



News



Meet the guy who keeps
you from slipping
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Arts



The surrealism of
Krazy Kat

Governor's task force recommends against

RICHARD SMART
News Editor

The University of Southern Maine and the University of Maine at Augusta (UMA) should not be merged, advised a task force assembled by John Baldacci, governor of Maine, to evaluate the future of higher education in the Augusta region.

The task force recommended in their report that instead of merging the campuses, the two should work to develop a collaboration along with the community colleges in the Augusta area.

While the task force can only make recommendations, according to Charles Johnson, chair of the University of Maine System (UMS) Board of Trustees (BOT), it seems likely the trustees will accept the suggestions. Johnson said the Trustees won't vote on whether to accept the recommendations until sometime this winter or in the early spring.

"We will take this task force report very seriously," said Johnson. "The goals of the strategic plan and the task force report are not far from each other."

The Trustees had originally planned to use the merger as a way to transform UMA into a col-

lege that awards mostly bachelor's degrees in a cost effective manner. Currently, the majority of degrees awarded by UMA are associates degrees.

The task force decided UMA can be brought in line with the other campuses without having to resort to a merger to make it cost effective.

"A collaborative partnership model would provide many of the benefits that were sought through the merger argument, and it would also provide other benefits that were not identified by the merger," said Richard Randall, the interim president of UMA and a member of the governor's task force.

According to Randall, collaborating with USM and other UMS campuses would allow UMA to start new programs at a low cost by utilizing the resources of USM and brokering with other System campuses for degree programs already in existence there.

Randall said there is already precedent for this at UMA. When UMA first began offering a bachelor's degree in English it was through the university campus in Fort Kent, which already had a program in place. In order to begin offering the degree at UMA, faculty members at the Augusta campus were reviewed to see if
see TASK FORCE, page 4

USM / UMA Merger Timeline									
SEPTEMBER Strategic Planning Process begins with Elsa Nunez, vice chancellor of the UMaine System, holding general discussion sessions at each campus	DECEMBER The Trustees, the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, and staff begin work on a draft of the Strategic Plan	MARCH Strategic Plan draft is released	APRIL 12 Public comment period begins with meetings and public forums at campuses and in communities	SEPTEMBER 10 A revised draft of the Strategic Plan is released	SEPTEMBER 20 The Board of Trustees adopts the Strategic Plan	JANUARY Implementation Planning Process is released and approved by the Board	MARCH 31 Maine Legislature writes language into the State appropriations law that prohibits the University System from changing the structure and/or names of the seven existing universities without receiving legislative approval	APRIL Kennebec Valley Task Force created by executive order of John Baldacci, Governor of Maine	DECEMBER 1 Kennebec Valley Task Force releases recommendations
DECEMBER 22 Chancellor	JANUARY 6 BOT Strategic Planning Subcommittee meets on UMA/USM merger	JANUARY 20 BOT Strategic Planning Subcommittee meets on UMA/USM merger	MAY Final reports will be submitted to the Chancellor	JUNE Full implementation will begin					
2003	2004	2005	2006						

Entertainment



Meet the new A&E editor
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Sports



Re-meet Da Dance Team
page 16

ANNE HOBBY
Staff Writer

Merton Nickerson, who worked for the past 19 years as the director of academic computing at USM and led the way for advancing technology on campus, died of lung problems at Maine Medical Center on January 12, 2006 at the age of 64.

Nickerson contributed so much to the university computing technology that, according to William Wells, Chief Information Officer, "without him the IT [Information Technology] structure just would not exist."

When Nickerson arrived in 1986 there were just a few mainframe computers on campus. He led the campus in creating a network environment where personal computers are ubiquitous, numbering nearly 2,800 (not counting student-owned computers). "He was the most knowledgeable and the real leader in guiding these changes year after year," said Carl Helms. "There were no networks, but Mert knew it was going to happen and he made it happen."

USM loses a community leader



Mert Nickerson (at right) with members of his foresome at a USM Alumni Association Golf Tournament. Pictured with Nickerson are USM staff members (from l to r) Steve Houser, Keith Witherell, and Dave Barbour.

photo curtesy of the Public Affairs Office

Colleagues remember him as smart, kind and helpful. "He was usually the first one here in the morning and the last one to leave at night," said Helms.

Cadence Henriksson, a records technician for Career Services and Professional Life Development at USM, worked for Nickerson almost twenty years ago. She remembers him as "very

down to earth, very kind; such a great man." One day she threw away something by mistake and she recalls Nickerson "doctorate and all," fishing through the dumpster outside of Payson Smith Hall and bringing it back to her desk.

Nickerson also "enjoyed being argumentative," said Helms. "He used arguments as a vehicle

to develop understanding of what needed to be done."

He was a good leader according to many colleagues and brought the University through many changes over the years, following the technology of the day.

Nickerson got his bachelor of education from the University of Maine at Orono, then continued to get a master's of physics from the University of Northern Iowa and came back to UMO for his doctorate in physics.

Nickerson is survived by his wife, Ruth (Lane) Nickerson; his mother, Avis Bradstreet; and sons, Scott, Keith, and Steven Nickerson.

A small family ceremony will be arranged by Dennet-Craig and Pate Funeral Home in Saco. Nickerson requested to be cremated with his ashes spread on a local pond. The family asks that, instead of flowers, donations be made to the American Lung Association in Augusta (www.mainerlung.org). ♦



compiled by the staff of the Free Press
and the USM Police Department

DECEMBER 21 – Someone reported the smell of marijuana on the 3rd floor of Dickey Hall.

DECEMBER 22 – Someone reported two people fighting over use of the phone in the Woodbury Campus Center. One was believed to be a faculty member and the other a student.
A WMPG staff member had her picture defaced for the second time in recent weeks. The act is presumed to be hate crime related.

DECEMBER 24 – A stray cat was loose in Philippi Hall. The cat was presumed to be a neighbor’s. The police report calls for a policy for future handling of stray animals.

DECEMBER 27 – Someone complained about skateboarders on the ramp of the John Mitchell Center. The subjects were told to move along.

DECEMBER 28 – A male subject was arguing with an RA in Anderson Woodward Hall after being asked to leave. Police issued a verbal criminal trespass warning and told him to stay out of Anderson Hall. The RA isn’t pressing charges.

DECEMBER 29 – Someone reported a suspicious male checking out offices in Luther Bonney hall. The person was gone when the officer arrived.
A student was stuck in a second floor window in Philippi Hall and needed assistance getting out.

DECEMBER 30 – Residents of Portland Hall were issued a verbal warning for arguing too loudly.

JANUARY 1 – An officer confiscated an ID card from three females who were trying to get into Portland Hall. The card didn’t belong to any of them. The cards owner has been advised to attend Community Standards for giving out her ID to non-residents.
Three female non-residents were caught smoking marijuana in the Portland Hall Parking Lot. They were each issued a summons for possession of a useable amount of marijuana.
An intoxicated, non-resident male tried to check into Portland Hall.
A student in Portland Hall has been referred to Community Standards for possession of alcohol. The alcohol was confiscated.
A pit bull was running loose near the Student Center on the Gorham campus. The dog was caught and returned to its owner.

JANUARY 2 – Graffiti was discovered on the south side of 15 Baxter in Portland.

JANUARY 3 – A resident reported there were a bunch of holes in the walls of his dorm and he wanted pictures taken and a report filed.
Someone reported a poster at WMPG had been vandalized. The nature of the crime has resulted in it being categorized as a bias crime.

JANUARY 4 – Someone reported the tire had been stolen off their bicycle.
The elevator in the Sullivan Gymnasium got stuck on the basement level with 12 preschool-aged children and two adults in it.
Two subjects got in a fight in the Sullivan Gymnasium. One had left by the time an officer arrived. Both have been banned from the gymnasium.

JANUARY 8 – A subject reported an assault and requested an officer come to Lafayette Townhouse on Congress Street in Portland.
A group of people entered the Costello Sports Complex through an unsecured door and were using the facilities without authorization. They were asked to leave.

In Brief

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Due to a string of snowstorms at the end of last semester, some committees of the 34th Student Senate began the new semester with reports full of change.
Starting off, Senator Lauren Justin, reporting for the Appointments Committee, recommended former Senator Keith Foster to be the new Publishing Director for Words and Images. Foster was appointed retroactively to the beginning of the semester unanimously and with little discussion from the Senate. The retroactive appointment will permit Foster to collect the full \$1,500 per semester stipend, including the time he worked this semester before the appointment.
Foster’s predecessor, Victor Wyatt, left the position following his graduation this December.
According to Foster, Words and Images received over 100 submissions by the December deadline this year and have fundraised about \$1,000 through contest entry fees.
Following Foster’s appointment, the Christopher O’Connor gave the report for the Leadership Development Board (LDB).
According to O’Connor the nomination forms for Student Senate elections will be available on February 1st and the website for voting is already up – the site can be found at www.usm.maine.edu/studentlife/choose06. O’Connor also called on non-returning senators to help with the elections. “We [the LDB] are in dire need of new blood because the members are leaving, graduating this year,” said O’Connor.
O’Connor also gave the LDB recommendation for Student Leader for the Month of December: Stephen Morin for his work during the 2005 World’s AIDS Day. The student senate confirmed Morin with no objections.

ACADEMIC RIGHTS

Following a month of tabling and delays, the 34th Student Senate debated for almost an hour and a half on proposal 34-34, a resolution to give support to the Student Bill for Academic Rights. The senate ultimately voted to fail the proposal with nine nays, one yea and seven senators abstaining through a roll call vote. Senator Caroline Young cast the only yea-vote.
Jim Cyr, graduating this year with a Masters in Social Work, and Jason Lavoie, chairman of the USM College Republicans, came to speak in favor of the resolution. Both repeated that this was a non-partisan effort. “We don’t want to see professors’ personal political opinion in the classroom,” said Lavoie. “We want their scholarly opinion.”
According to Jason Lavoie, 110 students have signed a petition for this bill, approximately one percent of the student body. “I am asking you today to embrace the academic bill of rights,” said Lavoie. “Not just for me but for all the conservative students that are out there that feel they have to be put in a box - that feel they cannot come forward.”
Ending a speech to the senate, Cyr urged them to pass the proposal. “If you do not adopt the Academic Bill of Rights,” said Cyr, “then you will be making the iron clad point that brought us here that USM is hostile to conservative students.”
On January 31, there will be a faculty panel discussion regarding the Student Bill for Academic Rights.
For the sake of full disclosure: The Free Press Executive Editor, Joseph R. Thompson, was invited by Senator Amanda Blake to an informal meeting with several senators and student leaders including Lavoie from the College Republicans, in late December.

Briefs compiled by the News Department of The Free Press

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Corrections for issue 11:
Pg. 5: Elise Adams was Sports Editor in Spring 2002.

Editorial & Advertising Policy

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- Guest commentaries will occasionally be solicited or accepted from knowledgeable members of the University of Southern Maine community on topical issues and may not exceed 750 words.
- Letters to the editor are welcome. Letters must be dated, include the author’s full name, school year or relationship to USM, phone number for verification and may not exceed 300 words.
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**NEWS IN HISTORY:
JANUARY 27, 1975
SENATE BEGINS
INVESTIGATION OF
ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES BY
THE FBI AND CIA**

Senator Frank Church of Idaho was appointed to head the Senate Select Committee to Study Government Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities (aka the Church Committee), a group formed to investigate the activities of the FBI and the CIA in response to allegations by a *New York Times* writer, Seymour Hersh, who published an article entitled, "Huge C.I.A. Operation Reported in U.S. Against Anti-War Forces," on December 22, 1974. His article charged the CIA with illegal surveillance of U.S. citizens.

Through the Rockefeller Commission, a panel formed by President Ford, further claims were made against the CIA for attempting to assassinate foreign leaders, such as President Salvador Allende of Chile. The Church Committee reported on these activities and others November 20 of the same year. The reports showed evidence that the CIA did in fact help organize a coup d'état in which Allende was killed in 1973. Both agencies were shown to have been involved in illegal surveillance of hundreds of thousands of U. S. citizens.

These findings spawned an Executive Order by Ford which banned using assassinations of foreign leaders as an alternative to peaceful means of diplomacy. ♦

Compiled by Anne Hobby

Getting the dirt on the grounds supervisor

RICHARD SMART
NEWS EDITOR

Jim Pineau is the grounds supervisor for the Portland campus. He's held the title since last May, and before that was a student in Communications. Before attending USM, Pineau served in the Marines until 2001.

So what do you do as grounds supervisor?

This time of year in the grounds department, the biggest most important thing for me is safety on campus. That's why I send out emails before and after each storm so people know that we're out there in it trying to get them clear so they can make it home safe.

This is also a good time of year to do a lot of winter pruning and landscape maintenance.

Have you had an easy winter so far because of how warm it's been?

Actually, we haven't dealt with a lot of snow, but because it's been raining so much and then freezing at night, we've been dealing with a lot of ice. So that's my major concern right now, getting in early enough so we can have salt and sand out so when people get on campus they're not slipping and sliding everywhere, so they feel safe.

Are you responsible for making sure the University doesn't run into any liability issues?

I think so. It's not something I know all the details [about]. That's basically why we're essential personnel. I think if somebody slipped and fell and there was nobody on campus,



Jim Pineau in his office

and no preventative maintenance was done, then I think we'd be in trouble, but because we're here all the time working on it [it's not an issue].

Where were you stationed while you were in the Marines?

The last duty station I was at was in Hawaii.

Did you like Hawaii?

Well, when I was there, I didn't like it, but looking back on it I miss it. There's something to be said about 80 degree weather every single day.

What didn't you like about Hawaii?

You get island fever there very

easy. There's nowhere to go; you're on a rock in the middle of the water. But it's also a lot different being stationed somewhere rather than being on vacation.

Was there anything that happened during your service that you remember well?

One thing that really sticks out—I worked on helicopters [and] there was an accident. One of our sister squadrons was jacking the plane up and they forced too much pressure into the system, and it shot the plane—we call helicopters planes—it shot it up off the strut and the helicopter came down on one of the marines. So basically it was a

photo by Richard Smart

20,000 pound piece of metal sitting on him. That was a very bad day, but he survived, and as far as I knew he was still in the marine core when I left.

So that sticks in my head because that makes me very keen on safety, and it also puts a lot of things in perspective. This can be a very hectic job, and there are a lot of grounds that we have to cover and maintain. This time of year there's a heightened sense of urgency I like to have, but in the summer I like to tell students that work with me "No one's shooting at us while we're mowing the lawn, so take your time, do it right." ♦

\$

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TASK FORCE, from page 1

they qualified to teach any of the classes from the program. Distance education technology enabled students in Augusta to take the courses that were offered only in Fort Kent.

According to Randall, any new programs at UMA would likely begin similarly, with UMA looking first to USM for programs and resources. He said students at UMA wouldn't likely have to do much traveling, if any, because of the quality of distance education at UMA.

The initial plan, as outlined in the Strategic Plan drafted by the UMS BOT in 2004 called for merging the two campuses, and making UMA a satellite of USM.

Following the release of the Strategic Plan, many faculty and students expressed concern over some of the BOT's plans for the future, particularly the merger between the two campuses. The State Legislature was also concerned about whether a merger was the best course of action. In the budget for 2006, the Legislature named the number of campuses and the names of the campuses that the UMS must maintain in order to receive state appropriations.

According to Sylvia Lund, a member of the task force and an Augusta city councilor, merging the campuses would have done more harm than good to UMA. "I did not believe [UMA] would receive the attention and support to be able to develop the way Augusta would like to see it if it was subsumed under the Portland campus."

But for Lund and many others it was as also an issue of civic pride. "I've lived in Augusta all my life and I look at the University of Maine [in Augusta] as a very important part of the fabric of the city," said Lund.

According to Johnson, the BOT wanted to merge the two campuses not only because of the cost effectiveness but also because of their role in educating non-traditional students. Like USM, many of UMA's students are people who are already members of the workforce. He said the Strategic Plan was never meant to be carved in stone, and the recommendations are an acceptable alternative.

"Despite the fact that it's been a difficult process, it's been an opportunity for the trustees to get it right. We've gone through a process that hopefully will come to a good resolution to those concerns," said Johnson. ♦

Students, states address federal aid

While the House debates \$12.7 billion in cuts to student loan programs, students express concern

ALEX STEED

DEPUTY A&E EDITOR

Students who already have a hard time paying for their tuition and other college expenses may have to tighten their belts a little more.

Congress recently introduced a bill that will cut \$12.7 billion in federal student loan programs, in an effort to cut government subsidies to private lenders in order to decrease taxes and to fund other programs

The total \$39.7 billion in federal budget cuts passed in the Senate on Dec. 21. Vice President Dick Cheney cast the tie-breaking vote. The bill will now go to the House of Representatives for a vote.

Some consider this bill the last kind of thing Congress needs to be passing.

"Everyone has a problem paying for school," said Andrew Bossie, chair of the USM Student Senate and head of last semester's Vote Louder campaign. "It's difficult. There's not enough money coming from state or federal programs. You can get a loan but not enough to cover it. I think it's ridiculous. It's an investment in the future but the costs make it so out of reach."

But its an investment many students feel they need to make in order to develop a career as an adult. According to US Census Bureau statistics, graduating with a bachelor's degree helps students earn 62 percent more on average than those with only a high school diploma.

According to College Board, a non-profit organization that focuses on helping students plan, pay for and get into colleges,

students and families can expect to pay, on average, from \$112 to \$1,190 more than last year for this year's tuition fees. Increases for the University of Maine System have not yet officially been calculated, though unofficial estimates range between seven and 10 percent.

State governments are now stepping up to the plate to compensate for federal decreases. Three years ago, the state of Illinois enacted a law called Truth in Tuition where students are ensured that what they pay as freshmen, they pay as seniors. Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich proposed a \$1,000 tax credit for college students. In his State of the State address on January 18, Blagojevich said, "Washington has its priorities all mixed up. On the one hand, their policies encourage the outsourcing of jobs. On the other, they're trying to cut college scholarships. Everyone

"If [state and national government] is going to lecture that we're the future and we need to be educated, perhaps they should help out those who need assistance to do the great things that they're capable of with the proper education."

- Ashley Babb, Spanish Major, University of Maine

knows that students coming out of college today aren't just competing with each other. They're competing with students from all around the world. And as a nation, we are falling behind."

But the steps taken in Illinois are not being copied in every state. According to

Bossie, there's too much silence around higher education and how much help many students and their families need to pay for college. "There hasn't been a lot of public conversation about education financing in a while," said Bossie. "There haven't been huge changes in appropriations from the state legislature. People are out of touch with higher education in general."

In some ways, according to Bossie, Maine isn't moving in the right direction as far as higher education is concerned. "I heard an alarming story at a recent University budgetary meeting," said Bossie. "Besides discussion of an eight percent forced tuition increase in the face of federal funding not growing, it turns out that New Hampshire is essentially buying college students from Maine by offering better financial aid. It's cheaper to go to college in New Hampshire than it is to go in Maine."

Other students attitudes mirror the concern Bossie expressed about higher education and financial aid in the state. "I'm lucky to get the little aid that I do and that my parents are willing to help with a small portion, but we're not rich and I was lucky to be able to afford school thus far," said Ashley Babb, a Gorham native and second year Spanish major at UMaine. "If [state and national government] is going to lecture that we're the future and we need to be educated, perhaps they should help out those who need assistance to do the great things that they're capable of with the proper education."

According to Babb, if there were an active student movement to encourage a state-wide referendum to help students with their costs of college, she would most-likely support it. "People like my roommate, who are paying their entire tuition by themselves, can barely afford classes now, let alone with an increase of tuition," said Babb

Bossie doesn't expect things to change unless students become more actively involved in the issue. "This is the responsibility of the students at this point," said Bossie. "It lies in the hands of us as students. We can't expect anyone else to change this in the state. We have to rally ourselves and do something about it." ♦

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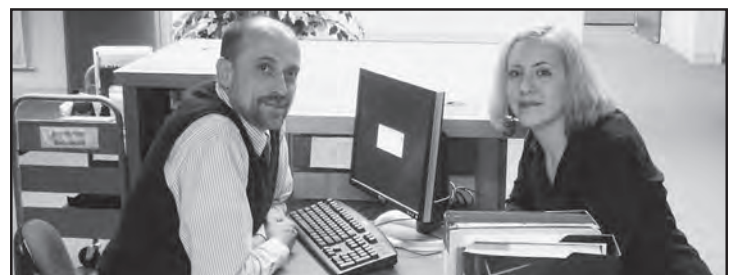
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DUDLEY GREELEY

COLUMNIST

A delivery truck pulls up to your residence a few days before holiday celebrations hit full stride. The driver and his assistant bring the huge present inside. The spouse dropped hints for years and you finally made it happen! You put the gift in the best possible location and can't wait to see — to

feel — the delighted reactions your present is certain to elicit. While this year's present may not end up being the gift of a lifetime, it will be one of your best. It can remain your little secret that the big present didn't cost big bucks. The romance, parties and improved health that the gift makes possible will not remain secret. You finish attaching the card you prepared the previous evening just as your spouse returns from work. The moment has arrived!

A full warm smile lights the already inviting room. That embrace you hold so dear follows the reading of the card. You expressed just the way you feel and the feelings are mutual. The present itself is finally opened and the romance heats up. Okay, so it's the sentiment in the card and the little present you placed in the big present that make the evening exciting but there is no question you made a fine choice. The little present won't last the evening. The big present may serve for twenty years. The sentiment in the card will never be forgotten. Your thoughtfulness and care will

see ENERGY STAR, page 6

Last Dandy on Earth



ALEX STEED

COLUMNIST

On every "Best of 2005" list I've seen thus far, Kanye West's statement "George Bush doesn't care about black people" is at the top. In response to this awkwardly stellar moment, 50 Cent, who told Esquire that if he wasn't a felon, he'd have voted for George Bush, has been cited in the same publication as saying he had no idea what Kanye was talking about. While, in any other Kanye versus 50 Cent showdown my money's on 50, I'm going to have to go with Kanye on this one.

I don't think that Kanye — or black people for that matter — should feel special about Bush's apathy. It has become significantly clear over the past five years that George Bush doesn't care about anybody — it's not just limited to black Americans. In Iraq, for example, our Arab friends have suffered the wrath of Bush and his band of neo-cons for the past couple of years. Ask the approximately 29,000 Iraqis who died during the past few years of invasion and you can interpret their silence as a sign that Bush doesn't like brown people, either. Don't let him throw out those excuses about liberation. The invasion of Iraq was as much about humanitarian intervention as Jesus Christ was a fan of "Sex in the City."

Disturbingly, I am finding out that Bush isn't the only person who doesn't care about anybody. Our national attitude — both on the left and on the right — has gotten to the point where it is ready to target anyone for invoking the downfall of civilization. Today, a friend of mine I would normally consider rather progressively minded, asked me what I thought of welfare as we drove by a homeless shelter. I gave him the cliff notes version of my exten-

sive answer and he told me, "Everyone I ever knew who was on welfare had big screen televisions. It sucks working knowing that you're giving your money to other people to waste."

2006 is the year that could potentially throw a wrench into Bush's seemingly reckless and once seemingly unstoppable destruction machine. A lesser-of-two-evils Democratic sweep in Congress could be a step for the better. Instead of counting our days left with Bush, we should imagine his loss of power as a small means to a much greater end. Progressives are almost successfully convinced that once Bush is out of office, everything is going to be better even though the system and mechanisms responsible for putting him and his coalition in power are still in existence. People, good and bad, still scrutinize their own neighbors, their fellow citizens, before they question the system and their leaders. It is this tendency, this artificial desire to make war with our neighbors that makes the job as a tyrant easy. While we are preoccupied with bickering with each other — believing that welfare cheats and not corporate welfare or exorbitant military spending are actively assaulting our every day happiness — our phones are tapped and we march off to unjust wars without so much as noticing, let alone pointing a finger at how fucked up things have gotten.

Our own leader is apathetic to our plight and out of touch with our needs, though this would hardly be the first time this has been the case. The health-care crisis pre-existed Bush. The military-industrial complex long pre-existed Bush. The poverty that became noticeable in Louisiana and Mississippi pre-existed Bush. Corporate crime pre-existed Bush. All of these things, including a seemingly extra-special hunger for war, continue under his presidency, yet instead of asking real questions of our leaders about the real problems that affect our lives, we've been successfully redirected to talk shit about each other. Suzy's a whore. Janie's a welfare fraud. Tony's a cheat. I propose that 2006 is the year that we stop talking about each other and we start talking about change.

This year, for every iota of energy we'd put into pointing at Tim-Dawg for being a pervert, let us read the paper. Instead of calling Karen a slut for getting caught acting the same way you do when no one's looking, write a letter to a congressperson. This asshole and others like him aren't going to boot themselves out of office. The ball's in our court now. Instead of talking shit, let's make a change. It's the 2006 way. ♦

Letter from the Editor



JOSEPH R. THOMPSON

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Hello and welcome back for another chill, if not chilly, semester. By this point, you've probably bought your books — unless you're like myself and protesting the pricing practices of the publishing companies — you've probably got your schedule down and you may even be contemplating skipping the first class of the semester if you haven't already.

If you're new to USM this semester or if this is the first time you've ever read The Free Press, you should know that you are one of the most important stakeholders in this paper. You're the public we serve, the target of our ads and, most importantly, our readers. With this in mind, I'd like to let you in on some of the changes that are happening here before we get too far into the semester. You won't notice them all at once, these alterations will be happening over the next few issues. There's been some turnover, some growth and some really damn good ideas that will be creating some very noticeable changes in the paper you're holding right now.

To start with, we have not one but three new editors: Angelique Carson; Jen Feldman and Todd Hebert. Carson is running the show in the art department. She's clever, confident and came in swinging. You'll get to learn more about her in her new column in the A&E section. Working

with Angelique will be Alex Steed as Deputy A&E Editor. Great things are expected from both of them. Don't worry now, Josh Schlesinger is still here as the Senior Staff Writer for A&E.

In the Sports department, Molly Lovell has moved on in her career to join the Forecaster and will be replaced by the inimitable Todd Hebert. He's desperately looking for more writers. So, if you want to see a larger sports section or want to be closer to the game, shoot him an email.

Another new name in the masthead you'll notice is Jen Feldman. The only thing sharper than the new ad campaign she's cooked up for us this week is her wit. You'll find the ads appearing around campus, and her wit in her column in the amusements section. Feldman was the first person to come to TFP with not only a list of things she wanted to see changed, but with ideas of how to improve those areas.

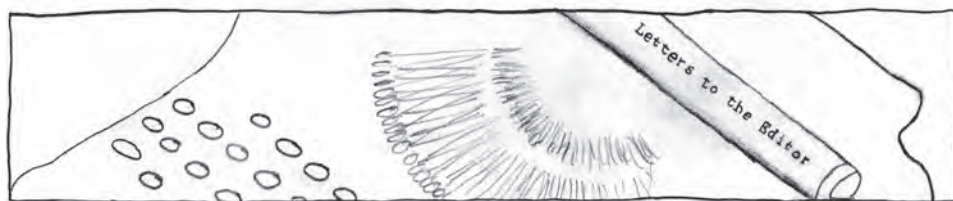
And lastly, regarding personnel changes, Anne Hobby is the new Deputy News Editor.

As far as content goes, TFP sadly is saying goodbye to Adam and Andy — at least, I'm sadly saying goodbye even if the rest of the staff won't miss that oh-so-campy duo — and we're also letting go of "Quick Give Me 2 Nouns." Why these changes in the amusements? We want YOU to draw a comic strip for us. It's a college paper and we want more local artists to be represented.

We're starting a couple of new columns, an observational one in A&E and a "help" column in Amusements. In the opinion pages we hope to have a couple more student-generated political columns. Features like "Meet Joe Student," "Question of the Week" and, in the Sports Section, Husky Hero, will also be changing stylistically in the future. And, in News, expect to see how much Richard has honed his craft over break.

Phew, that was a lot. Did you get all that? Just typing it started my head spinning again. If you think what's going on is pretty cool or if you're finding yourself getting stir-crazy with nothing to do over the just beginning winter, come up to the second floor of 92 Bedford Street.

We will put you to work. ♦



I read the response to Elise Adams' letter in the December 5 issue with some interest. In the November 14 issue, you encouraged readers to write in: "We can handle it - even if you tell us only your puppy likes our paper." That's cute, but in the future you might consider adding a warning: writers should expect fussy staff commentary tacked onto their letters. Like most respectable publications, The Free Press historically has responded only rarely, even to very harsh letters. Arguing in the letters section is a bad idea, except to avoid confusion when the writer's facts are demonstrably wrong - or to apologize. This does not include making excuses about your production cycle. Critical letters represent an opportunity to show accountability and demonstrate the staff's intellectual and emotional maturity. Even the most negative letters mean people are engaged with the paper, and shouldn't be taken for granted. Elise was just asking for more women's basketball in the sports section. Worse was the treatment Rose Winegarden, G.E.B.

Chair, received in the November 7 Issue. She felt she'd been misquoted in the previous issue. The editor personally interjected to assure us he stands behind the quote. That would be implicit if the letter appeared with no comment. What's more, you ran the quote again in a second story on the November 7 issue — apparently a news story run in response to Winegarden's letter. This is a great way to alienate your readers. It's no innovation to lash into people who contact a media outlet with criticism. It's a common source of cheap laughs for A.M. radio hosts and mediocre sex-advice columnists. Their audiences like to see critics cut down by a ringleader. Your readership may not be so impressed. I hope this self-indulgent behavior represents isolated lapses of judgement, and not a disturbing new precedent.

John Bronson
Senior, English

Free Press Executive Editor, 2004-2005

MEET JOE STUDENT

NAME:
JOSH SCHLESINGER
HOME TOWN:
ITHACA, NEW YORK
MAJOR:
MEDIA STUDIES
YEAR:
JUNIOR
AGE:
22
OCCUPATION:
COOK EXTRAORDINAR AT SEBAGO
BREWING COMPANY

How did you pick USM?
I looked at an atlas and found an area that I wanted to live in. Then I asked some people who had lived in Portland what they thought of the city; they all said it was a cool place. Also, the soccer team recruited me.

What do you hope to do with your degree?
I would like to write for a publication, maybe a travel magazine or a newspaper.

What traveling have you done?
I have been to Greece, to Israel, and last summer I drove across the country.

What is one of the craziest experiences you have had?
I hid in Phillipi Hall for two months because I had no place to stay. I ended up sleep under a friend's bed.

You work for the Free Press. How long have you been working there?
A little over a year.

What is your favorite drink?
Bombay and Tonic



photos and interview by Liz Carnes and Jen Feldman

ENERGY STAR, from page 5

obviously ensure many celebrations. The sentiments in the card will remain forever secret. The big present? One of New England's favorite Energy Star appliances. Please don't groan. Details of the romance and the nature of the small present will be shared later in our story.

Is there such a thing as "the perfect present?" Isn't this about caring and sharing? If our short tale had been about an 18th century Maine farmer who spent days building and filling a small icehouse so the family could enjoy ice cream in August you wouldn't have groaned. Admit it. What an improvement ice would have been over the cool damp of the old "spring house". Why can't an Energy Star refrigerator be the perfect present for someone today? Too utilitarian? The personal card and the little present carefully decorated with ribbon and a sprig of holly take care of that objection. Is a bigger concern that the item was purchased at no financial cost? Let's explain how this could possibly be so before we complete the tale.

As is the case in maybe a quarter of Maine households, the fridge replaced here was more than ten years old. An old side-by-side model, the least efficient style of fridge even when new. The noisy appliance ran all the time on warm summer days and heated up the kitchen. Mold grew on the failing gaskets that were supposed to seal the doors. Running the old fridge added over \$18.00/month to the electric bill. The new fridge only cost \$4.00/month to run. Add to this figure the \$13 minimum credit card payment for the purchase and you get a total monthly cost for a brand new Energy Star compliant fridge of \$17.00 a month. Our clever shopper bought a present that reduces overall monthly expenses by a buck a month!

Monthly costs aren't all that is being reduced. The old appliance sucked electricity out of the grid. Running the old fridge meant power plants dumped about three quarters of a ton of climate-disrupting gases, mercury and other pollutants into the air we breathe. The quiet new fridge hums softly along and results in emissions of less than 400 pounds annually. Threatening fewer asthma attacks in a state that has the highest adult asthma rate in the nation, this new, healthier fridge will essentially function as a regional air-cleaner that serves sherbet. This present is beginning to sound as if it is a gift to the planet as well!

As promised, the story will finish with more interesting details. The lower utility bill will automatically qualify the household to win one of 50 chances for another Energy Star Appliance (up to \$1,000) in Maine's Save-a-Watt 10 Percent Challenge. (See <http://www.efficiencymaine.com/> for details.) That present-within-the-present? A very small box of his favorite handmade organic chocolates. The details of the romance that followed? She fed him the chocolates slowly. She kissed him slowly. You only wish... ♦

Question of the Week

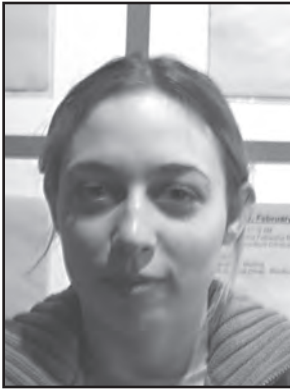
photos and interviews by Liz Carnes

What was the worst holy-day gift you got?



Patrick Dunham
Computer Sciences

The worst gift is ugly clothes.



Azia Gilbert
Undeclared

An ugly vest that didn't even fit.



Ray Charland
Undeclared

I got a bright red sweatshirt from my mom.



Sripriya Subramaniam
Applied Immunology

I enjoyed all of my gifts; I have no worst gift. The best gift I have received was last year when my brother surprised me by flying to Maine from California to visit, and gave me tickets to go to India to visit my parents.



Megan Vaughn
Undeclared

I got a pink poncho with rhinestones that my aunt had put on it.

Have a question you want answered? Send it to freepress@usm.maine.edu.

Arts and Entertainment

The Punks of Punk Rock

The High Fivin' White Guys prove they know how to party

ALEX STEED
STAFF WRITER

Once in a while (or a little more than that in my case) you want to go out and see something really stupid. Some people like to check out movies like *The Ringer*, while others like to keep up with politics. I like to go to punk rock shows and see non-functioning alcoholics get nearly too drunk to play coherently, but still kick out amazing Descendents-like jams. I have a preference for tasteless live entertainment, and High Fivin' White Guys provided everything I look for in crass performances at Geno's late last Thursday night.

A thing or two must be noted about the HFWG. The band is fronted by Portland's former ska superhero, Josh Malia. Malia, also no stranger to the Portland punk scene, is an amazing vocalist in the vein of the Bouncing Souls, Descendents or Screeching Weasel. Confusatron drummer Adam Cogswell provides percussion, and his drumming is always on point. Attention-whore Leon Samson plays the bass and also back up vocals.

He provides for the band a minstrel-like drunken performance.

The show started with Samson shouting obscenities into the crowd, referencing things that were "dumb, just like my mother," and screaming a lot. As the show progressed and he got drunker, audience

it in the ass but like a douche-bag."

Samson was upstaged only once the whole evening. After getting a stern-talking-to by a member of the Geno's staff for rolling and attempting to smoke a joint, a member of the audience took a porno magazine

HFWG needed not rely only on the antics of their out-of-control bass player (though the antics were appreciated). As they've noted on their MySpace page, "In a musical day and age dominated by "indie-rock/emo" bands, The Hi-Fivin' White Guys are your punk-rock saving grace. Faster than something fast, more melodic than something melodic."

They make a good point, too. Somewhere along the line, pop crap became an acceptable substitute for punk rock. Often, when eye-liner clad, lip-ringed pretty boys sing sometimes nice, sometimes unbearable epics about girls, I thirst for some true-blue punk to wash the taste out of my mouth. On Thursday night, I was provided with just that.

Before the show was over, Samson found himself getting his mike turned off by an angry sound staffer for abusing it by constantly throwing it on the ground. He then was the recipient of a stern talking to, all while still performing. Nearly too drunk to stand by the end of the show, Samson misstepped (or misdanced, more appropriately) and fell off the stage — hard.

What else can be expected from the genre of music that brought us the Sex Pistols?

The audience loved every minute. Some danced around while others jumped up and down. They were ready to scream swears and flash the middle finger in response to the band's doing the same. They spat beer at the band, slapped Samson's ass, sang along, smiled and marveled.

The White Guys are everything I look for in a punk band. Their music is fast, relatively simple and tight. Their lyrics are aggressive and delivered through a sneer of disgust. Their stage presence is absurd and nears totally unbearable. They insult the crowd, are messy and childish. They are dirty and unkempt. They are rude and inconsiderate. The High Fivin' White Guys are punk rock. ♦

THE HI-FIVIN' WHITE GUYS

members began spitting copious amounts of beer in his face and he made more obscene references. My favorite was when he called Cogswell a "fag" and then clarified, "Not like he takes

out of his bag and threw it onstage. Not to be outdone by a lowly member of the audience, Samson gyrated on the magazine for thirty seconds until the song ended.

WANT MORE HFWG?

On the web at:

<http://www.myspace.com/thehifivinwhiteguys>

WANT MORE GENO'S?

625 Congress St,
Portland, 04101

Local Option: A Good Option To Have

WMPG Debuts A News Show With A Local Look

JAMES MONTGOMERY
STAFF WRITER

Are you jonesin' for a little more diversity in your life? Or even a discussion of the diversity that currently exists in our city and state? If so, there's good news, Portland radio has a new show for you, "Local Option," which debuted Thursday on Portland's WMPG. The show's host aims to pipe diversified news through your radio once a week at 7:30 p.m. Listeners get a solid 30 minutes of cultural diversity served up with no grits or gravy. Kerry Seed, the show's host, selects stories featured by the Public Radio Exchange and other radio entities and gives them a local spin, featuring news stories as it relates to Maine. In its first week, the show featured stories based on issues related to Portland's ever-evolving cultural diversity. The story featured Edward Lee, a Chinese man whose family immigrated to Canada when he was very young. He struggled with his own identity as he grew up in a country where he was a minority.



Seed describes the show on WMPG's website as being "like a mix-tape for Portland. It's the greatest radio from around the world, with a local twist."

You may recognize Seed's voice, as he has previously been featured on many other WMPG programs such as "All Things Considered" and "Maine Things Considered." Together with the Public Radio Exchange, Seed will explore Portland's cultural identity and try to connect its diverse populace.

"I hope to put a local focus on world events, and a world focus on local events," said Seed. For more information on Local Option, stop by www.localoption.org. ♦

Drive Fast, Take Chances

JOSH SCHLESINGER

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Two and a half weeks, 6,000 miles and two of your best friends jam packed into a Hyundai Elantra. Sound like a good time to you? You bet your sweet ass it was.

In between this year's fall and spring semester I embarked on a road trip with intentions of moving a friend to Los Angeles. The trip was filled with ins and outs, strikes and gutters, and more "what have yous" than even Christopher Columbus could have encountered venturing out to the new world. Here's the best part: I have been asked to write five editions of my travels all throughout this great country that we commonly refer to as the "good ol' U.S. of A".

From Portland, Maine to Los Angeles, California, you, the reader, can take the driver's seat in a trip that will titillate, enthrall, excite and sometimes confuse you. So, here we go, and what better place to start than at the beginning?

Thursday, December 29, 2005. My buddy Shultz picked me up in the USM parking garage, his silver 2000 Hyundai Elantra soaked from the unseasonably warm December rain. At this point, our excitement ran at an all-time high. There were no

real words or sentiments being expressed, only ridiculous high-pitched shrieks of exhilaration, and repeated statements like "holy shit, we're really doing it."

After loading my duffel bag and backpack into the car, we were off to pick up the third party member, Josh (a.k.a. J-man, or Lil' Bear, as he was commonly referred to throughout the trip). Josh had never been further west than Ohio, so his excitement was reeling in such a way that Shultz and I could not have felt seeing as both of us had been out west before. For me, this trip meant more than a college road trip.

Almost three years ago I had attempted to move to California, but due to emotional meltdown complications, I didn't make it past Las Vegas (another long story in itself). So, there we were, three guys packed and ready to go. We knew that we had to be in California by January 10 (when Shultz had to move in to his new place), so that left us almost two weeks to get out to the West coast. We had some places we really wanted to see, but everything else was up in the air. Off we went, three naïve kids venturing off in to the unknown with only an atlas and our hearts filled with adventure to guide us. Picking up on the dramatics? Good, because I'm laying it on pretty damn thick.

We decided that our first night was going to be spent in Washington, D.C. at my brother's house. The drive isn't too many miles, but I knew that the chance for traffic in New York City was quite possible. Of course, like any true college kid traveling down I-95, we stopped and loaded up at the New Hampshire liquor store; two bottles of vodka, one bottle of Jager, and a myriad of nips. These purchases not only saved us plenty of money in various cities all throughout America, but proved to make many great stories — just ask Josh why he enjoys kissing horses so much.

The rest of the drive went pretty well, until my predictions were confirmed, and we hit monster traffic entering the Bronx on 95. Long story short, it took us almost four hours to cross the George Washington Bridge from about five miles away. Running about five hours behind schedule, we finally hit 75 miles per hour on the New Jersey side of the G.W. Bridge and kept cruising to D.C.

While in New Jersey we stopped for a quick bite to eat at one of the conveniently located rest areas off of the turnpike and got some burgers that had been sitting out for god knows how long. After inching along the New Jersey Turnpike for however long, we made it through and crossed into Delaware, Maryland



From left, Lil' Bear, Shultz, and Josh

and finally Virginia. At this point we had been traveling for nearly 14 hours as a result of traffic, and I was getting a little more "on edge" than I wanted to be at the end of the first day. I was driving now, because we were getting close to my brother's house and I was thinking, "hey, I kind of know this area, I come down here all the time." It turns out that was not the case, and I was getting pissed. I called my brother, a sarcastic bastard (sorry Dave) who I knew was going to make me feel like an ass for taking the wrong way on the Capital Beltway for sure. To my surprise he had no smart-ass remark for my directional folly and got us going on

the right path. Just as we were about to hang up, he uttered what ended up being the slogan for the rest of our trip: "drive fast, take chances."

We got to Dave's (and Sarah and Ethan's, my sister-in-law and nephew) house, and he let us in with open arms and, thankfully, open beers. After hanging around and letting the first night settle in, we let the sun go down on our first day and geared up for day two, a day that would take us through the mountains of West Virginia and the Huddle Houses of Kentucky. ♦

Taking a break from reality at the PMoA

JOSEPH R. THOMPSON

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Talking about surrealism — trying to communicate the various levels of complexity, originality and absurdity — is a futile task best left to professional curators, Sisyphus and the occasional art major who wants to expand some square's mind. But here's a couple of tries:

Try 1: The show "Accommodations of Desire: Surrealist Works on Paper Collected by Julien Levy," currently on display at the Portland Museum of Art, is totally fish or, more accurately, lobster claw. This may not make logical sense but the suspension of logic is an important aspect of surrealism.

Try 2: The show "Accommodations of Desire: Surrealist Works on Paper

Collected by Julien Levy," currently on display at the Portland Museum of Art, captures that bizarre landscape found between the boundaries of sleeping and waking. The pieces in the show represent inversion, diversion and a revolutionary perversion of what was then the traditional norms and concepts of art in the early to mid 20th century.

It's concepts of "modern" before the modern became contemporary. It's photographs taken with out cameras. It's Dali and Krazy Kat. It's original and it's the recycling of originality.

Got that?

If not, don't worry — you're not alone. The surrealist movement caught on in the 1930s as an attempt to break down the common concepts of reality and to move beyond them into a "super-reality." This often

leaves logical people going "huh?" a completely understandable response. How can one describe the photograph of a face, actually a lobster claw, in terms that would explain the inherent humor of it unless to somebody who has already seen the show? It sounds ridiculous, but while gazing at a print of Eli Lotar's "Pincer D'Homard," the grotesque and hoary mug becomes unmistakable.

This is a multi-visit show. With over 100 pieces, curators Ingrid Schaffner and Colin Westerbeck had their work cut out for them and did a remarkable job. But due to its sheer size and main theme (artists who sold their work through Levy's gallery), it is too much and too disjointed to absorb in one evening. Fortunately, the show will be up until March 19. ♦



Eli Lotar (Romanian/French, 1905-1969) and Jean Painlevé (French, 1902-1989) Pincer diHomard (Lobster Claw), 1929 Gelatin silver print Courtesy of David Raymond, New York

THE SHOW: ACCOMMODATIONS OF DESIRE: SURREALIST WORKS ON PAPER COLLECTED BY JULIEN LEVY

HERE UNTIL: MARCH 19

ARTISTS REPRESENTED: SURREALIST WHO SOLD THROUGH GALLERY OWNER JULIEN LEVY INCLUDING: MARCEL DUCHAMP, MAX ERNST, ELI LOTAR, MAN RAY, DOROTHEA TANNING AND SALVADOR DALÍ

MUSEUM LOCATION: 7 CONGRESS SQUARE (AT THE CORNER OF CONGRESS ST. AND HIGH ST.)

MUSEUM HOURS: TUESDAY – THURSDAY: 10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY: 10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

FRIDAY: 10 A.M. TO 9 P.M.

ADMISSION: ALWAYS FREE TO USM STUDENTS, AND FREE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON FRIDAYS FROM 6 P.M. TO 9 P.M.

\$8 FOR ADULTS,

\$6 FOR OTHER STUDENTS AND SENIORS AND

\$2 FOR YOUTHS AGES 6 TO 17.

FREE FOR KIDS YOUNGER THAN 6

Media Whore

ALEX STEED

STAFF WRITER

Media Whore will be a weekly slot where you will find commentary on arts and entertainment happenings on both the local and national level. You'll find listings, suggestions for the following week, and notes about what was interesting in weeks past. Here, I offer a handful of words about how I spent the 37,440 minutes (give or take) of my winter vacation

Brokeback Mountain:

Across the country, from movie critics like Roger Ebert all the way to conservative grandmothers, it seems everyone is ranting and raving about how amazing this movie is. Therefore, you don't need me to tell you that it's good. I went to see this movie on the Sunday after it opened and there were lines coming out of the door. It sold out before I could get into either of the showings I wanted to see. The second time I was turned away, I exclaimed, "I never thought I'd see the day a

tragic love story about two handsome, adulterous, sheep-wrangling homosexuals would sell out a movie theater." Understandable only in retrospect, I got a lot of sideways glances.

Go and see it, if only so you're not the last one to understand how beautiful this masterpiece is. Bring a handkerchief with you so that you can dry your eyes, and try not to shake the seat of the people surrounding you when you find yourself sobbing uncontrollably.

Dick Clark:

Of our country's morbid fascination with television, Denis Leary once said, "We watched Lee Harvey Oswald get shot to death live on TV one Sunday morning when we were six years old. We were afraid to change the channel for the next thirty years."

Had I been home for the celebrations, I would have been sure to check out Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve on ABC, grimly half-expecting Dick to hit the floor with another stroke. Luckily, Clark made it out of the raucous celebrations intact, but

not without coming within inches of dying of boredom while enduring performances by The Bangles, Hillary Duff and 3 Doors Down.

Perhaps, after 34 years of hosting the New Years' Rockin' Eve, Clark and the creative department at ABC should consider changing the title of the program. I'd throw suggestions their way but there's no way their marketing people would ever take very kindly to "Dick Clark's New Years Place-Where-Irrelevant-Musicians-Bring-Their-Tired-and-Worn-Out Careers Eve."

It's just not catchy enough.

Freaks and Geeks:

Thanks to television finding a new life on DVD you can watch this, the funniest and most honest show to come out on television in the past decade, any time you want. Did you know you can get ALF and most, if not all, seasons of Saved by the Bell on DVD now?

Jesus is Magic:

Last year's most uplifting commentary on blacks, whites, asians, mentally retarded people,

9-11, AIDs and the holocaust was held together by Sarah Silverman's comedic glue of racial, ethnic, sexual and altogether politically incorrect social slurs. Silverman, the hottest Jewess in Hollywood, pays special attention to her own ethnicity during her "Jews Driving German Cars" song and dance routine. While this stand-up film, directed by former Sift and Olly and "United States of Whatever" mastermind Liam Lynch (and future Tenacious D film director), is 2005's the most uplifting comedic performance, it doesn't necessarily offer the best commentary. Silverman's delivery is fun but a little shoddy. The jokes are often not given enough time to develop. However, her ability to create tension and a sense of awkwardness in even the smallest audience is super fine by me.

Martin Luther King Day:

I found the following Dr. King quote published on M.L.K. day in Taylor Branch's op-ed piece in the New York Times: "Have they forgotten that my ministry is in obedience to the one who loved his enemies so fully that he died

for them? What then can I say to the Viet Cong, or to Castro, or to Mao? Can I threaten them with death or must I not share with them my life?"

Suicide Girls (www.suicide-girls.com):

A boy gets lonely in these cold months. No sunlight. No vitamin D. These conditions breed angst, a symptom of seasonal depression which I believe is no better soothed than by subscription to a pin-up girl website that specializes in pictures of buxom punks and greasers covered in piercings and tattoos. The girls' interests are highlighted – their favorite movies, favorite books. Many of the girls seem smart. And not to be the guy who defends Playboy by talking defensively about their quality of articles, but Suicide Girls features interviews with everyone from David Cross to Woody Allen to Brokeback Mountain director Ang Lee to Matt Damon to Margaret Cho. It's absolutely everything I look for in a website. ♦

Word Up Y'all

ANGELIQUE CARSON

A&E EDITOR

USM was never my original plan in life, as may be the case with many of you. I snatched up my high school diploma, kissed mom and dad goodbye, and high-tailed it out of town. My speedometer said 80 the entire ride, but I think it leans. Unfortunately, Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts didn't turn out to be the utopia I had planned on. I'm not sure if it was the roommate who wanted to "beat my ass" or the need to be back near the ocean that made me leave. Either way, two weeks later I was watching a September sunset back home at Higgins Beach. For a couple of months I bummed around Portland and scratched my head. What happened to my plan? College is supposed to be this dreamy time where you find yourself, develop a coffee addiction, find friends, find a boozing schedule, and most importantly, find something meaningful to be a part of. Um, do over?

Dickey Hall welcomed me into her majestically erect tower for my freshman year. Sure, a group of boys lit a couch on fire once, and a couple of times the elevator tried to give me a lift with a puddle of urine along for the ride. Oh yeah, and my RA was allergic to alcohol. That guy could smell a Miller Lite from six floors down. But it only made moving into Philippi sophomore year feel like moving from the projects to a room at the Ritz. I figure it gives me street cred.

I, myself, spent much of last semester writing for the Free Press, snoozing with a text book habitually draped over my torso, and manipulating my 21st birthday celebration into a three week bender. Some of my friends are still drunk. My day was back in November.

I wasn't sure that I wanted to give up my free-style ways of life for weekends spent in the office: sweating, shaking, dehydrated, trying to edit someone's work. My editor had told me horror stories of mornings he had spent in the office: sick, blinking slow, hard blinks, chugging water and coffee interchangeably and painstakingly editing piece after piece.

But now here I am, twenty-one years old and in charge of an entire department of the Free Press. Last week I was collecting bottles for beer money. Did you know those redemption machines don't accept Red Bull cans? All those caffeine buzzes, completely unprofitable.

But the benefits of communicating with such a large audience of my peers was too enticing to ignore. When used appropriately, media can be a major catalyst for positive change. I had to take the job.

I believe that this university can be whatever we want it to be. I want this section to be about the people of USM, for the people of USM. I'd like to maintain

a focus on local bands, performances and events that are both relevant and complimentary to our lives as young adults.

As a student of USM, I've generally felt disappointed with the social aspect at our school, it being a very popular school for commuters, and a suitcase campus in Gorham. I've sometimes felt frustrated with availability of consistent social options. Why can't we generate enough interest for a concert series of local bands, or even a large-scale, big-name show? The Portland Events Board says that it's plausible, that it's not funds that are lacking but student involvement.

I've been waiting for college my entire life, and I've always wanted it to be more than just showing up for class and taking exams. While my experience in USM's classrooms has been invaluable, I'd really like to generate a dialogue between you, the students, and us, the Free Press. What do you want USM to be? What type of Arts and Entertainment section would you like to see? I want to hear it and then I want to do it.

You've probably seen me around. I'm the girl who shows up for every class, but always five minutes late, and I'm probably going to need to borrow a pen. And, sometimes, I'm the girl whose cell phone goes off smack dab in the middle of a lecture. God, that's awkward. I could have sworn that I put it on vibrate.

If you see me around, sprinting towards class, pull me aside, tell me what you think.

Let's make these years exciting, a fun ride with stories to take with us.

But seriously, I've got to sign off now. Class started four minutes ago and I can't find my pen. ♦





THINKING MATTERS:

A University of Southern Maine Student Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Symposium

APRIL 21, 2006

Call for Abstracts

OVERVIEW

ON APRIL 21, 2006, the University of Southern Maine will convene a University-wide exhibition of student research, scholarship, and creative achievement on the Portland campus. *Thinking Matters* is an annual event, and includes poster and oral presentations, panel discussions, and a keynote address. The goal of the conference is to provide a public forum for USM students along with faculty, staff, and invited guests to share the results of scholarship and creativity. It is also our hope that the conference encourages and celebrates student initiative, and fosters intellectual camaraderie and student-faculty collaboration. Students from all academic disciplines and divisions are invited to present papers or posters on any aspect of their classroom work, independent study, internship, student teaching, clinical, or any other scholarly or creative project.

USM faculty are encouraged to promote student attendance, to integrate the event into course schedules, and foster participation within their units.

PRESENTATION TYPES

Authors select the scholarly area and the presentation type that is most appropriate for their project. The presentation options are listed below.

Oral Paper—Oral papers or podium presentations, will be 15-20 minutes in length and grouped into 90 minute long disciplinary and interdisciplinary panel sessions based on the overall distribution of abstracts submitted. Students and faculty mentors are also welcome to form and submit complete panels. Students who require transparency or slide projectors, or computer applications such as PowerPoint should indicate this on their submission form.

Poster Presentation—Posters will fit onto bulletin boards that are 3 ft tall and 4 ft wide. Studio arts presentations are also welcome. For the latter, the abstract proposal must be accompanied by a description of the size, media, and an artist's statement of intent.

Posters and art works will be on display throughout the day, with the author(s) available at a scheduled time for discussion.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions about *Thinking Matters* should be directed to:

Julie Ellis
Faculty Co-Director
jellis@usm.maine.edu

Sarah Hines
Student Co-Director
sarah.hines@maine.edu

Thinking Matters, Research Initiatives
Science Building, USM Portland
P.O. Box 9300
Portland, Maine 04104-9300

<http://research.usm.maine.edu/thinkingmatters>

207.228.8044

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

DEADLINE: MARCH 3, 2006

1. **Eligible Work**—An eligible presentation will report or represent the outcome of substantial work by a student or group of students. The project may have its origin in an assignment for class, an independent study, an internship, a student teaching experience, a clinical, community service, or other appropriate venue.
2. **Faculty Mentors**—Each presentation should be sponsored or co-sponsored by a USM faculty mentor(s), but we welcome presentations on student research conducted outside USM. The size, scope, and mission of the conference preclude any type of peer review of abstracts. The goal of the conference is not competitive display, but collaboration between students and between students and faculty. Faculty mentors are encouraged to work closely with their students to insure the quality of student work, and also to engage in the learning experience itself.
3. **Abstract Requirement**—Each presentation requires an abstract. An abstract is a summary of the project, and should reflect the professional format normally associated with scholarly work in the discipline if applicable. Students should rely upon their faculty mentors for help in all stages of the project, including preparation of an abstract. The body of the abstract should not exceed 200 words.
4. **On-Line Submission**—Submission of abstracts, titles, and other relevant information should be carried out on-line at the symposium web site:

<http://www.usm.maine.edu/research/thinkingmatters>

Copies of the information submitted will be sent electronically to the student presenter(s) and the faculty mentor(s).

The abstracts and final program will be available on-line at the symposium web site. Hard copies will be distributed prior to the event.

Sudoku:

Put one digit in every small square. Every row, column and thick-bordered square contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats.

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

Slither Link:

Draw line segments between dots. The line segments form one loop with no branches or crossings. The numbers indicate how many line segments are around that square. Any number of line segments can be around a blank square.

	2	3		2	3	1			
2			2	2				2	
1				2	2				
3				1	2	2		0	
1				3		2			
	3				2				
1	3		3					2	
2			2		2				
2			0	2	0			2	
2		2	3					2	
2				2	1	2	2	3	
2		3		2		2	1		
1		1	3	2	3	0	2	3	
		2							
	2								
	3		2	2				0	
	3			2	0	2		2	
	3			3	3				

Crypto-quote of the Week

TIRNOYMUŠ CXYI RITOOTI TMG SUDZY TIY
CQUYM TS QWYIAY TS ULCSY CXYI WFO XYISNS
OTA, TMG TS QINWUZYSS TS ACKY XYISNS BYBSW
TMG FCPYIS XYISNS FIWYQS.
- HTAK ZDMAL

Hint: $A = C$

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** Special USM bus fare only open to students, faculty, staff and employees showing a valid USM ID Card.*



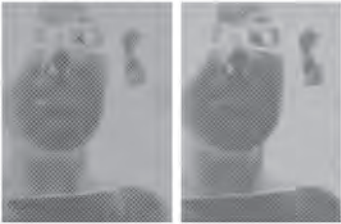
METRO

For more information — **www.gpmetrobus.com** or call **774-0351** or
Visit Student Involvement Center at Woodbury Campus Center, Portland Campus

Free Advice

Now available in Cool Ranch!

Ask Jen



because you need help.

Jen “Too Sexy for Times Roman” F.

Get ready for the best trade you’ll ever make: your problems for my advice – and all at the low, low price of nothing. That’s right: we’re talking free. What’s the catch? There isn’t one, Sparky. There’s just a girl (me) offering free advice to people who need it (you). Why? Because I know what’s best for everyone and because the only thing I love more than helping myself is helping others. Especially troubled others.

So what gives? Well, it’s like this: I’m starting an advice column. Think “Dear Abby” meets “The Onion” meets no chance of syndication. It’s called “Ask Jen” and to make this venture work, I need your help. Send questions/hate mail/dilemmas to ask.jen@gmail.com.

In exchange for your emails, you’ll get a weekly column of fantastic (or fantastically terrible) solutions to your fantastically terrible problems! And, while supplies lasts, you’ll get it all from an unqualified, self-appointed expert. (Two can play this game, Dear Abby.)

But here’s the best part: if you act now, you’ll get my question-able advice for FREE! Free* as in no money down, no credit check, and no interest for 6 months. Plus, you can cancel anytime – no questions asked.

It’s easy. If you have a problem (i.e. relationship trouble, porn addiction, whatev), send me an email. What do you have to lose? Nothing, that’s what, because in this game, dear friends, we’re all winners. It’s called perception, dig?

Send dilemmas and marriage proposals to **ask.jen@gmail.com** - you’ll be glad you did. And if you’re still on the fence, consider this: it’s rumored that my advice is practically guaranteed to make you richer and sexier. That’s right – richer AND sexier. (Take that, Dear Abby.)

Giving bad advice to good people,
Jen

* When I say free advice, I mean free courtesy of the freely distributed Free Press, which actually isn’t free like the name suggests, but rather funded by your Student Activity Fee. So I guess what I’m saying is thanks for the dough.

Help! My mother is driving me crazy. She is trying to control my life and I just can't take it anymore! She has always been bossy, but I thought it would get better when I moved away to college. It hasn't. It's gotten worse. What should I do?

- The Bad Daughter

Silly girl. Hasn’t anyone taught you about investments? Sure, your mother might be more annoying than the Olsen twins and more controlling than Joseph Stalin, but she’s your mother. That means she’s older than you, which means she’ll probably die before you. Ultimately, what I’m saying is that you should stop being such a spoiled ingrate and start sending your mother flowers because, in the end, mothers who hate their daughters leave all their money to charity.

I've dated dozens of women with blonde and brown hair, but I have this incredible fascination with women who have long, curly, black hair. The problem is I can't seem to find a single woman with black hair. Most of the girls who do have black hair dye it!!!! What do I do? The few girls that I have met with black hair are already spoken for. I'm lost. I know this is very shallow of me, but I can't help it. I LOVE black hair. Help!

P.S. What color is your hair?

Dirty Hairy,
Here’s what you do: you move to Italy. With all the long, black, curly locks they have there, you’ll be coughing up hairballs faster than you can say Grazie. And if you’re afraid of flying, move to Jersey. The only catch there is you’ll have to start using product in your hair (i.e. gel) and speaking in Brooklynese (i.e. “cawfee”). For help corrupting your dialect, consult rock star linguist William Labov’s new book.

Dirty, have you considered becoming a hairdresser? No? Well then, start considering. The money’s good and at the end of each shift, you’ll have a pile of clippings to take home and play with. Alternately, you can start loitering outside hair salons. You’re bound to see at least a few black haired beauties before the cops come to take you away.

P.S. It’s a lovely shade of bald. ♦

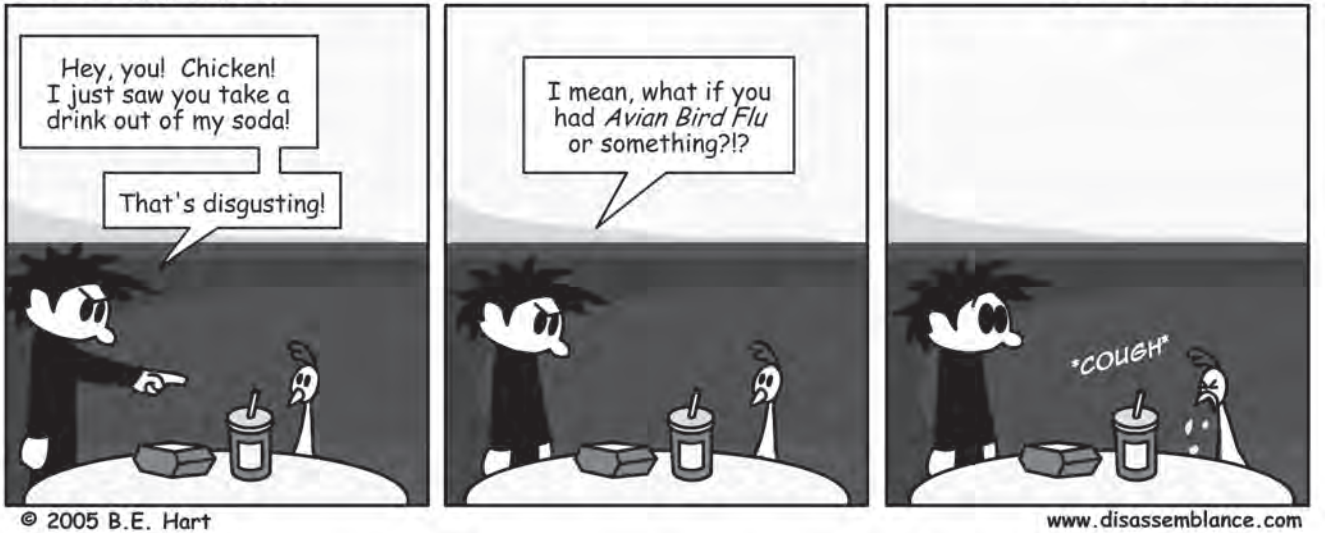
Solutions to the
puzzles on page 11



Girls and Sports



Disassemblance



Cards and Stars Horoscopes
By Lemma Luciferous

Rather than just looking at the sky for some insight into your week, I, Lemma Luciferous, perform a single card tarot reading each week to see what challenges and blessings are approaching you during your journey through life.

Aries (5 of Rods)★★★★: Good news arrives at last, Aries. You know all of those extra projects on your to-do list? The ones that started off as fun hobbies and are now just an added stress? Expect for time consuming headaches to dissipate over the next week. Just don’t go adding a bunch of new activities right away.
Taurus (3 of Swords)★★: The end of a winter-break romance is always tough, Taurus. The emotional loss, as represented by this card, may not be super fun, but it will soon fade away as you dive into your books.
Gemini (Queen of Rods)★★★: Patience is a virtue as you’ll find out this week, Gemini. Prepare to have the universe gently testing it. Why the annoyance? If you keep your head, expect others to notice (lovers, employers, friends, etc.) and to be appreciative.
Cancer (The Fool)★★★: Time for a new beginning, Cancer. The world is changing very swiftly around you. If you’re starting to say “I don’t know what’s going on!” then you’re getting steps closer to enlightenment. You’ll get a lot of surprises this week as long as you don’t try to anticipate them.
Leo (8 of Swords)★★★: Your word of the day, Leo, is “nescience.” Nescience is the reason why things may not be working as planned and why you have to keep starting various projects over from square one. Don’t let nescience slow you down this week.
Virgo (Justice)★★★★: The Libra-like cosmic balancing of this card indicates a week of karmic catch-up for you, Virgo. Expect all

of those good deeds that have gone unnoticed to come around again when you need them most.
Libra (2 of Swords)★★★★: If Virgo is experiencing cosmic justice this week, you, Libra, will get the fun of mortal justice. Expect justice to come when you’re treated unfairly this week. And expect to be rewarded just for being fair with others.
Scorpio (5 of Swords)★★★: Expect a pause in conflict this week, Scorpio. This sword card is a card of peace. The past holds the lessons for you while you move on and grow. Just remember: Stay in the moment but remember the past.
Sagittarius (Temperance)★★★★: One word for you, Sagittarius: Balance. With the start of the new year, new semester and a new phase of your life you need to keep a healthy balance of work and play. As much as you enjoy the hunt, you need to also enjoy the relaxation at the goal.
Capricorn (Strength)★★★★: Wow, somebody will be shifting the world this week. As you bound ahead, Capricorn, creating the beautiful world you want to live in, consult with a Virgo or a Sagittarius for some other view points. You have the strength to bring it all together.
Aquarius (4 of Cups)★★★: Look around, Aquarius. You might be a bit frustrated with your reality right now but you’re missing an opportunity that’s coming out of the blue. Try looking at things from a different angle today.
Pisces (7 of Pentacles)★★★: Time to let go of your troubles, Pisces. You may have every fair reason to be a bit anxious but it does no good for you or your community.

- ◌ retrograde, inverse
- ★★★★ On top of your game
- ★★★★ Things are going well
- ★★★ Average week
- ★★ You have some work to do
- ★ Time to reevaluate your game

Classified Listings

HELP WANTED

The Free Press Needs You!

The Free Press is currently looking for talented, quirky misanthropes who have a burning desire to take pictures, draw illustrations or write articles. If this is you, send an email to freepress@usm.maine.edu or drop by 92 Bedford Street.

Want to get back into the game?

Come check out the Free Press Sports writer position. Some journalism experience a plus, but not needed. For more information or to apply send your questions or resume to freepress@usm.maine.edu.

Get the picture?

Come apply for a Free Press Photographer position. Some photography experience a plus, but not needed. For more information or to apply send your questions or resume to freepress@usm.maine.edu.

STUDENT GROUPS

ARE YOU A STUDENT W/ CONCERNS

(tuition, food, ect..)? Voice those concerns in the lobby of Luther Bonney November 17th, 8-5pm with your student senators.

Free and Open to All Paths!

The Pagan Student Association will hold meetings on Mondays 5:30-7. Boiler Room Woodbury Campus Center. Curious? Stop by say hi. FMI email usm_psa@yahoo.com

* Brand New FUN Group *

Interested in Asian cultures, arts, food, philosophy...? Come join us @ AsianAmericanAs soc.&Symposium Please email Shorty or Steven: aaasymposium@yahoo.com

Interested in Linguistics!?

Join The Linguistics Fellowship Tuesdays @ 10:15am in Campus Center B Oooh, sassy!

Come get pi (both kinds)!

Math Club seeks interested members (Talent optional) show up Thurs. @ 4pm in the student center "boiler room."

APARTMENTS

Newly remodeled East End Bungalow –North St. Cherry cabinets,new appliances. Wide pumpkin pine floors. Yard for BBQing. Garden. Parking. Park across the street. Perfect for couple. Heat included! Great Landlord. Pet's interviewed. Ready Nov.19th 207 773-2790

Newly Remodeled – Large 3 bedroom Apt. Windham - easy commute to USM Gorham/ Portland campuses. All new throughout. \$100 month winter heat rebate! \$ 950 plus. 772-5114 or cwickerson@maine.rr.com

New Students: Walk to School in Gorham

Nice, clean, furnished rooms. Shared Kitchen and baths. Call 839-5466. Ask for Debe or Peter

CLASSIFIEDS NOW FREE!

Classified ads up to four (4) lines are free of charge.

Classified ads must be submitted with contact name and phone number by 5 p.m. Thursday before publication.

Ads phoned in will not be accepted.

Email ads to fpads@usm.maine.edu or fax them to 780.4085

We cannot print your ad without the following information:

Name _____
Address _____
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Phone # _____
Category: _____

By submitting this form to the The Free Press, the advertiser and/or advertising agency agrees to defend and indemnify The Free Press against all liability, loss or expenses arising from any claims for libel, unfair competition, unfair trade practices, infringement of trademarks, copyrights, trade names, patents of proprietary rights, or violation of rights of privacy or any other tort resulting from the publication of advertiser's advertisement. Quantity of ads run is contingent on space.

DEMOSTHENES' CORNER

USM has a variety of illustrious speakers and events here every week. Here is a sample of some of them. This list is not all-inclusive and the number of listings is contingent on space. If you, your student group, club, etcetera would like to place a listing, send an email to freepress@usm.maine.edu with the word "Demosthenes" in the subject line.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 24

The Multicultural Student Affairs office, in conjunction with USM and the NAACP, will be hosting an event to celebrate the lives of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks. The event will begin with the screening of Awakenings, the first part of a PBS documentary on the civil rights movement, and there will be a discussion afterwards. The event will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. on the 7th floor of the Glickman Family Library in Portland.

The USM Muskie School of Public Service and the Portland Regional Chamber are hosting a policy sounding: "9/11—Katrina—Bird Flu: Is Portland Ready? Are you? Find Out!" A panel discussion about what's being done to protect Maine from terrorism and other threats. The event will take place at the Portland Marriott Hotel at Sable Oaks. Cost is \$16, which includes breakfast. 780-4150.

Wednesday, January 25

Film about women's suffrage, "Iron Jawed Angels," 7 p.m., 7th Floor, Glickman Library, Portland, free and open to the public, 780-4289.

Thursday, January 26

Women and Sports Film Series, "Rocks with Wings," 7 p.m., Alumni Reception Center, Costello Sports Complex, Gorham, discussion facilitated by Women's Studies Program faculty, pizza provided, 780-4289.

Tuesday, January 31

"Controversies in the Classroom: The Academic Bill of Rights, Advocacy Teaching, and free Speech," panel discussion with professors from various departments and disciplines. 7:30 p.m., Moot Court Room, School of Law, Portland, free and open to the public, 780-4289.

Thursday, February 9

The World Affairs Council of Maine is hosting "Mainers Serve and Return from Iraq," a Q&A with servicemen from the National Guard who have returned from overseas. The



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When we are closed, you can still speak with a professional nurse
Dial either phone number and select option #2 to be connected to
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USM SCHOLARSHIPS

Apply Today!

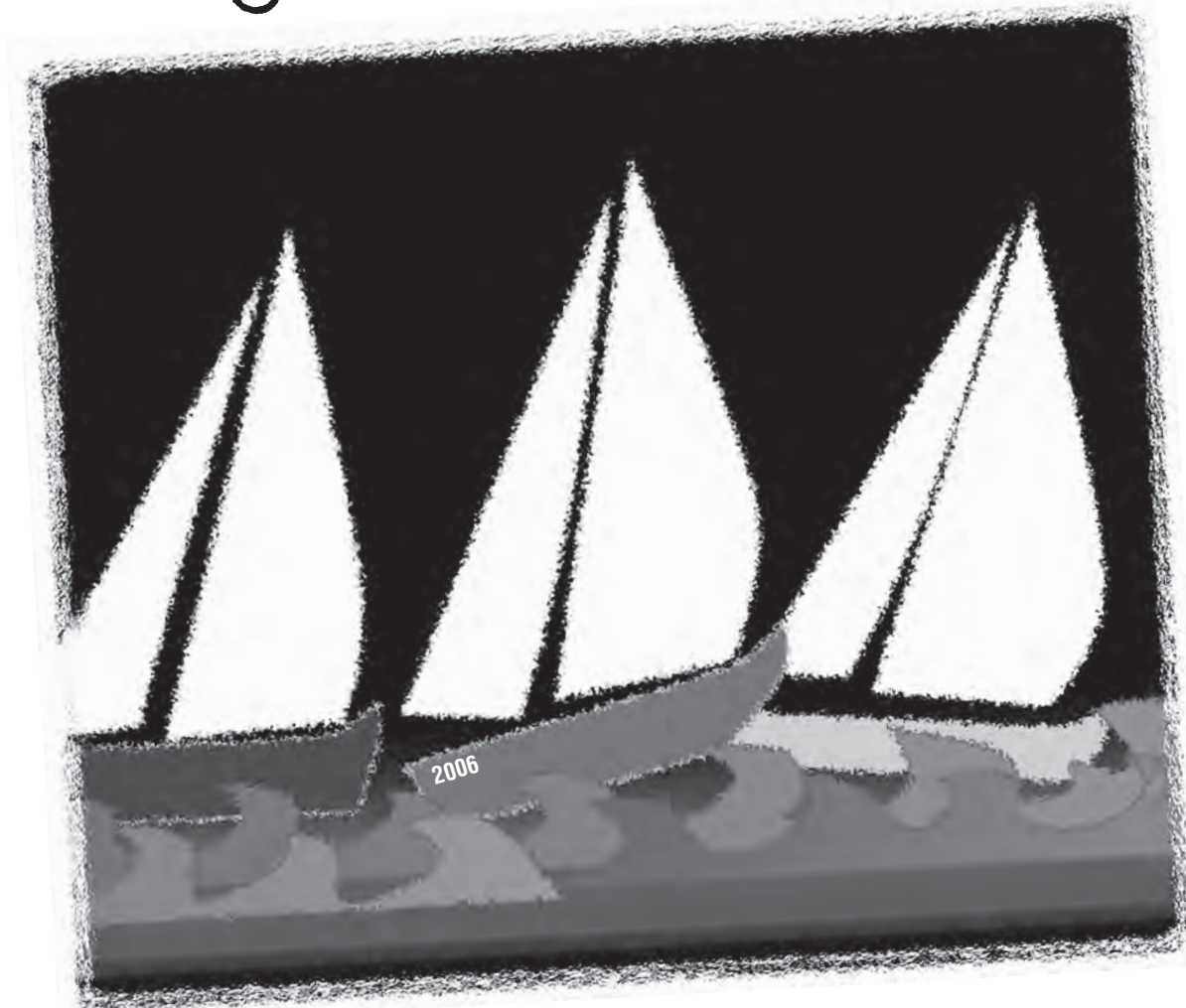
The Scholarships & Awards program recognizes outstanding achievements both inside and outside the classroom.

Deadline: February 24, 2006

Applications available in Career Services, Financial Aid, Campus Centers, Libraries & Dean's offices.

What are you doing this summer?

Choose from more than 600 courses
offered by USM Summer Session!



Try something new—

Earn 3 to 6 credits in one of these special
short-term programs offered only at USM.

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- Psychology Institutes
- Stonecoast Writers' Conference
- Sports Nutrition Symposium
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- Sail the Maine Coast
- Baseball in American Society

Two- to Three-Week Courses Abroad

- Belgium
- Brazil
- Canada
- China
- Dominican Republic
- Greece
- Ireland
- Spain
- Sweden
- Thailand



Summer course schedule
is available online now!

www.usm.maine.edu/summer



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MAINE

HUSKY HERO

Name: Melissa Bellemore

Major: Psychology

Year: Junior

Position: Jumps / Sprints / Hurdles

Team: Indoor / Outdoor Track & Field

Stats: ECAC and NE Div III qualifying for
Pole Vault, 55m Hurdles and Long Jump

Favorite inspirational quote:

"Favorite inspirational quote: If you train hard, you'll not only be hard, you'll be hard to beat." -Herschel Walker

Favorite thing about USM athletics:

They support all their athletes.

Pre-game rituals:

Listening to music.

Coach Says:

"Melissa is an outstanding athlete with tremendous versatility. She is currently ranked 1st in the New England Division III Pole Vault (11-00), second in the Long Jump (17-03.5), 9th in the 55 meter Hurdles (9.19) and 10th in the Triple Jump (33-6.5). She is the defending NE III PV champion with a good shot at representing USM at this years NCAA Championships.
-George Towle Women's indoor track and field coach

Spring 2006

Portland Campus Recreation & Fitness

AEROBICS PROGRAMS Sullivan Rec. & Fit. Complex, Portland
Fee: \$10/semester **Other screening fees may apply**

BADMINTON/TABLE TENNIS DROP-IN

BASKETBALL DROP-IN Sullivan Complex
Call for times, 780-4169

3 on 3 BASKETBALL NIGHT League Fee: \$5 - Students/*Fac/*Staff
Tuesdays, Starting February 1st **\$10 general public
*Other fees may apply

BIKE REPAIR CLASSES
Starting April 6th, \$5 per class

BLOOD PRESSURE AND CHOLESTEROL SCREENING
February 1st & April 5th

DANCE - INTRO SERIES Co-Sponsored by Portland Events Board
Monday Nights, January 27th - March 10th
Thursday Afternoons, February 2nd - 16th

FENCING FMI Call 874-3582
Tuesday Nights, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

FITNESS CENTER PROGRAMS/CONSULTATIONS FMI 780-4652
Personal training sessions beginner - advanced, fitness evaluations, Body Fat Assessment, Member of the month club....

FRISBEE NIGHT Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.

MASSAGE-SEATED Feb. 6th, March 7th, April 5th, 27th

RACQUETBALL CLINICS Jan. 27th Beginner

USM RACQUETBALL & USM SQUASH LEAGUES
Register by February 1st League Fee: \$5
**Other Fees May Apply

SOCCER-INDOOR
Thursdays, 8 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., students only

WALLYBALL/RACQUETBALL/SQUASH
Reserve courts 780-4169.

YOGA Classes start Jan. 26th Fee: \$10
Day: Weds., 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Ashtanga-workout
Day: Tuesdays, Noon to 1:15 p.m., Hatha (Iyengar)
Day: Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Gentle/Restorative
Day: Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Hatha (Iyengar)

Snow Tubing



Saturday, January 28th. A fun half-day outing to the Seacoast Snow Park where you slide down the snowy slope in an oversized inflated rubber donut. Cost includes transportation for the first 12 who sign up, inner-tube, and lift ticket. \$5 for students, \$10 for domestic partner.

Bretton Woods & Sunday River Ski/Snowboard Weekend Trip
(This trip is co-sponsored by the Ski Club :)

Sat. & Sun., February, 4th & 5th. Plan on two great days of active skiing and riding on two of the premiere mountains of the east. Saturday night, after skiing at Bretton Woods, we will spend the evening at a hostel in Conway where we will share a family style pasta dinner. Sunday River is our destination on Sunday morning. Weekend package includes ski passes, transportation, dinner and accommodations. If you only have one day, take advantage of our day only rate and save.

Weekend: \$65 student
\$45 student w/ASC pass
\$108 domestic partners/faculty/staff
Day Only: \$50 Bretton Woods or Sunday River (save \$14 - \$9)

X-Country Ski Half Day Trip



Sunday, February 12th. Come glide through the beautiful snowy Maine woods & fields. Previous XC skiing experience is not necessary. Transportation, skis, boots and poles are provided.
\$10 for students, \$15 for domestic partners.

Shawnee Peak Night - Ski/Snowboard Trip

Monday, February 13th. Classes by day, skiing and riding by night. The price is right!
Transportation is limited to first 8 who sign up.
\$10 students/lift ticket only, \$15 domestic partners
\$20 student/lift and rentals, \$25 domestic partner
\$35 student/learn to ski/snowboard package, \$40 domestic partner

Sugarloaf Ski/Snowboard Day Trip



Saturday, March 4th. For those who already know how to ski and ride. Come carve some turns on some of the best terrain in the East. Unlimited lift tickets available or packages including lift ticket and rentals. Limited transportation is available. \$35 students/lift ticket only, \$60 domestic partner. \$55 for students/lift and rentals, \$90 for domestic partners, \$10 transportation only

Waxing Moon Snowshoe



Friday, March 10th. As the sunsets the light of the new moon will light our way as we snowshoe in a nearby location. Plan on an hour and a half of snowshoeing. Limited transportation is provided.
Free for students, \$10 for domestic partners.

Attitash Ski/Snowboard Day Trip



Sunday, March 12th. For those who already know how to ski and ride. Come and carve some turns on some of the best skiing and riding in the East. Unlimited lift tickets available or packages including lift ticket and rentals. Limited transportation is available. \$35 students/lift ticket only, \$60 domestic partner. \$55 for students/lift and rentals, \$90 for domestic partners \$10 transportation only (reserved for student ASC pass holders)

Indoor Rock Climbing



Sunday, April 9th. Join us for an evening of wall crawlin' at the Maine Rock Gym. Instruction and all necessary equipment provided. This activity is open to all students, domestic partners, and children 15 years and up.
\$10 for students, \$16 for domestic partners/children.

Ski & Ride Club
780-4457



Outing Club

e-mail: usm_outing_club@yahoo.com



****PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR MOST PROGRAMS.** Please call 780-4630 or stop by the office at 112 Sullivan Complex in Portland. Fees taken upon registration.

Dance team stepping up to a new level

TODD HEBERT
STAFF WRITER

Coach Manu Lee and the USM dance team are looking to take things to the next level this semester. Lee, a Business Administration major, took over as coach of the dance team during the fall 2005 semester. Under Lee, the dance team has adopted a new name, "Da Dance Team", and taken a fresh new identity.

"I've tried to make it special", said Lee. "This is definitely something USM hasn't seen before. We are straight hip-hop. If you see any other college dance team, mostly they [perform] jazz, ballet or cheerleading type dancing. People love our style because it is something new and fresh."

For the first time since the dance team's inception 3 years ago, they will register with the BSO (Board of Student Organizations) as a student club. Lee sees this as a big step forward for the team. The dance team will now have a president, a vice president, a treasurer, and a secretary of marketing.

One of the first undertakings for the dance team this semester will be designing sweatshirts featuring the team logo. They hope to sell the sweatshirts around campus and at USM basketball games. Lee sees the sweatshirt design as not only a good fundraising tool, but also as a chance to make a fashion statement.

"People wear Red Sox caps not only because they support the team but also because they think it looks cool. So we want to have



Coach Manu Lee and Da Dance Team leading 189 girl scouts in a dance routine at halftime.

photos by Todd Hebert



something like that for our fans too," said Lee.

The first performance for the dance team under Lee as coach took place on December 7th during halftime at the men's basketball game. The gym was packed and according to Lee, the dance team got lots of fans that night.

Their most recent performance was during Christmas break when they helped out with Girl Scout Appreciation Day at the Costello Sports Complex in Gorham on January 7th. They taught a dance routine to 189 girl

scouts and performed it during half time of the women's basketball game that day.

Currently, the dance team has 32 members, but Lee expects that number to grow this semester due to the increased presence they have made lately. Being a club sport, there is open membership meaning anyone wishing to join the team may do so without a tryout.

For people interested in joining, Lee said to, "Come see me, come to our practice. Get a feel for it and see if you like it. If you think that you will be able to con-

tinue and you are enjoying being around the team, come on down." Rehearsals take place a couple times a week and last for an hour and a half.

Katie Grover, a nursing student and dance team member, said the best thing about being on Da Dance Team is having the opportunity to "meet a lot of wonderful people with similar interests. The easiest way to meet people in college is to join a team or club."

Da Dance Team coach Manu Lee can be contacted at manu.lee1@maine.edu. ♦

Husky Highlights

Another kill for the women's basketball team

The lady Huskies beat the Plymouth State University Panthers 80-35 in a LEC game Tuesday in Plymouth, N.H. The win brings the Huskies' record to 15-1 overall and 6-0 in conference play. Junior forward Ashley Marble (Topsfield) scored a game high 14 points and managed nine rebounds. Senior guard Katie Frost (Calais) scored 12 points and sophomore guard Katie Sibley (Boothbay) scored 11 points to aid in the win. The Huskies are currently ranked number one.

And the men's basketball team is just plain killed

The Plymouth State University Panthers men's basketball team beat USM 74-58 in a LEC game played Tuesday in New Hampshire. The Huskies' record stands at 9-7 overall and 3-3 in conference play. The Huskies almost had a chance to bridge the gap in the second half when sophomore forward Drew Copenrath (Barnet, Vt.) shot a three-pointer with 18:32 to play, bringing the point differential to eight, but the Panthers leaped past USM for the win.

Bowdoin College Polar Bears over power women's hockey team

The Bowdoin College Polar Bears women's ice hockey team crushed USM Tuesday 11-1 in a non-conference game played in Gorham. This was the third straight game the Huskies lost, bringing their record to 4-13-0. The only goal scored by USM belonged to sophomore Katie Quartuccio (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.).

Track and field athlete runs off with an honor

USM women's indoor track and field athlete junior Melissa Bellemore (Manchester, N.H.) was named Little East Conference Field Athlete of the Week. Bellemore helped the Huskies to a first place finish at the USM Women's Invitational, coming in with 196.5 points. In the meet Bellemore won the long jump, the pole vault and the 55-meter hurdles.

Men's indoor track and field secure second place

The USM men's indoor track and field team placed second at the Bowdoin College Invitational on Jan. 14 in Brunswick. Senior Michael Bunker (Bucksport), junior Derek Murchie (Windham), sophomore Adam Haggerty (Hermon) and freshman Jimmy Sawyer (Gorham) each earned a first place win to aid the Huskies.

Winter sports season passes midpoint

TODD HEBERT
STAFF WRITER

With the winter sports season passing the midway point in the schedule, some USM teams are looking to sharpen up their skills to make a serious run at a championship, while other teams are just looking to finish out the season on a respectable note.

Women's Basketball

With an overall record of 15-1* and a record of 6-0 in the conference, the team sits comfortably atop the LEC. The lady Huskies are currently ranked #1 in the nation in both the USA TODAY/ESPN/WBCA Division III Top 25 Coaches poll and the D3hoops.com Top 25 poll.

An early season highlight came when the Husky's defeated the Bowdoin Polar Bears for the first time since the 1999-00 Season. Another highlight came on Dec. 30th when forward Megan Miles (Auburn) netted her 1000th career point.

Men's Basketball

Throughout the first part of the season, the men's basketball team is much improved over last year. With a 9-7 overall record,

they have already matched last season's win total. The Huskies are 3-3 within the LEC, which puts them in a tie for 4th place.

Currently, Josh Daniels leads the team in scoring with an average of 17.1 points per game.

Women's Ice Hockey

The women's ice hockey team has struggled this year. The Huskies are currently in 7th place in the ECAC Division III Women East Conference with an overall record of 4-13-0 and a conference record of 4-8-0.

They have suffered some brutal losses: 11-1 to Bowdoin, 7-0 to Saint Anselm, 7-1 to UMass, 7-1 to Colby, 8-0 to RIT. The season hasn't all been this excruciating though. The Huskies have enjoyed a 3-0 shutout over St. Michael's and a 10-2 win over M.I.T.

Men's Ice Hockey

The men's hockey team finished the 2004-05 season with a respectable 15-10-2 record. But this season, the men's hockey team hasn't fared much better than the women's team. Overall, the men's record stands at 3-9-2 and their record within the conference record is 2-5-2.

The team will wrap up the regular season on Feb. 18 and until the ECAC tournament, which starts on Feb 25.

Women's Indoor Track & Field

The 2004-05 LEC and NEAC women's indoor track & field champion Huskies returned to action this season at the USM Preseason Invitational on Dec. 10. Melissa Bellemore's (Manchester, NH) exceptional performance at the meet earned her LEC Field Athlete of the Week honors. Bellemore placed first in the pole vault and long jump competitions and place second in the 55-meter hurdles.

After an eighth place finish at the Dartmouth Relays on Jan. 8, Southern Maine bounced back to place first at the USM Women's Invitational the following week. Bellemore once again earned LEC Field Player of the Week after placing first in the pole vault, long jump, and 55-meter hurdle competitions.

The Huskies will defend their titles in February and March.

Men's Indoor Track & Field

The men's team also started the season as defending LEC

and NEAC champions. Michael Bunker (Bucksport) helped the team start off the season strong by earning LEC Track Player of the Week honors after setting a USM record in the 5000-meter run at the USM Invitational. Bunker finished with a time of 15:10.04, breaking the old mark of 15:11.75 set in Feb. 2003 by Darryl Whitney.

Southern Maine is looking forward to the championship events in February and March.

Wrestling

The Southern Maine wrestling team entered the weekend of Jan. 21 with a record of 4-3 and a 6th place ranking in the New England Division III poll.

Freshman Stephen Valastro (Montgomery, NY) has been a standout for the team this year. He has twice been named Pilgrim League Rookie Wrestler of the Week. Valastro was also named Most Outstanding Wrestler at the Oneonta State Wrestling Invitational back on Nov. 20th. The New England Tournament will take place Feb. 18,19.

**All Statistics are as of Jan 20th. ♦*