangerous, and excitingly eerie, her counterfeit parents (voiced by Teri Hatcher and John Hodgman) attempt to keep her in the world forever.

Young Coraline must rely on her resourcefulness, determination, and bravery to return back home safe to her real family.

The movie clocks in at a little over an hour and a half, so there is really no excuse to miss it.

The dreamscape artistry of Selick's previous films certainly look dull compared to this, an upsetting but comfortable truth. This film once again shows his brilliance at combining beautiful handcrafted wonderlands and deep perplexing

creepiness into one. It is like a children's Edgar Allen Poe story that stays true to its roots, yet is powerful enough to move a mainstream audience.



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EPICUREAN EPICS

by Anne McCormack

Meaty addition

At the end of spring break, Kate and I flew to Philly to visit our sons at college. Jeremy is at Philadelphia U and Connor is at St. Joseph's University. Too busy with a full class load last semester, I never got down. I wanted to check out his on-campus apartment, and, of course, hang out with him.

On Saturday morning we toured the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, New Jersey, and then headed to the line-out-the-door popular Pop Shop in Collingswood. It is a retro 1950's eatery with a soda fountain, jukebox and over 30 variations on the grilled cheese sandwich alone. The menu is roughly the size of the Free Press.

Connor had tackled the Grease Truck - 2 Angus beef burgers, a foot-long hotdog, onion rings, fries, lettuce, tomato and condi-

ments all sandwiched in a foot-long roll.

When he declined dessert I assumed he was full. He was, but it turns out he was passing up the ice cream, whipped cream and cherries served in tall, heavy soda fountain glasses with long spoons because he was saving himself for the homemade caramel cheesecake back at his apartment.

"Cheesecake?!" Looking quite pleased with himself, he said his friend made it for him. He then encouraged us all to get dessert there because he wasn't sharing. After finding out that Megan Gorzkowski (who is teaching Connor some Polish phrases in honor of his heritage) likes to make cheesecake, Connor struck a deal with her to trade dinner for a dessert. He made one of his specialties, the recipe straight from one college to another follows.

CHICKEN RUB/STEAK RUB/FISH RUB

From Spice Supreme we use:

Garlic and Pepper Seasoning
Steak Seasoning (Larger quantity than all other ingredients)
Chili Powder

Other ingredients:

White and Black Pepper
Parsley Flakes
Oregano Leaves
Chef Paul Prudhomme's Magic Blend
Poultry Magic (Use a decent amount of this as well)
Crushed Roasted Garlic and Sea Salt
Ginger
Old Bay Seasoning

There are no measurements everything is completely eyeballed.

We have a mortar and pestle so we just kind of dump and mix.

Mix and crush thoroughly until it's completely blended.

Pound chicken (whole boneless chicken breasts) and apply generously to both sides.



Featured Artist

Drawing from personal experiences, Justin Levesque creates artwork in a variety of mediums. Levesque recently agreed to be interviewed by Free Press's Kathleen Wilber.

JUSTIN LEVESEQUE

Free Press: What is your major and concentration?

Justin Levesque: I'm majoring in arts for a BFA and am concentrating in photography.

FP: What year/class are you?

JL: I'm a senior, graduating in the spring!

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

JL: In photography, I shoot primarily medium format film and I use an RZ-67 camera.

FP: How would you describe your artwork?

JL: Hmm, that's tough. I suppose visually I would describe it as often clinical or sterile. However, some of my newer work is feeling really lush.

FP: Where do you get ideas or draw influence from to make your art? Do you have any continuing themes that you find pop up in your work often?

JL: Whenever I'm making work it always begins in one of three places: the material or emotional history of my Franco-American relatives, being born with a bleeding disorder (hemophilia) and my relationships with men (father, fellow hemophiliacs and lovers).

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

JL: Right now I'm working on some portraits for my upcoming show at the president's office at USM. This new work is with people I'm beginning to form new relationships with. These relationships could be either brand new or a re-thinking or new approach to an old relationship. For instance, if you go to the show, you'll see a photograph of my Nonnie (my grandmother). The woman I thought I knew her as growing up is really not the same person as I know her now or even who she possibly was then. I'm trying to close the distance.

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

JL: I find that kind of an odd phrase. It doesn't really fit in. It's just inherently part of everything I do. But in terms of long term plans or how am I going to make money? I want to go to grad school, get my MFA and start teaching.

FP: How have you grown as an artist during your time here at USM?

JL: Yea, or at least I hope so? I've had some amazing mentors here. I really owe it to them for asking me hard questions.

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

JL: I'd definitely like to show work more. I'm taking painting this semester, it's kind of been mindblowing. It's just such a different way of thinking about making images. Also, last semester I collaborated with another art student, Michael Breece, on a video using overlaid found porn. I'd like to work more with video.



Levesque's photographs; From left to right: "Waiting Room," from a previous show; "Betty," from an upcoming show.

From PEAPOD on page 9

Some of Winter '09's sweetest and catchiest spots are from the alt-country outfits Harpswell Sound and its newer incarnation, Honey Clouds, both of which feature singer-guitarists Trey Hughes and Peapod's Harry Hughes—who also appears on the compilation in a new band called R2T2—sings with a droning, untroubled voice that often receives comparisons to Stephen Malkmus. To me, the voice of the Halo Benders' Calvin Johnson comes to mind first, but either way, it suits the songs perfectly.

The Brooklyn-based band Company's "Settle Down" shares similar alt-country aesthetics as Honey Clouds and Harpswell Sound. The Guthrie-esque singer recalls: "I crossed famous rivers/I jumped in and I swam/coiled up just like a snake/I struck, then I ran/but I think I would like to settle down."

"Yardcat" by the Baltimore band Hearts by Darts is a strong indie pop track that summons the voice of Yo La Tengo's Georgia Hubley. The band recorded their new album here in Portland last summer.

The compilation remains strong at its quieter spots: Dan Blakeslee, Brown Bird, Wesley Hartley and cerf-volantes provide quick folk-pop gems that would hold up next to anything else of the sort coming out around the country these days.

Over the past few years, Portland's music scene has grown and thrived in numerous directions. With every great new band and release, it seems that the scene is on the brink of attracting a wave of national attention. Whether or not that will ever happen is a great, big unknown. But as long as there are labels like Peapod supporting the music, its creators and its fans, I can't see what there is to complain about.

Download Peapod Recordings Winter 2009 Compilation for free at: www.peapodrecordings.com

Don't stay home!

March 9th - 15th

Monday, March 9th

How Manly!

Beer and muscles usually aren't a great combination. How many ripped heavy beer drinkers do you know? But beer and mussels? Now that's a great combination. Head upstairs at Brian Boru to test some of Shipyard's best and newest beers while scarfing down Casco Bay's famous Bangs Island mussels. Shipyard Brewmaster, Alan Pugsley, will be present to take on any questions or comments. \$25.50/ 5 p.m./ Brian Boru/ 57 Center St., Portland/ 780-1506

Tuesday, March 10th

Hay-yaaaaa!

It's not too late to become a karate master. Earn that black belt you've been yearning for ever since you were a kid with a ten week session of beginning to intermediate karate training. Traditional Okinawan style will be taught covering basic punching, kicking and striking including an introduction to sparring and kata forms. \$10/ Every Tuesday 7-8 p.m./ usm.maine.edu/sullivancomplex

Wednesday, March 11th

Flower Power!

Can't wait for spring to start? Well start early with Northern New England's only Flower Show, From the Mountain to the Sea. Pleasure your senses with beautiful floral arrangements and seek help from the slew of vendors waiting to help you grow your dream garden. Festivities begin Wednesday 6-9 p.m. and culminate on Sunday with a flower auction. \$15/ Thursday-Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m./ Sunday: 10:00 - 5:00/ Flower Auction: 5:30/ Portland Company Complex/ 58 Fore St., Portland/ portlandcompany.com

Thursday, March 12th

Burlesque Burlesque!

Get your throwback sexy fix by checking out Portland's hottest burlesque dancers teasing and twirling at the Burlesque Burlesque show. The star-studded performers, presented by USM's Gender Studies Student Organization and the Women Resource's Center, include Kings of the Hill, Whistlebait Burlesque, Atomic Trash, Bunny Wonderland, and more! The two shows are at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m./ \$5 students/ \$8 public/ One Longfellow Sq., Portland/ onelongfellowssquare.com

Friday, March 13th

Ready, Set, Ok Go!

You must have been living under a rock if you didn't see Ok Go's treadmill video for "Here it Goes Again" from 2006. If not, lift up that rock and look it up. Ok Go are more than just wonderful choreographers, they're dually talented musicians. Check out their infectious pop-rock sound at Portland's newest venue, Port City Music Hall, and bounce along, or run in place, to their music. 18+! \$16/ 7 p.m./ Port City Music Hall/ 504 Congress St., Portland/ portcitymusichall.blogspot.com

Saturday, March 14th

Four!

The season is almost here! No, not baseball. Golf!!! Get all the gear and tips you need to improve your game for this spring and summer at Portland's Golf Expo. There are tons of free giveaways, clinics and contests for players of all skill levels. Festivities begin on Saturday and end on Sunday. \$8 online, \$9 at door/ 9 a.m. - 5 p.m./ Holiday Inn by the Bay/ 88 Spring St., Portland/ Visit Portlandgolfexpo.com for a list of events and more information

Sunday, March 15th

X Gon' give it to ya!

Traverse through beautiful snow frosted Maine by Cross Country Skiing through some of Maine's most beautiful terrain. No experience necessary, but there is limited gear available. A \$10 fee covers transportation, gear and facility access. Bus departs Portland's Sullivan Complex at 10:30 a.m. and picks up at Brooks Student Center in Gorham at 11:15. Approximate time of return is 3:30 p.m.



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"New Mainers" photography exhibit



One of photographs from "New Mainers: Portraits of Our Immigrant Neighbors."

Portraits from recently the published book, "New Mainers: Portraits of Our Immigrant Neighbors," will be on display from now until the end of March in the Woodbury Campus Center.

The portraits are by Jan Pieter van Voorst van Beest, who moved to Maine from the Netherlands in 1970 and took photography classes at Portland School of Art, now the Maine College of Art. Jan Pieter has also published three books of photography: "San Miguel de Allende, a photographic essay," "Portland, Maine, in Black and White," and "Flesh and Stone."

— Charlie Nickell

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				8	7		5	2

RANDOM FACT!

The vibrator was invented by a physician to treat women who suffered from "hysteria."

For more random facts go to:
mentalfloss.com/amazingfactgenerator



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Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Farther down
 - 6 First-place medal
 - 10 Practice boxing
 - 14 San Antonio landmark
 - 15 Fencing weapon
 - 16 Walking stick
 - 17 Ship's carrying capacity
 - 19 Religious ceremony
 - 20 Small speck
 - 21 Postal delivery
 - 22 Greeted rudely
 - 24 Taunts
 - 25 Pub beverage
 - 26 Entraps
 - 29 Parallel-bars user
 - 33 ___ bear (Arctic beast)
 - 34 Gets a glimpse of
 - 36 Location
 - 37 Tremendously
 - 38 Cereal grain
 - 39 "How sad!"
 - 40 Teeming (with)
 - 41 Yours and mine
 - 42 Keep from happening
 - 43 Burger topper
 - 45 Stockholm natives
 - 46 Fresh from the oven
 - 47 Late-blooming flower
 - 49 Uses a broom
 - 52 Sheep sounds
 - 53 Likely
 - 56 Become weary
 - 57 Internet surfer's need
 - 60 With no warranty

- 61 Military no-show, briefly
- 62 New Hampshire neighbor
- 63 "Of ___ I sing"
- 64 Dole (out)
- 65 Wipe the chalk from

DOWN

- 1 Touch down on the runway
- 2 Butter stand-in
- 3 Light-bulb unit
- 4 CPR pro
- 5 More spacious
- 6 Aladdin's magical friend
- 7 Milky gems
- 8 Chair part
- 9 Record spinners

HOLEY QUARTET by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- 10 Idle-computer monitor display
- 11 Twosome
- 12 Poker player's payment
- 13 Marsh plant
- 18 Catches, as a crook
- 23 Shade tree
- 24 Prepare Parmesan, perhaps
- 26 Fire starter
- 27 "That's the truth!"
- 28 Up in the air
- 29 Obtains
- 30 Was under the weather
- 31 Fixed gaze
- 32 Finals and midterms
- 34 Minestrone, for one
- 35 Corn portion
- 41 Defeated in a pool race
- 42 "Very cool!"
- 44 Move like a rabbit
- 45 Top-billed actor
- 47 Monastery leader
- 48 Pricy fur
- 49 Numerical fact, for short
- 50 6 Down offering
- 51 One of the Great Lakes
- 53 Largest continent
- 54 Farm enclosures
- 55 Birch or beech
- 58 Lamb's mom
- 59 Armed conflict

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63						64					65			

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Courtesy of USM athletics

Women's Hockey trounced in semis

Making their first appearance in the ECAC semi-finals since the 2003 season, the USM women's ice hockey team got all they could handle from Norwich University, losing 8-2 on Saturday.

The loss ends the Huskies' impressive turn-around season and leaves their record at 14-9-4 on the season.

The #3 ranked Huskies had all they could handle from the #2 ranked Cadets in the first period. Norwich out shot USM 21-to-5 in the opening period, building a 2-0 lead.

Norwich tacked on two more goals, separated by just 42 seconds in the second period, to give them a comfortable 4-0 lead heading into the final period of play.

USM finally chipped into Norwich's four-goal lead with two power play goals

in the third period. The first was a Jessica Knight (Alfred) score during a 5-on-3 stretch. She was assisted by Danielle Ward (Lansing, MI) and Jana Sacco (Niagara Falls, ONT). Knight then assisted Joanna Gaub (Woodstock, CT) 20 seconds later for another power play goal.

But late game heroics were not to be had. The Cadets tallied four more goals to dash any hopes of a USM comeback.

Freshman Kristen Gresko (Phoenix, AZ) made 37 saves on the evening, capping off an impressive freshman campaign.

The Huskies' season was an immense improvement over their 2007-2008 campaign where they failed to advance in the conference tournament and struggled to a 7-18-1 record.

National title hopes dashed women's basketball ousted in first round

After an impressive tear through the Little East Conference tournament, the USM women's basketball team saw their National Title hopes disintegrate with a heart-breaking 55-49 loss to Emmanuel College on Friday.

Poor shooting (34 percent) and a season-high 24 turnovers proved to be the fatal formula for the Huskies who finished their season with a 22-7 record.

The Huskies had a control of the game mid-way through the second half, clinging on to a six-point lead, but were unable to stymie Emmanuel's dynamic duo of sophomore Kristen Lebel and junior Iman Davis who combined to score 37 points – 33 coming in the second half.

Mustering a meager 19 points at the half, USM trailed by only two points, a testament to their solid defense. But, despite building a 36-30 lead on the back of an 11-2 run, the Huskies simply could not make enough shots to claim yet another NCAA tournament victory.

Davis and LeBel sparked a 7-0 run over a span of 1:36 to regained the lead for the Saints. In the ensuing four minutes, the teams traded the lead five times and there was one tie before LeBel scored six straight points to give the Saints a 49-45 lead with 3:52 to go.

National title hopes dashed women's basketball ousted in first round

A man of firsts, junior Mike Morin (Fryeburg) of the USM wrestling team became the school's first-ever All-American this weekend with a fourth-place finish at the NCAA Div. III National Championships.

Appearing in the tournament for the second straight year, Morin, wrestling in the 165-pound weight class was seeded sixth in the tournament.

Morin defeated sophomore Orlando Ponce of Augsburg College by decision 8-5. In his second match, Morin took his first loss of the season to third-seed Ben Youel of North Central by decision 11-4.

However, thanks to the double-elimination tournament set-up, Morin stayed alive and went on to defeat Matt Curley of Heidelberg College 10-6 in the consolation bracket. In his first match of day two, Morin edged out Pat Nagel of the University of Wisconsin Whitewater 5-4 to advance to the consolation quarterfinals.

Morin defeated the University of Dubuque's Josh Terrell, the third seed in the tournament, by decision 5-4 to advance to the third place match. Morin dropped just his second match of the season by major decision 12-4 to take fourth place at the tournament falling to Tyler Burkle of Coe College.

Morin's efforts alone are impressive, but, as coach Joe Pistone acknowledged, Morin's bracket was one of the toughest,

boasting five returning All-Americans from the 2008 championships.

"Mike represented USM in the highest of fashion, becoming the first ever Husky wrestler to earn a victory at the NCAA National Championships and eventually earn All-American honors," Pistone said of the Fryeburg native.

And, as if his unparalleled success on the mat were not enough, Morin and teammate, junior Doug Christensen (Middletown, NY) also got it done in the classroom, earning unprecedented Academic All-American honors for the first time in the school's history.

"Mike and Doug each represented the Huskies honorably on the mat" Pistone said. "But, most importantly they took care of their main responsibility in the classroom and led by example."

Morin had more success at this year's NCAA's. Just a year ago, he lasted only two matches before being ousted. The two-time All-New England Honoree has a career record of 89-16, good for an .847 win percentage.

Morin ended his weekend with a 4-2 mark.

He ends his season with a 40-2 record overall.

HANGIN' WITH MR. TARDIEFF

by Mike Tardiff

1992, 1997, 2009: a welcomed pattern

With the women's basketball team bowing out of the NCAA tournament, it's time to put our hopes into another prominent sports team: baseball.

It's been 12 years since baseball won its second of two national championships, and I think it is about time for another one.

This is not wishful thinking.

With arguably the most potent offensive lineup in the region, USM boasts some pretty remarkable talent and a legendary coach who knows what it takes to win at the highest level.

The Huskies return two All-American honorees in senior shortstop Chris Burleson (Portland) and Anthony D'Alfonso (Westbrook), both of whom are looking to add to career-years.

D'Alfonso is just a year removed from a season where he hit 15 home runs, drove in 62 runs and batted a red-hot .393.

I consider D'Alfonso the best pure hitter in the state, regardless of level (yes, that includes D-I). His approach at the plate is a rare blend of power and contact that will, more than likely, prove fatal

for USM's foes throughout the season.

Burleson, an anchor in the middle of the Huskies' infield, is coming off an equally impressive season. Bating out of the lead-off spot, Burleson was a Rickey Henderson-type force. Blending speed and power, Burleson compiled nine homers, scored 63 runs and batted .383.

However, what gives USM the brightest hopes of claiming their third-ever national championship are the players behind D'Alfonso and Burleson. Senior Ryan Pike (Saco) will no doubt be a force, while a healthier Collin Henry (Penobscot) will make USM's middle-portion of the lineup a formidable task for any pitcher. Throw in Josh Mackey (Danvers, MA) and USM rivals any team across the country.

The only thing between USM and a long run in the national tournament is a stable of experienced and proven pitchers. But, let there be no mistake, the Huskies are loaded with fresh, young and talented arms that, if the chips fall into place, could be lights out.

The addition of Josh Jillson, a University of Maine transfer, bolsters a potential rotation that already includes Tim Therrian (New Portland), lefty Mark Schmidt (Gorham) and Ben Ives (Portland).

Coach Ed Flaherty's team has already been picked to win the always tough Little East Conference, besting perennial power Eastern Connecticut and Keene State. The Huskies are ranked eighth in the most recent D3Baseball.com top-25 poll, which puts them three spots ahead of Eastern Connecticut.

A testament to the over-loaded talent of USM was the number of players who tried out for this year's team and the fact that Flaherty had to cut players from the team who had previously held roster positions – players that could be starting or seeing significant playing time at most other D-III schools.

It's a bold statement, but I'm going to make it. Look for the Huskies to hang banner number three at the end of this year.

Husky Highlights

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY

Trio of men's hockey players tabbed for conference honors

The USM men's hockey team placed three players on ECAC All-Conference teams for the 2009 season. Leading the pack was senior Dan Gordon (Lynnfield, MA) who was placed on the First Team. Gordon was the team's leading scorer this season with 15 goals and 20 assists. Joining Gordon was sophomore defenseman Paul Conter (Woodbridge, ONT) who was selected to the second-team. Conter amassed eight goals and 18 assists. His 26 points were good for second-best on the team and his 18 assists led the conference. Earning an Honorable Mention nod was junior forward Chris Travis (Scituate, MA). Travis, who earned ECAC Player of the Week honors this season, tied Gordon for the team lead in goals with 15 and recorded two hat tricks on the season.

WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY

Gresko honored by ECAC

Freshman goalie Kristen Gresko (Phoenix, AZ) of the USM women's ice hockey team was the lone Husky named to an ECAC post-season team. Gresko was picked as a member of the Honorable Mention squad for her efforts during her rookie campaign. Gresko's 2.28 goals

against average and .910 save percentage were good enough to make her the first USM women's ice hockey player to be named to an All-Conference squad since the 2006-2007 season. Gresko appeared in 19 games, making 18 starts. Her record for the season was 9-8-2. Gresko had a great latter part of the season. After January 31, Gresko posted a 5-2-1 record, a 1.36 goals against average and a .949 save percentage.

INDOOR TRACK

Four USM Track and Field athletes earn All-ECAC accolades

Two members from each the men and women's indoor track teams earned All-ECAC honors at the 2009 ECAC Track Championships. Freshman Tim Even (Stoneham) continued his strong rookie campaign, posting a fifth place finish in the mile event with a time of 4 minutes and 19 seconds. Classmate Mattia Zagon (Portland) joined Even on the All-ECAC team. His 6.57 meter effort in the long jump was good for a sixth-place finish. On the women's side, junior Emily Artesani (Orono) and freshman Bethany Dumas (Augusta) notched honors. Dumas picked up a fourth place finish in the pole vault. Her 3.70 meter vault broke her previous school record of 3.66 meters. Artesani was eighth in the 400 meter with a time of 59.64 seconds.

Upcoming Games

March 13

Women's Indoor Track
NCAA Division III
Championships @ Terra
Haute, Ind. time TBA

March 14

Baseball Old Westbury @
Yaphank, NY 10:30 a.m.
Women's Indoor Track
NCAA Division III
Championships @ Terra
Haute, Ind. time TBA

March 15

Baseball Albertus Magnus @
Yaphank, NY 10:30 a.m.

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Maine welcomes D-League

Perhaps the biggest sports story of the year has been Portland's newest professional sports team, a minor league basketball affiliate. The team, which will be based in Portland, will bear the state's name on their chest. The team – yet to be named – will play their home games at the soon-to-be renovated Portland Exposition Center starting next fall.

The team's arrival has already brought more than just basketball town, providing key experience to students in USM's sports management program.

Team players

Students sell Portland on the D-League

Mike Tardiff

Sports Editor

A group of sports management students at USM have been given the opportunity of a lifetime. Working alongside Jon Jennings of the new Maine NBA Developmental team, the students in Joanne Williams' sports marketing class have been getting first-hand experience and real-life glimpse of what it takes to start a professional sports team from scratch.

The students have been implementing some low-cost marketing strategies in an attempt to stir up curiosity and interest in Portland's newest minor sports club.

"We've basically just been using really low-cost means of marketing like Facebook, Twitter and blogging to spread the word and get people excited about this opportunity," Josh Jameson, a junior in the sports management program said.

Jameson and a group of fellow students created a highly interactive Facebook page, equipped with videos, links, news briefs and other D-League related material. Their page was part of a larger assignment for the class where students broke up into groups and tried to accrue as many members to their Facebook page as possible.

A simple search on Facebook with the query "Portland D-League" yields no less than 26 results, many of which are associated with Williams' two marketing classes. Right now, those Facebook groups total over 500 members from places all over the state including UMaine and other colleges.

Jameson says that he hopes to promote the team on the merits of the basketball, the price of the entertainment and the remodeling of the Portland Expo, which, according to him should make the games fun and exciting to watch.

"We really want to get people who are going to the movies or out to dinner to think about going to the games," Jameson said.

The class has also been working to market the season ticket sales which are now underway for the next season. In fact, Jennings and company have allowed USM a special promotional code so students can track the number of ticket sales related to their marketing campaign.

As of now, the season ticket push is going well. According to

Jameson many of the tickets in the "Hollywood" seating section, which are court-level premium seats have already been sold.

And it is not as though the students are marketing for a phantom boss. Jennings has been actively involved in the entire process, coming to Portland once already this semester to meet with students. He'll be back again on Thursday to check in with his marketing gurus.

Williams' students have also played a large role in the on-going naming decision for the team. It was part of their assignment to procure potential names for Jennings and his other marketing team to look at.

Right now the team has limited their mascot to six possibilities that fans have the opportunity to vote on. The choices are the Maine Destroyers (honoring Maine's shipbuilding industry), Beacons (a tribute to Maine's lighthouses), Red Claws (a hybrid honor to legendary coach Red Auerbach and Maine's lobster industry), the Crushers (again, lobsters), the Traps (lobsters) and the Swarm (Maine's state insect is the Honey Bee).

Jameson said that he's already learned a great deal about marketing from watching Jennings' calculated maneuvers. The Orrington native said that listening to Jennings talk about demographics has been an enlightening experience for anyone interested in sports marketing.

"He really liked Portland because of its high school basketball tradition, its proximity and distance from Boston and the Expo. He said the Expo really reminded him of the old Boston Garden," Jameson added. "Listening to what he wanted really gave us an idea of what he looks for and how he markets."

The Expo will likely resemble the Garden even more after all of the schedule renovations are complete. According to reports, Jennings and company are going to install and professional-grade parquet floor. The floor, from all accounts, will be a significant upgrade and will add to the building's ambience.

Jameson added that Jennings has no intentions of cutting off his relationship with USM after this marketing exercise concludes. And when asked if he would like to work or intern for the team, Jameson just smiled and said "Yeah, I'd love that."

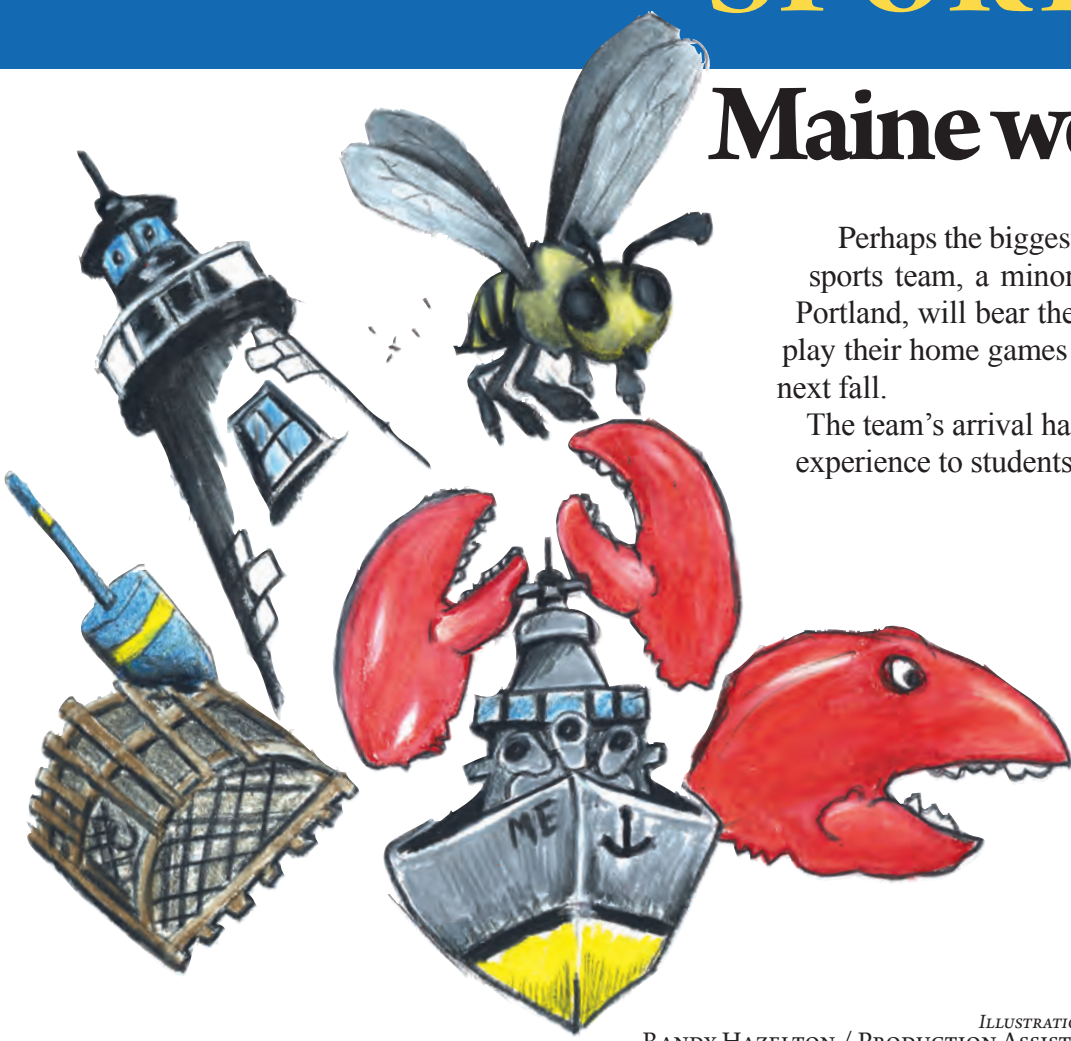


ILLUSTRATION BY
RANDY HAZELTON / PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Potential mascots include Destroyers, Red Claws, Swarm, Traps, Beacons, and Crushers.

D-League fundamentals

Everything you need to know about the NBA's little brother

Mike Tardiff

Sports Editor

It's been hard to miss that Portland's newest acquisition: a minor league basketball team.

But what exactly is the NBA Developmental League?

The D-League, as it is affectionately called, was founded in 2001 as the NBA's official minor league system. It was conceptualized in much the same way as other minor leagues like those in baseball and hockey, where players who aren't ready for the highest level of competition are able to play and hone their skills.

But unlike other minor league systems, the D-League's 16 teams (17 counting Portland's franchise) have more than one affiliate. So, whereas the Sea Dogs are directly affiliated with the Boston Red Sox, the Maine D-League team will likely be affiliated with more than one NBA squad.

It has been speculated that the Portland-based team will, at minimum, be affiliated with the Boston Celtics, however no formal announcement has been made. Although, given the Celtics strong interest in the city's acquisition – as evidenced in a recent video promoted by the League – there is a strong possibility that Portlanders will get their wish: another minor league squad affiliated with the a Boston-based team.

And who can you expect to see playing at the Expo next season?

Currently, D-League teams comprise many different brands of players. Players in the league don't sign contracts with individual teams, but the league itself. Teams are usually made of 10 or fewer D-League players and two or more players who are being "swung down" by NBA teams.

Teams acquire their players through a D-League draft, NBA player assignments, local tryouts and returning players.

This season 60 former D-League players were on opening-day NBA rosters.

Rafer Alston (AKA Skip To My Lou), Matt Carroll, current Celtic Mikki Moore and 2009 NBA Three Point Champion Daequan Cook are some of the D-League's greatest success stories.

If the team is affiliated with the Celtics its not out of the question that Mainers could see recent Boston acquisitions Bill "Sky" Walker and J.R. Giddens – both of whom are well known for their incredible athletic abilities and their abilities above the rim.

It's also possible that Mainers could get the chance to watch current NBA stars play in rehab games, similar to when the Red Sox assigned David Ortiz to Portland in the past.

Nik Caner-Medley, former Deering High School star and Maryland Terrapin, spent a short time in the D-League with the Sioux Falls Sky Force before opting to play overseas.

Morin becomes USM's first All-American

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