New president outlines plans for tenure
Improving advising, financial aid services on Maggie Guzman’s to-do list

Daniel MacLeod
News Editor

Maggie Guzman has big plans. In May she will take over as student body president, a position currently held by Ben Taylor. Besides establishing a cabinet, appointing committee members, improving advising and financial aid services, and performing the normal daily duties of the student body president, Guzman wants to pursue an ambitious sustainability project that would retro-fit campus buildings to be more energy efficient.

Oh yeah – she’s also a double major in English and political science, and a Phi Mu sister.

But one of the many challenges she will face when she takes office is the persistently low student involvement that has plagued USM’s student government, particularly on the Portland campus. During the last election, only 5% of USM undergraduates voted. She also says that few students express their concerns to the student senate and president.

“More students need to be involved,” said Senator Martin Emerson, “right now we’re thinking of ways to increase involvement with events where students can network and socialize.”

“Students need more than study abroad.” said Senator Allie Parker, who was re-elected student senator on March 19, the student government in between performances, mixing entertainment with politics.

A table was also set up in Luther Boney with a computer where students could vote. Even with additional measures to get students to vote, the lack of student involvement has many senators concerned.

“Students need to be involved,” said Senator Martin Emerson, “right now we’re thinking of ways to increase involvement with events where students can network and socialize.”

Member of the University of Southern Maine Student Senate hold out their hands to vote on a proposal during a recent meeting in the Glickman library in Portland.

book stores to make it known to students that they can sell back old textbooks at any point during the year. She also wants to establish an online marketplace where students can buy and sell textbooks.

Despite low voter turnout, the student senate may have more influence than undergraduates think. The roughly $500,000 dollars collected each year in student fees is managed by the senate. Without direct input from the student groups and organizations that work to unite the university, the student body president’s active engagement in improving the services that matter most to USM students is changing through the student body president’s active engagement in improving the services that matter most to USM students, including advising.

“Students want to establish training in Mainestreet for faculty advisors, as well as making sure that advisors know about all the programs available to students, like study abroad.

She also wants to work on financial aid services, which can seem like an assembly line to some students, she says.

See GUZMAN on page 4

Student Senate optimistic despite turnout
Student reps. bolstered by textbook resolution

Charlie Nickell
Staff Writer

When the Vote USM 2009 Student Government election campaign came to a close at noon on March 19, the student senate found that roughly 5% of the entire student body actually voted, a slight increase over last year’s turnout.

“It is discouraging,” said Katherine Letourneau, current senate chair. “It shows that a lot of students are busy or just not concerned.”

In an effort to get more students to vote this year, a campus-wide email urging undergrads to vote was sent out during election week and two coffee house events were also held where senate representatives promoted the student government in between performances, mixing entertainment with politics. A table was also set up in Luther Boney with a computer where students could vote.

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Student involvement isn’t the only issue facing the senate. This year the student senate passed the “Textbook Resolution,” which addresses the rising costs of textbooks required for classes. Re-elected student senator Allie Parker wants the campus to network and socialize.

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Volume 40, Issue No. 18 April 6, 2009
University of Southern Maine
Forum aims to bridge divide between religious believers, ardent skeptics

David O’Donnell
Staff Writer

Can people ever really agree to disagree about God?

Two forums at USM last month invited religious believers, atheists and everybody in-between to approach that question head-on.

The series, entitled “Religion and Secularism: Contrasting Worldviews,” was billed as a group effort between the off-campus Portland Skeptics and Open House United Church of Christ, along with SMASH – the Southern Maine Association of Secular Humanists, who donated their usual meeting time and space at 327 Luther Bonney.

David and Jennifer Dubay, primary organizers of the talks and founders of Portland Skeptics, opened the first session with a call for peaceful debate and a plea to avoid the “shooting match quality” that can take over when passions on both sides are incited.

“The intent is to look at things from a different angle... and dismantle stereotypes,” said David Dubay, whose group organized through the online service Meetup.com.

Fliers for the first meeting also advertised it as co-sponsored by USM’s Interfaith Chaplaincy, and while several chaplains attended head Andrea McCall distanced herself a bit from the proceedings.

“To clarify, it would be more accurate to say I’m here as a guest,” she said upon introducing herself. “I did not participate in the planning.”

As it turned out, much of the planning was moot – despite two ambitious itineraries, there were largely open discussion forums, though the Dubays aimed for more focus in the second discussion, by steering the conversation toward stereotypes recognized by both sides of the divide.

One local resident and believer, Dana Seaman, asked for clarification on what constitutes a popular stereotype.

“Like Hare Krishna just sell soap and pens and flowers at airports, that’s a stereotype,” said Jennifer Dubay. “You might even be a Hare Krishna.”

“I am,” he replied. “And we don’t really do that anymore.”

Over the course of the next two nights, the two topics included secular morality, doubt, and science - occasionally veering off, very briefly, into something of a debate over the existence of God.

Here are some highlights:

Twist of Faith

“Faith is a lot like falling in love,” says Trevor Karrer, a student and one of the believers on hand. “It’s not rational, you can’t quite explain it, but you feel it.”

Or you don’t. Skeptical Paul Oppenheim of Yarmouth countered: “People-of-faith” often sort of assume that people who would call themselves not people-of-faith are somehow missing some incredibly essential, important kernel of meaning in their life.”

“If you ask me how many people in this room are people of faith, I’d say we all are,” said Carhahan. “I would define faith as the practice of belief in something greater than yourself.”

“I couldn’t agree with you more,” Oppenheim replied.

Moral Danger

Can secular people be moral?

The question is posited by atheists in the room as a piece of stereotypical baggage that nags them. Few believers in the room seem interested in that idea, though Seaman openly agrees with it.

“There’s an implicit meta-physical realm to it,” he says. “It is what gives us all equal rights, because physically and mentally, we’re not equal.”

Jose and Hartwell quickly counter that morality, just like belief, are concepts born from the human brain. “We can all see we’d probably be better off if we didn’t kill, steal - we live in society, we all need to live in society,” says Jose.

Wrench of Kraft

“I’m a little miffed by the heaven and hell stereotype I’m hearing here,” he says. Shirley Bowen, USM’s Episcopal chaplain, after there’s some hints from the nonbelievers that the faithful put too much emphasis on fearing God’s wrath.

Not all religions believe there’s necessarily a heaven to have ‘fallen’ from, points out Chris Brown. Catholic chaplain Joseph Mailhot also worries that maybe these concepts aren’t well enough understood by the detractors of religious belief.

“Though maybe not enough Christians have cracked open scripture, either,” he adds.

Some of the secularists say Mother Theresa, renowned for her charitable pursuits, must have been motivated by a selfish - none of the nonbelievers use this term disparagingly - desire to please God and attain eternal life. Bowen strongly disagrees with the notion that Theresa’s deeds were the result of “utilitarian” thinking.

Jennifer Dubay lays it out flatly. “I believe there’s only selfishness.”

“I agree with that,” says Mailhot, sounding like he’s just discovered the first significant chunk of common ground. While he believes good is God’s will, he also accepts Krhe’s theory that God would have needed to create man to feel pleasure and often see self-interest in performing good deeds.

Bound by Laws

Several atheists brought up evolution, but rarely stirred the pot.

In the first session, somebody called for a show of hands for people who think evolution is a valid scientific theory. While there was indeed a lone skeptic there, few believers looked thrown by the need to declare a mainstream understanding of science.

“Notice that in the Bible, you read page one, and you get a story of how the world was created,” noted Pastor Carhahan. “Then you turn to page two, and you’ll read another story - they don’t match up, because he intention isn’t to show how it all happened. It’s about why we’re here.”

Jose - who teaches a course on science and religion at USM’s Osher college - maintains that the fragments of the fossil record scientists are piecing together are interesting to secularists’ faith in the natural world, and that a creation story is being uncovered that is “much more powerful than anything in scriptures.”

“Many believers feel that God acts or has acted in the world, and pray for the laws of nature to be suspended,” Jose continues. “I understand the emotional side of that, but there’s the rub.”

Good Books

At one point David Dubay solicited book recommendations that might help people better understand the “other side,” and several in attendance jumped at the opportunity.

Shirley Bowen recommends “Doubt: A History” by Jennifer Michael Hecht. The role of doubt in religious life and scholarship was news to some, and the book traces its evolution from Socratic to Emily Dickinson.

Greg Lake recommends C.S. Lewis’s “Mere Christianity,” in which the author describes the reasoning behind his conversion from atheism and explores Christian ethics.

Jennifer Dubay likes Sam Harris’s “Letter to a Christian Nation,” one of several recent atheist manifestos, and David recommends Steven Walderman’s “Founding Faith” for more information on the complicated beliefs and practices of five founders: Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Adams and Madison.

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mdodge18@gmail.com
Faculty senate passes textbook resolution
Brainchild of student senate aims to alleviate burden of textbook costs through faculty, student cooperation.

Matt Dodge
Executive Editor

Textbooks are a risky but necessary investment for students. Each semester, the average USMer drops between two and three hundred dollars on their assigned textbooks—a significant stressor on any student’s typically thin wallet.

Ideally, most of these expenditures could be recouped through the textbook buyback service offered by the USM bookstore. However, many are not happy with the exchange rates offered on their semester-old texts, or are refused buyback because of low demand.

With this in mind, the USM student senate presented and passed the Textbook Resolution unanimously through the faculty senate last Friday in an effort to alleviate the burden on cash-strapped students and give them a fair return on their investments.

Drafted by the student senate, the resolution addresses what USM faculty can do to make the buyback process more profitable for students.

The senate based the resolution on a textbook survey conducted by the student senate student affairs committee, which asked nearly 500 students what they thought of the current textbook buyback system.

Around 63 percent of students surveyed reporting getting back very little of what they paid during their textbook exchanges.

Strategies of the resolution include asking USM faculty to supply their list of next semester’s texts prior to the buyback period. Without such lists, the bookstore has no way of knowing which texts they need to stock up on, and will routinely refuse to buy back a text that might actually be required in the coming semester.

The resolution also asks faculty to consider reusing the same texts semester to semester “when it does not undermine the academic experience of the student,” as well as increasing the use of electronic texts, and posting assigned readings on Blackboard to cut textbook costs.

It also addresses the USM University Bookstore’s practice of offering higher rates of return for students who return books earlier in the buy-back period; a practice that can cause students to feel pressured into selling back their texts before finals week.

“I’m not at all sympathetic to the idea that students should be selling their textbook before finals,” said Political Science professor Michael Hamilton.

University Bookstore Director Nikki Piaget notes that the bookstore often has to spend more in ordering and shipping new texts, and would much rather work with students to keep recycling the same books.

The survey also found that the “extras” or supplementary materials that come bundled with some texts, which according to the survey are rarely used by students. The Bookstore does not currently accept these extras for buyback.

The resolution also asks that at least one copy of each assigned text be made available on reserve in USM’s libraries, to make them available “regardless of cost” for all students.

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"Deficit continues to be a moving target"

In a post on her website on April 2, USM President Selma Botman said that next year’s $4.3 million deficit will continue to shift, pending enrollment, state appropriations, and “other variables that may increase our costs.”

Funding to the library will not be cut next year, and financial aid will be increased, a move she calls “strategic” on the university’s part. Research projects will be funded at current levels, she said.

University administration are currently looking to make up for the deficit by making cuts to base budgets; one-time cuts that will “realize greater long term savings,” she said.

"It’s like they’re trying to just get you out so that the next student can come in, instead of really working on your case to make sure that you get the money you possibly. A lot of students don’t get that attention," she said.

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Guzman plans to address this by appointing cabinet members to assist in day-to-day operations and assigning committee members to each of the 15 departments the president oversees, effectively re-asserting the visibility of the position of student body president.

Guzman also plans to create a sustainability coalition; an ambitious project that would combine all the separate student groups working on environmental causes at USM.

"We have a lot of students who are very energy-conscious at this time of the year, who are lucky to be in Maine, a state that’s at the forefront of the energy movement," she said.

"Installing solar panels, building a windmill in Gorham, and fixing leaks in campus buildings is a less expensive, she says. Some solar firms, like SunEdison, will perform the necessary repairs and improvements for no up front cost.

Guzman has been talking with state representative Dave Marshall about the implications of the university signing a purchase agreement with these firms, which is a sort of loan whose repayment is calculated based on the amount of money the school would save in energy costs.

"I think it’s important for a campus to be marketable," she said. USM being a leader in the green movement could potentially achieve that, she says.

"She hopes to have a draft of the plan in the hands of USM President Selma Botman by the end of next semester.

"The change Guzman wants to enact ultimately depends on the students of USM getting involved. This has been a consistent problem on the Portland campus, where she says “it’s almost as if all students are commuter students.”

"That is definitely an issue that we have been trying to work on," she said. "This campus is not a lost cause."

"If you have any questions or concerns for newly elected student body president Maggie Guzman, email her at maggi eroose27@gmail.com"

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"Much of the problem with the financial aid department can be boiled down to one fundamental problem: USM doesn’t have the money to hire additional staff.

"The administration wants students to succeed at USM, the difficulty is that we don’t have the budget to have all these things we want to have. But there are things we can do as students to improve our experiences with the financial aid staff.

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“Students want to see changes but don’t know how to go about it,” says Alex Sargent, a senator graduating this spring, “they need to know the student senate is their representation in the university system.”

Senator Matthew Tagett is working towards giving students due process when accused of committing offenses on campus. “Right now, if an underage student is accused of possession of alcohol on campus, they are automatically charged an administrative fee and forced to take a class on substance abuse whether they are guilty or not. I’d like to see steps taken where the student will have the right to defend their case,” he said.

The senate will vote for members of its Executive board on April 24. This election will determine who will be the chair, vice-chair, parliamentarian, secretary and treasurer of the 38th student senate.

“There’s a lot of passion,” Letourneau says, “I look forward to seeing how the 38th senate performs next year.”

Members of the USM Student Senate hold a meeting in the Glickman Library last Friday. Pictured left to right are Katherine Letourneau, Alex Bresler, and Julie Brewer.


**LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**

Can’t hide that port-city pride

The independent spirit that runs through this city is probably what I am most proud of. Just trying to find an urban area of comparable size anywhere in the country that has so wholly rejected Starbucks, and other such big name corporations in favor of supporting local businesses – a move that builds a sense of community while keeping the profits in the community.

Try finding an art community so vibrant and welcoming. Just take The First Friday Art Walk, where horses with pony-drawn carriages trudge through deep freeze conditions to sample the work of new and emerging artists at businesses eager to promote the art scene.

From East End to West End, Deering Oaks to the State Pier, there is something special about this city, an eclectic sort of place with a little something for everyone just waiting to be explored.

Thanks for reading,

Matt Dodge

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**THE F WORD**

A Feminist Perspective by Taryn Yudaken

Israel vs. South Park

A clash of cultural norms between Colorado and The Holy Land

A lot has been accomplished in the past several decades regarding women’s rights, but there is still much to be done. In countries across the globe women struggle to be viewed as equals, and a recent event in Israel illustrates what we still have to overcome. A recent South Park episode illustrates where we’re trying to go.

Tamar Livnat and Sofá Landver, the only two women serving in Israel’s Cabinet, have been removed from circulating Cabinet pictures by two Ultra-Orthodox newspapers. The Yediot Achronot and the Shaarei Tova, aimed at Orthodox readers, both found a way to keep their audience happy: Shaa Tova erased the women completely, while Yated Neeman replaced them with men.

The offense I take to that is not unlike the deeply ingrained offense Ultra-Orthodox men take to seeing images of women. They say they want to preserve female modesty, and not expose women the way the other countries do it. In the U.S. it is impossible to avoid sexed-up women beckoning from images everywhere. In Israel the women are just photo-shopped out. Where is the happy medium?

This is not the first time something like this happened in Israel. During campaign season, pictures of female candidate Tzipi Livni were destroyed around Ultra-Orthodox neighborhoods. Livni is the leader of Kadima, which is the largest party in Israeli legislative branch of government, the Knesset.

Here, at home things are quite different. There is way more than a mere acceptance of pictured women, there seems to be no shame in their sexual objectification. Even our female politicians are ridiculed and portrayed as irrelevant pieces of meat sometimes. Occasionally, however, I’ll notice something take a step in a more equal direction, and though some areas are still greatly behind, others are moving up to inspire real progress.

A recent South Park episode gives reason to believe that American media’s portrayal of women might be changing for the better. Always a good social commentary, South Park’s satirical humor has great underlying truth. No matter how obscene the journey is the kids usually make a good point. This is one episode that addressed the right to be open and laugh about farting, then women should have to same right to be open and laugh about “queefing.” I think the larger point was about rights and equality in general, but in South Park crudeness usually represents more than just a joke.

At the end of the episode, “Eat, Pray, Queef,” all the men in South Park got together and sung a song about women—about how we are still oppressed and deserve equal rights. Photographs of real women- a scientist, a firewoman, a mechanic, a nurse, a doctor, a mother, an athlete, and Hillary Clinton-form a picture montage behind the choir; a choir so absurd, so completely ridiculing, that they can’t not be sincere.

Now would the Ultra-Orthodox be able to sit through the jokes? Would they be able to see the deeper meaning in them? I don’t know, but I somehow doubt this episode’s attempt at feminism would have flown among the Orthodox Israelis cutting women out of pictures.

Unfortunately, it wouldn’t fly anywhere conservative here. The difference is that in Israel the Ultra-Orthodox folk are not equipped to deal with obscenity or objectification, or even shows that stray a little from the norm; unlike us they aren’t bombarded with raunch culture all the time, and don’t have the experience to automatically break down. Not that living in the states makes everyone an object-pursuing sex-fiend, but it does make most of us desensitized enough that no matter how conservative our upbringing, we should be able to sit down, look past the fart jokes, and absorb an intelligent message: the happy medium is still waiting to be found, all over the world.

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**EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING POLICIES**

The Free Press is a weekly student-run newspaper published in Portland, Maine. We welcome letters to the editor. The editor must be submitted electronically, include the author’s full name, school year or relationship to USM, phone number for verification and may not exceed 350 words without prior approval.傷害 exchanges are welcome. The deadline for all submissions is Tuesday at 5 pm, preceding the week of publication. Send submissions to freepress@usm.maine.edu.

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**THE FREE PRESS | April 6, 2009**
Nestle water

I’m tired of all the misinformation regarding Poland Spring water. The Fryeburg issue was one driven by politics, not science. The original Planning Board decision was correct, but because a vocal minority was upset, those members were replaced, the original decision was overturned and the ME Supreme Court agreed the original decision was correct. That whole fight was about a filling station off Rt. 302, a US highway, that local folks felt was not safe, not about pumping water. It happens that this particular section of Rt. 302 is in very bad shape, but that is a DOT problem, not a Poland Spring problem. The wells are actually located in Denmark and the town has adopted a very stringent water standard that is now being followed by other towns and states.

I do have to agree on the bottle issue, and carry my own bottle, sorry it’s old and plastic, but fill it with my own tap water from home, (about 5 miles by the crow’s flight from the Poland Spring wells.)

So why do people buy bottled water? Often tap water tastes bad from the treatment needed due to old water delivery systems. So, do you prefer bad tasting tap water, or good tasting bottled water? Perhaps we should drink bottled soda, oh but that has high fructose corn syrup, and we know that’s bad...

People need to get over this issue. This is a clean, low impact, environmentally sustainable product. Maine is blessed with an overabundance of clean water. This industry provides many well paying jobs that support local people. It is time that Maine should be encouraging this kind of local infrastructure instead of watching the continuous stream of jobs leaving the state.

Ed Enos
FNP 2010
Denmark, ME

Thank God for C cups.
Or not.

James Couch
Contributing Writer

It has been quite some time since the creation of the World War II icon Rosie the Riveter. Rosie is one of the more well known ways that women started to gain independence from the ‘everyday normality.' With her help, women began to become an increasing part of the work force. The world has come a long way since then, but are we beginning to go backwards? Have we gone so far ahead that we have looped right around to where we started? More and more evidence seems to support this theory. Of course, there are women in the world that are outstanding. They seem to be pushing equal rights forward, but the media seems to have other ideas. Candace Parker is becoming a well-known WNBA all-star. At 22 she’s married, pregnant, and striving to be a female Michael Jordan, a goal she could very well achieve. Parker has made such an impact that she has already gotten a front page story in the ESPN Magazine, published in March.

According to this article, written by Allison Glock, Parker could become anything she wants to be, and maybe even more. The common person would believe the article to be on Parker and her sports career, being a sports magazine published by a sports TV network. This does not seem to be the case.

Within the very first paragraph, Parker’s cup size was mentioned twice. Of course, they do talk about her ability to play basketball, and how wonderful a person she is, but they also discuss her breasts, and the level of them. Glock also seems to be pushing Parker’s heterosexuality on the reader, repeatedly speaking of her husband and child to be.

There are even Christian undertones that seem to be coming from the writer herself, and not from Mrs. Parker. Throughout the article, there are many quotes from an interview with Parker, but not one of these quotes mentions ‘God.’

“I was surprised,” Parker says of the pregnancy. “But everything happens for a reason. It will be exciting to have my child share my career and to remember what I was like when I was young.”

This quote, taken from “Selling Candace Parker by Allison Glock” is the only thing Parker says that remotely sounds religious. Even then, many believe the same thing but have never stepped foot in a church. So it seems safe to say that Glock is adding her personal beliefs to the article. While Glock is preaching, she also seems to have some idea of equal rights. She explains that Parker is “competing with the boys.” Why does she say this, but then go into great detail on her sexual appeal, and the fact that she is married and expecting? Glock even seems to think that Parker should be proud for making a minimum 5 million annually while LeBron, having the same sports manager, is making minimum 95 million more.

A woman wrote the article in ESPN Magazine and still it was sexual, religious, and focused on the “straight and narrow.” This sounds like there is need for women to speak their minds loudly once more, before we fall back into the “Leave it to Beaver” era.

Correction:
In last week’s article “USM gets new VP” the number of vice presidents was incorrectly given as seven. USM actually has four vice presidents.
From the studio to the street
First Friday Art Walks fuse arts and business in a symbiotic celebration of culture

The First Friday Art Walk is a cultural gem of Portland. This past Friday on April 3 people flooded the drizzly streets to observe artwork that was vastly different at each exhibit. Depending on your energy level, you can get a small sampling of art and only go to a few places or you can be adventurous and try to visit over 60 locations participating in the art walk. Not only are works of up-and-coming artists on display, but there are also opportunities for non-traditional artists to show their work.

At Time Gallery located at 516 Congress Street, the home of CTV channel 4, there is a display of the Spiral Arts group, a group of seniors who have come together to learn about art expression. Their work consists of paintings on fabric. The artists themselves were ecstatic to have their art on display. At the June Fitzpatrick Gallery at MECA, there was an exhibit of drawings, paintings, and sculptures based on one subject, the cow. This exhibit was a celebration of the gentle beauty of cows and their importance to our culture. Also at MECA, there is a stunning exhibit of the senior BFA students at the Institute of Contemporary Art. Using varied mediums from sculpture to video, this was perhaps one of the most diverse and engaging exhibits in the First Friday Art Walk.

Space Gallery has been participating in the First Friday Art Walks “since Space opened. From the studio to the street First Friday Art Walks fuse arts and business in a symbiotic celebration of culture.”
Another way to keep Portland independent

Record Store Day celebrates indie music stores like Bull Moose

Danica Koenig
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Bull Moose began as a make-shift music store, carrying only a few discs. Started in Brunswick by Bowdoin College junior Brett Wickard in 1989, it is now the largest independent retailer of new and pre-owned music, movies, and video games in Maine and New Hampshire.

There is one day a year that celebrates independent music stores such as Bull Moose, and that is April 18th, the second annual Record Store Day.

Record Store Day was first thought of by Bull Moose’s Chris Brown as a day to celebrate the unique culture of all the independent record stores across the United States and internationally. Music stores join with musical artists to celebrate the art of music with festivities such as special vinyl and CD releases and special appearances and live performances from artists.

Metallica officially kicked off the first Record Store Day at Rasputin Music in San Francisco on April 19, 2008 and it is now celebrated the third Saturday every April in hundreds of stores across the US and internationally.

However, only independent record stores such as Bull Moose and Rasputin celebrate the day.

See Record on page 11

The truth is out there?

Zeitgeist: The Movie Vs. David O’Donnell

David O’Donnell
Staff Writer

Due to space constraints, “Zeitgeist: The Movie” is running unopposed.

Don’t misread this as a defense of all mainstream intelligence, or a screed against research into and skepticism towards any “accepted reality.” On the contrary, the deadly annoying thing about Zeitgeist: The Movie (besides the title) is the flighty little bubble of irony it exists in: the message is that the downfall of humanity is the acceptance of cheap and emotionally appealing truths from above. We can only hope the filmmaker was inspired by Borat and is actually trying to prove this by example.

I believe the exact point where the film moves from pomposity to outright hostility toward serious scholarship - of any kind - is fifteen minutes in, when the “ominous” montage of Hubble telescope images and war footage gives way to a shocking expose of Christianity. No, not the pagan roots of scripture or the institutional alteration of sacred texts. Not even any dubious scientific claims that may or may not be in the Bible. The ice is instead broken by declaring the Egyptian god Horus as first and perhaps the best example. “Horus, the Biblical antichrist. That’s just the first and maybe most innocuous instance of film pulling “truth” clear out of nowhere in particular. The centerpiece may be the assertion that seven of the eight supposed 9/11 hijackers are still alive and well to this day, just waiting for us to hear their humble cries and dispute the official record. Exactly what you get when big government plans your faux terrorist attacks - U.S. officials just picked a bunch of real, live Arabs to pin the alleged “suicide missions” on, we’re told.

The movie has no time for the content of that BBC article, nevermind the linked clarification by an editor some time afterwards. Apparently, the BBC can only be trusted for the brief moment that it appears to confirm a conspiracy theorists’ wet dream - in which case it can be trusted absolutely.

Yes, Zeitgeist, blind trust is a bad thing. Institutions arecorruptible and potentially quite corrupting - if you think a person is capable of doing evil deeds, wait till you get a few hundred or so of them together. But there’s nothing more irritating than some guy standing up and asserting that he “gets” it, then drastically simplifying things in the other direction. There’s a feeling here that the filmmakers are privy to not merely to the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth about religion and terrorism, but also the idyllic alternative world of which we’re been deprived.

Let’s cross our fingers for the sequel.

The Wire

In an upset, the victory goes to write-in candidate The Wire, an under-appreciated (but not suppressed) HBO show about how institutions can betray the people who trust them. All five seasons are available wherever fine DVDs are rented.
**Maine filmmakers launch web series**

The weekly series premieres with “Willard Beach, The Real Story 2.8”

**Tyler Jackson**  
*Staff Writer*

Where do you find lesbian speed dating, two brothers living together as the odd couple and a kleptomaniac mother-daughter team?

Look no further than Willard Beach, Maine—or, more specifically, WillardBeach.tv.

Gitgo Productions, the creative vehicle of Maine filmmakers Kate Kaminski and Betsy Carson, have launched the premiere of their new ongoing comedic web series, “Willard Beach, The Real Story 2.8.”

The weekly episodes explore the lives of fifteen interconnected characters in small town Maine. The show mixes equal parts soap opera, satire and improv experimentation in a condensed, web-friendly length of about three minutes apiece.

Some of the topics explored in the series are the search for love, infidelity, work and class issues, sexual orientation, loneliness, and how to cope with it all.

“It’s a revolving cast of characters that reflects, in a lot of ways, all of our experiences of living in this community, which is small,” Kaminski, a film professor at USM says. “Everyone’s connected. And that’s the type of feeling we’re trying to evoke.”

Kaminski and Carson have been making features together for years. Some of their recent projects have been “Tripp,” a darkly comic surrealist hitchhiker film and 21st Century LP, a short documentary about Portland’s Enterprise Records.

A bout of winter boredom coupled with a strong desire to “get in on the action” of free online programming led to the idea of making something short, challenging and most importantly, funny.

“Our focus is always on delivering an audience experience that’s fast-paced, very naturalistic and humorous,” Kaminski says.

The premier episode, “Speeding Toward Love,” debuted online last Wednesday. It features two middle-aged women played by Denise Poirier and Toni Fiore at a lesbian speed-dating event. The scene quickly becomes awkward when one woman realizes that the other is married to a man and only there to check out the occasion.

“Willard Beach” features an ensemble cast of fifteen actors from around the Greater Portland community including Brent Aaskari, Keith Ancil, Braden Biddings, Harris Cooley, Franklin McMahon and Michael Best. Kaminski and Carson drew from the shorts’ loose, genuine dialogue provides for a very naturalistic feel.

Kaminski says they are using the phrase “real story” with their tongues firmly planted in their cheeks.

“A lot of people have a clichéd idea about what Maine is,” she says. “The outsider view is that it’s very straight, white, middle class, working class.”

“Willard Beach,” which features characters that are straight and gay, black and white and employed and unemployed, challenges the popular misconception that all Mainers are “boring L.L. Bean” types.

Kaminski says they intend on keeping “Willard Beach” going as long as they can by avoiding embedding hard-limed narratives into the episodes.

“One thing we noticed about most web series is that they’re very engaged in plot. And what that does is make it finite. And we didn’t want to do that,” Kaminski says.

Currently, there are ten episodes in the pipeline and plans to produce another batch in May and June.

Watch “Willard Beach, The Real Story 2.8” at 2point8tv, willardbeach.tv, iTunes, YouTube, Facebook, and everywhere video is playing online.

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**Epicurean Epics**

**Morel sauce**

by Anne McCormack

It’s time to start thinking about foraging for mushrooms on the forest floors, and to look forward to the bright green fiddlehead fronds that will poke through the ground around Mother’s Day. I began to think about mushrooms after I received a quart of dried Morels that were harvested in Idaho and sent to me in remembrance of my April Fool’s birthday last week.

This recipe from Bon Appetit is going to be the perfect accompaniment to a roast pork which will be framed by roasted carrots, asparagus spears, red potatoes, and golden beets.

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**Morel Sauce**

2 ounces dried whole morel mushrooms 2 tablespoons shallots
2 cups boiling water 30 minutes.
1 cup whipping cream
Reserved pork juices

Cooked mushrooms and 2 cups boiling water in 8-inch skillet. Let cool and refrigerate until needed. In large saucepan over medium-high heat, add shallots and cook 3 minutes. Add brandy and chicken broth and bring to a boil. Add mushrooms and bring to a boil. Add morel sauce and bring to a boil. Add cream. Season with salt and pepper. Add morel sauce and bring to a boil. Add morel sauce and bring to a boil. Add morel sauce and bring to a boil.

Bon Appetit
Music participate in Record Store Day. The Record Store Day webpage actually states how they have a mission to encourage people to participate: “a physical retailer whose product line consists of at least 50% music retail, whose concept is at least partly music oriented and whose ownership is at least 70% located in the state of operation.” (In other words, we’re dealing with real, live, non-franchise, record stores—not online retailers or corporate behemoths.)

The independent record stores of Maine and New Hampshire are some of the stores participating in this year’s Record Store Day. Both record stores are a part of a rare and limited edition album promotion and merchandise releases as well as free in-store concerts and autograph signings at Bull Moose stores all over the state.

Some of the items so far known at that will be available in limited quantities at Bull Moose stores on Record Store Day include:

- Brandi Carlile’s “Seven” single including “Downpour” and a live version of the song “A Promise To Keep”.
- Brandi Carlile’s specially-packaged single including: “What Love Can Do” and a live version of “A Promise To Keep”. (A collaboration with The Devil, which has never before appeared on CD or vinyl).
- Modest Mouse’s “7” single including the two brand new tracks “Satellite Skin” and “Guilty Cockroach”.
- Queen’s first EP – a limited edition, numbered CD, on sale for the first time in the U.S.
- Black Kids’ Wizard of Ahhhs 10” – released for the first time on a physical format.
- The Decemberists’ 7” single including “The Crane Wife’s Song” and previously unreleased “East India Lanes”.
- The Stouges’ 7” single including “909” and “Real Cool Time”.

The New Hampshire-based band Wild Light will be performing at the Salem Bull Moose at 4 p.m. on Record Store Day. At the Portland Bull Moose on Middle St. the band Disturbed will be signing autographs at noon, and the Portland-based band This Way will be performing live at 4 p.m. The band Killburn & Engage will be signing autographs at 4 p.m. at the Scarborough location. For a complete list of all free concerts and special offers and merchandise at Bull Moose stores visit the Record Store Day section of the Bull Moose website at www.bullmooose.com.

The first opening was in August of 2002, and we’ve participated in most every First Friday Art Walk since then,” says Nat May, the Executive Director of the Space Gallery. The Space Gallery, a non-profit art gallery, is a small, but crucial part of their work done by Anna Hepler and her colleague Andrea Sulzer, and is part of a growing number of independent, small, and advanced printmaking class at Bowdoin College. May explained that Anna Hepler “has been looking for a way to get the public more involved with wood block printing by using a wooden floor as the wood block instead of using a smaller piece of board. The women have been working together on the designs. They pieced the papers together and formed a 30’ by 20’ print of the different designs that they created.”

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The Everyday Visuals

Boston band goes back to their roots for third album

Dylan Martin

Staff Writer

The Everyday Visuals are preparing for the release of their third self-titled album on April 14th. It features six songs, and we felt like that song almost encapsulates a different period, and we were going on. When it came time to choose a song for the record, I felt like that song almost encapsulated a different period, and we had moved past it. So when we put it on the Myspace, it was definitely for political reasons and it was more in the spirit of the time. It was like writing a Christmas tune and then having a record that comes out in March.

FP: That’s what I was thinking, because I knew that it was politically charged.

CP: I’m happy with that song, and I think it will get a release someday.

FP: Was there any musical discoveries in the past few years that had such a major influence on your songwriting now?

FP: I think it was more like a personal discovery...I feel like the hardest part for me is always keeping a steady vision of what I want and sort of trusting myself. And this has been a new struggle with me.

When I wrote Media Crush, and Joey Hallowell and I recorded it, I was like, “This is what we’re gonna fucking do. I don’t give a shit what’s happening right now.” So when we released that and started to plan the follow-up, we got very in tune with the trends that were going on, and not that we wanted to mimic what they were doing, but I felt like it almost made us self-conscious. It’s like, “We don’t sound like that, are we doing something wrong?” I don’t know if we can be disingenuous about our music; if reggae suddenly took off and went top 40, I don’t know if I could write a reggae tune, but it was more of a feeling of, is this going to fall on deaf ears? Are we doing something wrong?

I think, for this record, I got back in tune with my roots, music I grew up with and went back to when I was more comfortable writing, and not only more comfortable writing, but starting to believe in it again. I feel like in Things Will Look Up, we got really beat up. We beat up ourselves. At least I did. Joe was like, “No, man. I was fine the whole time.” And I believe him. He was very confident about the whole thing, but I’m starting to feel comfortable again in my own skin.

That was kind of a roundabout way to answer the question. I got back to the classics. I got back to the band, that I love the most. There wasn’t any new musical discovery that I was like, “Oh, you know what? This...” For a while, I almost fell under that trap of “oh, we should add more reverb and stuff like that,” for me, but I realized what I was doing. I was like, don’t try and follow because you’re always going to be a step behind. You can never catch up. It’s a fruitless effort.

So I just went back...I grew up on Crosby, Stills and Nash, America...those records are great, and I felt like I had already been writing acoustic songs, kind of like folksy, harmony-driven songs anyways, so I didn’t need to compare myself to other writers like that. Media Crush already had basically what the Fleet Foxes were doing. You know, there’s no reason to chase. Just do your own thing, and it will work itself out.

FP: The tracklisting has been revealed on your band’s website. “I’ll Take It All In Stride” and “Driving” are returning on this album. Are they new versions?

CP: No, they are remastered, but it would be disingenuous to say we re-recorded them or anything. The reason why we put them on is because...when we finished the album cycle of Things Will Look Up and we looked at what we had accumulated and progressed, we felt that to move onto another record, it would be like, “Well, those songs are done.” It didn’t feel right to me. And especially since we’re doing such a big national publicity push for this record, we really wanted to invest in it, I caugth myself, especially money, and effort into this new record. It felt wrong to leave those songs behind because I felt—I’m so proud of “I’ll Take It All In Stride,” songwriting-wise, the sounds that we got on it.

FP: It wasn’t until last year that I started to really listen to “Driving.” It was one of the last songs I got into. It’s a really good song.

CP: I feel like that song can flip by you if you’re not in the right mood for it, but if you’re driving at 1AM and it comes on—you know what? This is... because we recorded the acoustic guitar while it was raining in this giant hallway.

The classic feel like there are so many elements to that song that feels so good to remember. I remember recording it, and I remember feeling good. It clicked when we recorded it. That’s what music is all about: collecting memories. If the song still gives you good memories, then you’ll get something from playing it—it’s hard to let it go.

FP: You posted a new song on Myspace called “Florence Foster Jenkins.” Is that about anyone in particular?

CP: Yeah. That woman, Florence Foster Jenkins, was a real person. When I was studying music in college, I took this vocal class and every Tuesday, students and the teacher would bring in CDs of different vocal styles and vocal performances, and we would talk about them in class. One woman that our teacher brought in was Florence Foster, and she was brought in as a joke, like how not to sing classical.

Foster was this woman who was born in the late 19th century and she grew up in Pennsylvania, and she always dreamed about being a singer. Her parents tried to swear her away from singing, but when they died, she inherited a lot of money, she moved away to New York and started putting on these concerts. She was starting to become really renowned in the classical music scene. This woman was completely off-key, has no sense of pitch, no sense of rhythm and wears these elaborate costumes and seems to have no idea how horrible she is. She would hold these small concerts at the Ritz Carleton Ballroom once a year just for her lady’s club, and she would distribute the tickets herself. And she started to gain popularity. So much that by the end of her career, there was enough demand for her that she booked a show at Carnegie Hall, and it sold out weeks in advance. So at 60 years old, this woman who had made music her whole life, regardless of what people thought, stood on Carnegie Hall, sang her heart out and then died three months later. And it’s just like that, story was so touching to me.

I long to have that courage of not caring what people thought. She had this great quote about her critic, “My critics may tell me that I can’t sing, but they can never say I didn’t.” And that’s so true. Just do what you love. You know, to hell with everybody else. And that was such an inspiring story, so that’s what song is about. It’s about trying to pin myself to Florence Foster, let her sing through me.

You can pre-order their upcoming album on their website:

http://www.theeveryday-visuals.com
Monday, April 6th
Celebrate Writers Reading!
Monday kicks off the University’s Celebrate Writers festivities, a four day event hosting student and published authors reading various works of poetry and short fiction. Monday night hosts student readings, with new participants daily, culminating on Thursday with readings from this year’s “Words and Images.” Free! Monday – Thursday 7 – 9 p.m. Monday’s and Thursday’s readings at Woodbury Campus Center Amphitheater Tuesday and Wednesday at 7th Floor Glickman Library Events Room/Figure Justin Tussing at (207) 228-8393 for more info

Tuesday, April 7th
One Man Show!
The USM History Department, American Federation of teachers and the Part Time Temporary Faculty Association (PATFA) present Jimmy Higgins: A Life in the Labor Movement, a one man play written and performed by PATFA member, Harlan Baker. The show chronicles the ups and downs of a rank and file labor and socialist activist from 1912-1937. The play, which premiered in April 2008, has been performed in Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Free! 7:30 p.m. Talbot Lecture Hall, Portland Campus/Visit harlinbaker.com

Wednesday, April 8th
Take Back the Night!
Take a stand and join the fight against sexual violence by taking back the night! This three hour event will include banner making, a speak out, rally and a march across the Gorham Campus. T-Shirts will be on sale for $5 with all benefits going towards the advocates of the survivors of sexual violence. 6 – 8 p.m. / Hastings Formal Lounge, Hastings Hall, Gorham Campus! For more info contact Chelsea at 780-5135 or email her at crock@usm.maine.edu

Thursday, April 9th
Get a Fair Job!
Freaking out about graduation? Whether you’re graduating this year or next, it’s always a good plan to see what career awaits you after school. Take advantage of USM’s Job Fair sponsored by Career Services and Professional Life Development by asking questions of employers and grabbing tons of literature regarding life after college. 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. Sullivan Gym, Portland/For more info call 780-4220

Friday, April 10th
Sweet Baby Ray!
One of Maine’s most prized musical possessions, Ray LaMontagne, will be visiting Portland for back-to-back shows Friday and Saturday at the Merrill Auditorium. LaMontagne is touring in support of last year’s release, “Gossip in the Grain.” $43 Friday and Saturday 7:30 – 10:00 p.m. Merrill Auditorium/20 Myrtle St., Portland/Visit tickets.porttix.com to purchase tickets

Saturday, April 11th
Night of Mayhem!
I bet you’ve never seen Gilligan, the Skipper, Ginger or any other “Gilligan’s Island” character dance to trance. Slainte bar is giving you that opportunity with a night of digital music and trippy visual effect where all attendees are encouraged to dress up as their favorite “Gilligan’s Island” character. Now this is an island you’d want to get stranded on! 21+ Free/Slainte/24 Preble St., Portland/828-0900

Sunday, April 12th
Jazzy Easter!
Traditional Easter breakfast not your thing? Try a jazz Easter breakfast at Portland Museum of Art with musician, Sally Davis. The Museum’s weekly jazz breakfasts are free upon admission to the museum. Children under six are free! $8 with a student ID! Portland Museum of Art? 7 Congress Square, Portland.

Your Campus Computer Store
University of Southern Maine • 144 Luther Bonney Hall
Portland Campus • 207-780-4164
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Sign up to win a Free iPod Shuffle!
Drawing April 13th @4:00 PM

Student Discounts on computers and software.
Select computer bags and accessories on sale!
Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 thru 9.

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5 3 8 7 6 9
7 9 3 8
9 4 6 5 8
3 1 7 9
1 2 8 3 7
8 9 7
1 3 7 1 2 4 5
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LACROSSE

Women's LAX rallies, beats Western Conn.

Led by Jessica Martineau's (Auburn) six second-half goals, the USM women's lacrosse team rallied from five goals back to defeat Western Connecticut State University in their conference opener 16-14.

Trailing by five with fifteen minutes to go, the Huskies kicked into high gear enroute to the win. Trailing by one at the half, the Huskies surrendered four straight goals. The Huskies reeled off three goals before the Colonials could answer with their own. The Huskies were not silenced, however, stringing together the next five goals to assure their fate.

Martineau finished the game with seven goals, one goal shy of the school's record of eight. Jessica Knight (Alfred) chipped in with four goals for the Huskies, who improved their record to 4-3.

WOMEN’S INDOOR TRACK

Artesani named LEC Track Athlete of the Year

Junior Emily Artesani (Orono) of the USM women’s indoor track team was named the 2008-2009 Little East Conference Track Athlete of the Year. A mainstay in Coach George Towle’s track stable, Artesani has won their ninth consecutive LEC/AAC indoor championship.

In the third inning when two walks and a single loaded the bases for D’Alfonso, who took the offering from Bridgewater’s State Brown-Denico. “We only have four returning players and I think learning the level of competition is the only thing that the clock can help aid: their youth.

“You get a team this young about once every fourteen years,” says coach Bonny Brown-Denico. “It’s not a human experience and work ethic, giving the underclassmen a strong role model to follow.”

Despite the challenges the team faces now, it is clear that Denico and the team are optimistic. With so many underclassmen receiving much more playing time than the average freshman or sophomore, the team can gain essential hands on experience needed to successfully compete in the LEC.

Another piece of good news is the Huskies’ offense. Six of the twelve players are batting well over .250, with sophomore Molly Artesani (.478 in just 23 at bats) and batting .314 in 51 at bats. Freshman Laura Leger (Quincy, MA) has also been a pleasant surprise, tying with Dixon for first with 7 RBIs while driving in 12 runs. Leger’s ability to come back, they’re going to have a strong role model to follow. With such potential on their hands and time on their side, it is clear that the Huskies have a great chance to transform themselves into a dominant team within the next few seasons. For now, they will continue to ride through the waves of inexperience in hopes of honing their skills, and ending the season with a strong finish.
USM is no stranger to talented baseball players. Over the years, the Huskies have even sent players to compete at the next level. This year is no different. Senior outfielder Anthony D’Alfonso (Westbrook) is looking to join the likes of Vinnie Degifico and Tip Fairchild as USM players to make a noise at the professional level.

D’Alfonso competed against in the Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) where he played for the Seawolves for two years before transferring to USM and joining the Huskies ball club in the fall of 2007.

This was just the change D’Alfonso needed. “I think going from SMCC to USM has really helped me improve and become a better all around player,” D’Alfonso says. “At SMCC I was playing extremely well but I felt like I needed to go somewhere that had a higher level of competition. Here I’m learning more, playing with better players, being coached by some of the best coaches in the nation, and facing better pitching that I think is really preparing me for my future as a baseball player.”

Southern Maine’s rich baseball tradition was also a factor that D’Alfonso believes contributed to his development as a player. Growing up and playing in the always competitive greater Portland area was the perfect environment to hone his baseball skills.

The slugger collided with some of the best teams and even better players including the perennial powerhouse Deering High School and such players as Ryan Flaherty, the former Vandal shortstop and 41st pick in last June’s MLB draft.

Other notable players that D’Alfonso competed against in his high school days are Ryan Reid, minor league pitcher in the Tampa Bay Rays organization, infielder Ryan Piacinti of Trinity College, USM’s own shortstop Chris Burleson, and USB outfyrman Ryan Pike of Thornton Academy. But D’Alfonso himself is a bit of a local legend, belting four home runs in a single American Legion game.

Nevertheless, the high level of competition and baseball-centered atmosphere fueled D’Alfonso’s will to get better. The sensor is coming off an incredible year in 2008, when he garnered third team All-American honors after hitting .393 with 19 homers and 62 RBI’s. He is looking to carry that tenacious hitting and defensive play to this year he was picked as a second team preseason All-American.

Currently D’Alfonso is batting .415 with 19 RBI’s and two home runs and is always looking to improve with hard work at practice and in the weight room. Much of D’Alfonso’s success at the plate comes from his approach and how he handles himself when he steps in the batter’s box. “My approach really depends on who’s on base or the certain situation I’m hitting in, but overall all when I get up to the plate is that it’s a battle between me and the pitcher,” D’Alfonso says. “I need to win that battle to help my team win the game because I hate losing. I zone out when I’m at bat and my goal is to always hit it hard and right at the pitchers cap.”

This extremely competitive nature is a perfect characteristic to channel to his fellow Huskies in their bid for a third National Championship.

During each of the last two springs, there has been speculation that D’Alfonso would be selected in the draft. But last year when his name wasn’t called, he was left without any options.

Enter opportunity. Just 35 miles from his hometown of Westbrook sat the perfect opportunity: the Sanford Mainers of the New England College Baseball League, a premier league wood bats league geared toward mostly Division I baseball players.

He and junior pitcher Mark Schmidt (Gorham) were picked up after the team had already played 14 regular season games. The slugger used his toughness at the plate to make that immediate contribution for the Mainers, who eventually won them the NECBL Championship.

By the end of the season D’Alfonso had made the All-Star team and led the team in batting average after hitting .426, and RBI with 20. D’Alfonso’s manager Joe Brown had high praise for the lefthander when he told the Portland Press Herald that Anthony was among the top 10 players he had coached in his 10 years at the helm. “I have no small praise considering the talent pool in the NECBL.” Brown went onto say that if D’Alfonso didn’t play professionally somewhere then “I don’t know where the scouts are.”

D’Alfonso praises the experiences that he had playing in Sanford, noting that players are treated as though they’re major leaguers, with die-hard fans going to every game. He also mentioned that he was playing with some of the top prospects in the country. D’Alfonso believes that this experience has prepared him for the rest of his baseball career.

D’Alfonso has always held his family in a special place, and their support has been invaluable in ascent of the baseball ladder. His parents are huge supporters and are always cheering him on from behind the backstop.

But D’Alfonso’s family isn’t the only one supporting him. His teammates are quick to tell you what sort of player he has become. “Anthony is one of the best pure hitters I have ever played with and definitely has the fastest hands that I’ve ever played with. He has remarkable hand eye coordination,” junior first baseman Colin Henry says of his teammate. “He really gives the team energy with his laid back, kind of joking style when were off the field.”

“D’Alfonso’s hard work ethic was a test when he suffered a knee injury during an intramural basketball game just a month before winter practice began. After surgery he was in the rehab room and gym everyday trying to get better so he could be ready for the season opener in Long Island. “I was in rehab with him every day and he was doing everything he could to get himself as close to 100 percent as possible before our season started,” Henry added. “I still don’t think he is 100 percent but I can tell you it will be soon if he keeps up the hard work.”

As far as playing at the next level for D’Alfonso, there is a likely possibility he will do so. Scouts have been talking to the potential hitter dating back to his days at SMCC and he is currently being looked at by the Cincinnati Reds and the Seattle Mariners.

Anthony D’Alfonso will likely have to end his reign on the southern Maine baseball scene when the pros come knocking. But, no matter where he goes, D’Alfonso will likely be taking a big part of the area with him.