USM to cut all but two majors

Resources to be restructured into new “College of Hunting and Gathering”

Dan Matthews
Business and economic news correspondent

Last Friday, USM President Selma Botman announced that due to ongoing budgetary gaps, the university will close the College of Arts and Sciences from its funding, effective July 31st.

“It was an excruciating decision, but unfortunately the university can no longer bear the burden of these programs,” she said in a prepared statement delivered by carrier pigeon.

“I have been a lifelong advocate of higher learning in all fields of study, no matter how pointless or devoid of context to the real world,” she said.

Unfortunately, the continued costs of funding the art, biochemistry, biology, chemistry, communication, geology, economics, English, French, geography-ethnology, geosciences, history, linguistics, mathematics, media studies, music, philosophy, physics, political science, psychology, social work, sociology, and theatre programs are simply a burden that we cannot continue to bear.

The College of Arts and Sciences is the largest college in USM, accounting for nearly two-thirds of the university’s students.

These students are invited to re-apply to the newly formed College of Hunting and Gathering, which offers two majors: hunting, or gathering.

Molly Quigley, currently a junior economics student, plans on double-majoring in both hunting and gathering next fall, when the change takes place.

“At first I was skeptical about whether to get a B.S. in hunting and a B.A. in gathering, or just a B.A. in hunting, and getting a real estate license from Andover College,” she said.

“I guess I have a lot to think about.”

Other students aren’t exactly feeling the effects of the cutback as well. Luke O’Donnell, a sophomore nursing student, says he will not return to USM next fall.

“I’m pretty upset, to tell you the truth,” he said last week during lunch at the McDonald Student Center.

Other students aren’t reacting to “14 caret gold” to be posted in all USM bathrooms.

At 1.5 gallons per flush, USM students are sending thousands of dollars a semester down the drain for what Chugnee calls “wasteful elitist bathroom vanity.”

“Cuts need to be made if USM wants to remain true to its core mission,” says CFO Reginald Meriwether. “And at this point, it was either this or the desks.”

Some professors aren’t exactly feeling the effects of the cutback “I bury all my waste in the woods,” says environmental policy professor Birch Maplepine during an interview at his sustainable living compound in the Gorham woods. “Downhill from where I gather my water of course.”

The policy is raising a stink among both students and faculty.

“Unfortunately, the university’s students. “I’m not really into hunting or gathering, but there’s no way in hell I’m going to be able to get into the biology program at SMCC with a 3.4 GPA.”

Despite near-universal uproar from USM’s 900 students, and 6 faculty members, President Botman says that there is no way that the school can continue to fund the college, which has been operating at a loss of approximately $12 a semester.

“I feel so bad for them, but I must think about what is best for our students.”

USM institutes “if it’s yellow, let it mellow” cost-saving initiative

Indecent proposal leaves some students, staff fuming

Boyd Tinsley
Waste Management Correspondent

In an effort to save the school its utilities bill USM is instituting a “if it’s yellow, let it mellow” policy in all university bathrooms across all campuses.

Starting April 1st, USM will closely monitor all bathroom usage by students, faculty, and staff, to ensure that the university’s toilets are only flushed when absolutely necessary.

“It’s a code yellow,” says Facilities Management’s Kenny Chugnee. “These are not luxurious times.”

To assist students in deciding when and when not to go for the handle, Facilities Management, in collaboration with the art department, has devised a color chart ranging from “pale crystal” to “14 caret gold” to be posted in all USM bathrooms.

“Despite near-universal uproar from USM’s 900 students, and 6 faculty members, President Botman says that there is no way that the school can continue to fund the college, which has been operating at a loss of approximately $12 a semester.”

“I feel so bad for them, but I must think about what is best for our students.”

Women and Gender Studies building gets makeover

Ginger Cutaneous/Staff Photographer

Once an unkempt workspace more concerned with grant proposals than girls night out, Portland’s Women and Gender Studies Building recently got a makeover from the sisters at Phi Mu.

See MELLOW on page 2
Osher map leads to $4.3 million in buried treasure
‘Finders-keepers,’ says administration

D. Stevens MacLean
Cartography correspondent

Last Wednesday, USM’s Office of Public Affairs announced that a map in the Osher Map Library may hold the solution to the school’s budgetary woes.

"It has been brought to our attention that a map in the Osher Library may lead to approximately $4.3 million in gold dubloons," said USM spokesman Robert Caswell, while shopping for a headlamp at L.L. Bean last Wednesday.

"If this is the case, we may be in better shape than we thought," he said, adding, "finders-keepers."

As soon as the school can verify the location of the treasure, representatives from the Geosciences department will take soil tests and determine the best way to dig. Work-study students - under the close, personal supervision of UMaine Chancellor Richard Pattenaude - are expected to do the lion’s share of digging.

School administrators refused to disclose the general location of the treasure, claiming a directive from the UMaine systems office to 'keep it secret, keep it safe.'

Caswell denies allegations that the buried treasure legally belongs to the Spanish government.

"Do you have any idea what we had to go through to get that Map Library built? I mean, who in the hell would even want a map library at a state university? No, this money is ours, and rightly so," he said while hoisting a rented jack-hammer into the back of his mini-van last Thursday.

"We earned it."

Penny Nichol-Dime, a junior political science student, was pleased by the news.

"I'm relieved, of course," he said.

"I hope it turns out to be true. I mean, I wasn't really that excited about majoring in hunting or gathering."

Karl Brief, a freshmen media studies major, was equally excited by the prospect of not having to drop out of school.

"I guess that building wasn’t a total waste of money after all," he said.

"Most of us [USM students] were pretty annoyed when they built [the Osher Map Library], especially after they ended up having to fire all my favorite professors, but I guess everything turned out alright."

This secret plan, uncovered by the Free Press in President Botman’s office, lays out USM’s strategy for uncovering the lost treasure.

From MELLOW on page 1 who know have to make some tough decisions on weather or not to brave the bathroom.

"To pee or not to pee, “ said English professor Vern Elbowpatch "That is the question."

But it’s not all bad for USM students. As a means of enforcing the policy, a new, high-paying work-study position has been created. "Waste inspection zero-tolerance associate refuse director" or WIZARD.

Freshman Andy Benoit was initially reluctant to apply to be a WIZARD, but after a couple hours of training in Luther Bonney’s notoriously musky third floor lavatory, he is ready for the task.

"Yeah, I got some funny looks while I was training, but after two weeks, I know exactly when to pull the handle," says Benoit.

The policy will save USM an estimated $35,000 a semester, and while such savings are encouraging for a cash-strapped university, Chugnee reminds bathroom patrons to remember one golden rule.

"If it’s brown, flush it down."
USM cuts arts, culture from CCE

‘These aren’t our students’ says Botman, as cuts continue

Matt Dodge
Executive Editor

Last week, USM announced plans to eliminate its non-credit, personal enrichment courses offered through The Center for Continuing Education.

These courses, which target non-matriculated students, usually attract around 1,100 community members, but had been operating at a loss of $30,000 per year.

“It’s time for us to focus on programs that meet the professional and career development needs of people throughout the region,” said Stacy Calderwood, director of continuing education.

President Botman sees this paring down of community services as a regrettable necessity given USM’s current $4.1 million dollar budget shortfall in the next fiscal year.

USM’s current revenue shortfall has necessitated a reevaluation of some of the university’s non-essential offerings. Such programs include USM’s day-care program and Lifeline fitness program, which were both cut this semester because of a budget deficit.

For the university.

larger role in providing funding

office is likely to play a much
port, the role of the Advancement
vide a clear outline of the future
strategic planning process to pro
blic’s effort. Since 2005, the
enrichment courses for decades

Still, Bushnell understands
the economic realities that drive
USM’s decisions. “If you can’t
break even, you need to cut your
losses.”

Bushnell has been teaching en-
richment courses for the last 11
years, and while he hopes USM
will reintroduce the courses as fi-
nances stabilize, he plans to offer
the same book reviewing class
at Glickman library through the
Maine Writers and Publishers
Alliance.

Bushnell’s experience in CCE
seems to echo Botman’s con-
cern, in his 11 years on the job,
he doesn’t believe he has had a
single full-time USM student in
one of his classes.

“Myself it’s an older group,” he
said “folks who are out of col-
lege and want to expand their ho-
orizons.”

And career development needs of
people throughout the region,”

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people throughout the region,”

ce is to its students,” said USM
Associate Provost for University
Outreach Robert Hansen.

USM has offered non-credit
enrichment courses for decades
as a part of its community out-
reach effort. Since 2005, the
courses have been housed in the
Abramson Community Education
Center.

The enrichment courses cur-
rently offered are an eclectic mix
of subjects, including performing
arts, writing, visual art, and lan-
guage.

While displaced enrichment
students will still be able to find
similar offerings through local
community centers and indepen-
dently run enrichment programs,
they say they will miss the price,
and convenience of CCE’s class-
es.

“I’ve been interested in Asian
brush painting for a long time,”
said Peaks Island resident Doug
Smith. “This is a nice opportunity
because it’s not a big investment
of time and money,” he said of
the one-day, 90-dollar class.

Smith, who plans to take anoth-
er art class at the Maine College
of Art in late April, does not look
forward to the end of CCE’s en-
richment courses. “These are
more reasonable in price, and in a
real nice facility,” Smith said.

“It’s a shame that in severe
economic times, arts are the first
to be cut,” said Asian brush paint-
ing student Margaret Boyagian,
“it’s important to balance what
we need to do on a daily basis
with creative outlets.”

Maryanne Storer, another
member of the brush painting
class, says that the enrichment
courses offer a less obvious form
of professional development that
should be more carefully consid-
ered.

“People doing this can move on
to start a small business – making
cards or watercolors.”

Book critic Bill Bushnell also
sees his class, “Book Reviewing:
How to Get Started” as a poten-
tial moneymaker for his students.

“It’s a business-oriented class” he
said.

Students of an Asian brush painting course gather around professor Jean Kigel as she demonstrates techniques for painting birds. USM will no longer offer non-credit personal enrichment courses after this spring in an effort to reallocate resources to other academic areas.

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**NEWS**

**Let’s talk about sects**

**Chaplains seek to work with - and around - religious differences**

David O'Donnell  
Staff Writer

Toxis urges its followers to consider the gains and losses of a neighbor as their own.

The header of Nikaya, a Buddhist scripture, asks how we could inflict a state that’s not “pleasing or delightful” onto somebody else.

And as Jesus of Nazareth has been quoted saying, often in red print: “Just as you want men to treat you, treat them in the same way.”

That last expression of the “golden rule” may be preferred by Andrea Thompson McCall. USM’s interfaith chaplain and a lifelong Christian, but she would be the last person to claim that her faith holds a copyright on the sentiment. (Her office’s calling card alone features 12 variations.)

“Christianity is a spiritual language,” she says. “Islam is a spiritual language. Think of different religions as different languages of the human spiritual experience.”

That’s both McCall’s advice and the heart of her work at the Interfaith Chaplaincy, located in an old white farmhouse in the middle of the Portland campus.

She knows college is typically a trying time for students - religious, when the teachings of families and churches can sometimes seem at odds with much of what they encounter at a university.

“This is a classic crisis of faith that happens, and I see one of the roles of the chaplaincy as helping students deal with that,” she says. “Not necessary to resolve it immediately, as long as they get through the tough times and answer some of the stigma attached to paganism - such as green cartoon witches, satanic devotion and dirt worshipping.

One memorable connection between Collins’ group and campus Jews occurred on the Jewish holiday Tu Bishvat, observed as the start of a “New Year of the Trees.” USM’s Jewish group opened their celebration to the pagans, who found a surprising and reliable environmental focus in Judaism.

“I don’t think the idea is to necessarily bring the walls [between faiths] down completely, but see different religions as different languages of the human spiritual experience.”

Student religious journeys - her own, for example - can take place in a person’s own time, she acknowledges as being at the heart of her work.

“One of the things that’s been a real gift to me is the relationship we have as chaplains together,” she says. “As we’ve gotten to know one another and build a trust, we don’t have to feel superficial and we’re talking about the same thing - we do have differences, and that’s okay.”

McCall likens the work, which she acknowledges as being at times difficult and complicated, to dealing with the conflicts that can take place in a person’s own religious journey - her own, for example.

McColl is currently an active member at her local, South Portland congregation of the United Church of Christ, a younger and more liberal denomination of Christianity.

But prior to that, she was an Episcopalian who felt increasingly out of step with her religion, which remained steadfast in its opposition to accepting women in priestly roles and the height of 1960s feminism.

“A lot of women of my generation decided to abandon Christianity,” she recalls. “I was trained, and with help from teachers, deconstructed that patriarchy and realized it was a cultural overlay to the spiritual language.”

“People make pledges [that] go out of this university. All of that needs to be finished up and that will take some time,” she said.

Despite the widely-reported global economic downturn, both Sturgeon and Weston believe that there is ample opportunity for fundraising for the university.

“We won’t be in a recession forever. When you’re down, everybody thinks we’re always going to be this way, and when we’re up, the problem with the bubble is that everybody thinks we’re always going to be growing,” Weston said.

Sturgeon says that the recession may actually help USM’s fundraising efforts.

“Ironically, it’s probably a good time to be asking for support because we can exhibit such a strong need for support, maybe even more than we could before,” she said last January.

Weston agrees that the recession’s impact on the school could end up helping it in the long run.

“I do think that there’s a new energy at USM, and that we will emerge from this budget-cutting and these difficult times with a really clear path,” she said.

“I think it will be a much more important source of revenue. I hope that it will be a strategic position within the university.”

**From VP on page 3**

“Generally in a public university, it’s become more and more important as a percentage of overall funding,” Weston said.

Interim VP of Advancement, Dick Sturgeon, agreed that more could be riding on this position in the future.

“Expectations may be a little bit high in terms of seeking external support than they have been in the recent past,” he said last January.

Weston says that the new buildings in Portland - commonly referred to the the “University Commons” - were built with the intent of maintaining a competitive edge in attracting new students.

“In order to do that, private fundraising has played a larger role in that whole process,” she said last January.

Weston, a graduate of USM and lifelong photographer, has been involved in the photo-finishing industry for most of her professional life. She was the Chief Operating Officer for Konica-Minolta East and CEO of Print-Life, an Israeli-based online photo business, which later went belly-up when the dot com bubble burst in the late 1990s.

Reverend Andrea Thompson McCall poses in the Interfaith Chaplaincy building on USM’s Portland Campus. Thompson McCall is the head chaplain at USM.

Weston also runs a website, www.volcanoes.com, which is a showcase of her photographs of the world’s volcanoes.

“It really sort of gives me a sense of the power of nature. Most kids do get enamoured of volcanoes or dinosaurs or one of those things, so maybe I never got over it,” she said.

One of Weston’s missions when she takes over will be to strengthen ties with USM’s alumni, an area of fundraising that she feels has been underdeveloped in recent years. She also wants to work on the technology used to contact alumni, as well as the software infrastructure that USM currently uses as a database for donors.

“That will be a big technology changeover, similar to the Peoplesoft changeover,” she said in reference to the program that Maniac roles as an.

Between alumni relations and that, those will be my priorities.”

Weston will also have her hands full collecting endowments previously promised by donors.

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**In the same way, people from different religions can peel away the non-essential and find the common ground,” she adds.**

Since initiating the chaplaincy at USM in 2002, the parallel has proved encouraging. Still, for all the friendship between the chaplains, she has noticed that the student population has been slower to adapt.

“The students haven’t moved in that direction,” she says. “That may just be developmental, it may be that they haven’t seen the bridge yet.

As long as that remains the case, USM’s chaplains see it as their duty to preach to the choir and lead the way.

“People make pledges [that] go out of this university. All of that needs to be finished up and that will take some time,” she said.

Despite the widely-reported global economic downturn, both Sturgeon and Weston believe that there is ample opportunity for fundraising for the university.

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WMPG to get boost
FCC gives thumbs up to power increase

Charlie Nickell
Staff Writer

Good news for WMPG fans: USM’s campus and community radio station is working towards increasing their signal strength further into Maine, widening the station’s broadcast coverage area to reach more listeners.

“We want to be able to reach listeners beyond our current coverage area,” said station manager, Jim Rand, “to places where USM has campuses, like Lewiston, Saco and Bath.”

Weak signals thus far prevented those campuses from being able to listen to WMPG on their radio.

The station’s current output of 1.1 kilowatt (kW) will be increased to 4.5kW, expanding their potential listener base from 35,000 to 180,000. A second application is pending the FCC’s (Federal Communications Commission) approval to install a low-power frequency in Hallowell that will provide coverage in Lewiston.

Greater coverage not only will allow more people to pick up WMPG on their radios, it will also attract more businesses willing to provide underwriting grants, an income source that helps to finance the station’s operating costs. Since WMPG is not a commercial radio station, it doesn’t rely on advertising revenues for its operation.

WMPG began their “Power Up” campaign this month to raise money to increase their coverage, which means moving their signal from Gorham to a larger tower on Blackstrap Hill in Westbrook.

Greater coverage will not change the station’s programming. “The product is fine,” says Rand, “We’ll just be reaching more people.”

WMPG submitted their application for a power increase in the spring of 2007, finally receiving approval on Dec. 17, 2008. The FCC has allotted three years for the completion of the upgrade, which WMPG believes can be accomplished in two. The station needs to raise $200,000 to realize their goal.

“We are applying for a grant that would cover part of the cost,” says Rand, “but we will be having a lot of events like concerts and bake sales to raise money. We’re going to make it fun.” WMPG will need to raise about $5000 every month in order to meet their costs.

The costs involved cover all the expenses of upgrading the transmitter and all equipment necessary to make the transition to a stronger signal.

The power increase will not make WMPG the most powerful college radio station in Maine. The FCC recently approved UMaine Orono’s station, WMEB, a power increase from 6.8kW to 10kW that is scheduled to go into effect this fall. WMEB raised money from concert revenues and student fees to pay for their upgrade.

WMPG’s popularity has grown despite its small coverage area.

Thousands of free downloads of shows are made each week.

Listeners can also stream WMPG from the station’s website.

Since its humble beginning in Anderson Hall’s fifth floor lounge in Gorham in 1973 with 10W of power, only enough to broadcast on campus, WMPG has grown incrementally over the years, increasing to 50W in 1964, and to its current power of 1.1kW in 1988. The new increase will mark a serious accomplishment for the station and the community.

“WMPG is not only USM’s station, it’s also been an important part of the greater Portland community. We are volunteer driven,” said Rand.

Maps of WMPG’s current and potential signal coverage can be seen on their website: www.wmpg.org

SGA Election Results Round-up

The spring ’09 election results are in. Maggie Guzman has been elected student body president with 148 votes (98 commuter, 50 resident). Runners up, Norman Miller received 113 votes (52 commuter, 61 resident), Brendan Morse received 96 votes (26 commuter, 70 resident). Thomas Lapierre got 42 votes (28 commuter, 14 resident), while Shannon Gerald got only 4 votes (3 commuter, 1 resident).

Check out the Free Press next week for our exclusive interview with the new Student Body President.

AT-LARGE STUDENT SENATE SEAT RESULTS [5 SEATS]

* Denotes win in election

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Votes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rose Winegard - 262 votes (132 commuter, 130 resident)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Donahue - 236 votes (122 commuter, 114 resident)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Emerson - 232 votes (114 commuter, 118 resident)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justin Roux - 226 votes (103 commuter, 123 resident)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leon Parsons IV - 203 votes (109 commuter, 94 resident)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mako Bates - 191 votes (104 commuter, 87 resident)</td>
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COMMUTER STUDENT SENATE SEAT RESULTS [8 SEATS]

* Denotes win in election

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Molly Doby - 148 votes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maggie Guzman - 142 votes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allison Parker - 136 votes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brent Jandreau - 132 votes</td>
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<td>Matthew Taggett - 126 votes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Barrett - 124 votes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marie Follayttar - 122 votes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Lapierre - 114 votes</td>
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RESIDENT STUDENT SENATE SEAT RESULTS [5 SEATS]

* Denotes win in election

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<tr>
<td>Joshua Adams - 132 votes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Micaela Ensvoldsen - 132 votes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaitlyn Hamilton - 128 votes</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Finison - 123 votes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morgan DeBlos - 122 votes</td>
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COLUMNISTS
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Mainers patience with Nestle dries up
It’s bottled water giant vs. small Maine towns in a water rights battle

Karl Rawstron

Contributing Writer

Do you know Nestle? Maine does. Nestle bought Poland Spring in 1980. Now, municipal authorities across the state are struggling for sovereignty against this billion dollar foreign corporation that wants their water.

The town of Fryeburg has been defending itself through 43 months of legal appeals. Residents of Kennebunk came to near riot at their town’s water board meetings, causing such a stir that it made it onto the nationally broadcast Lehrer News Hour. Shapleigh residents have voted in a half-year moratorium on testing for large-scale water extraction.

So why are Americans still spending $8.8 billion a year for bottled water? Bottled water can cost up to $10.32 per gallon. Tap water costs $.005 a gallon here in Portland.

Researcher over the Portland Water District tests extensively. Its web site states, “Annually experts collect nearly 6,000 samples and perform 16,000 analyses throughout the system from Sebago to tap.”

Most people believe bottled water to be safer than tap, but Amy Dowley of Food and Water Watch (FWW) cautions that all bottled water is not created equal. FWW tests 500,000 samples of its water per year. That’s nearly once a minute all year long.”

“Conversely ‘The Food and Drug Administration has less than one full-time employee devoted to bottled water oversight’ and ‘the FDA requires only one water test per week by bottling companies.’”

FWW’s “All Bottled Up” report states, “In October 2008, Environmental Working Group released a report that found mixtures of 38 different pollutants, including bacteria, fertilizer, Tylenol and industrial chemicals in 10 different brands of bottled water. Dowley currently a USM student studying Spanish this semester will be working on breaking news to our readers right from our cell phones.

Thanks for reading.

Matt Dodge

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As a senior looking for job prospects, I spend a lot of time wondering about the future of the news industry. I can’t imagine it’s going to look anything like the system I grew up with, and it can be scary to look into such a hazy tomorrow.

But I also count myself as kind of lucky. As a journalist at such a dynamic time, I have the chance to experiment with new ways of doing things, and the freedom and flexibility of a college newspaper makes it the perfect testing ground for these ideas.

So please, keep picking up the paper from barrels I use for good things, and if you want to get involved in the news process, give us feedback, alert us to breaking news, or just enjoy some reusable water canteen and depart to keep The Free Press in mind.

The Free Press Blotter is our staff blog. Don’t expect to find anything terribly newsworthy here, this is just where our staff of copywriters share their thoughts, insights, and lots of links to pictures of adorable animals and/or Onion articles. If you ever wanted a look into the minds of snarky miscreants that make up The Free Press, this would be the place to go.

The latest weapon in our arsenal of information is USMFreePress Twitter feed. We were initially skeptical of yet another social networking utility that allowed people to share mundane details of their lives, but recognized that it might be useful in delivering breaking news to our readers right from our cell phones.

As a senior looking for job prospects, I spend a lot of time wondering about the future of the news industry. I can’t imagine it’s going to look anything like the system I grew up with, and it can be scary to look into such a hazy tomorrow.

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END
TAXED FOR BEING GAY?

Same-sex couples get no sympathy - or equal rights - from the tax man

Taryn Yudaken — Staff Writer

With April 15th just around the corner, gay and lesbian people are outraged. This day brings much discrimination upon same-sex partners. There are 1138 benefits of marriage that LGBTQ people do not receive, even if they are “legally married.” Although a gay or lesbian couple can officially marry in one of the (only two!) gay-marriage-friendly states, their relationship is not recognized by the federal government as that of two spouses. Therefore, federal income taxes (amongst other discriminations) bring about much anguish and frustration for same-sex couples.

It is relatively known and understood that some people discriminate against gay and lesbian people. Random acts of prejudice and hate can be explained through an individuals biases and fears. Discrimination that is less publicly known are the inequalities regarding taxes. All LGBTQ people have to pay the same taxes as straight people, but they are given the rights of second class citizens.

A huge inequality regards gay and lesbian couples being taxed on their partner’s health benefits as if it were part of their income. Dr. Wendy Chapkis, professor of Sociology and Women and Gender Studies at USM, explains: “If I’m a lesbian or gay man and I get hired at USM, thanks to the efforts of union organizers, we get domestic partner benefits. So that’s fabulous, yah! We get health benefits just like a heterosexual! Except, no - unlike my heterosexual married colleague whose wife of one day can get health benefits, my partner of 20 years gets [them] and every dollar that the university pays for her health insurance is added to my paycheck as though it were income; I get taxed on it at my marginal rate as if I were making an additional $744 dollars a year. I look at that and I think ‘this is outright discrimination!’

Although any same-sex couple in the U.S. can get a state-recognized marriage in Massachusetts or Connecticut, the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) prohibits the federal government from recognizing those very same marriages (not that they ever have been recognized - DOMA just made that official). So a lesbian or gay couple can get married, but there are 1138 benefits that they are not eligible to receive. Gabe Demaine, Diversity and Scholarship Liaison at USM, calls this “hetero-supremacy.” Chapkis says “This is so unfair, this form of discrimination is so blatant, and it’s not just oh, we want white wedding gowns and a wedding cake like everybody else gets. We want full civil rights.” Demaine confirms “We’re really over hetero-supremacy, and these kinds of discriminatory behaviors by the federal government is an expression of [that]...It’s just, you know, tax day equals hetero-supremacy day.”

But there are many days besides tax day that equal hetero-supremacy day. One could be any given day that a partner of a same-sex couple passes away. Even if both partners have been paying social security all their lives, if one partner dies the other receives not a penny of survivor benefits. This is not the case with straight couples.

Another federal discrimination is family residency rights. When a U.S. citizen marries someone of the opposite sex from another country, that foreigner is automatically eligible for U.S. citizenship, visa rights, or a Green Card, along with any children the couple might have. A foreign partner of a U.S. citizen in any same-sex couple is not eligible for these benefits, and neither are their children.

There are so many rights besides these few listed that same-sex couples do not receive. The discrimination is clear, yet hidden since most people don’t really know about it. Jeni Hebert, an administrative assistant at USM employee shares her frustration: “What happened to justice for all? The federal discrimination of same-sex couples had led to the divide of a nation. MY Constitutional right of Freedom Against Discrimination, as established in the 14th Amendment, is being renegotiated to fit the morals and values of those opposed to anti-discriminatory laws. A ‘right’ to life returns as ‘married filing jointly,’’ or the ability to cover a spouse on a health plan without paying extra income taxes on that coverage is something only ‘normal’ married couples can enjoy. The rest of us, the ‘abnormal,’ are forced to suffer with higher taxes, lower tax refunds, and a derogatory look from the local IRS agent. As an American citizen I was blessed with the unalienable rights as mentioned in the Constitution of this great United States, what I did not bargain for was the Government of this ‘great’ nation gets to pick and choose whose rights to honor.

Indeed, there seems to be a divide in the nation between straight and same-sex couples. Why some enjoy benefits and others can’t is an issue that tax day will inevitably raise.
Arctic exploration has always been a fascination in American culture. The Canadian poet F.R. Scott once wrote about the Arctic, “Hidden in wonder and snow, or sudden with summer, this land stares at the sun in a huge silence, endlessly repeating something we cannot hear. Inarticulate; arctic; not written on by history, empty as paper, it leans away from the world with songs in its lakes, older than love, and lost in the miles.”

The current exhibit on the second floor of the Portland Museum of Art, “The Coldest Crucible: Arctic Exploration in American Culture,” portrays the story of Arctic exploration during its peak years from 1850 to 1910.

During the late 1800’s this so-called “Arctic fever” swept across America, with more than a dozen expeditions to the Arctic, to discover uncharted lands, rescue missing explorers, find a Northwest Passage, or stand at the North Pole.

This Arctic fever wasn’t felt by the explorers alone, but by the entire nation who shared in the excitement through the media and publications.

Michael Robinson, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Hartford wrote about this Arctic fever in the museum brochure about the exhibit.

Robinson wrote, “Arctic voyages thrilled- and sometimes galled- readers, who read about them in personal narratives, newspapers, school geographies, family atlases, and dime novels. Millions paid admission to see explorers narrate their journeys (with noisy retinues of Eskimos and dogs) at public lectures, World’s Fairs, museums, and massive traveling polar panoramas.”

The exhibit, drawn from the collection of the Osher Map Library at USM in Portland, boasts an eclectic collection of engravings, newspaper and magazine clippings, photographs, books, and maps.

The black and white engravings depict explorers in Arctic landscapes, trying to survive in the harsh and treacherous climate. One incredibly detailed engraving entitled “Sealers Crushed by Icebergs” depicts a harrowing scene of a ship and men getting run down by a huge iceberg.

“The Coldest Crucible” also features rare Renaissance maps of the Arctic region and world, many of which are fascinatingly different than the sorts of maps we see today. One map entitled “Typus Orbis Terrarum (Map of the World) is a hand-colored wood engraved world map from 1612, which shows what they thought they world looked like.

Another part of the exhibit displays real clippings from publications such as “Scientific American” to reveal what people who lived during this time were reading about Arctic explorations.

There are also some actual photographs in the exhibit; photos and memorabilia from Maine residents Robert and Josephine Peary, a famous Arctic couple, are also on display.

We can no longer read about Arctic explorations in the newspapers on a daily basis, but through this exhibit we can relive this period of American history when Arctic exploration was at the forefront of American thought and consciousness.
The band Honey Clouds performing at Space Gallery in Portland on March 12th. The concert was part of a dual-location show with Portland Museum of Art which celebrated the "Backstage Pass" exhibit at the PMA.

Tyler Jackson  
Staff Writer

There are several things one can count on at a Space Gallery show. It will be dark. There will be dozens and dozens of hairy and/or horn-rimmed hipsters. The drinks will be relatively inexpensive—$2 PBR and $5 Maker’s Mark. The employees with whom you exchange money for wristbands will be smiling and grateful.

But most importantly, there will be good music—often, a mixed bag of it. A few Thursdays ago, that mixed bag included a weathered and ferocious rock queen, a foursome of quiet indie brain children and a winning reborn alt-country outfit.

Darien Brahms is a truly commanding performer and often referred to as the queen of the Portland music scene. It was my first time hearing her play, and as far as I can tell, the title is warranted.

Her songs are swampy, rootsy, gravelly and not to be trifled with. They’re also a lot of fun.

Most of what she and her band performed was from her recent album, Number 4, which came out last August on Cornmeal Records. Brahms wrote, engineered and produced the entirety of the album, and her comfort with the material is apparent on stage. The songs weren’t exactly stripped down from their recorded form, but honed to a barebones four-piece rock arrangement that suited them aptly.

See Review on page 10
From Basterds on page 9

Quentin Tarantino’s newest gorefest features allied commandos kicking Nazi asses across France, in bloody Tarantino fashion.

From Review on page 9

“Sweet Little Dying” boasts a tremendously catchy chord progression and chorus, while “Cream Machine” is a snarling anachronistic rocker perfect for the live setting.

Next on the bill was the unbearably good Metal Feathers, who never fail to mesmerize the audience. Their set comprised of all the songs from their dazzling self-titled debut—minus one instrument—whom I urge everyone—on who has not already done so to pick up immediately.

One of Metal Feathers’ greatest performance strengths is the personality and intimitability projected by each band member. Jay Lobley, former front man of the Wind-out Cult Mire, writes brilliant pop songs and performs them with much precision. His brother and keyboardist Derek does as good a job providing backing vocals as anybody could.

Jason Rogers, known chiefly as the prime mover of Diamond Sharp, plays distorted, trunk bass parts that make up much of the distinctness of the band’s sound. Ateja Pajak is apparently a newcomer to the drums, but the exactitude of her playing (on a toppy-turvy, one-of-a-kind kit) keeps Metal Feathers grounded and simple in a crucial, defining way.

They began with the album opener, “Glouram Skulls,” one of the dreariest tunes in their repertoire. The Lobleys and Rogers sing the verse with a worrisome, almost pained collective tone. At the chorus, Derek and Jason kick their voices up to dueling falsettos and resolve: “Oh, cause there’s a town just out of reach/glamour skulls at haunted beach.”

They went on to play nearly everything from the album: the jagged rockers “Blind For You” and “All For Blood,” the hazy, sweet instant classics “Tough” and “Embrace.” It would be impossible to detail highlights of their set on a song-by-song level, because each number was fantastic in its own regard.

If you hadn’t heard the album before the performance, Metal Feathers did a pretty damn good job laying it out for you that night; there isn’t much on there that can’t be translated faithfully live. This was, by far, the best I’ve heard them play.

The final set of the evening was from Honey Clouds, who in a previous incarnation was known as the alt-country band Harpswell Sound.

In case you were wondering, their sound is as sweet (in quality and aesthetics) as their name.

Now, with a new rhythm section—Sean Wilkinson on drums and Diamond Sharp’s Mandy Wheeler on bass and backing vocals—the band’s sound is fresh and leaning closer toward straight pop than ever before.

Trey Hughes, a phenomenal and tranquil singer with a deep, bawling intonation, leads Honey Clouds. His songs sound both laid back and potent, wrapped in a wash of clean guitars played by him and the other Harpswell Sound veteran Ron Harrity (Peapod Recordings skipper).

There’s something really nice about a high-pitched female vocal singing along with an unusually deep and melodic voice such as Hughes’. “Color Spills In,” which can be heard in different versions on their Earl Grey Demos and Peapod’s Winter ’09 compilation, is a songwriting triumph, aimed terrifically that particular vocal concoction.

The band explodes with joy on the borderline-transcendental choruses: “Oh, but the air smells clean/Yeah, it just rained/There’s a slight chill lingering on these hills/Just above the ridge/Color spils in.”

Harriott and Hughes’ guitars compliment each other in a fashion all too uncommon in indie rock these days: their parts stand alone, going in different directions and expanding the songs to adventurous yet succinct reaches.

Wilkinson is a skilled drummer who knows how to take it easy on his equipment and at the same time fulfill every aspect of his rhythmic duties. Wheeler’s voice is welcoming, delightful and a match made in heaven for Hughes.

You wouldn’t know that was the first Honey Clouds show in months; they sounded incredibly fresh and enthused. They are finished recording their premiere debut LP, so it shouldn’t be long before it emerges on Peapod and we’re treated to a new round of their remarkable performances.

http://www.myspace.com/ wilkinsonharrity

http://www.myspace.com/ metalfeathers

http://www.myspace.com/ honeyclouds

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The year’s first harvest

Majestic maples over seventy feet tall overlook Connemara Farm’s landscape, generously shading the heat in the summer, and providing homes to robins and Baltimore orioles, as well as nesting places for crows, ravens, grackles, sparrows, and songbirds - indirectly, and decide to swap a well-to-do, effete white businessman with a poor, black street hustler. Just for shits and giggles.

“Buy low, sell high. Fear? That’s the other guy’s problem. Nothing you have ever experienced will prepare you for the unlimited carnage you are about to witness.” Forget Economics 101 or those This American Life specials...if you want to understand Wall Street, Trading Places is where it’s at. The Housing Bubble, too.

The trees are tapped and sap accumulate into gallons of sap which is condensed by evaporation into the most miraculous of all confections: pure maple syrup.

On the sweet side, however, these are some old movies - which you understand or at least weather the hard times.

Two corrupt commodity brokers tire of gambling with other peoples’ livelihoods indirectly, and decide to swap a well-to-do, effete white businessman with a poor, black street hustler. Just for shits and giggles.

As a “backyard sugarer” I do.

The trees offer pleasure throughout the year, from their seemingly barren nakedness throughout the winter.

Yet come spring, when days are warm but nights are still freezing, maple trees weep with sappy joy that soon they will bud and burst into a canopy of leaves, exploding like fire works that don’t fade until late fall.

The trees are tapped and sap springs forth, drip by drip, to make granola.

The syrup I harvest as if I were paying the current $11 for a pint. Therefore, I liberally enjoy syrup in a myriad of ways beginning with a splash in my morning coffee, drizzled over vanilla ice cream, combined with olive oil and vinegar for a salad dressing, and in place of honey when I make granola.

Combining orange juice, soy sauce, garlic, and maple syrup made a great marinade for salmon, which I reduced to a glaze to serve as a side sauce.

The syrup is best enjoyed with a cup of tea laced with a little spoonful of syrup. Yet the real oracle in times like these is, as always, classic cinema on DVD. With that in mind, here are some old movies - which you probably pick up free at your local library - that might help you understand or at least weather the hard times.
Puzzles

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Break sharply 66 "See no ___, . . . ."
5 Lawn area 67 One-celled
9 Ewes’ mates creature
13 Freeloader 68 Separate into
14 In addition stacks
15 Assist, as a 69 Make airtight
16 Waikiki 70 Lab rat's
welcome challenge
17 Home for bats
18 Stroll through
19 Gambling
21 Suit accessory
22 Wrestling
23 Worrier’s words
26 Plants
27 Bread maker
28 Goes bad
29 List-ending
abbr.
30 Bother
31 Fist in the
32 Fairytale
33 Banana
34 Degrees in a
35 Life's work
36 Certain
37 Yes, in Paris
38 Voice-box bulge
39 Race track
40 Feeling angry
41 Courtroom peer
42 Dessert cart
43 News Editor
44 Production Editor
45 Arts &
Entertainment
Editor

DOWN
1 By oneself
2 Cozy corner
3 Post-workout
feeling
4 Drug company,
for short
5 Fitzy boat
6 Jai ___.
7 Initials on
invitations
8 Has some
success
9 Not cooked
10 Die down
11 Newspapers
and television
12 Do the driving
13 Traveler's
guide
14 Sahara animal
15 Follow the
advice of
16 Use as a
resource
17 Annoys
18 of the above
19 Tuxedo-shirt
fastener
20 Break out of
captivity
21 Military
installations
22 Alda of
23 Spill the beans
24 Fork part
25 Part of IRA: Abbr.

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Stop by 92 Bedford Street or e-mail Executive Editor, Matt Dodge for more information. mdodge18@gmail.com

Su | do | ku

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

Random Fact!

Cashews are always sold without their shells because the shell contains an oil that can cause a rash similar to poison ivy.

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

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Puzzle answers can be found on our website.
The Huskies on page 14

But, the Huskies weren’t to be quieted. Sophomore Mike Eaton (Sabattus) belt his own three-run shot in the second to pull the Huskies within one. But Eastern Connecticut wouldn’t surrender their lead, as they widened it to 5-3 the next inning. Senior Chris Burleson’s RBI single in the fourth would be as close as the Huskies would get before Eastern Connecticut pulled away for the 8-4 win.

Early outdoor games pay dividends in AZ

For the first time since the Arizona trip’s inception, the USM baseball went undefeated. Many of the Huskies’ players feel that playing three games in New York prior to Arizona really made a difference in preparing for their competition in the Valley of the Sun.

“I think those three games in Long Island really benefited us by getting us used to playing outside, especially defensively. I mean last year we came out and lost our first three games in Arizona and really struggled defensively, and our improvement showed this year as we didn’t commit an error in our first four games. It was crucial in our preparation for this trip,” Henry said.

The benefit of playing outdoors before Arizona was readily apparent when Southern Maine defeated the 2008 World Series runners-up Johns Hopkins 12-7 in their opener out West.

The Huskies lineup scored the first nine runs of the game with eight coming off right-hander Chez Angeloni, who was the Most Outstanding Player of the 2008 College World Series and handed eventual National Champion Trinity their only loss of the season.

Wins were also posted against always competitive Middlebury, Roger Williams, and Springfield as USM tallied a total of 138 runs.

Offensive juggernaut

USM’s tenacious hitting lineup and a combination of experienced veteran/young poised pitching has helped them overtake number 10 spot in the country.

Seven Husky starters are currently batting over .300, with two of them batting over the coveted .400 mark.

Division III’s “Murderer’s Row,” averaged 12.2 runs per game in Arizona and has a team batting average of .353. The Huskies are led by seniors Anthony Thierrian (4-0, 2.05 ERA), and sophomore Mike Eaton (3-0, 1.46 ERA), as well as veterans Henry, Stacy, Mark Schmidt (Cheshire, CT) at second, and Berthaune catching.

USM’s deep pitching staff thrived in Arizona, and is led by senior right-hander Chez Angeloni, who earlier in the year homered four times in the first three games. The two of them have combined for 37 of the team’s 136 RBI’s.

Pitching and defense win championships

Not only was the offense outstanding in Arizona, but the pitching and defense has fulfilled expectations as well, and still seeks to improve. The defense has committed 14 errors in its 14 games, but the pitching staff has a combine ERA of 5.21 and has only given up a total of 5 home runs.

Defensively, USM is solid at every position with the quick feet and strong arms from Pike, D’Alfonso, Eaton, and rookie Roberto Valenti (Lawrence, MA) in the outfield.

The infield is anchored by Burleson at shortstop, solid fielding at the corners from Gaffney and Henry, smooth fundamentals from Mackey, and freshman Anthony Pisani (Cheshunt, CT) at second, and Berthaune catching.

USM’s deep pitching staff thrived in Arizona, and is led by senior right-hander Chez Angeloni, who earlier in the year homered four times in the first three games. The two of them have combined for 37 of the team’s 136 RBI’s.

What’s next

The Huskies have a busy week in front of them with six games in as many days. They will host a pair of games at the Wainwright Complex in South Portland against Bowdoin and Bridgewater State before they welcome LEC foe Plymouth State to Gorham on Friday.

The Huskies will then travel to Western Connecticut for a double-header on Saturday and will catch Wheaton College of Massachusetts (#6 in the nation) for a game on Sunday that could help the Huskies ascend the national rankings, perhaps even to the top spot.

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In the first game:

Senior righthander Tim Therrian (New Portland) pitched a complete-game gem, striking out eight and allowing six hits, as the team handed Eastern Connecticut their first loss of the season, 7-1. Therrian allowed no hits after the fourth inning and retired the final eight batters he faced. The only run he surrendered was an unearned coming of an error and two singles.

The Huskies, facing one of the Warrior’s premier players in Shawn Gilblair, got things going in the fourth inning when they posted four runs thanks to a two-run single by sophomore catcher Jordan Berthiaume (Berlin, CT), an error and an RBI single by junior Josh Mackey (Danvers, MA). USM then added insult to injury when they ousted Gilblair in the fifth with back-to-back shots by junior Collin Henry (Penobscot) and senior Ryan Pike (Saco), who homered in his fourth consecutive game. Berthiaume continued the offensive fireworks when he scored USM’s final run with a solo homer later in the inning.

Henry led the Huskies with four hits.

In the second game:

A shaky first one-third of an inning likely cost the USM an opportunity at sweeping the nation’s best team as the Warriors needed off four runs before the Huskies could collect their second out of the game.

Eastern Connecticut’s Gilblair, who was chased by the Huskies’ power, got revenge when he blast ed three-run bomb off Henry, the game two starter. A subsequent solo home-run brought sophomore Chris Hahn (Guilford, CT) out of the pen to quell the storm.

Senior Anthony D’Alfonso celebrates a home-run during with teammates during a 2008 regular season win over Thomas College. D’Alfonso is leading a potent USM offense to national recognition.

Yourspace has plans to expand the operation to better serve the community - some of these plans include outdoor fields and locker rooms.

Where has USM been in all of this?

So far USM has existed all too little from the Yourspace facility. The USM field house is only 1.5 miles from Yourspace.

Coach Mike Keller of the USM Men’s Soccer Program has been working with the Yourspace board and organized spring training for the Men’s Soccer Program in exchange for volunteer work. The USM Men’s Soccer players will help Yourspace run and advertise for a youth soccer tournament fundraiser.

What can this facility offer USM Athletics?

Yourspace is a lined soccer field with a center drop net that separates the field into two smaller fields.

Yourspace also offers ample space and equipment (including a pitching machine and nets) for soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, football, rugby, baseball, softball, and they even have an archer who trains in the facility.

The center becomes of particular interest to USM during these tough economic times. With plans for a multi-purpose turf/sand field, the facility offers a better alternative than practicing on the less-realistic surfaces of the field house.

St. Joe’s lacrosse team current trains there and the USM soccer teams trained at Yourspace on days when the weather wasn’t ideal and even days when the field just needed a break.

Adam Sturtevant, of the Yourspace board, said “We would like to work more with USM in the future, we always try to work with the student athletes.”

Sturtevant has been with the board since the beginnings of Yourspace and shared that he sees the potential for USM intramural sports to offer programs at the Yourspace facility, maybe some of you have already participated in Ultimate Frisbee at Yourspace.

The board is looking forward to working with students and can offer “very attractive student rates.” Plus, Yourspace’s peak times are between 4 p.m. and 11 p.m., meaning that, during other times, students have ample time to get in their off-season workouts or other events that necessitate the space and accommodations of the building.

Check out the Yourspace website at www.yourspacemaine.com or call them at (207)839-6767.
Matlocks was neutralized when his Rascal scooter ran out of batteries late in the third quarter. The game came down to the wire, with a few hard fouls in the final minutes. One particularly fierce jab from Matlocks guard Bryant DeRoche sent a mouthful of teeth clattering from Jeffries mouth; a injury that looked a lot worse than it was as Jeffries simply reapplied his Polydent and hustled up the court for a massive blocked shot. The Matlocks took the game 34-29, with the ecstatic Jeffries exclaiming, “well don’cha know, nothing is impossible there bub!”.

In the true spirit of the intramural league, the Matlock and Lansburys attended a joint celebratory dinner at Grey’s Cole Farms restaurant, and were all in bed by seven-thirty.

Sports

Got Experience with Children and/or Technology?

Maine Robotics is a 501.c.3 non-profit that provides educational outreach programs in the State of Maine. We work closely with the Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology program on the USM Gorham campus and the position listed above is for camps that will run on the USM Gorham and USM Portland campus in conjunction with the ASET program. This position is ideal for teachers, graduate students (education, engineering, sciences, technology) or upper level undergraduates.

Responsibilities:

• secure camp room
• Portland and Gorham
• give short presentations
• resolve equipment problems
• Work with campers and staff
• provide mentorship for the campers.
• Responsible for day-to-day operation of the day camp.
• Experience with children and/or technology IS required.

Each camp consists of 16 campers, ages 9 to 14. Camps run July 6th to August 14th (6 weeks) plus June training in Orono.

$400/week

Call 866-4340 or send resume with 3 references to bickford@mainerobotics.org

From ELDERMURALS on page 16

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From CHIHUAHUA on page 16

Sporting events will promote the poor sportsmanship and binge drinking tactics used by major Division I schools while rooting for the Chihuahuas. If any player from the women’s or men’s hockey teams scores a hat trick, bottles, not cans, of beer will be thrown from the stands exploding victoriously over the ice. This will be known as the “beer trick.”

The trick will culminate at the end of the game when several drunk, rowdy fans will hide in the opposing team’s locker room and urinate all over their equipment, thus leaving an indelible stain all over their dignity and sense of human-worth.

To neatly wrap the school’s message into a catchy phrase, several student government offi cials have proposed to abandon the school’s current slogan, “Education Your Way,” and replace it with, “Education You’re Lame. Let’s Party.”

Only time will tell if this radical tactic to attract more students will work, but it is almost guaranteed that this change will bring immense joy, and intense hangovers, to the current student body.
Students: ‘Yo quiero party school’
USM to change mascot from Husky to Chihuahua

Jel E. Donit
Columnist

The years of the Chihuahua are rapidly approaching at USM. Upon fall semester of 2011, USM’s boring mascot, the Husky, will be replaced by a much fiercer, four-legged fiend: the Chihuahua. In an effort to contemporize, and stray from the generic, USM will abandon the oft derided Husky as its totem spirit and athletic symbol.

Through years of secret society-esque meetings, the student government has been discussing and petitioning for this change, keeping the details and have just now reached a verdict. The change is seen as a desperate attempt to attract more students to USM during these tough financial times. Government officials believe that USM will benefit from having the reputation of a party school, and not just a school, school.

The Husky is seen as an outdated form of valor and pride. By replacing the handsome Husky with the party-obsessed Chihuahua, the student government hopes that more students will enroll for the various perks and festivities that come with having a Chihuahua as as the symbol of the school’s mission.

Herb Jefferies slams home a massive dunk against the Lansburys on Thursday afternoon as part of USM’s new “Eldermurals” sports program. Jefferies credits his active lifestyle to hard work, dietary supplements, and the love of his adorable grand-daughter, Samantha.

For example, from now on, all fraternities that wish to throw the popular “CEO’s and Office Ho’s,” themed parties must replace it with the Chihuahua friendly, “Sombre-bros and Tie-los.”

The dress code for such soiréees, which will be outlined in further detail, along with other rules and regulations, by the “Chihuahua Code of Conduct” manual in fall 2011, will require all males to where a sombrero and females to dress as tacos.

In the classroom, a Chihuahua piñata will hang from the ceiling to remind the students, teachers and faculty of the pride of USM. Since many classes occupy the same room, one piñata will be assigned for each specific class, implementing a reward system that will inspire students to aim for the top.

For every “A” that is rewarded on each individual test or paper, one whack upon the piñata is permitted to try and gain the hidden items inside.

It is not certain which candy or items will fill the piñatas, but initial frontrunners are: condoms, Pixy-Stix laced with stimulants, hidden items inside. For every “A” that is rewarded on each individual test or paper, one whack upon the piñata is permitted to try and gain the hidden items inside.

Another club plans to crochet jerseys for the grandkids never call.”

Richard Trickle
Geriatric Sports Correspondent

Citing the growing population of “seasoned students,” interim Director of Student Life Philip Cosby announced yesterday that USM will begin offering intramural sports and student groups that cater to the school’s 80-plus set.

Cosby calls this plan a step forward for the university, which has come under fire recently for cutting the Lifeline Fitness program, a favorite of Portland’s older crowd.

“...we recognize the need to reach out to some of these students, who have felt marginalized because of their extreme oldness,” he said.

USM plans to add shuffleboard, bingo and bridge to its regular intramural sports schedule at the Sullivan Fitness Complex. Student Involvement also plans to offer non-athletic clubs geared towards this age group. Such clubs would include “Fans of buying greeting cards out of season,” as well as a group discussion called “Why the grandkids never call.”

Another club plans to crochet jerseys for the emerging intramural clubs. “Itchy, not breathable, and with turtlenecks, per the players request,” said the needle-wielding Margie Higgenfelt.

“...we’re really trying to make [USM] a friendly environment for our more seasoned students,” President Botman said last week, while getting lunch in the new Country Buffet kiosk in the student center.

The Gold Bond Medicated Foot Powder was in the air last week as these “Eldermurals” kicked off, with the “Matlocks” took on the “Angela Lansburys” in a game of basketball in the Sullivan gym.

Herb Jefferies was looking good in the early going, but aggravated a lingering hip injury on a wobbly, cane-aided drive to the hoop.

USM men’s basketball Coach Karl Henrikson stopped by to show his support for the new program, and agreed to give the undergrad Lansburys some tips to keep the game interesting.

While a kindhearted move on Henrikson’s part, his help was not well received by power forward Earnest “Red” Reddenbocker, who turned over the ball three times while yelling back “what?” and “Speak up sonny!” to the coach.

Big things were expected from former NBA player Leo “Ace” Gottlieb, a member of the first New York Knickerbockers team, but his usually tenacious defense for the See Eldermurals on page 15