Gorham marchers ‘take back the night’
Annual event aims to increase awareness of violence against women

Abigail Cuffey
Staff Writer

If you were on the Gorham campus last Wednesday night, you might have seen and heard roughly fifty people marching around campus, shouting chants like Survivors unite! Take back the night! This event, called Take Back the Night (TBTN), is a national march aimed at raising awareness of violence against women. Another event is planned for the Portland campus at the end of the month.

Community members, student organizations, faculty, staff, and students from USM all worked at organizing this event, which kicked off with a pre-rally at 6 p.m., where supporters could make banners and buy T-shirts and candles. Take Back the Night, which is held in April as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, was sponsored by the Department of Residential Life and Resident Education.

Despite the refreshments and brightly colored banners, the somberness of the event was palpable. T-shirts lined the room reading messages like, “Not my daughter! Break the cycle now!” and “He beat my mom in front of us four kids…”

At the head of the program, which was brought back to USM after a few years hiatus, is Chelsea Rock, a Residence Director at Upton-Hastings Hall on the Gorham Campus.

“The department of residential life was searching for a program to bring the residential community to educate students about sexual assault,” said Rock, who along with Lyndsay Santusiano, Coordinator of the USM Women’s Resource Center, helped formulate the idea to make the campus “a safe place for all – both in the daytime and at night.”

According to Take Back the Night’s web site, the origins of the march are often disputed. Some say their roots stem back as far as 1877, when women protested fear and violence in the streets of London. Others believe it was in 1976, when women protested the International Tribune of Crimes Against Women took to the streets of Belgium with candles and rallied against violence against women.

TBTN was first introduced to America in 1978, when protesters gathered in San Francisco. See TBTN on page 2

See Budget on page 4

Senate recommends budget approval
GTV funding still frozen, free newspaper program to be cut

Charlie Nickell
Staff Writer

The final version of next year’s budget proposal passed through the Student Senate on Friday night with a heated debate over the future of GTV, the student-run television station located on the Gorham campus.

“Will we be leaving them out to dry if we take away their funding?” Senate Treasurer Christopher Hopkins asked.

With a spreadsheet of GTV’s funding should be re-allocated to other programs that need money, so I’m not surprised,” Kendrick said. “I what they expect.

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Franklin Kendrick, GTV’s general manager for the past four years feels that the senate hasn’t made it clear enough that representation at their meetings is what they expect.

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With a spreadsheet of GTV’s
We should be thankful that so far, we are only taking this on as a political problem. If there was any hint last November of some culture war still left to fight, it was the passage of Proposition 8 in California, a battle that is coming home in what definition marriage to a union between a man and a woman. No exceptions.

California is far from the first. In the 2004 elections, 11 states - Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Montana, Mississippi, Ohio and Oregon - voted to prevent gay couples from entering into anything labelled "marriage."

But California's decision was particularly devastating for gay rights activists, given that it has one of the largest gay populations in the country, and a reputation for supporting progressive causes. The groups supporting the ban, mostly conservative religious organizations, saw it as proof that the country does not support marriage for homosexual couples - and that the courts should stop ruling in favor of it, as California's supreme court had in a May decision that was overturned byProposition 8.

By the time voters went to the polls in California, the issue was made up of more than whether or not gay couples should be able to marry legally. Organizations pushing for the ban swore in ad after ad claiming that in reality gay marriage was a road to chaos, with losing nonprofit status, kinder to become tax-free nonprofits - and that the courts should stop ruling in favor of it, as California's supreme court had in a May decision that was overturned byProposition 8.

Call it martial-gazing, or a juicy sauce, or just a mystery story, the biggest (and smallest) names in news going belly-up is an easy headline-grabber. The problem is that so much of the times and sharing some bailouts-love with publishers. A bill introduced recently by Senator Benjamin Cardin, Democrat of Maryland, would allow newspapers to become tax-free nonprofits, enjoying the same off-limits income and dwindling patience as your neighborhood church.

That bill is as good as a shape as the Portland Press Herald (still looking for buyers), if there's been one benefit to the great money meltdown of 2008, it's that anarchic industries that controlled both content and distribution was finally losing control over the latter. That's good news for consumers and emerging.

The bad news is that democratic government could be a bit cynical. The story of David Simon told The Guardian newspaper of London last week, "Oh, we're not just talking about America over the next 10 to 15 years, before somebody figures out the business model."

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News
A Free Press political primer

Marry Me
Daniel MacLeod
News Editor

The only thing that nearly stopped Josh Grennie from getting the USM College Republicans group off the ground was the fact that he was the only member.

In the weeks leading up to last November’s national elections, the USM College Democrats were in full force around campus, bolstered by the hugely successful grass roots Obama campaign. Grennie, however, realized that there was no group that reflected his view as a conservative republican.

“It was bad management on the part,” he told the senate. The job market is global.

Grennie, a freshman finance major, says that a group technically needs to have more than one member in order to qualify for a group off the ground. Grennie says that a group needing to have more than one member should not be common knowledge. “That’s definitely overwhelmingly liberal,” he said.

Grennie says that it’s not just students and student groups who are liberal – a large number of professors are as well.

“But that’s why there’s such a strong need [for this group], because there aren’t really any conservative groups. There needs to be one for those students,” he said.

The only problem he ran into was that the Board of Student Organizations (BSO) never told him that he needed to have more than one member in order to qualify as a group when they gave him the green light to reinstate the USM College Republicans. Grennie, however, realized that there was no group that reflected his view as a conservative republican.

“At the urging of Commuter Senator-at-large Alex Sargent, the senate decided to postpone the “love-fest,” and move on with the agenda, which included the testimonies of Grennie and USM College Democrats spokesman Chet Tetreault, whose group’s membership had been revoked for lack of attendance at BSO meetings.

Last semester, the USM College Democrats were so busy knocking on doors, running phone banks, and “getting out the vote” in general, that they didn’t notice when the Board of Student Organizations revoked their membership as an official USM student organization, Tetreault said.

“It was bad management on the part,” he told the senate. The college Democrats were holding events on every Friday, he said, so nobody was available to go to the BSO meetings. According to Tetreault, the problem with getting their membership revoked was that the BSO froze all the money the group had saved up doing fund-raisers. The group had saved up around $500.

“That was a surprise to me – that the school would do that,” he said. Once his group realized what had happened, however, he went before the senate, who reinstated the group’s charter.

It took the senate a few minutes to realize that Josh Grennie’s group wasn’t really a group after all. Marie Follayttar, student rep to the USM board of trustees, noted that a group technically needs to have two members.

“I met with them several times and was never made aware of that,” Grennie said.

“I’ve had a lot of interest [in the group], it’s just that I didn’t try to get this on the road, let’s get this going. Let’s get students involved. Who cares if it’s ideologically different from some others?”

Sargent, who has registered as a republican twice, but has never voted for a republican presidential candidate, agrees with Grennie that USM is a profoundly liberal campus; so much so that some students are afraid of letting their political stances known.

“There are certain classes that, if you do voice opinions of opposition, your grade will suffer,” he said.

According to Sargent, who plans on being an active member in USM Student Republicans, diverse opinions should be given equal creedence.

“I think the job of a university is to explore ideas, not matter how bad or good.”

The job market is global. Are you?
Money, Money, Money

The senate approved funding for the 3rd annual Laura Voges Memorial 5K race to be held on May 23, providing $1450 to help pay for port a-potties, tee shirts, and a finish line director under the agreement that the entry fee for students will be reduced by 50%. The USM Bayside Nursing Partnership is organizing a free community health fair the day of the race and hopes to attract over 1000 people. USM student athletes and nursing students will be volunteering at the event.

A new student group, the Phoenix Network, which helps at-risk youth with mentor and advocate services, had its constitution passed unanimously. Ben Skillings, who represented the Phoenix Network before the senate, explained that there were students involved in the group, and a funding party is being scheduled for this summer.

Student Body President Ben Taylor and Senator Matthew Taggett went before the senate to request funding for the Spring Fling ’09 events scheduled for the week of April 26.

The request was for $9,500 to fund an outdoor concert scheduled for the Saturday night of the festival, as well as other activities. The Spring Fling event is one of three major festivals held during the year. The decision will free up available funds for the Spring Fling ‘09 events scheduled for the week of April 26.

No more newspapers?

The newspaper program, which pays for the daily issues of the New York Times through the Boston Globe and Portland Press Herald, has been removed from the laundry list, a list the senate uses to identify budget items it doesn’t need. The removal were that faculty members were taking the university more suitable to its diverse population. The Spring Fling event is one of three major festivals held during the year. The decision will free up available funds for the Spring Fling ‘09 events scheduled for the week of April 26.

The question of whether re-sumed the problem was undermined by Senator Donahue, who said, “If I knew that I had to bring my I.D. with me every time I wanted a newspaper, I would probably not even try to get one.”

Because the budget is only a recommended proposal, The 38th Student Senate will have the chance to make changes when it takes office in May.

Money, Money, Money

Use your camera for more than just your facebook photos...

See House on page 5

Greenhouse manager Mayleen Farrington tends to some plants atop the science building on the Portland campus. Tasked with growing and maintaining plant specimens for biology courses, Farrington spends a couple hours a week on pruning and pest control to keep things looking green.

Matt Dodge
Executive Editor

“We have an ant on Mr. Spiky” says Mayleen Farrington as her daughter pushes a leaf on the barbied plant to give Maya a better looks at the insect crawling over the four-foot-tall, prickly looking plant.

As greenhouse manager, a work-study position the 40-year-old biology senior has held for two years, Farrington looks over one of the most unique and least-known spaces on the Portland campus. Nestled on the locked sixth floor of the science building, you’re not likely to stumble upon this space by accident.

For a couple hours each week, Farrington tends to this diverse and unique collection of plant species, which are primarily used as teaching samples for biology classes to study plant reproduction, pollination, and adaptation.

Farrington’s job is year-round, and primarily involves watering, maintenance, cultivation, and a whole lot of pest control. “Mealbugs are the bane of my existence right now,” she says.

A proponent of integrated pest management, Farrington does not like to go straight for the harsh insecticides to fight her pest problem, but rather uses a myriad of cooperative techniques to keep the plants healthy.

“I would like to get some predator insects in here, but funding is limited,” says Farrington.

Farrington, whose has worked as a farrier – trimming and shoeing horse’s hooves – for sixteen years, stumbled upon the manager position and jumped at the chance to cultivate an unlikely and diverse collection of plants.

One such unique specimen is the Stapelia gigantean, also called a “carrion flower”, this starfish-like plant thrives under green thumb.
A shaped flower emits an odor reminiscent of rotting flesh as a means of attracting flies, which help it to pollinate. “They kind of smell like road kill,” Farrington adds.

But this rooftop “Little Shop of Horrors” does not stop there. The Euphorbia tirucalli, or “pencil tree” is a waxy looking sprawl of thin green branches, whose sap can irritate or burn the skin. Another, intentionally unidentified plant, is said to induce what Farrington calls “flying dreams” if licked. “But we are not supposed to discuss that,” she says.

It’s not only the carnivorous, burn inducing, or hallucinogenic that makes it into the collection. The Stanhopea orchid, growing just across from the putrid carrion flower, gives off a pleasant warm vanilla smell and battles the olfactory senses for one’s attention.

The greenhouse is kept at 55 degrees during the winter, and can get up to 90 degrees in the summer, and has a wide range of species all thriving in the same place.

From a six-foot papaya tree, to orchids, Egyptian papyrus, desert cactus, and a pineapple plant harvested from a grocery store Delmonte, there is no real rhyme or reason for what makes it into the greenhouse.

“It’s kind of a free for all” says Farrington. Some of the plants are grown at the request of biology professors looking for specific species to use in the classroom, but much of the stocking of this mini ecosystem is left up to the discretion of Farrington.

“Most of it has been for my own entertainment,” says Farrington, who does a lot of her research on the Internet, always looking for a new way to keep the greenhouse thriving. “These guys are sort of my pets,” she says.

But the work-study job is more than just a hobby for Farrington. An advocate of developing sustainable communities and localized food production, she is currently applying to a master’s program in sustainable communities at Northern Arizona University. Farrington’s specific focus is on noninvasive, low-maintenance landscaping techniques “to replace lawns and all that stupid- ity”.

USM’s science departments are among some of university’s best funded, but their budgets focus very narrowly on specific concentrations such as genetics, and cellular work.

The greenhouse receives little funding outside of what is allocated to biology professors when they teach a class that calls for plant samples. Farrington’s work-study salary is the only real expense incurred in running the greenhouse, making it an easy to sustain and uniquely adaptable venture.

Still, in her time at USM, Farrington has come to see that the school’s quality lies not in its bankroll, but the dedication of its faculty. “What it lacks in funding, it makes up for in amazing staff,” she says.

As Farrington prepares to graduate this spring, she is keeping the future of the greenhouse in mind, putting together a manual for the next caretaker to assure that this sixth-floor sanctuary flourishes in her absence.

“It’s just a great place to come up and get away from it all,” Farrington says.
Shouldn’t USM go solar electric—for free?

Michael S. Hamilton
Guest Columnist

Imagine solar photovoltaic collectors on the roof of every major USM building in Portland, Gorham and Lewiston-Auburn, providing enough electricity to meet USM’s needs and often enough to sell to Central Maine Power Co. Imagine the PV collectors get put there without any significant outlay of funds by USM, and provide electricity at a fixed price for the next ten to twenty years that is competitive with what USM pays today to CMP for our electricity.

That means no negative impact on student tuition or fees, while USM goes “green,” reduces its carbon footprint on the world, and shows some leadership in the community.

And the side benefits include predictable energy costs, something incredibly valuable to persons preparing a budget for a large institution like USM. And also incredibly valuable to students who might prefer their tuition not increase in future to pay for more expensive electricity.

All USM needs to do is pick up the phone and contact SunEdison, Sungevity or SunRun and ask for a feasibility assessment. These companies have two large, well-established and USM just signs the contract for a number of years, and does not guarantee the price of oil or another fuel goes up, the price CMP charges USM goes up, and USM tuition follows shortly thereafter.

But a PPA with SunEdison, for example, would be for at least ten years at a guaranteed fixed price for the whole period. The price would be fixed by contract because it would be determined mostly by the rate of interest USM pays to SunEdison, Sungevity, or SunRun. USM currently has a PPA with Central Maine Power, but it’s only for a year or two, and does not guarantee a fixed price for electricity. Every time the price of oil or another fuel goes up, the price CMP charges USM goes up, and USM tuition follows shortly thereafter.

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I am writing in response to the letter to the editor in the March 9th Free Press by “Hourly Employees.” Believe me, I know firsthand the impact of USM’s financial situation and can empathize with the author regarding some of the decisions that have been made. However, I have issues with three points that were made in reference to USM Child and Family Centers: the decision, the availability of funds put in the community and the use of tax-payer dollars to subsidize child care.

Child care is a labor-intensive industry, especially due to the strict regulations regarding teacher/child ratios for infants and toddlers. Compensation is 88.5% of our budget compared with about 73% for teachers. In this industry, child care is one of the lowest paid industries. USM’s child care staff have been fortunate to receive the excellent benefits that other USM employees enjoy. According to a 2008 Maine child care workforce study, only 56% of child care centers offer health care benefits. Lack of benefits creates high turnover and lower expectations for professional qualifications, neither of which is good for children or the majority of families that need high-quality care.

Unfortunately, this level of education is highly unusual in our field, since the requirements for training are less than for those of dog trainers or hairdressers. Many of our teachers have worked at USM for many years, again, defying the norm for the industry. This high level of competence by our staff has provided our many work study students with an enriched experiential learning experience, prompting them to return year after year. In fact, the majority of our student parents have indicated that the rich experience has prompted them to return year after year.

We have been able to secure a substantial portion of our state funding due to the lack of suitable alternatives available in our community in the over $867,000 in revenue, but that does not cover the cost of wages and benefits. Ninety percent of brain development occurs by age three, which is the most crucial time to positively impact a child’s capacity for future learning. Dana Comors, President of the Maine Chamber of Commerce, wrote a letter of support regarding increased investment in early care and education as part of the economic stimulus package. He wrote that “high-quality early education programs prepare children for academic success and help them develop skills necessary for their personal and later career development. Children who lack early learning experiences are more likely to struggle academically, drop out of school, be arrested, become teen parents and abuse illegal drugs—all serious disqualifiers for the workplace.”

We need your support to continue providing high-quality early childhood education to “better cognitive function and language development, higher rates of attendance for a four-year college and higher rates of employment.” So basically, investing in quality early experiences for our children will not only benefit taxpayers and enhance economic vitality. Economic research—by Nobel Prize-winners and Federal Reserve economists, in economic studies in dozens of states and countries, and studies spanning 40 years—demonstrate that the return on public investment in high quality childhood education is substantial.

Even Governor Baldacci’s Business Roundtable on Early Childhood Investment released its recommendations for investing in the early years with three priorities being: 1) public private partnerships to create and sustain Maine’s early childhood workforce; 2) a public and private education and parent education campaign about Maine’s moral and fiscal responsibility and the value of investing in young children; and 3) promote public and private investments that will increase the number of qualified early childhood professionals. The newly formed Maine Children’s Growth Council, of which USM Chancellor Richard Pappas is a member, has already adopted the “Invest Early in Maine: A Working Plan for a Humane Early Childhood Systems”, that, among other things, advocates for access to high quality, affordable and inclusive child care with a qualified and well-compensated workforce. Sound familiar?

A recent UNICEF study showed how the declining rates of spending on children in our country has resulted in the United States ranking 20th out of 21 rich nations in “child well-being.” How can we ever compete globally if our children fare so poorly? I do believe that it is appropriate for our federal and state government to partner with parents to invest in early care and education the same way that it subsidizes the cost of higher education. That’s my opinion. Respectfully submitted by Lori Freid Mose Director USM Child and Family Centers
Never has a sleepy beach town looked so good. The production team Mint Films produced their longest film to date, “The Transition of Minor Skies,” a film about the clashing of familiar comfort with the possibility of change.

Written and directed by Jeff Griecci, the film follows the lives of Hunter and Dom (played by Ian Carlson and Parker Newton) in a sleepy beach town. It shows their everyday, monotonous routines in a town where change seldom visits.

It starts off rather humorously with the boys going through their routine activities; one funny scene shows them stealing a few dollars from the tip jar of a small convenience store, giving each other high fives, and then running away in slow motion having just done the most exciting thing they’re going to do all day.

Another funny scene shows Hunter and Dom going to the local video store and deliberating over what to rent, an activity they frequently do judging by their debate about renting Army of Darkness. Their conversation about which zombie movie has the best gore is interrupted by the movie store clerk who cruelly reveals how the special effects are done. Hunter and Dom looked as crushed as if they just found out Santa Claus is a myth.

The boys’ daily activities become more sad and serious as the film continues, until Dom runs into a girl at a bookstore (played by Sophie Hill) who changes the way he looks at himself and his life. This visiting girl, a traveling free spirit (who remains nameless throughout the film) gives Hunter and Dom a taste of life beyond their sleepy beach town.

The film is sad, funny, bittersweet and touching all at once. The clashing of the mysterious girl with the boring lives of Hunter and Dom subtly shows the familiar theme of the conflict of the familiar with the long for change, but in a unique, funny, and touching way. The scenery and cinematography are beautifully shot and meshes perfectly with the soothing soundtrack.

All three of the main actors truly become their characters. Sophie Hill points out that it is easier when you can relate to the character you are playing, which she could.

“My character is like this traveling girl who tries to remain kind of unattached to people. I feel that it takes a certain kind of person to travel different places and meet different people, because it’s hard make connections while still staying unattached,” says Hill. “I got the traveling bug when I was younger and spent a semester abroad, so I can definitely relate to my character.”

“The Transition of Minor Skies” is Mint Films’ longest film to date, at 55 minutes long. The cast and crew consist of a mix of Mint Film veterans as well as newcomers to the film scene, like Hill, as this was her very first film.

“It was interesting because the kids I worked with were pretty experienced. Both Parker and Ian had done theater and films before. It was really cool to work with such experienced people,” says Hill. “It opened up a whole new talent and hobby for me, and I want to do more in the future.”

Everyone in the cast and crew is extremely pleased with the way the film turned out. Hill attributes the success of the film to the people behind it, especially the gentlemen of Mint Films. She says her fondest memories of the film are the off-camera times they spent together.

“The best part of making the movie was hanging out with the guys,” says Hill. “They are all just hilarious and they are really free spirits.”

The first public Portland screening of “The Transition of Minor Skies” will be on May 20th at the SPACE Gallery in Portland. Some of the events at the screening include: DVD sales, Q&A with the cast and crew, and a bonus screening of Mint Films’ short documentary “Murphy’s Law.” For more information and updates about the screening visit “The Transition of Minor Skies” on MySpace at http://www.myspace.com/thetransitionofminorskies.
Oh Miley! Edition

Jem vs. Crossroads vs. Glitter vs. Straight Outta Compton?

David O’Donnell
Staff Writer

As a film columnist for the Free Press, its my duty to keep abreast of the times, to keep my finger on the pulse of young America, to watch at least 13 hours a day of the Disney channel. Unfortunately, times being what they are and court-mandated ankle monitors being so effective, I can’t afford to leave the house of my own free will and plunk down $8.50 to see Hannah Montana: The Movie this week.

But this column is about helping you dig up cheap alternatives to the multiplex at your local library and video rent-o-shack. Thankfully, Miley is not the first pop sensation to take all the behind the scenes angst of superstardom and make it into a movie. Maybe just the best.

Jem: The Movie

Like HanMo, JEM is the super-star alter ego of a normal girl, or in this case music industry heiress Jerrica Benton. The film chronicles the rise of Jem and the Mystix, as they battle the evil rival band of some other name. While I haven’t seen this, if I remember my sister’s toy collection correctly, Jem was a trampier, legier Barbie with some seriously new-wave eye makeup. It’s my family’s suspicion that she really warped my sister.

Crossroads

Sony thought it would be cheaper to create this movie rather than put together a standard press kit for Britney Spears’ third album, the one where she covered Joan Jett’s “I Love Rock ‘n’ Roll”. Crossroads is the lovingly generic story of BriSpe and two friends hitting the road after high school to find fame and runaway parents. Much in the same way Mama Mia! used the music of ABBA as the glue and soul of its story, this movie is pretty much based on the song “I’m Not a Girl, Not Yet a Woman,” but only to their advantage to create a dancing frenzy.

Glitter

Don’t forget that Glitter exists.

The Hit (aka Straight Outta Compton)

I still remember when somebody came bursting into the Whole Grocer several years ago to let everybody know “hey, I was over on Washington Ave., and they’re filming Straight Outta Compton II in front of Buffalo Wings’n’Things!” Wow, I thought, the sequel to Straight Outta Compton is being filmed in Portland, Maine, of all places. Far too later on it dawned on me that nobody has ever heard of a movie called Straight Outta Compton. The blue ribbon goes to a film that combines a story of making it with the gritty streets of Portland.

The winner...

Jeez, folks. Only in America, you think, can we have a Hip-Hop biopic. Only in America, you think, can we have a biopic of a band who is still in the process of making a biopic. Only in America, you think, can we have a biopic that self-parodies on the biopic form itself. Only in America, you think, can we have a bad biopic that is actually a good biopic for having a bad biopic form itself.

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Dylan Martin
Staff Writer

2009 has already been a great year for music, and we’re not even halfway through. Over the final few weeks of this semester, I will review my favorite music releases of this year so far. First off, Animal Collective...

Animal Collective – Merriweather Post Pavillion

Animal Collective is perhaps one of the most hyped up bands in the indie music world, but rightfully so. This album transcends everything the band has ever done before. Animal Collective is always pushing the envelope for a balance of experimentation and pop sensibility. Where their last album was more jagged and haunted, MPP is chilled-out, continuous and dreamy. Most of the songs seamlessly transition into each other, begging for listeners to digest the album in one sitting.

Immediate standout tracks include the single “My Girls,” “Lion in a Coma,” and “Brother Sport,” but limiting this review to “standout tracks” would do this album a disservice. Every song on the album can stand on its own, and it’s all thanks to Animal Collective’s loose and eccentric songwriting. All of the songs have a bubbly, sometimes tribal atmosphere with melodies that heavily rely on synthesizers, strong lyricism and echoing harmonies. In addition, the band does a lot of layering with various synthesizer loops and drum tracks to build up the drama and excitement of their songs.

It’s important to mention that this album is very lyric-heavy and its one of the albums strong points. “Bluish” greatly demonstrates the band’s odd romanti-cism with “I like your looks when you get mean/I know I shouldn’t say so but when you/Claw me like a cat, I’m beaming.” In some cases, Animal Collective’s lyrics can get repetetive: “Open up your, open up your throat/And let the whole of that time/All of that time, all of that time go,” but only to their advantage to create a dancing frenzy.

While “Brother Sport” and other fast-moving tracks will make you dance fiercely, other songs like “Blushing” and “No More Runnin’” will evoke a slow sway of the body. This balance sets a fine pace for the album, allowing listeners to get revved up for one track and then relax and chill for the next one.

If you’re a fan of experimental, electronic, dub, and/or freak folk, I highly suggest picking up this album at your local Bull Moose Music store. And even if you’re not, do the same; it’s definitely worth it.
**EPICUREAN ÉPICS**

**Pea soup from leftover Easter dinner**

Last year our Easter feast was cooked outdoors in the mild air full of chattering bird sounds. Peter masterfully grilled a butter-flied leg of lamb slathered with a blend of lots of fresh minced garlic and coarse mustard. Asparagus, baby red potatoes, ruby beets, and sleek carrots all got roasted on the grill. This year, Easter dinner was somewhat more traditional with a glazed baked ham, asparagus with Hollandaise, Harvard beets, and mashed potatoes speckled with snips of green onions. Our plates held a palette of resplendent spring colors, harbingers of blossoms to follow.

The fog and raw days of late inspired this satisfying soup which made good use of the leftover ham bone.

### Split Pea Soup

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<th>Makes 6 servings</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 tablespoons butter, melted</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 large onion, chopped</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 cup chopped celery, optional</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 carrots, sliced</td>
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<td>Ham bone or smoked turkey, if desired</td>
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**Newton Faulkner - Hand Built by Robots**

Another Album that I picked up off of the shelf at random was Newton Faulkner “Hand built by robots.”

This album is absolutely fantastic. The first sounds I heard when I played the album reminded me of the music in the movie “August Rush”. Newton’s guitar playing is only overshadowed by his wonderful vocals. This album has a lot of folk overtones to it. His lyrics actually carry a message that can be useful to everyone who listens to this album. There is a sense of lyricism that has become uncommon these days. He sings of topics such as the decline of society, love, and aging.

One of my personal favorite tracks on this album is the track titled “U.F.O.” This track brings up the question of what the world would look like if you were to look from the outside looking in. How would the wars, the pollution, and everything bad in this world look to an outsider? That’s something that I would like to know.

Another track that I love is “To the light”. This song is a really great track if you like the guitar. The guitar in this track shows up off of the shelf at random was Newton Faulkner “Hand built by robots.

---

**Pick up a random album**

**Album reviews from a different way of CD shopping**

**Ben Boyden**

Contributing Writer

Lately, I’ve been trying out a new album choosing system. I go to the CD’s and I choose an album randomly. Sometimes, the outcome of this system isn’t what I’d like it to be, but it works 90% of the time. I try to go to the bargain bins, and look for interesting music that I’ve never heard before.

**Nico Vega - Nico Vega**

Of these random picks, I found that one of them sits among my favorite albums now.

Nico Vega is a LA based band featuring Aja Volkman on vocals. Rich Koehler on guitar and Dan Eppard on drums.

I’m not sure what it is, but everybody that I’ve shown this album to is taken in almost automatically by Aja’s vocals. Her voice is enchanting, seductive, and entertaining to say the least.

A few of my favorite tracks from their self-titled album would be “Burn Burn”, “Million Years”, and “Iron Man”.

“Burn Burn” features a set of chord changes that drew me in to listening to the band. This was also the first time I heard Aja sing. The Youtube video is also worth watching by the way. “Burn Burn” focuses a lot on the guitar and drums if you’re into that kind of thing.

“Million years” has more of a vocal focus. The beat the drums are playing is pretty straightforward and the guitar is playing some basic chords. The thing I like most about this track is the vocals. At times, this song has more of an edgy feel to it.

“Iron man” isn’t what you’d think it would be. It’s a nice ballad with an acoustic guitar behind the vocals. The drums come in later, but I prefer the balance of the vocals and the acoustic guitar. Nico Vega also has a number of albums out. They include: Cocaine, Cooked the Brain, No Child Left Behind, Chooseyourwordpoorly, as well as Nico Vega.

This album was everything I wasn’t looking for. Every song only added to the overall quality of the album. The Songs cover a variety of styles ranging from hardcore to a song that has a country feel.

Nico Vega is definitely worth the $10.96 at Bullmoose, or the $9.99 on iTunes.

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This album is absolutely fantastic. The first sounds I heard when I played the album reminded me of the music in the movie “August Rush”. Newton’s guitar playing is only overshadowed by his wonderful vocals. This album has a lot of folk overtones to it. His lyrics actually carry a message that can be useful to everyone who listens to this album. There is a sense of lyricism that has become uncommon these days. He sings of topics such as the decline of society, love, and aging.

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**Marcus Miller - Marcus**

I’ve always been a big fan of instrumental music, and I found an album right off the shelf that was really cool. If you play the Bass Guitar, you’ve probably heard of Marcus Miller. I picked up “Marcus,” by Marcus Miller. Marcus doesn’t waste any time satisfying his audience with the first track on this album, “Blasm!”

This song has an Arabic hip-hop feel to it. It’s actually the first time that I’ve ever heard this type of sound. This sound returns throughout the album. I’m not sure what it was that intrigued me about it, but it kept me listening.

Other favorites of mine on this album are “Cooked the Brain”, “No Child Left Behind”, and “Chooseyourwordpoorly.

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See Random on page 11
**Let’s Get Bromantic**

**Review of “I Love You, Man” and the bromance phenomenon**

Kaitlyn Creney  
**Staff Writer**

The bromance has recently appeared in our culture to describe a certain relationship: a bromance is when two men are best friends and are deeply involved with each other but not in a homosexual manner. The word is a combination of brother and romance. Simply put, bromance is the male equivalent to the female BFF.

There was even a MTV reality show entitled “Bromance” starring Brody Jenner, where he sought out to find a close friend that competed in challenges to win his friendship.

More importantly though, comedy movies are placing great emphasis and parody on this type of relationship, and making it normal to be involved with a male buddy. The recent release of “I Love You Man” demonstrates this emerging social trend.

This film reminds me of a Judd Apatow comedy, though he had no part in it. Like “I Love You, Man,” all of his tremendous comedies focus on some bromantic aspect and have the same strong basis of actors that is seen here.

“I Love You, Man” follows newly-engaged Peter Klaven, a Los Angeles real estate agent who has just come to the realization that he has no male friends. He begins a search for a new best friend who could be his best man. His quest is aided by the amazing Paul Rudd (“Role Models” and “40 Year Old Virgin”) with such geeky tendencies the audience can only laugh hysterically at his embarrassing antics. His typical wiserace antics are gone but replaced brilliantly with a nerdiness understanding that makes one re-think his career.

The ongoing joke of “I Love You, Man” is that Peter is too sweet, sincere, and sensitive to indulge in typical crude male bonding rituals: vulgur sex gossip, sports talk, and carousing with Rush songs like there is no tomorrow.

This is where Sydney, played by Jason Segel (“Freaks and Geeks”) and “Forgetting Sarah Marshall”), comes in to sweep Peter off his feet. Sydney is naturally a buddy material personified and the more the two hang out the more Peter sees him as a prospective mate for his wedding. However, the male bonding that goes down shows just how bad Peter is at it (seriously, so wincingly it hurts).

Rudd’s character has such an eager desire to fit in and be accepted that he is easily a geek that you can emphasize with and root for. Sydney’s acceptance of his new best bud shows the inner workings of an emerging bromance.

“I Love You, Man” is a guy-meets-guy “romantic comedy” and parodies how men have been changed by girl-power culture, seen through Peter’s great ease in relating to women but complete inability in bonding with his own gender. The movie is completely rude, raunchy, funny, and guy-oriented, focusing on everything that makes and breaks a bromance.

Other comedies have also had great success with male bonding, but none like “I Love You, Man” because it intimately focuses on this once taboo relationship. In the “40 Year Old Virgin” bromance was defined and given faces: enjoying fine pornography, playing passionate poker games, rallying together to find women, smoking dope out of an apple, and joking about their borderline homosexual relationships despite being straight.

“Knocked Up” is another comedic example of the bromance trend which involves all of these aspects, along with arguing over trivial things like who is greater, Chuck Norris or Steven Segel? Even “Pineapple Express” contains not-so-subtle male bonding situations, spending a weekend getaway in the forest together or just hanging out watching cartoons.

The film “Superbad” also falls into this bromance category as it focuses on teenage bromance relationship and all its intimate details.

The gender norm in our society discourages men from being emotional or sharing intimate feelings with other men for fear of being labeled un-masculine or homosexual. The term bromance has made men feel less homophbic about sharing their emotions with their closest male companion.

Through humor this idea has spread throughout our culture, and has become widely accepted. “I Love You, Man” is a terrific film that imitates the male bonding in the tremendous Will Ferrell comedy “Step Brothers” and is just as funny and loveable. So go watch this awesome film and become inspired to forge your own bromance with a friend. Seriously, it’s okay.

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Monday, April 13

Love that BOD!

Boys and girls, the summer is quickly approaching which means it’s time to get that sexy bathing suit bod into shape. If you’ve been lackadaisical in your workout regime USM’s Enhance Fitness is the program for you. Get back on schedule with this weekly fitness program at Sullivan Gym in Portland. $10 per semester 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday/ Main Gym, Sullivan Complex, Portland Campus/ 780-4939

Tuesday, April 14

Memoir of a Boy Soldier

USM’s Author Program presents former child soldier turned human rights activist, Ishmael Beah, discussing the experiences faced in his book “A Long Way Gone: Memoir of a Boy Soldier.” The discussion is followed by a screening of the film “Fambul Tok” (Family Talk) and a book signing. Free/ USM, Abromson Community Education Center/ 88 Bedford Street, Portland

Wednesday, April 15

Transamericana

Take part in USM’s Multicultural Film Forum as they screen the 2005 film, “Transamericana.” Felicity Huffman gives an Oscar nominated performance as a transgender man on the verge of a sex-change operation who becomes reacquainted with her son, to whom she must tell she is his father. Sound confusing? The film holds all the answers and much more. Light refreshments will be served. Free/ Multicultural Center, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland Campus/ Call 780-4006 for more info

Thursday, April 16

Caress me down

Sublime will never get back together. It’s an impossibility that we all must face. Don’t fret though, the closest thing to seeing Sublime live, Badfish, are bringing their spot-on tribute act to Port City Music Hall. Tagging along for the fun are bands, Don’t Scotty and Sidecar Radio. $20 ADV/ $22 Doors/ 8 p.m./ Port City Music Hall/ 504 Congress Street, Portland/ portcitymusichall.com

Friday, April 17

School’s out forever!

Hot on the heels of Badfish, Port City Music Hall presents another spectacular tribute band, The Machine, performing as one of rock’s greatest acts of all time – Pink Floyd. While rumors still swirl over a Pink Floyd reunion tour, catch the next big thing performing songs from 1960’s premiere space-rock, experimental outfit. $20 ADV/ $22 Doors/ 8 p.m./ Port City Music Hall/ 504 Congress Street, Portland/ portcitymusichall.com

Saturday, April 18

RACH-RACH-RACH-RACH!!

Heavy-rocker’s, Disturbed, bring their “Music As A Weapon Tour” to Cumberland County Civic Center which is sure to be a sweaty, good time. The bands joining Disturbed, or should I say weapon’s, are Killswitch Engage, Chimaira and Lacuna Coil. Give your neck plenty of rest the night before in order to maximize your head-banging ability. $39.75/ 7 p.m./ Cumberland County Civic Center/ One Civic Center Square, Portland/ theciviccenter.com

Sunday, April 19

Reggae Fest!

Sugarloaf Mountain’s 21st annual Reggae Fest is in full effect starting Thursday, April 16 and wrapping up on Sunday. There will be tons of free music to jam to indoors and outdoors plus all the warm weather skiing you can handle. Headliners include Jah Cutta and Westbound Train. There are several special ticket packages available so check out sugarloaf.com for all info regarding Reggae Fest. Don’t forget to pass the dutchie to the left hand side!

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A series of tram lines lead to Mt. Fort base at an elevation of over 9,000 feet. That’s twice as high as Maine’s loftiest peak, Sugarloaf. Sports writer and avid skier Ben Slagle spent some time skiing in Verber, Switzerland. He says it’s pretty gnarly.

**Ben Slagle/ Sports Intern**

Alongside an intense passion for a sport, almost always comes a sense of self-identification. When I say, I’m a skier, it simply means that I enjoy sliding down hills on the snow. It means something deeper. It means that I enjoy the culture surrounding the sport, I appreciate its history, and I have let the sport permeate my concept of self-identification. Skiing feels as deeply familiar to me as the comfort of family and friends, and I consider it as much a part of who I am as anything else in my life. This is why when I was presented an opportunity to spend some time skiing in Switzerland with close friends recently it was something I couldn’t turn down.

The European Alps are known as one of largest mountain ranges in the world. A chance to go ski has always been a dream of mine and this trip represented a sort of personal pilgrimage to the skiing holy land. Yes, Utah might have more inches of snow annually but the European Alps possess more first descents on epic untouched lines in someplace like the remote Alaskan mountain ranges, but the Alps possess a certain mystique to them that is acknowledged by any skier familiar with the history of the sport. The Alps are the cradle of Modern Alpinism, as most of us know it today.

We came into the village we were still staying in by train at night, so it was not until the following morning and stepping outside that I realized the sheer size of these mountains. I’ve skied out west in the Grand Tetons, which are widely recognized as some of the more gnarly skiing terrain in America, and they could not hold a candle to the landscape I found myself waking up to.

To reach the skiing village at the base of the Verbier ski resort, which spanned across four different mountain valleys, we were required to take a cable car from our small village up a mountain side steeper than anything seen at any ski mountains in Maine, and this was just to reach the base lodge. To reach the highest peak at Verbier, the famous Mt. Fort, was quite a task. We took a lengthy gondola up to a smaller peak, then skied down to a lodge nestled into a valley at the bottom of glacier called Torin, elevation 6,725 feet for comparison. Sugarloaf, Maine’s tallest ski mountain measures 4,237 feet. So far from Vernon up to the Verbier mountains we packed ourselves like upright surfboards into a tramcar with ninety sixty French-speaking Europeans and ninety sixty drunks. We just like to celebrate the Loyal Order of the Moose.

**SPORTS**

**GUEST COLUMN**

**Different terrain, same feeling**

Skiing the Swiss Alps

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**SPORTS**

**Rugby** on page 16

the major difference in the two seasons.

“Spring is the fun season. It’s a lot of fundamentals, and that’s good for players like me. But the Fall season is really competitive.”

So far Stigas is just attending training practices when she can make it through. She’s set to graduate in the Media Studies department and maintain a part-time job. But this quasi-commitment is fine with the Club, she says. They understand that people have outside lives.

But how did a 25 year old just decide to pick up this heavily nuanced and extremely physical game?

Aside from boredom and a Craig’s List posting, Stigas says it was a combination of two things: exercise and camaraderie.

“I really wanted to meet people and be active. I figured this was a good way,” she says.

Stigas, who played soccer for 10 years in her youth, said that there are some similarities between the two sports.

“They’re the same in that you’re always running around and doing something,” she said.

But what about the first time she took a hit?

“Yeah. It was scary,” she says. “You’re in formations and you’re really tight together and you’re basically banging heads with one another, I’ve still got bruises from the first practice.”

Nevertheless, Stigas says that it’s rewarding to come home with a few signs of physical battle.

“It showed that I was tough,” she says with a laugh.

And as for the camaraderie end of things, there is plenty to be had. As much as you might expect, players are “encouraged” to partake in after-game socials at local bars that sponsor the team (Ruski’s, the Flask Lounge, Amigo’s and Stigas says it was a combination of two things: exercise and camaraderie.

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**Husky Highlights**

**MEN’S TENNIS**

**Men’s Tennis rolls past UMass Boston**

USM’s men’s tennis team, led by a senior Derek Stevenson (Raymond) and junior Josh Warren (Hermon), blanked UMass Boston in LEC tennis action 9-0 last week. Both Stevenson and Warren picked up singles victories while grabbing a first doubles match together. Senior Matt McGowen (Waterville) and junior Stefan Kelly (Biddeford) also picked up a doubles win, as did the tandem of junior Steven Lento (New Sharon, NH) and Zach Holt (North Conway).

**SOFTBALL**

**Softball splits with Colby for second win**

USM softball notched their second win of the season when they split a double-header with Colby College last Sunday. The Huskies lost the first game 11-0, but rallied to defeat the Mules 3-1 in the nightcap. In the Huskies win, sophomore Molly Hopkins (Augusta) raked two doubles and collected a pair of RBI, while sophomore hurler Sarah Deroche (Portland) scattered five hits over seven innings to pick up the win. The Huskies improved their record to 2-16 Wednesday.

**WOMEN’S LAX**

**Women’s LAX pair notch LEC honors**

Junior Erica Robertson (St. Albans, VT) and sophomore Jessica Martineau (Auburn) earned weekly accolades from the Little East Conference for their efforts during the week of March 30. Robertson was cited as the conferences Defensive Player of the Week, while Martineau picked up Rookie of the Week honors. Over that three game stretch, Robertson racked up 17 ground balls and nine caused turnovers. Martineau tallied 13 goals.
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Random Fact!

Green potato chips are made from potatoes that inadvertently climb above ground while growing. The "green" is a poison, but it's only dangerous to humans if ingested in heavy amounts.

For more random facts go to: [mentalfloss.com/amazingfactgenerator](http://mentalfloss.com/amazingfactgenerator)
Bad weather can’t cool down USM baseball

Joel Neill
Guest Columnist

For anyone who has grown up playing baseball in the spring in New England, they can tell you that it’s not the most ideal weather for America’s favorite pastime.

With ball fields covered in late winter snow and beaten up by early spring rain storms, it’s difficult for the northern high school and college baseball teams to practice on their normal playing surfaces before the season kicks off. USM and other local teams have been no exception to this rule, but they seem to be coping well.

Many high school teams resort to their gyms and even parking lots to hold their pre-season practices, with some scrounging other high schools indoors.

The USM baseball team has the luxury of the multipurpose field house on the Gorham campus which many of the players believe benefits them greatly every year in preparing for their season outside. While in the field house, coach Ed Flaherty and his squad can play games with a shortened field, which gets pitchers in shape and acclimated with throwing off a mound, and also gives the hitters a chance to face their own team’s live pitching.

Another huge factor in preparing the team for the season outdoors was their three game stint in Long Island before their first test to field-friendly Arizona, which, along with indoor facilities, has helped USM garner the success they’ve had thus far.

USM’s home game schedule has gotten off to a slow start with the first game of the year at USM Baseball Stadium being played just last week. Considering the harsh weather from this past winter and the beginning of this spring, the USM baseball field is in excellent shape and the grounds crew is doing anything and everything they can to maintain it for the best possible playing surface for the team. USM has one of the best baseball complexes in the Little East Conference, and the staff here has put in a lot of hard work to sustain its quality.

Even though USM’s field is top-notch facility, it’s still can’t make up for Maine’s longer winter, often leaving USM waiting until early-mid April without a legitimate home field.

Many Division III teams, especially teams from the southern and western parts of the country have a huge advantage as they are already outside practicing two months before the Huskies even see green grass. Nationally ranked foes like Millsaps (Mississippi), and Texas-Tyler had already played 10 games outside games and had numerous practices while USM was still indoors. Not many people may acknowledge it, but this is a significant advantage that warm climate schools have over their foes in colder parts of the country.

Despite not having the luxury of playing outdoors all winter, USM and other northern teams are preparing themselves well with what they have, as evidenced in the national rankings. Currently four of the top 10 teams in the country (Eastern Connecticut, Wheaton, Trinity, and USM) have to deal with practicing indoors until March and still manage to compete at the highest level in Division III baseball.

Of course, being able to play outside year round is a huge recruiting tool, but northern teams such as USM still seem to bring in talent from all over New England due to the hard work and pride of the people within their institutions. USM’s perennial success is a testament to how well many northern teams prepare themselves despite their climatic disadvantages.

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Sports

Head-to-head
Local rugby club offers friendly competition

Mike Tardiff
Sports Editor

When Alex Stigas moved to Portland she didn’t know many people, so she decided to find an activity that would get her out of the house and into the company of new friends.

Now she spends every Tuesday and Thursday doing just that. Except, instead of joining a book club or social network, she spends two nights a week hanging heads with fellow Portlanders in the often misunderstood sport of rugby.

“There’s only so much time you can spend in the house with your boyfriend,” Stigas says. “I needed to get out and do something.”

Stigas is a member of the Portland Women’s Rugby Club along with 30 fellow Mainers whose primary sport has led them to what many consider the roughest and toughest game in the world.

But she’s no pro.

In fact, she’s just getting to know the basics, but that doesn’t deter her interest one bit.

When I met with her, she was toting a spiral notebook with notes about the sport so that she’d be able to answer my questions. The notebook reminded her how many people were on the field at once, how long the halves were and other basics of the game.

“It’s a little overwhelming at first,” she explains. “There’s just a lot going on. It’s organized, but it’s organized chaos.”

The Portland Rugby club is no novice organization, though. They’ve been around off and on since the 1970’s. Right now they’re back at full strength.

With practices every Tuesday and Thursday during their two main seasons, the spring and fall, the team also plays a game a week.

But Stigas is quick to point out.

See Rugby on page 13

Men’s LAX much improved from last year

Bryant, Gilbert leading USM

Mike Tardiff
Sports Editor

Last year at this time the USM men’s lacrosse team had mastered only two wins against eight losses. But this year has been a much different story.

Led by senior Preston Gilbert (Saco) and sophomore Tim Bryant (Peterborough, NH), the Huskies have settled to a respectable 5-5 mark following Saturday’s heartbreaking loss to UMass Dartmouth 9-7.

The Huskies have been much improved on the offensive end. And it shows.

Through ten games last season, USM had been outscored almost 2-to-1 (102-59). But this year, with the help of Bryant and Gilbert’s prolific scoring, the Huskies have closed that offensive gap to 108-99, a drastic improvement over a year ago.

Gilbert and Bryant have been virtual carbon copies statistically, both posting impressive numbers through the early stages of the season. Gilbert has recorded 25 goals and seven assists, while his sophomore counterpart has tallied an equally impressive 24 goals and seven assists.

Collectively, the tandem has contributed to 63.6% (63-of-99 points) of the Huskies’ goals this season, which means that Bryant and Gilbert alone have produced as much offense in their first ten games as the entire 2008 team.

And some of those points have been crucial.

Most recently, Gilbert netted five goals in an important 14-12-conference win over Western Connecticut. And, earlier in the season, Bryant gave the Huskies an overtime, game-winning goals against New England College in their 9-8 win.

The Huskies, currently 1-2 in Little East Conference action, will need Gilbert and Bryant to continue their offensive fireworks if they hope to make a run into the conference playoffs.

Corsairs nip Huskies to gain conference edge

Brian Slagle
Sports Intern

UMass Dartmouth put up an early two goal lead against USM in Little East Conference lacrosse action and never looked back. The Corsairs maintained their lead despite the best efforts of the Huskies to post a 9-7 victory Saturday.

The Huskies climbed to within one goal four times in the match, including the final moments of the third quarter, but couldn’t get over the hump.

“We played solid defense overall, but our offense just wasn’t clicking like it usually does,” sophomore Chris Gassman said of the effort.

The Huskies didn’t live up to their 10 goals per game average, but did allow less than their 10.8 goals against average.

The tandem of senior Preston Gilbert (Saco) and sophomore Tim Bryant (Peterborough, NH) continued to pace the Huskies, combining for five goals and two assists. Bryant scored four of those goals including three straight in the third quarter, which brought the Huskies to within a goal heading into the fourth. Gilbert added a goal and two assists.

“We had moments of brilliance,” said Gassman. “But we just couldn’t put it together for all four quarters.”

Prior to the game, both teams sat at 1-1 in conference play. Following the contest, they switched places in standings, USM dropping to fifth in the conference.

“We look forward to a playoff opportunity to pay Dartmouth back for the great game they gave us,” Gassman said.