

the free press

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE



HUSKIES FALL
TO BATES, 2-1
PAGE 11

Save your pennies, tuition's gone up

USM students feel the pressure of an enrollment decline

ANNIE ROSENBERG

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Tuition for USM students was raised 10 percent from the last academic year, said Bob Caswell, executive director of public affairs. Undergraduate students from Maine are paying \$198 per credit hour, up from \$180 in 2006.

This means a student taking 30 credits per academic year will pay an annual increase of \$540. The raise in tuition is due mainly to declining state support and steadily rising cost of operation, said Caswell in an interview conducted via e-mail. State appropriation now accounts for 40.6 percent of the university's operating budget, down from 52 percent ten years ago.

"The increase covers all campuses in the University of Maine System, said Caswell. "Please note, however, that tuition rates vary from campus to campus, depending on size, scope and costs of their programs, etc. The percentage increases for in-state undergraduates throughout the university system range from 9.5 to 12.1."

Students were first informed of the tuition increase when pre-registration materials were sent out last spring that revealed a change in tuition rates, but would not be set until USM's budget was approved. Student Body President AJ Chalifour and Student Senate Chair Emily Fitch each sent out mass e-mails last May urging students to contact their state representatives and ask the state to increase investment in Maine universities.

Fitch's e-mail read, "The Board of Trustees (BOT) is going to need to raise our tuition unless we can put enough pressure on the state legislature to invest millions of

See TUITION
PAGE 14

Dreams really do come true in the state of Maine



PHOTOS COURTESY OF OPPORTUNITY MAINE

Members of the Opportunity Maine campaign watch as Governor Baldacci signs their college debt tax credit initiative into state law, last June. To Baldacci's left stands last year's student body president, Andy Bossie who led the campaign. The tax credit program will be available for the first time in January. See story on page three.

Soccer sensation leads men's team

Sinisa Bajic sharpens his skills at USM with plans to play for the major leagues

MICHAEL TARDIFF

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Take one look at Sinisa Bajic and it's clear that he means business. Equipped with a six-foot-three-inch, 190-pound frame and a Mohawk, Bajic is every bit the player that he looks. Now in his junior year, he is currently leading the 3-1-1 University of Southern Maine men's soccer team to a very promising start in their first 5 games, amassing five goals and two assists during that stretch.

The former Portland High School standout and First-Team All-Stater is picking up right where he left off after a season in which he tallied an amazing 35 points (15 G, 5 A), earned Little East Offensive Player of the Year honors and at one point scored seven consecutive



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JASON JOHNS

USM junior Sinisa Bajic, originally from Serbia, is on pace to break USM's record for goals scored. He currently has 32 career goals.

See BAJIC
PAGE 9

New minor makes it easier to be green

ANGELIQUE CARSON

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Not every student can be a tree hugging environmental activist on the front lines of organized protest. But we can turn to the classroom, where a newly available minor in environmental sustainability aims to help students practice a more practical, if quiet, activism in their every day lives.

The idea for a minor in Environmental Sustainability, a 19-credit program, was fostered by the Environmental Science and Policy faculty. It's a way for students from all disciplines to integrate environmentally sound methods into the practices of their own majors.

See ENVIRONMENTAL
PAGE 15

Another bomb threat, and a 'no threat'

USM campuses targeted by two threatening e-mails

JOEL C. THERIAULT

NEWS EDITOR

The discovery of a bomb threat e-mailed to USM's Lewiston-Auburn campus last Friday led to an evacuation of the campus' single Westminster Street, and another e-mail found by the university last Monday led to sweeps of all four libraries on the school's three campuses.

No explosive was found in Lewiston after local police and trained university staff searched the building. Craig Hutchinson, vice-president of student and university life, said the wording and language of this e-mail was clearly intended as a "bomb threat." This latest incident is USM's thirteenth bomb threat.

The spam e-mail sent over the weekend, found in USM's general inquiry inbox, InfoTech, on Monday, was later deemed not a threat. USM police were called and members of the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) were assembled. After the e-mail was examined by Craig Hutchinson, vice president of student and university life, USM Police Chief Lisa Beecher and Lt. Jim Stanhope, Hutchinson said, "There was no indication this was a bomb threat. I would consider it a 'no threat.'"

The language of the e-mail was garbled and filled with random words, bad English grammar and misspellings, said Hutchinson, and added the message originated from a spam-server.

CIRT ordered university libraries to be searched after a USM law professor, Jim Friedman, who was copied on the e-mail, pointed out suspicious words in the message, a misspelling of the word "explode" and a word that appeared to be "stacks." CIRT estimated "stacks" equivalent to "library stacks." No explosives were found after sweeps of Glickman Family Library and the School of Law Library in Portland, the library in Gorham's Bailey Hall and the Lewiston-Auburn library.

Friedman could not be contacted at press time for comment. The e-mail was also copied to another unidentified USM employee.

USM is among a handful of universities nationwide to receive this type of e-mail sent between

Sept. 7 and Sept. 10. A communication from the Federal Bureau of Investigation was sent to USM police, describing the problem in other places and the bureau's investigation.

Among other colleges in the US to receive threatening e-mails were Princeton University, Carnegie Mellon University, the Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell University, University of Illinois at Chicago, Oregon State University and American University's Washington College of Law. All e-mails reportedly were similar in content and message.

Some universities responded with evacuations and others did not. Cass Cliatt, the director of media relations at Princeton, told Inside Higher Ed the fact that

other universities were experiencing the same threats actually reduced the credibility of those threats.

"If I got the e-mail, I would've just dumped it without ever looking at it," Hutchinson said.

Two former USM students, Geneva Benner of Thomaston and Erin Grade of Rockland, have been indicted on terrorizing charges for a telephoned bomb threat on Dec. 4 that evacuated the Portland and Gorham campuses.

Joseph Wood, interim university president, condemned the latest threats. "Any threat is a criminal act and we take each one seriously," he said. "We will continue to try to trace any threat to our university...and we will prosecute when able."

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College debt relief a reality

Opportunity Maine made law and available to students in January '08

JOEL C. THERIAULT

NEWS EDITOR

Andrew Bossie, a 24-year-old Caribou native, graduated from USM this past spring with a B.A. in political science and a \$27,000 debt load.

"I just graduated from college this spring, I got a job, I'm starting out in the 'real world'...and it's no secret how much debt I have," he said in a telephone interview. "Those student loans that I've taken out, they're a real reality."

Bossie said his loan repayment plan is more than \$260 a month. "That's more than my car insurance, that's more than my car payment," he said.

In the face of rising tuition nationwide and the increased cost of college textbooks, new programs passed by the federal government are aimed at lowering the cost of higher education. Maine activists are working close to home to alleviate stu-

dent debt. Those activists call themselves Opportunity Maine.

Opportunity Maine began in 2006 as citizen's initiative campaign spearheaded by then-student body president Bossie. The group was made up of students and supporters from organizations like the League of Young Voters and Maine Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) who wanted to make their proposal law.

After gathering signatures from all over the state, a bill was put before the state's legislature that read, "Do you want to allow a tax credit for college loan repayments to any taxpayer who earns a future college degree in Maine and continues to live and work in Maine?"

Despite the more common practice of turning new legislature over to voters to decide, the bill was unanimously passed by the State House on June 20. A 27-8 vote in the Senate soon followed, and Governor John Baldacci signed the bill into Maine law.

Bossie, a 2007 graduate of USM, still acts as director of Opportunity Maine.

"At this point, there's been the 'rule-making,' where the legislature and the Department of Education hash out some of the more finite details of the law," Bossie said, "and the rules regarding how to participate in the program, (like) what's the program's going to look like? Is there a contract? How does it claim on tax returns? That process is going on now."

"After the law passed, the State Board of Education has to come up with rules for how the program actually works," said Tony Giampetruzzi, communications director for Opportunity Maine, "and they are in the process right now of writing those rules which essentially boil down to how people are going to sign up for it and how the system is going to be accountable to those people."

"One of the most difficult things for any new program like this is implementation and getting it right," Giampetruzzi continued.

"The way we want to get it right is to make it as simple as possible for students to—number one—know that it's out there and—number two—be able to sign up so that when they graduate it's a complete no-brainer in terms of how this is going to positively affect them."

"We're not talking months or years here," he said. "It will definitely be within the next month or so."

Maine's legislature has already set money aside to appropriate the program for the first year with tax dollars.

"Now what will happen in the future," said Bossie, "is that the program will pay for itself because we'll have people with higher paying jobs and higher paying jobs coming to our workforce who will contribute back into the economy."

As of January, graduates of universities, colleges and community colleges in Maine will have the option of signing up for Opportunity Maine's tax credit on their student loans if they continue to reside in Maine after graduation. Employers who hire graduates of Maine schools will

also have the chance to claim the tax credit themselves.

Opportunity Maine, while awaiting for the rules to be made for the law, will "aggressively launch, coming up here pretty soon, a public awareness campaign about Opportunity Maine," said Bossie, "where people on-campus and in the community will get information regarding what's going on and will be able to sign up in January. We're really trying to make this thing sexy and fresh and appealing to people our age." He added the educational campaign will launch in October, with USM as one of the first stops.

"In the next few months," Giampetruzzi said, "our number one goal is to make sure that every student in the state knows this program is available to them and also to encourage them to think ahead, really, in terms of their future."

"If you're going to live in Maine," Bossie said, "or if you're not going to live in Maine after graduation but there might be a chance that you're going to be here for a year, sign up for the Opportunity Maine tax credit program. It can't do any harm, it can only do good."

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

September 19, 1952—US refuses return of film legend
Charlie Chaplin

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Lovable comedian Charlie Chaplin (1889-1977) had been ordered to be held "for hearings" by Immigration Services if he ever returned to the US. Attorney-General Thomas McGranery headed an investigation into Chaplin's past and ordered the hearings because he suspected Chaplin to be a communist sympathizer.

Chaplin was one of 300 Hollywood workers blacklisted during Senator Joe McCarthy's anti-communist campaign and his House Un-American Activities Committee.

At Chaplin's committee hearing, he was asked if he was a member of the Communist Party. "I do not want to create any revolution," he said, "all I want to do is create a few more films. I might amuse people. I hope so."

"Moral turpitude" and "political affiliations" were two reasons to bar re-entry into the US under federal law at the time. An investigation into Chaplin's life exposed his four marriages—two of which were to 16 year olds—and a 1943 paternity suit he lost.

Harry Crocker, a writer and traveling friend of Chaplin's, told reporters that

Chaplin would most likely speak with his lawyers before commenting to the press. Crocker added that Chaplin intended to return to his Hollywood home in six months. Although Chaplin lived for more than 40 years in the US, he was still considered a British citizen.

When Chaplin arrived in Southampton, England, four days later, he announced that he would not return to the United States again "even if Jesus Christ was the president." True to his word, Chaplin's only exception was a trip to Hollywood in 1972 to receive a Special Academy Award for lifetime achievement. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1975.

Chaplin, the son of two music hall entertainers, tickled movie audiences around the world with his whimsical silent movies in the 1920s. His hits include "Making a Living" (1912), "The Kid" (1921), "City Lights" (1928), "Modern Times" (1936) and "The Great Dictator" (1940). In 1978, a year after his death, two men were arrested after digging up Chaplin's body and holding it for 11 weeks in order to extort money from Chaplin's family.

—Compiled by Joel C. Theriault

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COURTESY OF THE
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Sept. 12

Wham, bam, and then we ran 9:41 p.m.—An RA reported a fight in Portland Hall. The fighters were gone when officers arrived.

Hate each other outside, please 8:43 p.m.—A Portland Hall RA reported two people were having a loud argument.

Join the club, buddy 9:20 a.m.—The owner of a car parked on the Portland campus reported a small scratch on the bumper.

Sept. 11

Dude, I'm getting a Dell 11:10 a.m.—Staff at Portland's Abromson Community Center reported stolen computer equipment.

Paper cuts like a knife 9:58 a.m.—USM officers served criminal trespass paperwork to two individuals in Luther Bonney Hall in Portland.

Take it to a gallery, pal 8:52 a.m.—A person in violation of a Trespass Order was arrested in the Art department in Gorham.

Sept. 10

Dear Gorham residents, SURPRISE! 7:53 p.m.—Gorham campus held fire evacuation drills.

Double D's 2:37 p.m.—Someone reported damaged doors on Gorham's Anderson Hall.

Give it back or I'm telling mom 11:51 a.m.—A man in Gorham was reported to the police for suspicious behavior. Officers found the man to be in possession of his sister's USM identification card..

Sept. 17

Philosophy Symposium Meeting—Weekly meeting/ Philosophy House, 47 Exeter St., Portland/ 3 p.m.-4 p.m.

"Mexican Fiesta"—Alpha Xi Delta Rush Event/ Presidential Dining Room, Brooks Student Center, Gorham/ 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m./ For more information, e-mail julia.hillmanforbush@maine.edu.

Circle K Meeting—Weekly meeting/ Husky Hut, Gorham/ 8 p.m.-9 p.m./ For more information, e-mail Maria Zamboni at maria.zombini@maine.edu.

"Manicure Party"—Kappa Iota Rush Event/ Presidential Dining Room, Brooks Student Center, Gorham/ 8:30 p.m.-10 p.m./ For more information, e-mail dawn.dodge@maine.edu.

Sept. 18

"Can A Sister"—Kappa Iota Rush Event, bring a canned good for charity/ Presidential Dining Room, Brooks Student Center, Gorham/ 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m./ For more information, send an e-mail to dawn.dodge@maine.edu.

Maine PIRG Meeting—Weekly meeting/ Dining Area, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland/ 7 p.m.-8 p.m./ For more information, e-mail emily@mainepirgstudents.org.

Model United Nations Organization—Weekly meeting/ Room 212, Abromson Community Education Center, Portland/ 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m./ For more information, e-mail modelunorg@yahoo.com.

Sept. 19

Knitting Group/ Woodbury Center Campus Bookstore, Portland/ 4:30 p.m.-6 p.m./ For more information e-mail Barbara Kelly at bkelly@usm.maine.edu.

"Women in Islam" panel discussion—Panelists include Adilah Mohammed from the Muskie School of Public Service, Lewiston-Auburn campus student Khadra Muhammed and USM graduate Jalileh O./ University Events Room, 7th Floor, Glickman Family Library, Portland/ 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m./ Free and open to the public/ For more information, call the Women's Studies department at 780-4289.

"Evenings at Abromson" series—Portland Press Herald columnist Bill Nemitz and photographer Shawn Patrick Ouellete share their experiences as embedded journalists in the military forces in Kuwait and Iraq/ Hannaford Lecture Hall, Abromson Community Education Center, Portland/ 7 p.m.-9 p.m./ Admission is \$15, \$10 for USM students, employees and members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

For more information or to order tickets, call 780-5900 or visit www.usm.maine.edu/cce.

"Progressive Decades"—Alpha Xi Delta Rush Event/ Presidential Dining Room, Brooks Student Center, Gorham/ 8:30 p.m.-10 p.m./ For more information e-mail julia.hillmanforbush@maine.edu.

Sept. 20

"Celebration!"—A joint celebration honoring the Women's Resource's 16 years at USM, and the Center for Sexualities and Gender Diversity crowned as the top 100 US universities for GLBT students/ Woodbury Campus Center Amphitheatre, Portland/ 4 p.m.-6 p.m./ Free and open to the public/ For more information, call Mary Jay Kasper at 780-5139.

"Thirsty Thursday"—Gorham Events Board entertainment following weekly meeting/ Husky Hut, Brooks Student Center, Gorham/ 7 p.m.-9 p.m. (meeting), 9 p.m.-11 p.m. (entertainment)/ Free to all students.

Gloria S. Duclos Convocation Keynote Address—Roger Bowen, 1996 winner of the Alexander Meiklejohn Award speaks of his time as president of SUNY New Paltz, defending that school's academic freedom, an issue USM is struggling with now/ Talbot Auditorium, Lu-

ther Bonney, Portland/ 7 p.m.-9 p.m./ Free and open to the public/ For more information call 780-4706.

Sept. 21

Student Senate Meeting—Weekly meeting/ Hastings Formal Lounge, Gorham/ 1 p.m.-3 p.m./ For more information call 228-8501.

"Rhetorical Drag: Gender Impersonation, Captivity, and the Writing of History" by USM Professor Lorryrie Carroll—celebration and book signing/ University Events Room, Glickman Family Library, Portland/ 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m./ Free and open to the public. Books will be available for purchase. For more information, call Women and Gender Studies at 780-4289.

Sept. 22

Southern Maine Outdoor Recreation (SMOR) Saco River Canoe and Camping Trip/ For more information, call the SMOR office in the Sullivan Fitness Complex in Portland or visit www.usm.maine.edu/sullivancomplex/pcrf/op.

Sept. 23

College Fair—Opportunity to learn more about higher education institutions throughout New England, Canada and other parts of the U.S./ Costello Sports Complex, Gorham/ 2 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

have a campus event you want listed?

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It takes a village, so where is ours?

I remember what it was like to live on the Gorham campus. I spent a lot of time staring out my dorm room window in the towers, wistfully envisioning a more collective campus.

It felt impossible to make connections with students, unless they lived on the same floor. I'd watch students stumble out of the woods behind the towers after the police had pursued them on-foot, extinguishing that weekend's bonfire that frequently exists just over the creek and up the hill. It was too bad, really. Another attempt at community, squashed.

One chilly October night in 2004, the Red Sox came back after three consecutive playoff losses

to the Yankees, for a spot in the World Series. Waves of students spilled down each dorm's staircases, spewing out of the doors and into the parking lots. We chanted "sucks to be a Yankee," at the top of our lungs before switching to "Yankees suck." We would've chanted anything, probably. I could have yelled "Let's do homework," and people would have chanted along. It wasn't what we yelled that made it fun, it was that we were a college campus that had just watched history unfold together, and this was the collective explosion of that euphoria.

That was one of the last truly thrilling moments that I can remember at USM.

The playoffs ended, and so did the celebration. Life returned to the mundane.

Someone needed to do something stimulating. We all want to make moves, but instead we sit still and complain that nothing's changing. This year looked hopeless, again.

Until this year's Husky Fest, where I bumped into Jeff Farnham, president of the Portland Events Board.

As Husky Fest closed-down in the background, he spoke with concern in his eyes.

"Have you noticed how nobody talks to each other when you walk down the hallways here?" he said of the existing student disconnect.

He told me that the PEB wanted to take events on-campus to another level, and wanted to know if the Free Press wanted in.

On October 5 at the Woodbury Campus Center in Portland, we will bring you speed dating. The PEB booked hip-hop group Lab 7 to play at the event, which is free and will go from 7 p.m. to midnight. (See back page for details).

The event is free and on campus, so come. It's a chance to meet the people that you walk by every day on your way to class. Maybe you'll find someone with whom you share things in common, like the same ring tone or a third nipple or something. You'll at least have in common that you go to USM



and you're looking for something better than sitting in your dorm room.

We all want something to happen around here. We'll make it happen, but you have to come and make it worthwhile.

FEATURED FACULTY

Interview and photo by Angelique Carson

From Kentucky to Maine, it's Gin martinis and jazz music

Matthew Killmeier
Assistant professor of
communication and
media studies

As a student in Professor Killmeier's opinion writing class for the last two weeks, I decided he would most likely give us students some insight into the life of a USM professor, which is the purpose of this weekly feature. I sat down with him after class on Thursday in an attempt to learn about the person behind the suit.

Where do you hail from originally?

I'm from Louisville, Kentucky. I lived there for 24 years. I went to the University of Louisville, Kentucky. It was very similar to USM, it's mostly commuters and lots of non-traditional students. It is right in the city. It's kind of like USM and UMaine, The University of Louisville was always on the short-end of the stick, funds-wise.

What are you doing when you're not at school?

During the semester I'm working on stuff for school, watching movies and fishing. I try to fish around here a lot, but I also fish in Gray, Windham, and Portland.

Do you have a boat?

No, I have a canoe. I got it when I moved here—before I even started teaching—so I could fish. I eat a lot of my fish, if they are legal to keep, some of the fish, depends on the type of fish.



What's your favorite drink and where do you drink them?

It's seasonal, but I guess I like gin martinis a lot. The White Heart (on Congress Street in Portland) is okay, it's a bit pricey but it's pretty nice.

You sound southern sometimes. Do you possess any other southern traits still?

Not really, I guess because I lived in the Midwest before living here for so long (Killmeier went to graduate school at the University of Iowa) that I got self-conscious about it. When I go home it comes back. It's like a party trick or something, I can turn it on (laughing). So many people associate (southern accents) with stupidity and Bush being very visible reinforces that stereotype.

Why teach at USM?

I love it here, I really do. I love my colleagues, I love the students, I love the institution. I love Maine too. We're so fortunate to be here, the weather is perfect, the fishing's good, there aren't too many people here and the pollution's fairly low. Other

than the taxes and the cost of living, this is like paradise.

Is there anything distinctive about you?

I interviewed Michael Moore once, he was doing a workshop at the University of Iowa. I had a radio show that I co-hosted called "Radical Radio," this two-hour slot in the evenings once a week. We covered local activists that weren't being covered by any of the other media. He's pretty large, I mean, tall. He's

probably 6'5 or 6'6. The most interesting (guests on the radio show) were these two women that had a 'feminist sexuality and body image shop.' They were very passionate. One had a child that wore a jumper that said 'pussy power,' and the other wanted to talk about the book that was important to her. But we had to get it approved because its (title) was "C***." It was a good thing that it was on the radio and not TV because I was probably blushing.

Who is in your CD player right now?

Cannonball Adderley. He was a jazz saxophonist in the '50s, '60s and '70s. He played with Miles Davis, but he had his own bands as well. I really like his style and his songs.

Is there anything else you're dying for students to know about you?

No. Then there's no mystery. You've got to have some kind of mystery to have (your) classes filled.

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Corrections

In the Sept. 10 issue, the field hockey game score was falsely reported as 2-1. The score was 3-2.

Husky Highlights were written by Sarah Trent. Her byline was not present.

In the Sept. 4 issue, the top headline on the front page read "USM's 10th bomb threat," when it should have been "12th." Investigators into the string of bomb threats between 2006 and 2007 count each call or e-mail as an individual threat. USM has had bomb threats directed to it on 10 separate days.

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- The Free Press welcomes letters to the editor. Letters 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 from the Executive Editor.
- The deadline for all submissions is Thursday at 4 p.m. preceding the week of publication. Send submissions to freepress@maine.edu
- Anonymous and/or illegible submissions will not be published.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Photos and Interviews by Angelique Carson

Which artist is in your CD player right now?

I really haven't listened to any music lately. I'm a jazz major, so I've just been shedding tunes and stuff like that, I haven't really had a chance to listen to much music lately.

Corey Tibbetts, 23
Jazz performance



I'm listening to you asking me questions. (Laughs) No, I was jogging to a Professor Faksh (Political Science prof and favorite around campus) lecture, l-i-t-e-r-a-l-l-y. And my name is Van...that's V-a-n, Wilder.

Brian Farrell, 29
Political science and history

The new 50 Cent album, I just got it on Tuesday. It's really good. My favorite song on it is probably, "Ayo Technology."

Stephen Littlefield, 19
Undeclared



I'm listening to a lot of Fiest right now. She has a CD out called "The Reminder." I like it because it's fun. It's kind of dancy but earthy sounding at the same time.

Caroline O'Connor-Thomas, 21
Music education



Animal Collective, the artist. I don't know what genre it is. It's interesting music and not boring. It's been out for awhile, but there's a new CD coming out next month. (Available at Bullmoose).

Peter Kelley, 18
Undeclared



Reggae. A lot of Bob Marley and Damien Marley. I like reggae for the tone and the beat.

Nick Foster, 19
Undeclared

The Outsiders

USM Art Galleries are host to rookies, vikings and swamp things

JENNA HOWARD

A&E EDITOR

Joe and Bea Bryant of Thorndike, Maine, are getting up in years. The mechanically-inclined duo is expanding their Main Street antique store restoration business to fill other interesting rooms, creating a little museum of treasures.

In Bath, 82-year-old Phillip Day is retired and has since spent seven years digging a handmade lagoon which he fills with welded creatures and wild scenes, titled "Loony Lagoon."

Jerry Cardone filled acres of Houlton with what he calls a UFO Dinosaur Museum; pop art sculp-



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE WIDDIS

A print from Outsider artist Peter McFarland. He is interested in the social conditions of those on the fringes. His day job is as a contractor.

See **ART**
PAGE 8

USM Card, or passport of awe and delight?

JENNA HOWARD

A&E EDITOR

For those of us whose USM card serves primarily as the slice of plastic we swipe during a sleepy exchange for the early morning caffeine we need to make it through class: surprise, it does serve other purposes.

It's not just your entry ticket to both USM gyms, the food spots on both campuses, (hello, coffee) and for use in the computer lab for printing. Deborah Nightingale, USM card manager, suggested presenting your card at businesses, and ask if they give student discounts. In many cases, they do. The card office actually can't easily keep up with all the local businesses that give discounts to USM students. Here is a sample of benefits, for your pleasure.

1. LOVELY LOOKING

Free Admission to the Portland Museum of Art everyday of the week. Go as much as you want. Take advantage, ordinary patrons throw down \$10 for each visit.

2. TAKE A SEAT

Ride the METRO, the Portland public bus, for free all September.

For the rest of the year, cruise all about Portland, South Portland, Westbrook and Falmouth for .50 cents a ride. You can always bring your bike on.

3. A BIG DEAL

Sugarloaf/Sunday River offers a Season Pass for students that is, how you say, sick. For about \$300 the powder is all yours, all winter.

4. GET INKED:

With your card, get five dollars off your next tattoo or piercing at Pins and Needles, 259 St. John Street, Portland.

5. SPORTY SPICE:

Eastern Mountain Sports in Portland gives USM students a 15 percent discount when you purchase from their shop on Marginal Way.

6. ART PUNKS

The Art Guru in Gorham gives students 20 percent off of every purchase.

7. HOOK UP:

Wireless Internet service via Road Runner is offered to USM students for \$34.95/month. Visit the Logic Shop on the Portland

campus for that deal and for iPod discounts, Mac deals, and general technology love for cheap.

8. MARGARITA & A MOVIE WEDNESDAYS

Mexican restaurant extraordinaire, Margaritas, serves up 2 for 1 appetizers on Wednesday nights for the college crowd. Wednesday night is also trivia night with prize giveaways. But you need that ID. Two locations: St. John St. and Casco St, Portland. The Movie Gallery in Gorham lets you get two movies for the price of one on Wednesdays, too.

9. SCULPT AND CHISEL:

At Portland Pure Movement a walk-in class normally priced at \$15 is only \$10 for USM students. If you buy ten visits, you save \$30. They offer yoga, pilates, barre, and more. Those lower prices equal, uh, some extra initiative.

10. GO BIG

Sam's Club and BJ's let you get the corporate discount through USM. Time to stock up on all the cases of Oreos and toilet paper you'll need until the end of the semester.

DON'T

STAY HOME

GO OUTSIDE AND PLAY
WHILE IT'S STILL NICE OUT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Get a Gig. Make a Friend. (Or hit on some boys in bands.) **Musician's Networking** goes on tonight for local music industry socializing with Portland Music Foundation, hosted by Bob McKilley/ 6 pm/ North Star Café, 255 Congress St/ Portland/ free/ 699-2994.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Fight the Man. Do Some Good. Find out about the student group who makes the world a better place. Maybe even join. Their name is PIRG and they're so nice. And fun. And cute. / 7p.m. / Bailey Hall room 113/ Gorham Campus, also Wednesday night at 5:30 p.m. in Portland.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

"A Christian, a Pagan and a Muslim Walk into a..." Interfaith chaplain's office hosts a fishbowl discussion that might spark some fist fighting...or hand holding/ 4-6 pm/ Woodbury Campus Center Amphitheater/Portland campus/ free and open to the public

Join the Dance Team. No, seriously. Introductory meeting/ 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m./ Phillipi Hall's Conference Room/ Gorham Campus/ freer than free

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Portland's hip. We're acclaimed. Here's why: **Ultra-famous Portland designer Angela Adams speaks at the Portland Museum of Art** with her hubby, also a designer. Adams' work has been featured in two big-time magazines on newsstands this month, "Blueprint," and "Readymade"/ 6 p.m. to 8 p.m./ Portland Museum of Art Auditorium, 7 Congress Square/ Portland/ \$10/ 775-6148

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Art in the Park. It's the last day of artist Asherah Cinnamon's public art display. She's been binding trees together, building the landscape piece every afternoon in one of Portland's public squares for 10 days. Catch her working the last moments and get a word with her. She's a finalist in the 2008 Beijing Landscape Sculpture Competition, which equals: big deal/ 12:15 p.m. to 3 p.m./ Post Office Park, Corner of Middle and Exchange St./ Portland/ free

SATURDAY 22

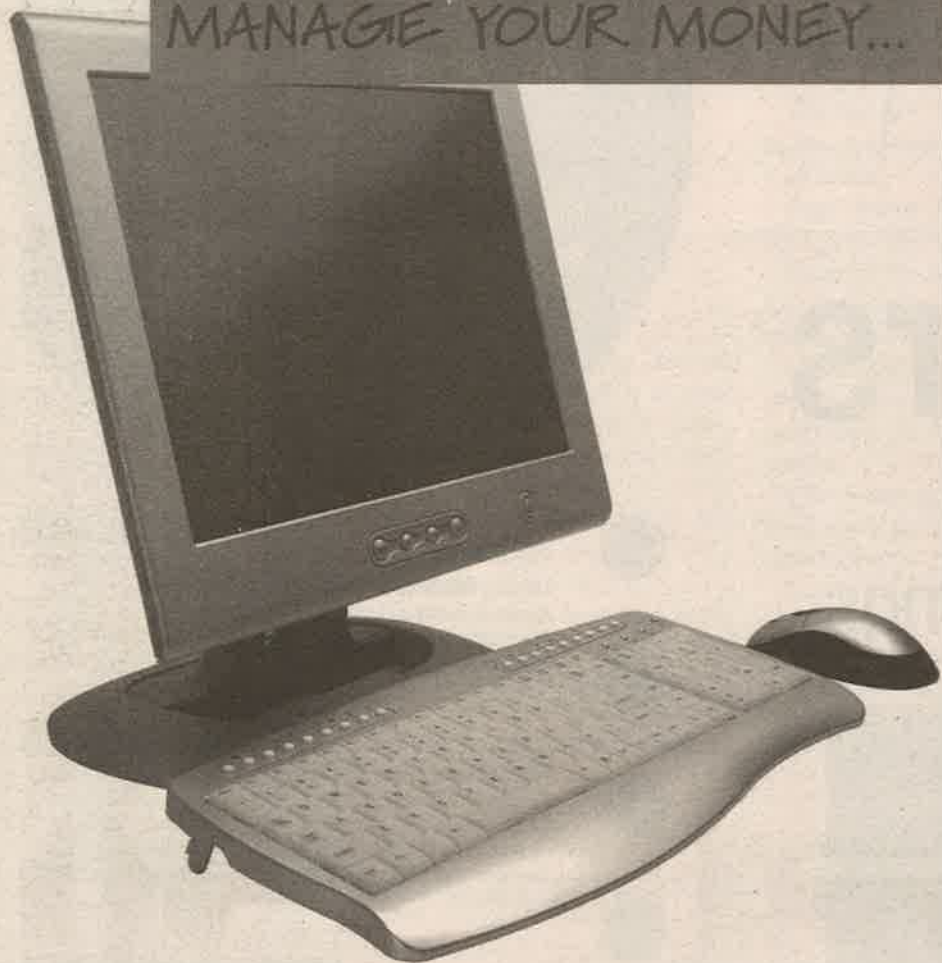
See ladies kick ass. Three Words: Maine Roller Derby. Need I say more?/ doors at 5 p.m., action at 6 p.m./ Portland Expo, next to Hadlock field / Portland/ \$10/ www.mainerollerderby.com.

Eat, drink, dance. You'll be so merry you'll pop. Space Gallery is celebrating its fifth birthday and calling it ICING, a desert party served up by the best bakeries and dining establishments in Southern Maine, from Two Fat Cats to Bresca, Aurora Provisions to Rabelias. Oh, and three bands will entertain; dilly dilly, Max Rock, Katie Cox/ 7-10 p.m./ SPACE, 538 Congress Street/ Portland/ \$35 at brownpaperticket.com/ 828-5600

SUNDAY 23

Use the word 'Vernacular' in a sentence today. Check out Gorham's art exhibit, **'Off the Grid: Maine Vernacular Environments.** See left for a preview of the show. / 1-5 p.m./ Gorham Art Gallery/ USM campus/ free and open to the public/ 780-5008

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NCUA



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE WIDDIS

Peter McFarland's display, "Kingdom of the Street," line the walls of Woodbury Campus Center's Ampitheater in Portland. The series of paintings portray fantasy characters based on McFarland's interest in self-invention and role-playing.

Untrained art

From ART
PAGE 7

tures and carvings of aliens, dinosaurs, totem poles and the far-fetched.

Believe it or not, this is not a wacky Mainer road show—although the history of this kind of vernacular art has roots of the insane, it's an art exhibit.

"Off the Grid: Maine Vernacular Environments," is showing in the Gorham Art Gallery until Nov. 11. Interesting thing to note about the show is that the artists are untraditional. They didn't study as artists, never got art degrees and they didn't learn their artistic trades like folk artists would. They are the self-taught reflection of independent, spicy Mainers.

The exhibit is a quirky celebration of the resourcefulness of Mainers. This "outsider art," categorized as a genre in the 1970s, has only been investigated for the last century. Starting in France in the early 1900s, artist Jean DuBuffet searched insane asylums as inspiration for his own artwork, and found an entirely new world of art in untrained artists, outside the boundaries of official culture.

USM Gallery Curator Carolyn Eyler has spent seven years researching vernacular art in Maine, searching for a way to present the unique character of the location in an artistic reflection, cumulating in the ongoing exhibit. This kind of untrained art, she said, adds to the scope of art now, exposing viewers to something a little different, something very fresh in culture today. Some of the featured artists don't even consider what they're doing art exactly, Eyler said. But that may be the fun of it.

Outsider artist Peter McFarland does consider himself an artist, however. Although untrained formally, he has a resume and a website. "Kingdom of the Street" is showing at the Area Gallery in the Woodbury Campus Center in Portland. A series of paintings hang now, portraying



fantasy characters based on McFarland's interest in self-invention, role-playing and Mainers on the fringe of society. Paintings such as "The Duct Tape Viking" hint at social conditions of those fringed.

"It was the largest, most coherent, consistent body of work found during the research," Eyler said, "fitting best in the vernacular theme. Although the artist has learned about art history, he worked as a contractor and now he sells pot."

An opening reception for both exhibits will be held on Sept. 27 from 5-7 p.m. at the Gorham Art Gallery. Artists will be in attendance and give talks, and the public is encouraged to attend.

The Art Gallery in Gorham is open Tuesday through Friday, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. During the Oct. 7 - 10 break, the Art Gallery will be open only by appointment. The Area Gallery in Portland is open Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. and Fridays from 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

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High hopes for men's soccer

Talented veterans, key additions look toward first-ever conference title

MARTIN MICISSO

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Mike Keller scrambled around in the press box trying to piece together the video system he uses to capture game footage of the USM men's soccer team. Was this just another work-study camera kid? Nope – try the head coach at the helm of a playoff-caliber soccer team, and add multi-tasking to his list of pre-game duties.

"My camera guy didn't show up today," Keller said minutes before a home match against Worcester State on Saturday.

The Huskies will feature eight returning starters from last year's team full of talented veterans as well as some key additions in the off-season. Keller, entering his third season as head coach, hopes to challenge for the Little East Conference title, which would be a first ever for the USM men's soccer program.

Lead by team captains Greg Cox and Colin Riley, both second

team All-Conference last year, the team fully expects to improve on their 10-9 record and near miss of last year's post-season. Keller was apparently busy in the off-season, as USM attracted the likes of Tim Murphy from Colorado and starting goalkeeper David Kreps from the University of Maine.

The arid temperature in Gorham this past weekend wasn't the only thing sizzling as the gnarly footwork of Sinisa Bajic, 2006's Offensive Player of the Year, brought the crowd to its feet several times. Bajic, sporting a Mohawk and bright yellow cleats, originally hails from Serbia, is fun to watch and is on pace to break scoring records for the men's soccer program.

As the season progresses and time allows, be sure to venture down the ridge beyond the Ice Arena to the men's soccer field. For those World Cup fans, it's the closest thing to European Football you can get, all while set in the backdrop of fall and foliage of the Gorham countryside.

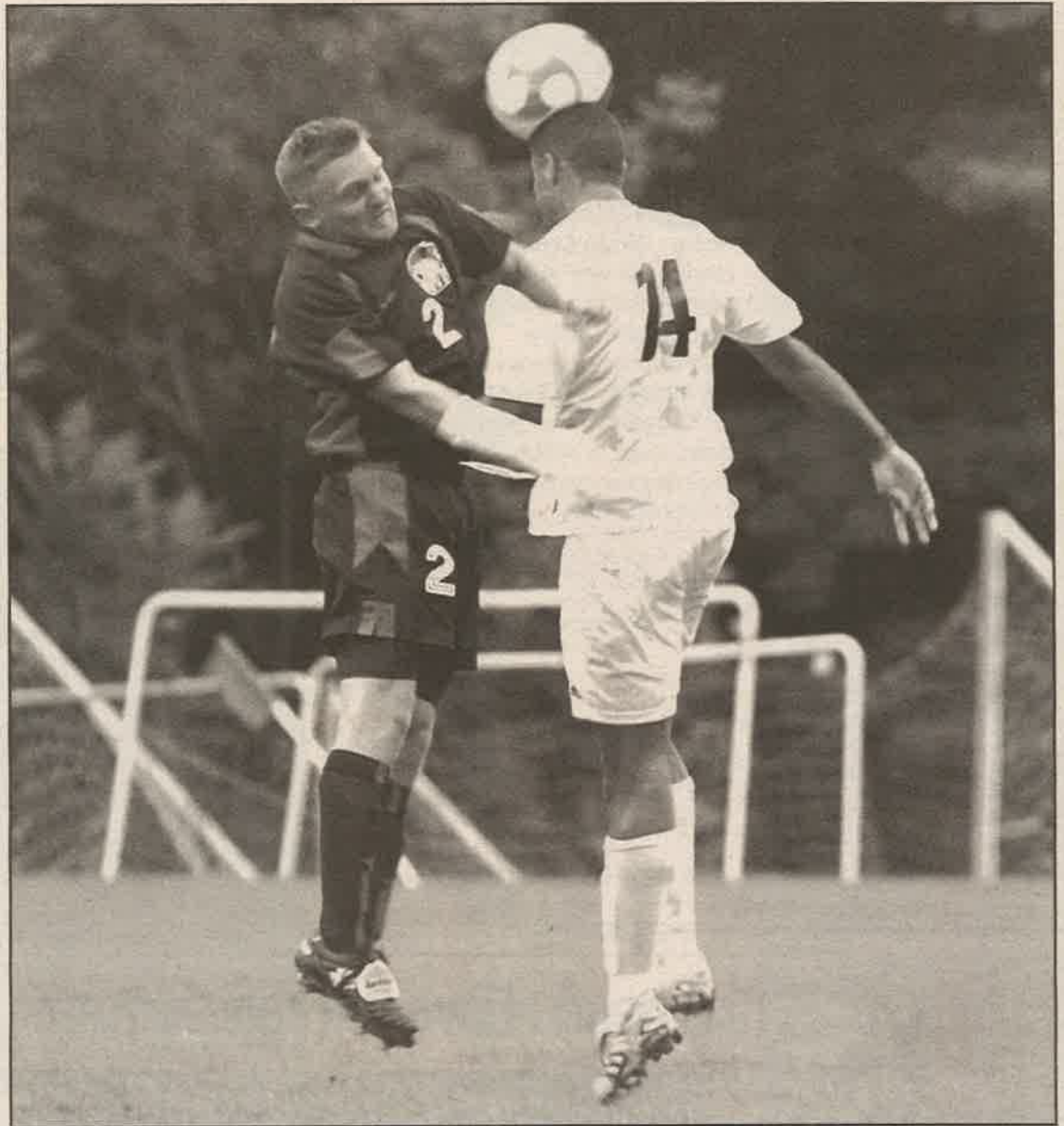


PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

Tegan Udeh goes for a header in a game last Saturday. The men tied against UMaine Farmington, 1-1.

UPCOMING GAMES

Opponents names written in capital letters means the game will be played at home

Tuesday, September 18

Men's Soccer @ Bowdoin	4:30 p.m.
Women's Tennis vs. SALEM STATE	3:30 p.m.
Women's Volleyball vs. BATES	6 p.m.

Wednesday, September 19

Women's Soccer vs. UMAINE FARMINGTON	3:30 p.m.
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Thursday, September 20

Field Hockey vs. UMAINE FARMINGTON	4 p.m.
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Saturday, September 22

Men's Soccer @ UMass Boston	1 p.m.
Women's Soccer vs. UMASS BOSTON	1 p.m.
Women's Tennis @ Rhode Island College	1 p.m.
Field Hockey @ Eastern Conn.	3 p.m.
Women's Cross Country @ Harrier Classic, Franklin Park, Boston	TBA

Sunday, September 23

Women's Volleyball @ Western Conn. w/ Plymouth State	12 p.m.
--	---------

Bajic stands out on the field

From **BAJIC**
PAGE 1

goals for the Huskies—including 4 in a record setting performance against U-Mass Dartmouth.

Despite all of these personal accolades, Bajic, who moved to Portland from Belgrade, Serbia, in the fall of 2001, remains humble, deferring much of the credit to his teammates.

"I couldn't do anything without them," said Bajic. "They've helped me a lot, from getting used to college to getting better on the field."

The same can be said of third-year head coach Mike Keller, with whom Bajic has had a stellar relationship.

"Coach Keller is great," Bajic said. He really helped me adjust to college soccer."

But the 2005 LEC Rookie of the Year may never have learned the passion and skills that allow him to excel today if not for his brother, a former professional soccer player in nearby Bosnia, to whom he attributes much of his success.

"I played my whole life with my brother and I learned a lot from him," said Bajic. Lucky for spectators, Bajic's family—including his brother—decided to stay in Portland, making his decision to play at the university that much easier.

This kinship coupled with the intense competitiveness that he experienced as a youth playing soccer in Europe, have helped him and his Huskies get off to an impressive start.

Over the course of his first two collegiate seasons, Bajic has been nothing short of outstanding. He is currently on pace to break the university's goals-scored records, needing only 15 goals to surpass the 31-year-old record held by John Sylva, who had 46 goals between the years 1974-1977. Bajic currently has 32 career goals.

Off the field, Bajic is studying business accounting and finance but intends to switch his major to sports management. At 21 years old, however, he doesn't want to join the workforce quite yet.

"I am thinking about going to Florida for some MLS (Major League Soccer) combines and trying out for some teams."

Bajic and his Huskies are on the road until Sept. 29 when they will play host to Plymouth State.

Want to write for the free press?

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HUSKY HIGHLIGHTS

Women's Soccer

Huskies take pair of wins

9/12 – With less than three minutes left on the clock and the game tied 1-1 on Wednesday, senior Julie Cyr (Standish) took a free kick from the top of the penalty area. Shot high over UNE goalkeeper Leigh Engel (Richmondville, NY), the ball hit the crossbar and went to freshman midfielder Llia Dunham-Conway, who calmly headed it into the net for her first collegiate goal and the Husky's second consecutive win. After a rough first couple games, the women's soccer team is getting things rolling again, downing the Coast Guard 4-2 last Saturday, and the University of New England on Wednesday. With stellar goalkeeping by both junior goalkeepers, starting keeper Mindy Moreneault (Winterville) and backup Alison Bradley (Auckland, New Zealand), and scoring from a handful of players, including a pair on Saturday from senior co-captain Natasha Levandowski (Portland), the Lady Huskies look ready for their upcoming conference games.

Women's Tennis

Huskies lose again

9/13 – Two sweeps in a row against the Huskies have the tennis team off to a rough start. After a disappointing 0-9 season opener against Endicott on Sept. 6, they went again without winning a match against Bates on Thursday. It doesn't help that the Huskies have yet to fill a sixth singles position and lack a third doubles team: they have been forced to forfeit these matches. In their defense, however, they have only three returning players, and are starting with a new coach, Hans Römer from the Portland Country Club in Falmouth.

Men's Soccer

USM comes from behind for draw with Farmington

9/12 – Despite dominating 23-7 in shots, the men's soccer team had to come from behind in order to end their Wednesday game with Farmington in a 1-1 double-overtime draw. After a scoreless first half, Farmington senior midfielder Jeff Tatarczuk (Westbrook) brought the Beavers into the lead with a 25-yard shot and his first goal of the season. After several scoring opportunities for the Huskies, junior co-captain Greg Cox got his second goal of the season with a diving header in the 70th minute of the match. After an intense double-overtime of intense pressure by the Huskies and unstoppable goalkeeping by the Beavers, the teams ended the game in a draw.

HUSKY HERO

Interview by Sarah Trent

India Lowe

Year: **Sophomore**

Major: **Undeclared**

Position: **Forward**

Hometown: **Gloucester, MA**

Sport: **Field hockey**

Two weeks into the season, sophomore India Lowe is already standing out on this year's so-far-excellent field hockey team. Coach Bonny Brown-Denico describes Lowe as "a very good player last year," and "very improved, in a short amount of time."

With points in every game so far, including the lone USM goal in Thursday's close game versus Bates, Lowe is making one message very clear: goalies beware.

The Free Press sat down with her to find out what being India Lowe is all about.

Free Press: So what's it like being the team's leading scorer?

Lowe: It's frustrating in games like (Bates), when you try so hard and just can't get another goal. I like being able to score but there's so much pressure! But I really do trust my team to pick it up too.

FP: When you're not on the field, what do you do with your spare time?

Lowe: Spare time? I guess I do homework.

FP: Alright, but I know you have some good stories from field hockey, right? Maybe from the bus?



PHOTO COURTESY OF USM ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Lowe: (laughing) We watch Sister Act II and sing along.

Caitlin Albert (teammate): (sings a few lines) And she gets left behind all the time!

Lowe: The bus left me at Quizno's once.

Caitlin: And one time at a party, we all left her and didn't realize it until we came back hours later and she was sitting on the porch!

FP: Speaking of parties, you have any good party tricks?

Lowe: Party tricks?

FP: Can you wiggle your ears or—

Lowe's (anonymous)

Roommate: She can pinch with her toes!

Lowe: No! You're not going to say that, right?

Roommate: Don't write that, she'll lock me out of the room tonight!

Caitlin: Yeah, she'll kill you—by pinching with her toes!

Husky Scoreboard

Women's Tennis

9/13 – Bates 9, USM 0

Women's Soccer

9/8 – USM 4, Coast Guard 2

9/12 – USM 2, Univ. of New England 1

Field Hockey

9/13 – Bates 2, USM 1

Men's Soccer

9/12 – USM 1, UMaine Farmington 1

A head above the competition



PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

Eddie Weddington gets some air time during the men's soccer match versus UMaine Farmington on Saturday. The game went into double overtime and ended in a 1-1 tie.

Field hockey loses close match to Bates

SARAH TRENT

SPORTS EDITOR

The final five minutes of the USM-Bates field hockey game in Gorham last Thursday were no different from the first: the women in white USM jerseys were dominating.

Without looking at the scoreboard, one could only assume the Huskies were winning the game—Justene Dorr dribbled the ball up the sideline, passing it through two Bates players to Caitlin Albert, who ran ahead, stopped, and pulled the ball back to avoid a defender, before quickly passing it back to midfield.

Most of the game was spent under Husky control. They displayed some of their best passing and ball handling of the season thus far. The final scoreboard, however, told a different story: 1-2, Bates.

"It was frustrating to play so well and lose," said head coach Bonny Brown-Denico. "But it was fun to see us dominating Bates."

Players' remarks echoed the same thought: the first loss of the season, bringing their record to 3-1, was disappointing, but impressive none the less.

"Last year we lost to them like, 4-0," said junior forward Caitlin Albert (Scarborough). "Our goal was to win every home game, which we didn't do, but this was our best game so far."

The first half of the match went by scoreless, but was spent mostly

"It was frustrating to play so well and lose, but it was fun to see us dominate Bates."

Head coach Bonny Brown-Denico

in the hands of the Huskies—who had six shots to the Bobcats' zero—and 11 penalty corners. Meanwhile, sophomore goalie Allie Hill (Cape Elizabeth) stood bored in her net.

"I was really impressed with our passing, we smoked them in the first half," Hill said. "I mean seriously, do you know how good Bates is?"

Both teams were itching for a goal after halftime. Just three minutes in, Bates forward Lindsey Ferguson (Barrington, RI) capitalized on a well-placed pass and snuck it past Hill.

"When they scored right away, we were like, 'Uh-oh, better pick it up,' and we came back and tied it up," said sophomore India Lowe (Gloucester, MA), whose goal five minutes later put the Huskies on the scoreboard. "We just couldn't score again," she said.

In the 54th minute of the game, Bates forward Rachel Greenwood (Williamstown, MA) scored the game-winner. From the sidelines, USM students and staff groaned.

USM continued to control both the ball and the game, but couldn't get past Bates goalie Katie McEnroe (Hockessin, DE).



PHOTO BY JASON JOHNS

Leading scorer India Lowe (sophomore, Gloucester, MA) traps the ball, looking ahead to pass as Christina Corson (sophomore, Naples) decides where to cut. Losing to Bates 1-2 last Thursday, India said she and her teammates are disappointed, but impressed by their ability to dominate a top-level team. They currently stand at number two in the Little East Conference.

After the buzzer, the Huskies gathered for the traditional "good game, Bates" cheer, and turned to their coaches for wisdom.

"We can't dwell on the loss," said Assistant Coach Renée Heath to her players. "There were things we did phenomenally."

Most impressive to the coaching staff was the Huskies' stick pressure. They'd been working on it all week after getting frequent hacking calls in their first several games.

Brown-Denico acknowledged that her players are starting to get to know each other and figuring

how to read their teammates on the field.

"Hopefully," she said, "we can take all of this, turn it around, and kick butt at Western."

See the field hockey team next at home versus UMaine Farmington at 4 p.m. Thursday.

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SPRING BREAK

The Free Press wants to remind you to enjoy your Spring Break responsibly. Have fun, let loose, try new things, and make it back alive. Remember that what happens on spring break stays at spring break. Don't post your look up pictures on facebook.

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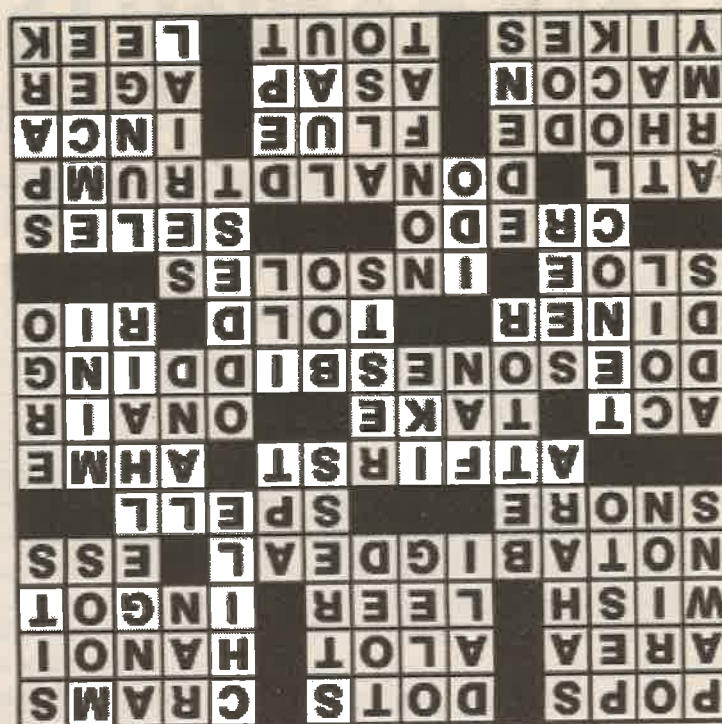


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Newsday Crossword

CROSS THAT BRIDGE by Sally R. Stein
 Edited by Stanley Newman
 www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
 1 Bursts, as a balloon
 5 ___ and dashes (Morse code symbols)
 9 Studies hard
 14 Neighborhood
 15 Very frequently
 16 Capital of Vietnam
 17 Hope (for)
 18 Impolite glance
 19 Gold bar
 20 Unimportant
 23 Pluralizing letter
 24 Sleeper's sound
 25 Compete in a bee
 27 Initially
 31 "Alas!"
 34 Nightclub routine
 37 Seize
 38 Radio studio sign
 39 Performs as ordered
 43 Informal eatery
 44 Spilled the beans
 45 ___ de Janeiro
 46 Plumlike fruit
 47 Shoe liners
 50 Statement of belief
 52 Tennis pro Monica
 56 The A in NATO: Abbr.
 58 *The Apprentice* boss
 62 Providence, ___ Island
 64 Chimney duct
 65 Ancient Andes settler
 66 Georgia city
 67 Right away, in memos

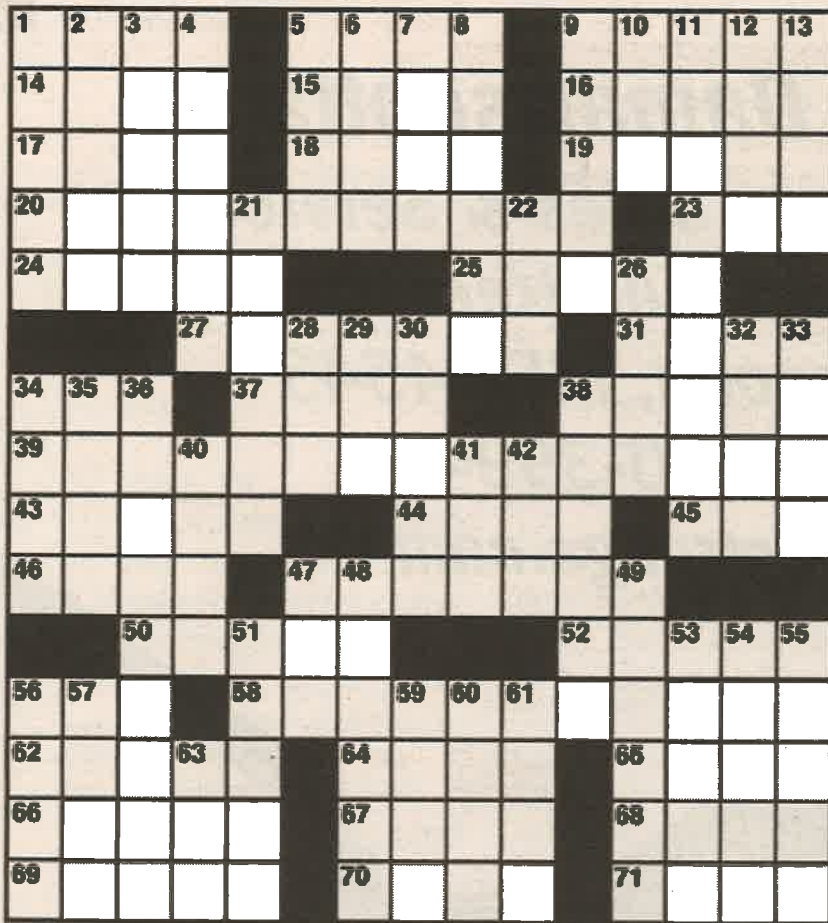
68 Golden-___ (senior citizen)
 69 "Omigosh!"
 70 Speak in favor of
 71 Onion relative

DOWN

1 Minor chesspieces
 2 Hunter constellation
 3 Green sauce
 4 African desert
 5 Painter Salvador
 6 Designer Cassini
 7 ___ the line (conformed)
 8 Emphasize
 9 Western South American nation

10 Jogged
 11 Very thin spaghetti
 12 Cow sounds
 13 Makes use of a sofa
 21 Racetrack patron
 22 Pertinent
 26 Finish a plane flight
 28 Devotee
 29 Eisenhower nickname
 30 Relaxes
 32 Short skirt
 33 Therefore
 34 Finds a sum
 35 Spiral shape
 36 Coffee-break time, perhaps
 38 Most peculiar
 40 Crystal ball gazer

41 Scare word
 42 Under the weather
 47 Wedding phrase
 48 Like skim milk
 49 Soap opera, for example
 51 Paradises
 53 Sudden forward thrust
 54 Banquet host
 55 ___ plug (auto part)
 56 Fighting force
 57 Spicy Asian cuisine
 59 Likewise
 60 Waikiki feast
 61 Company division: Abbr.
 63 Female deer



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 CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 12

College costs more at USM

From TUITION
 PAGE 1

dollars into education...what we are going to do is have you guys send letters to your local representatives and senators." The BOT finalized the university's budget in July.

"Unfortunately, tuition increases are common," Caswell said, and is a problem that is facing many publicly funded universities. He said there was an eight percent increase for 2004-2005 and a 7.8 percent increase for 2005-2006. "Our job is to keep any increases as low as possible by reviewing our expenses," he added, "and to minimize the impact of those tuition increases through financial aid, scholarships, etc."

UMaine chancellor—and former USM president—Richard Pattenau and Interim President Joseph Wood have pointed to student retention as a major cause of USM's budget deficit. Enrollment at USM has been declining steadily, peaking at 11,382 students in 2002 to 9,851 in 2007. There was a 94 student or 0.9 percent slip in overall enrollment between 2006

and 2007. Average credit hours for USM students have slipped from 9.44 to 9.42 (or 0.2 percent) and full-time equivalent student enrollment has also decreased, meaning a loss of 1,030 credit hours.

Attempts to contact Chief Financial Officer Dick Campbell were unsuccessful. An administrative assistant in his office said Campbell was not commenting on USM's operating budget until October.

Wood said during his Opening Day speech Aug. 31 that he plans to minimize the university's operational expenses by focusing on "those things that are central to our core mission," regular budget management meetings throughout the university and continuing the hiring freeze instituted last year.

Caswell said the new building construction on the Portland and Gorham campuses are not funded by state appropriation or student tuition, and are instead paid for by specifically designated construction funds from capital campaign accounts and donations made to USM.

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Solution from page 15

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

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

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New minor makes activism easier

From ENVIRONMENTAL
PAGE 1

Though the program is a branch of the science department, only one of the minor's requirements is actually a science course. Its core requirements include classes in criminology—"crimes against the environment"—philosophy, and political science among others. The minor is meant to work in conjunction with the student's major—whatever that may be—in teaching the student to "recognize and overcome" problems in sustainability.

Travis Wagner, assistant professor of environmental science and policy at USM, said that the marriage of an environmental sustainability minor and a variety of different majors is useful and necessary because solving environmental problems takes multiple disciplines.

"We need business students, health students, and all off these other types of disciplines, to be involved as well," Wagner said. "This is an opportunity for them to pursue their particular interests, like business, but also to embrace and understand how that fits into sustainability."

Chris Dunn, a senior environmental science major at USM and president of the environmental science student group, said that sustainability—despite being a buzzword these days—is a difficult thing for many people to define.

"An institution like USM can only say its sustainable if it is continually working to lessen its environmental impact," Dunn said. "More specifically, lower its resource consumption and its waste generation, especially things like carbon emissions. We shouldn't assume that we're constantly going to be able to find new resources and throw everything in a land fill, and everything will be fine."

Dunn said that the minor will help students be better professionals regardless of their career choice.

"Especially in fields like business, there are lots of ways where you could be a better businessman and a better environmentalist," he Dunn.

The program is not so much about telling people what to do, said Robert Sanford, associate professor of environmental science and policy.

"It's more about encouraging students learning about decision making and environmental problems so that they themselves can make the decisions on what to do."

The current social climate and recent buzz generated around the term, "global warming," made



PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

Professor Robert Sanford is one of the faculty members responsible for a new minor in Environmental Science.

the timing right to implement the minor, Sanford said.

The Environmental Protection Agency, for example, says that most of the global warming that has occurred in recent decades is "a result of human activities," like burning fossil fuels in our motor vehicles. The agency also says that the two warmest average global temperatures on record occurred in 1998 and 2005.

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The environmental sustainability minor is one more step in an increasing trend to go "green" at USM. The most recently built dorm in Gorham, still unnamed but now open to upperclassman, is LEED certified (stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) as is the George Mitchell Center of Science and Technology on the same campus.

Dudley Greely, the environmental and economic sustainability coordinator at USM, said that the minor is a turning-point in connecting the choices that we make in our daily lives and the quality of our environment.

"All of us can't be expected to become sustainability professionals," said Greely. "We need people who's primary focus is to make very clear to policymakers, to corporations, to educational institutions, that quality of life issues have to be addressed in everything we do, and that's what this minor is about."

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