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“Transforming USM” with a new degree

Mechanical engineering program adds to students' options and job prospects

WADE LINEBAUGH

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In an effort to revitalize the USM curriculum, the Board of Trustees approved a new bachelor's degree program in mechanical engineering on January 23. The School of Applied Science, Engineering and Technology will offer the program, which is scheduled to begin in the fall semester of 2006.

According to Jon Wright, dean of the School of Applied Science, Engineering and Technology, the mechanical engineering degree has been in planning for roughly seven years.

“In Maine, it's a long process,” said Wright.

According to Wright, the formal approval process took about two years and followed years of planning and research

before it was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Wright described mechanical engineering as a practical science with many real-world applications and job opportunities. Wright said the goal of mechanical engineering is to “develop manufacturing processes and products,” and stressed the importance of product design in the field.

Adding the new degree is part of a campaign to revitalize USM, said Richard Pattenade, president of USM. “We're in the middle of a strategic plan... called Transforming USM. One of the major pieces of it is to revitalize and strengthen the curriculum.”

“Our job is to provide a whole range of opportunities,” said Pattenade. “[We] make sure the programs students want are offered here.”

According to Pattenade, a lot of research went into deciding to start the program. This involved a poll of industries in the greater Portland area, many of which requested mechanical engineering graduates. Pattenade said responding to market forces played a large part in making the decision to add the new degree. “We [will] provide graduates... that are valuable to our region.”

In order to cover the cost of the new program, USM partnered with the University of Maine at Orono, a school well known for its applied sciences

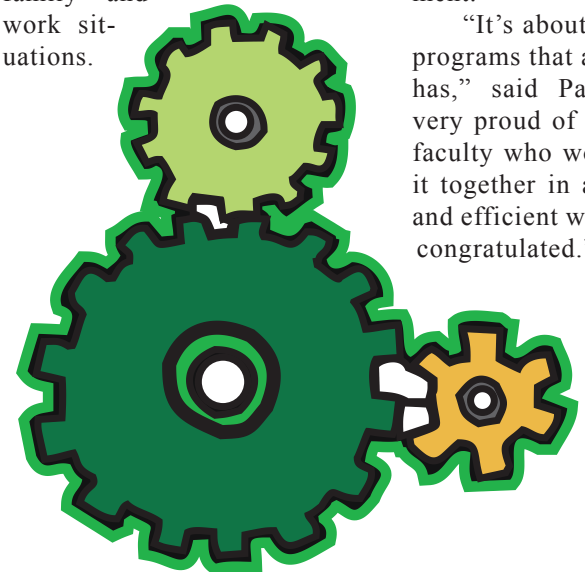
programs, which includes mechanical engineering. As part of the collaboration, UMO will provide four lecture courses in the engineering sciences to USM using videotapes of actual classes. According to Wright, UMO will also send a proctor to aid the class and to lead courses in which students utilize new concepts. In exchange, USM will help place UMO students in internships in the Portland area. Because of the rural location of Orono and the industrial and population density of Portland, this is particularly useful to UMO students.

Wright said there will be differences between the program at USM and UMO. He said USM will focus primarily on undergraduate and “place-bound” students, those who must stay in and around Portland due to family and work situations.

Wright said he looks forward to the benefits to students and the Maine economy that he thinks will come from this degree. “I think this is an exciting opportunity for students,” Wright said, “These are really good paying jobs.”

Since its approval, twelve students have signed up for the fall 2006 mechanical engineering program. Wright's projections estimate about twenty students will enroll by the time courses begin next fall. Once fifty students have declared as mechanical engineering majors, the School of Applied Science, Engineering and Technology will hire a new faculty member, followed by an additional hire when the program has eighty students. According to Pattenade, the cost of the new faculty will be paid by the increased enrollment.

“It's about having all of the programs that a great University has,” said Pattenade. “I am very proud of the Dean and the faculty who worked hard to put it together in a very thoughtful and efficient way. They are to be congratulated.” ♦



Mainers and USM alumnus return from Iraq

WAC event provides Q&A with returning troops

ANNE HOBBY

ASST. NEWS EDITOR

As part of a series on Maine's involvement in international affairs sponsored by the World Affairs Council (WAC) of Maine, three Mainers of the National Guard who have returned home after serving in Iraq spoke of their time overseas at the Lewiston-Auburn campus. Each had served in a different part of Iraq, and each had a unique story, from rebuilding in the North to being at the Abu Ghraib prison just a few months after the scandal of mistreatment and violence against the detainees by U.S. soldiers.

Although this was not a panel for debating why we are in Iraq or if we should be there at all, controversy did break out during the question and answer period. An audience member shared his son's experiences in Ramadi, where he is currently serving. He said the presentation did not show both sides. “It is detrimental to our understanding,” he said, “it disturbs me.”

According to this audience member, his son had been shot out of a HMMV three times and had seen a lieutenant killed in front of him. “They hate us in Ramadi,” said the father, “everyday it's such a horrible experience.”

The WAC president, Matt Ward, replied that this was a program about people from Maine who went to Iraq and these were their experiences. “I don't think this is biased,” he said, “it's the actual experiences of people who served there.”

First to present was 1st Sgt. Michael Lord, a gradu-

ate of USM, showing slides of his time at the Abu Ghraib prison in 2004. Lord said when he was there “dignity and respect” were “watchwords” for how they should treat the detainees.

In April 2004, during Lord's time serving at the prison, there were drive by shootings by insurgents and during this month over 30 people were killed (mostly detainees, according to Lord) and about 200 wounded.

Maj. Dwiane Drummond spoke next about his experiences in northern Iraq with the 133rd Battalion doing missions in reconstruction and aiding locals in need with donations of food, stuffed animals and school supplies. He said there was a “sense of accomplishment for the things we could do for the Iraqi people.”

He said the morale was generally good in this section where there was less combat and more people-to-people missions and reconstruction. They were also helped by the

Kurdish government and army. One of the happiest days, said Drummond, was the election day, when he witnessed Iraqis very excited about voting and proudly displaying their purple-inked finger (the sign that they had voted).

The last speaker was Lt. Col. Mark Leahey, a Lewiston native who went to Bates College and joined the New Hampshire National Guard. He was a disciplinary officer in Nasiriyah who dealt with safety issues on the base, such as electrical fires due to misuse of outlets, soldiers refusing to wear seatbelts, and cats on base. A cat could cause and spread disease, so if found, Leahey was in charge of killing it.

Leahey also showed pictures of the lighter side of their time in Iraq: USO shows, sports and site-seeing. He visited the Ziggurat of Ur which, according to the Bible, was the start of civilization. Leahey also showed slides of Abraham's house and ancient tombs. ♦



COMPILED BY THE STAFF OF THE FREE PRESS
AND THE USM POLICE DEPARTMENT

FEBRUARY 6 – A RA asked 2 non-students to leave campus due to an alcohol violation. The situation is resolved.

Somebody reported a suspicious man walking around campus holding a large duffel bag. The man was last seen walking towards campus center. Police were unable to locate the subject.

Police received reports of an argument interrupting classes in Payson Smith Hall. Police responded. The situation was resolved. No crime.

There was a Motor vehicle accident in Gorham

Somebody reported a theft of items from 6th Wood including cell phone. The claim was unfounded.

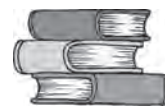
A RA of Upton Hastings reported the smell of marijuana. The area was checked out by the police.

Somebody reported the smell of Marijuana on the 4th floor of Wood Hall, right quad. The area was checked by the police. The complaint was found to be unfounded.

A person was reported to be viewing pornography on a campus computer in Luther Bonney Hall. The situation was resolved.

FEBRUARY 5 – Somebody vandalized a vehicle in Gorham parking lot G-16.

Within 20 minutes, there were two different reports of cars at Portland Hall being broken into.



This Week in History

February 14, 1929: The Valentine's Day Massacre

On Valentine's Day in Chicago, 1929, seven members of George "Bugs" Moran's Gang, the Northsiders, were shot and killed in a warehouse on North Clark St. in Lincoln Park. The killers were members of Al Capone's south-side gang, who were aiming to kill Moran that morning.

Jack "Machine Gun" McGurn, one of Capone's henchmen, set the rival gang leader up by luring him to the garage on the pretense of a routine whiskey deal. But Burke and his men, two of which were dressed as policemen, came too soon and were seen by Moran on his way to the warehouse. Moran fled the scene upon spotting the police car, leaving seven of his gang members there to be killed.

They allowed themselves to be lined up against the wall and disarmed, thinking it was a normal police raid. Six died instantly from their wounds, but the last one stayed alive for a bit less than an hour. When the real police showed up and asked him who shot him, he said, "Nobody shot me."

While Capone's guilt was fairly certain, he had a convenient alibi of being on vacation in Florida. But the shocking events led the police and the government to pursue the criminal and finally he was convicted on charges of tax evasion in 1931.

The warehouse has since been torn down, but the bricks of the infamous wall were auctioned off and rebuilt in the men's room of a '20s-themed bar in Vancouver.

COMPILED BY ANNE HOBBY

Letters to the editor

Senator Gorham on her resignation

I have been torn for weeks about making a decision to resign from my Senate seat, and as of today (2/3/06) I will be resigning my Senate Seat. Being a non traditional student, as well as parent and Portland resident, I feel my constituency is underrepresented on this Senate, but those same aspects of my life make it impossible for me to continue in my role as your Senator. I have worked hard to help ensure that students have a voice and their concerns addressed: true sustainably on campus including recycling, energy use and the University of Southern Maine implementing our passed referendum to use Biodeisil in our buses; student ID numbers and growing concerns with lack of privacy and security; Aramark providing nutritious, affordable, locally grown food; the ever growing budget crunch on USM, which speaks to this state's lack of planning for our future. With the lack of time most students have to advocate for themselves and the lack of support, I feel my energies will be better spent in other endeavors. I have felt it our duty as senators to be able to give students a voice to the administration of this University. I feel the greater majority of our concerns have gone unresolved, they will just "wait us out." The Student Senate needs to con-

tinue in giving a loud voice for students to the administration here at USM, as well as getting students involved and active. I have enjoyed this experience with all of you and have learned many skills in this endeavor. I thank my constituency for allowing me this service, and I will continue to be a voice here at USM, but in other capacities. Keep up the good work you have embarked on and be progressive in helping to institute a course for this great University. Sincerely

Janine Gorham
Mother/Student/Activist

Lavoie on TABOR

I want to write this letter on the topic of the cost of higher education. While I would agree that government attacks financial aid often, I think we need to look at what people are paying in addition to their tuition. The University student movement should look at two issues that are related to Maine. We need to look at where our priorities rest. Is it putting 2,500 people on healthcare program that has failed? Or graduating more students to get them ready for the job market?

1.) The Rising Costs of Healthcare: It is clear and very true that in Maine we pay the highest healthcare premiums than any other state in the nation. For our neighborhood friends in New Hampshire, Healthcare is \$9,000 cheaper than it is Maine.

Why are students drawn to New Hampshire? That's one reason. Dirgio Health hasn't helped the majority of Mainers but has put an undue burden on families forcing them to have to decide between paying for heating oil or paying for healthcare.

2.) Taxes: Folks, in this state it seems that we are taxed when ever we walk down the street. We pay a tax on our pets, our cars, our houses, and yes, businesses even pay a tax on their equipment every year. The largest of these taxes is most certainly the property tax. While LD 1 was supposed to solve the property tax problem in Maine and the state was supposed to pick up 55% of the cost of education, it hasn't worked. The state is now only picking up the cost of local education of 50%. If you voted that in I would be upset. What we need is meaningful tax relief.

It is common sense to think of issues like the Tax Payer Bill of Rights as being a good thing. TABOR will stop the increasing of government spending and bring money back to your pocket. In a sense, TABOR will give you more of a voice when it comes to taxes and government spending. It will see more money coming into the pockets of the people. I support TABOR because it makes sense. It doesn't cut programs but it also doesn't allow the government to increase spending more than the population of the state.

I hope you all as students and other student leaders will

take these things into account when advocating for students. We need to look at the large picture and find out just where we are being hurt when it comes to fiscal policy in Maine. As a student I support working with you to help students, to be able to afford education, and get more money in their pockets.

Jason M. Lavoie
Political Science Major

Bossie and a 21 century USM

What does a 21st century USM look like? Our University can develop into an institution that meets the needs of students, faculty and staff by utilizing technology to our advantage. To meet our needs, the University needs to adapt and grow in the electronic world and provide for easy access to information for students, faculty, staff and the general public. My marketing class has taught me that businesses must work to meet the needs of its consumers in order to be successful; we need students and faculty working together to establish a university that better serves the student.

Imagine if class syllabi were readily accessible prior to registration for classes; consequently, students would know exactly what is to be expected of them in each class when planning for their next semester. These syllabi could be considered a sort of contract between the Professor and their students, establishing clear expectations and guidelines for both, before and during the semester. With the advent of Blackboard and

electronic reserve, most class information should be available electronically, including course packs and handouts, for easier access by students.

Would it not be helpful to students that as we were choosing our classes, we also had a well developed database of other students comments on classes and professors? As our time is so valuable and our resources so short, we should have a way to exchange information about professors and classes, so we can pick the best fit for us. In the same sense, why doesn't USM have an online textbook exchange program? Students at other universities save hundreds of dollars a year by using existing programs; USM can do the same, and the Student Government needs to sponsor such a program.

There is a need to create dialogue between faculty, administration and students in order to accomplish these goals. These conversations should exist to foster a university that meets the needs of the students.

To accomplish these objectives, there is a need for strong student leadership on these issues. I have the experience, leadership and knowledge to see that this University better serves the student as your next student leader. Please consider supporting me as your next Student Body President.

Andrew Bossie
4th Year Student
andrew.bossie@maine.edu

Thinking Matters, solar powered boats and teaching

Administrator turned professor plugs for the upcoming conference and talks about teaching at USM

LINDSAY CARLSON
STAFF WRITER

Chattanooga, Tenn., native Julie Ellis is currently the faculty co-director of Thinking Matters, a conference for both students and faculty. She is also a professor in the Engineering Department here at USM. She recently re-joined the ranks of faculty after a tour in the administration.

What made you choose electrical engineering as your field of study?

Originally I was interested in studying music, but I didn't find any scholarships to go to college and study that. There were scholarships for people, especially women, to go study engineering. So it is a case of really bad news turning out to be a very good thing. I like engineering. I like this way of thinking about things and I like the fact that it's very interdisciplinary. By its very nature, engineering is about bringing different

disciplines together. That's what I always found interesting about engineering in general.

And electrical engineering?

Honestly, I went into it because I didn't know any better. When they asked me 'What do you want to major in?' I said, 'well which has the most math?' They told me 'that would be electrical, but that's the hardest one' and I said, 'that's ok, that's ok.' I regretted that shortly afterwards, but I eventually got through it.

What brought you to Maine?

I came to New England after I finished my master's degree to work in the computer industry around Boston and they sent me to get my Ph.D. When that industry was collapsing in the late '80s, I started looking for an academic job. USM had a brand new engineering department and Maine has always seemed very exotic to me.

What's class do you like to teach?

Intro to Engineering is a lot of fun. There's always an interesting mix of students. We do a lot of projects and a lot of hands on things in there. It's always fascinating to see the ideas that people come up with. My passion in engineering is how engineering is used to solve a problem; that usually means some really creative, interesting thinking and that's what we're trying to cultivate in the students from the get-go. It's a good thing it's my favorite because I teach it a lot. It's the one class I taught while I was an administrator.

Do you have any favorite memories

from your time here at USM?

Something from our days of the solar-electric boat team. For four years we had world class competition of a solar-powered electric boat. We competed in Milwaukee four summers in a row. We took our six meter boat to Japan and we competed in an all-Japan regatta. I couldn't choose a single memory from that time, but it was just so exciting to see USM in international competition. I'd like to see us do stuff like that again.

What would you say is your greatest accomplishment?

Seeing my children launch. Sarah, that's my daughter, will graduate from USM May 13. Both my kids attended classes at USM. Seeing them launch as interesting, active humans into the world is just a huge deal. My enthusiasm for seeing young [people] start and launch is what makes being in the university world fun for me. So seeing your own kids do it is just that much better.

The Thinking Matters Conference is coming up. What is this conference all about?

It's the University's opportunity to celebrate students coming up with their own ideas, doing research and discussing it. The statement of values really says what it's about: people getting together and exchanging ideas and thoughts.

Is the conference open to anyone?

There is this perception that Thinking Matters is only for undergraduate students and it's not. It's primarily undergraduate students because we have a lot



PHOTO BY LINDSAY CARLSON

Julie Ellis, faculty co-director of Thinking Matters

more undergraduate students [enrolled at USM], but it's open to graduate students.

Is there still time to sign up?

Absolutely. We have an online submission form where a student submits an abstract. The website is research.usm.maine.edu/thinkingmatters. Abstracts submitted by March 3rd will be considered. If there are any questions about Thinking Matters, the Thinking Matters line is 207-228-8044 and Thinking Matters is on April 21, the Friday closest to Shakespeare's birthday.

Is there any reason why it falls on that day?

It's about 2/3 of the way through the semester, near the end but

not too close to the end. It also really up fronts the notion of inclusion between the humanities and the arts. I don't think there's the perception anymore that is just for the sciences, but we'd still like to see more mixing of formats.

Has your involvement in Thinking Matters always been as faculty co-director?

I haven't been directly involved this way. My role relative to this was as director of research initiatives. This is one of the projects that research initiatives supports, but this year I have returned to the faculty. I'm no longer an administrator and so I picked up this faculty co-director job wearing a faculty hat. ♦

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Teaching
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Molecular/Cell Biology
Journalism
Nursing
Accounting
Computer Information Systems



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Sheila Wycinowski, Director of Curriculum and Staff Development at Amity High School, explains, "Basically we look to hire Quinnipiac students. They have a clear understanding of lesson planning and classroom management and the balance between them." She also characterizes Quinnipiac students as articulate, creative, able to encourage higher-level thinking in students, and able to incorporate technology into their teaching.

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QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

Hamden, Connecticut

Local farmers help University cafeterias get organic

More produce,
but not meat,
organic at
Aramark

JOSH SCHLESINGER

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Even though USM cafeterias have offered local and organic produce for almost a year, they have only just recently begun to advertise it. Local farmers in Maine as well as in other parts of New England supply our cafeterias with organic produce.

According to Keith Brady, the director of Dining Services, USM faculty and students have expressed an interest in local and organic produce. Included in the myriad of organic selection are apples, pears, carrots and celery courtesy of organic farmers in California. In the fall, many of the apples that appear in the cafeteria come from Randall's Orchard in Standish. "We feature about 75-80 percent of our fruit from Randall's in the fall," said Brady. Most recently, USM has been receiving local shrimp from Maine Shellfish, and in the

past week the Portland campus has sold about 35 pounds of this local shrimp.

The term "organic" refers to food that has not been chemically touched in any way. It generally is viewed as food that is much healthier and is free of most bacteria that reside in non-organic food. With regard to taste, organic food may taste the same as non-organic, but according to Brady the food will be crisper.

Brady has added that the emails of thanks for this organic and local selection have been appreciated. "The more feedback we get from USM,

the more we're able to bring this piece of program forward," said Brady. In an effort to get as much community response, the cafeterias have been issuing online dining surveys, comment cards, as well as doing things the old-fashioned way—interacting with clients on a daily basis.

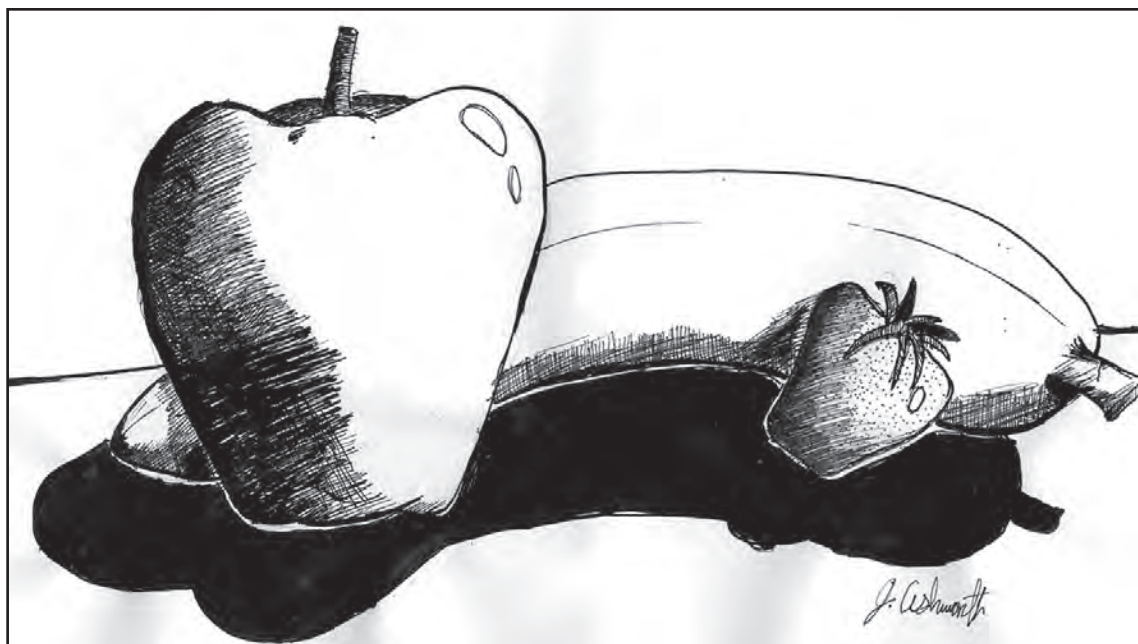
At this point, most of the organic menu will be limited to produce, as opposed to meat and poultry. Providers of USM's local produce include but are not limited to Oakhurst Dairy, Portland Beverage, Mackin Dairy and Sure Winner. USM also gets beverages such

as Steaz and Naked Juice from these proprietors of local food.

In terms of the future for the USM cafeterias and organic supply, Brady just got back from a trip to Pineland in New Gloucester. Pineland is an organic farm that is talking to USM about working one on one with to expand its organic menu. According to Brady, USM and Pineland are still in "continuing discussions." "We need to

determine how things will get transported from them to us," said Brady. "We are very optimistic; it's a pretty new and exciting place."

Much of the organic produce being served in the cafeterias are on display. However, if you are curious about which food is organic, and which is not, just ask one of the cashiers or workers in the cafeterias. ♦



For more information on organic food, visit:
www.organicfood.co.uk.

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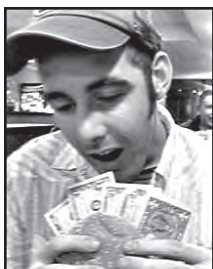
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Last Dandy on Earth

ALEX STEED

ASST. A&E EDITOR



As communication technologies shrink the planet and as our casual understanding of our global surroundings increases with study, the relationship the 21st century student has with his or her

global surroundings becomes increasingly less static by the day, sometimes the hour. Last Dandy on Earth is a weekly meditation on the concepts and dialogue that define this relationship—a love (and sometimes hate) letter to the world about personal, social, national and global politics.

I spent the weekend with friends in New York. The weekend ended with four great people sitting in a tiny living room in Brooklyn, listening to traditional Latin music, eating a massive breakfast. This vegetation was a form of recovery after a long, rock-star weekend.

Of the four of us, three had been confronted with major life transitions. The night before, Sarah, a 20-something Connecticut native spent an adulterous night with her lover. After breakfast, she went on her way back home to Delaware to break up with her live-in boyfriend. Trina spent the day before at her father's funeral. He killed himself in the middle of the week and with the exception of my catching her staring at the wall from time to time, it appeared to me she was holding up OK. Timothy, Trina's ex boyfriend and our host, appeared to have been affected most. He appeared exhausted—he went to the funeral with Trina. A born nurturer put in a position with an ex-girlfriend who is in need of comfort, Timothy had a hard time sorting through his now-ambiguous feelings. The night before, we all drank into normalcy.

When granted a static position in an environment of chaos, we come to ask ourselves, why am I the lucky one here? Why is my life unaffected? How did I get so lucky? Often, the more one drinks, the more questions are produced and less important, introspective answers are offered. I started to wonder, though, how I got so lucky. Why not my affair? Why not my father? Why not my ex-girlfriend? Why am I the drama-free one? Why do I get room to breathe?

I spent a lot of money in Brooklyn on records and booze. I spent a lot of time self-medicating. I forced my stare into the closed-off, personal, protective atmospheres of pedestrians and I smiled at them. I asked for directions and talked to anyone who'd offer a hand. I was received with personable advice, well-wishes and hospitality on every occasion I broke through someone's wall. New Yorkers are generally nice people, especially when you're paying for their records and buying their booze.

The last time I was in NYC, I had run out of money and I was in trouble, trying to figure out how to get back to Maine. A man came up to me in a park:

Man: Hey, man. You wanna buy some crack?

Me: No, man. No thanks.

Man: You sure, man? I'll smoke it wit' you.

Me: No, it's cool. I am trying to get home and I don't really know how I am going to make it back there.

At this point I began to get really skittish about how I would be getting back home. I'm not at all thinking about the fact I have been randomly approached by the drug-dealer cliché one learns about in middle school. I am thinking about the best ways to get to the bus station, to get a ticket.

Man: Is everything alright, man? Are you ok?

Me: I am. I am. I just don't know... I don't know, man.

Man: Well listen up. I wish you the best of luck to you, sir, in whatever you do.

see DANDY, page 6

Letter from the editor

JOSEPH R. THOMPSON

EXECUTIVE EDITOR



Everyday I wake up to the 5:00 a.m. BBC report and everyday, at 5:01 a.m., the point where I'm aware enough to translate the anchor's noise into news, I find myself surprised at the power people hand over to fear. On some days, it looks like the world is a turbo drive engine fueled by high octane terror and about to blow a head gasket.

Why is this? Okay, that's a rhetorical question – I know. Let me try again: Why is this?

I don't know why.

However, I have a couple of guesses: Fear is an easy emotion to create within ourselves. While peace and ahimsa require focus and effort, we can have rather high amounts of fear running in the backgrounds of our mind – just like that Blackmal computer worm.

It could also be that fear is a response to the global increase of consumerism. Follow this logic for a second: Fear is an emotion based on loss – that is, we feel fear when we face the threat of losing something, for example losing a privacy, respect, things, religion/faith and so on. Now, as the world becomes more and more consumer-focused we gain more and more things. The amount of things that we are scared of losing grows and so we struggle to hold onto them, generating fear within ourselves, and before we know it we are responding back to the world

through fear. Of course, we are the world so we see the world responding to us through fear.

These two guesses leave a pretty hopeless taste in my mouth. Each one leads to a self-perpetuating cycle -- maybe fear is the fabled perpetual-motion that scientist used to strive to discover. But there is an alternative – an alternative that isn't based on religion, politics, wealth or anything we use to define ourselves. It's been here all along. It's everywhere – Palestine, Israel, Iceland, and Venezuela. We've known about it ever since Fear trampled on it when Pandora opened that gag gift from Zeus (never trust a guy who likes to have sex in the shape of a swan).

Hope.

How simple, yet such a complex idea it's not simplistic. Hope is the tool that lets us respond to threats with the courage to be able to let go of the now and to accept change – even if it means a loss of something in our lives. Or, for those who prefer metaphors, hope is why we have the strength to clear all the dead wood out of our physical and emotional gardens, allowing for new growth each spring.

A couple of weeks ago, I quoted from the beginning of the Desiderata. I'd like to end this epistle with one more quote from it, this time from the end. As the week goes on and cross words are said over political battles, remember these words and hopefully it'll make you smile a bit:

“With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams,
it is still a beautiful world.
Be cheerful.
Strive to be happy.” ♦

“Conservative” is not a dirty word

CYNDLE R. PLAISTED

COLUMNIST

Whether you are reading this column because you are overjoyed to see a conservative voice represented in the Free Press or because you want to know just what a “conservative” columnist might have to say, I feel it's necessary to lay out what you can expect from this column and its writer. I have been a faithful reader of the University's paper since my matriculation at USM in 2003. During that time, I have constantly noted the decidedly liberal slant of the paper, and though it has not surprised me, I have wished occasionally to hear a voice from the right. I understand that this is through no lack of attempts on the part of the Free Press editorial staff to recruit a conservative writer. Apparently, there have been many contacts made with members of the College Republicans, offering them this very position. For whatever reason, the opportunity to air conservative views has not seemed as enticing as expected. Perhaps it's the realization on the part of would-be columnists that these are not necessarily popular views in this part of the country, and particularly not at a public university. But I've always been a brave girl.

When Joseph approached me about becoming the paper's conservative columnist, the idea was particularly tantalizing. And then uneasiness settled in. What on earth was I going to talk about in this column – certainly not just the old debate fodder of abortion, gay marriage and the death penalty. Although these are worthy things to discuss, they have been well argued in much larger arenas. This is not to say that hot-button issues will never be addressed in this column. There is a reason

these have become the “biggies” in the world of political partisan argument and that is because, generally speaking, everyone has some feeling about them, one way or the other.

In the past I have written searing pieces involving some of these divisive subjects, but it is not my goal to stun and offend. I would like to expose all of Free Press readers to a mind they might not be familiar with: The mind of a politically conservative woman. Perhaps through this column, the staunchly liberal will see some occasional similarities between my viewpoints and theirs. I know that in the past I have been on the receiving end of major disbelief from fellow students when they learned of my political leanings. I have no doubt that I may encounter even more surprised reactions when this column begins running in the paper.

I also want to make it clear that I do not presume to be the voice for all Republicans at the University. That isn't even possible. But I *will* be a new voice for the paper, allowing more students to identify with what they read here.

I guess what I hope to achieve here is nothing earth-shattering: I want to contribute to balancing the viewpoints represented by the Free Press. I want to talk about things that matter, with a conservative yet decidedly Cyndle slant. You're going to see that I sometimes present a fairly eclectic understanding of an issue. This is what happens when you're a Protestant, artist, conservative and liberal arts major. There aren't many pigeon holes that accommodate such a collection of contradictions. But most importantly, I would like anyone reading this to understand that “conservative” is not a dirty word. ♦

UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MAINE

BRIAN SIMPSON

Gorham Lewiston Auburn Portland

HOMETOWN:
COLUMBIA FALLS,
MAINEMAJOR:
NURSINGAGE:
22

Are there any professors you want to give a shout out to?

Marcus Lebrizie. He was the first college professor I fell in love with. He taught an American literature course at UMaine Machias. He always wore the same thing: black pants and a purple sweat shirt.

You know that song from *The Sound of Music* "My Favorite Things?" John Coltrane did a sweet version of it, too. Anyway, in the spirit of that song, what are some of your favorite things?

Dancing. All kinds, but especially dirty. Frisbee. The tree on the Western Prom.

PHOTO & INTERVIEW BY JEN FELDMAN

What tree?

The one you can climb really easily. I like the Space gallery and Herb Gulley's. Their burritos are four times better than Granny's. I like the colorfulness of Congress Street in terms of the people. There's one guy who's always looking for a fight. The other day he yelled "Who walks in front of a dog?!" at someone. He isn't nice at all, but I like him. The Blanket Man asked me buy wine for him.

A specific kind of wine?

No, just wine.

Did you do it?

No. I would have bought him

food, though.

Name a celebrity you'd like to have sex with.

Angelina Jolie. She's hot and I think she'd be really great in bed.

Are you an ass man?

I like butts and I cannot lie, but I wouldn't define myself as that.

Do you read *The Free Press*?

I do, believe it or not.

Do you have any gripes with USM you'd like to air?

I think the advising process is pretty sub-par. For example, they advise you to take 12 credits your first semester. Plus,

I think the advisors aren't as informed as they should be. I haven't heard from anyone who's undeclared but otherwise that's the consensus from other students, especially in foreign language programs. As a last semester senior, I know more options, but before I had no idea.

Last question. Will you give me some money?

Yes.

How much?

I don't have any change. That's what I give the bums.

Do I look like a bum?

[Insincerely] No.

Glow in the dark

Incandescent
light bulbs: not
a good idea

DUDLEY GREELEY

COLUMNIST

Sunset hasn't been much of a boundary for human behavior. People enjoy many of life's best moments in the dark. Yet, for both work and pleasure, human societies have spent vast resources to supplant the daily flight of the sun. Well before that perfectly-placed fusion reactor becomes a glow in the Western sky, various technologies begin to light the human-built environment and beyond. Roughly figured, we have moved from moonlight to fires, to torches, to tallow lamps, to hearths, to improved oil lamps and whale oil, to coal gas, and kerosene, natural gas and finally, in 1879, to Louis Latimer's incandescent filament installed in what became known as the Edison Electric Lamp. We still don't know if this invention came along in time to save the last of the great whales but the incandescent lamp was so well-received that it became, and remains, the symbol of a better idea. This column is dedicated to the proposition that the continued use of incandescent lamps is no longer a bright idea.

First of all, we kid ourselves if we believe there is anything final about solving our lighting desires with incandescent lamps. This admittedly illuminating yet amazingly inefficient lamp is far from the last photon in the search for better quality-of-lighting. We are already embracing healthier, more satisfying and much less expensive lighting technologies. Fifteen years ago, USM was one of the first five universities to join the Environmental Protection Agency's Green Light's Program. Under the Green Light's Program, old flickering, annoying fluorescent lamps were replaced in great numbers with a new generation of more efficient, color-cor-

rected, flicker free fluorescents. Early light emitting diodes (LEDs) replaced incandescent lamps in exit signs. Three years ago, USM began replacing and removing incandescent lamps with its Clean Lights Program. At huge overall savings in energy and labor costs, incandescent lamps are being replaced with the latest in compact fluorescent lamps, induction lamps, cold cathode fluorescents, and light emitting capacitors. This holiday, the porch of President Pattenau's house in Gorham is decorated with 50 Watts of LEDs rather than 2000 Watts of incandescents. Quantum dots shine in research labs elsewhere with the promise of even brighter, cleaner light. The incandescent filament may have saved the whales, but it is not likely to glare at us much longer.

The final demise of the old incandescent bulb will probably be driven by concerns for our health and quality-of-life rather than cost. New lighting solutions, part of the next industrial revolution, will be crafted for environmental and health impacts as well as the quality and cost of the light provided. The glob of toxic lead on the base of incandescent bulbs is probably not one of the bigger hazards they present. Their relative inefficiency may end up accelerating global warming and the next great melting of the Greenland ice sheet. This would result in a 22 foot rise in sea level, perhaps over the next couple of centuries. Melt Antarctica and you add perhaps more than 175 feet of sea-level rise. The mercury released into the air from the coal that is burned to make the huge quantities of electricity needed to run incandescent lamps threatens our children's cognitive development more immediately. If kids only got lumps of coal in their stockings it wouldn't be so bad... Regardless of the holidays we celebrate, we continue to literally eat, drink and breathe the emissions from coal-fired power plants – as if the consequences of the mining operations aren't enough of a problem.

For more information about renewable power check out <http://www.maine.greenpower.org/>. ♦

Question of the Week

Photos and interviews by Jen Feldman

What do you make of
all the uproar over the
Prophet Muhammad
cartoons?Thomas Walsh
Rock Star

Honestly, I think it's stupid. There's no harm done – it's a cartoon.

Kieran Donaghey
Musician

The artist should have realized what would have happened. Obviously there was going to be some backlash.

Alice McCormack
Student of Life

I think that in any progressive government there is going to be controversy in the press. Media barriers are going to be broken down by citizens.

Erica Koenigsberg
Undeclared

Anti-western sentiment is probably just at an all time high. It probably has a lot to do with the war and with American politics. I suspect these types of cartoons have been around for years.

Chris Whitney
Bartender

I'd like to know what the artist's motive was. What was he trying to do? I'd like to know his [the artist's] reaction to what's happening.

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

DANDY, from page 5

Initially, I was shocked by the interaction. People I told about the occurrence were also shocked. It wasn't until I remembered that everything I know about New York is stuff I learned on television and in movies, I realized that this was one of the first real experiences I had with the area. Until this moment, the mythic city had only existed on a screen canvas of gun-blast and blood-red strokes.

After Sarah departed on her break-up mission and while Trina stared at the wall and Timothy at her from the safety of across the room,

I thought about that experience. I laughed a little and disrupted the tension of an undefined moment. Annoyed, Timothy stared at me and asked what I was laughing at.

Space aliens stole the car and sold it to Mormons.

I was elected new pope.

I met a caring drug dealer in the park.

We looked at each other. The purple, puffy bags under Timothy's eyes appeared to be sinking further in his cheeks. Trina turned back to stare at the wall. I assured them I'd fill them in sooner or later. We finished breakfast and poured our-

selves drinks. When we expressed our *cheers* and each of us made the same unsaid wish we wish for every night—to find comfort in forgetting.

"I wish you the best of luck to you, sir, in whatever you do."

Glancing at Timothy and Trina, I put my head down, set aside my drink, folded my hands in prayer and I tried especially hard to remember. ♦

arts & entertainment

The Visiting Artist Program thrives

Q & A with Carolyn Eyler

ANGELIQUE CARSON

A&E EDITOR

Every spring USM brings a visiting professional artist to the art department in hopes of sharing ideas, enriching the student and faculty experience, enhancing the aesthetic appeal of our campus, and amplifying the awareness and visibility of the art department at USM.

Debbie Reichard is that visiting artist for the spring semester. Her exhibit “The Brown Christmas,” running while classes are in session through March 11, is tangible proof that the program is thriving.

Reichard’s predominantly ceramic exhibit is described on the art department’s website as “a sardonic view of the [Christmas] holiday as a corporatized event, mutated and dysfunctional, as a result of over compensation and trying too hard.” The Free Press sat down with Carolyn Eyler, director of Exhibits and Programs, to find out more.

What is one of the coolest things about this exhibit?

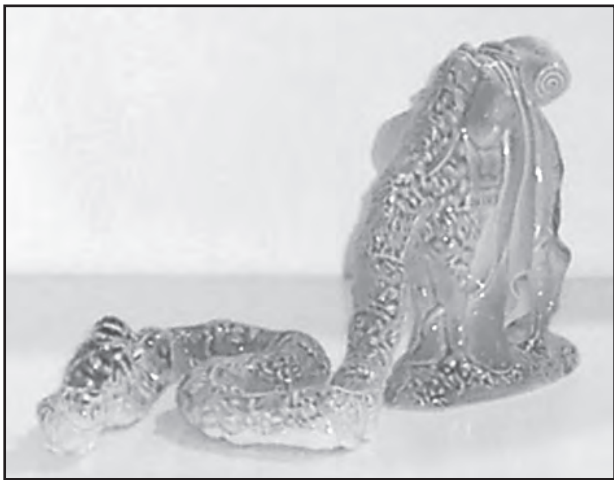
One piece of the exhibit is made from 380 pieces of toast, in the image of Santa. One art class cooked the toast in varying degrees from slightly toasted to burnt. [Reichard] then created a grid according to the light and dark parts of Santa. When she was trying to make the face, her means of control was to scrape off burnt pieces to make a whiter area.

Why should students come to see it?

It’s fun. It’s a great reflection on the excesses of Christmas.



“Wings,” Debbie Reichard.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF USM

“Overextended,” Debbie Reichard.

She’s working in a very interesting space, the aftermath of a loaded holiday.

Were students involved in the production of the exhibit?

Yes, work study students in the art gallery and art department, about 28 students total participated in the event and helped with anything from installment to actual creation. The collaborative art class did their own project planting Christmas trees outside of the building and gallery help assisted in the creation and installation of the art work.

What do you see as this program’s most significant benefits to USM?

We see great results from bringing these artists here. They are here for a greater duration than other lecturers and they really get to know the USM community on a personal level. Plus, students have an opportunity to work in an apprentice type of way. They also supply a boost to staff and faculty as they come in with fresh input and ideas. It’s a very important program and many schools are envious of it.

In what way does it benefit the scene at USM?

When a visiting artist’s residency is up, their art stays at USM. Many of the works that you see on campus are left by these visiting artists. One example is the wall of ceramics in Bailey Hall’s snack lounge. ♦

Winter reading list

ALEX STEED

ASST. A&E EDITOR

February break is right around the corner. You’ll soon be home for a week, boozing with the family. Aside from revisiting booze-addled debauchery, what better way to kill time than to read a book or two to enrich your mind? While I know many of you have a general aversion to reading, I am here to offer advice on a handful of books that are better than blockbuster movies, building snowmen and blowjobs (seriously):

“Monkey Wrench Gang” by Edward Abbey:

One of the first things Abbey would probably suggest that we, as USM students, do is to take “On the Road” off of our favorite books sections of Facebook and MySpace. Of the booze-bloated Kerouac, Abbey once said, “[He], like a sick refrigerator, worked too hard at keeping cool and died on his mama’s lap from alcohol and infantilism.” A desert-wilderness anarchist, Abbey wrote “Monkey Wrench Gang” about a group of anti-establishment, nature loving folk headed by George Washington Hayduke III, a Vietnam veteran. Instead of gallivanting around in San Francisco and “finding themselves” by devouring massive amounts of drugs, the gang does constructive things like destroying the machinery that is destroying their beloved landscape. Read it with that special eco-terrorist in your life.

“Does it Matter?” by Alan Watts

With chapter titles like Psychedelics and Religious Experience, Clothes—On and Off, and Wealth Versus Money, this book will make a worthwhile addition to the arsenal of anti-bourgeois rhetoric people often spit at me every time I

tell them that I don’t have any change to spare. Watts will compliment the parts of the Communist Manifesto you memorized from “Bartlett’s Quotations” and Rage Against the Machine lyrics. Also, the sixteen-year-old in me wishes to add, “Dude. Seriously. No, dude. Seriously. Read this book stoned. Dude”.

“The New Complete Joy of Home Brewing” by Charlie Papazian:

I generally spend three nights a week at Sebago Brewing Company and rock 3 to 4 beers a night over winter vacation, so I predict that I will spend between 120 to 150 dollars (tip included) on drinks this vacation. How much do you think you’ll spend? Maybe it would be a better idea to check this book out of the library (for free!). This works out for you on several levels. First, you’re investing in years of brewing quality, inexpensive beer as opposed to laying down money for a one-time brew at a place you don’t even really want to hang out. Think about your options. Sit at home with friends drinking quality beer and watching *Cocoon 2: The Return*. Sit at a bar you don’t even like, some stranger writhing around behind you to a Shakira song you despise. You know in your heart which one is better.

Other good ones:

“A Lifetime of Sex” by Stephen C George and Winston Caine

“Sex Secrets” by Brian Chichester and Kenton Robinson

“She Comes First: The Thinking Man’s Guide to Pleasuring a Woman” by Ian Kerner

“The Ultimate Guide to Anal Sex for Women” by Tristan Taormino



A&E Listings

A list of stuff to do this week instead of staring at your dorm room walls.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Sound in the Dark film series. “Afropunk” a documentary focusing on race identity within the punk scene. 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., SPACE Gallery, 538 Congress Street. \$6 / \$5 for members. FMI info@space538.com or 828-5600.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Make out with your lover, or curse the holiday’s existence.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

“Discovering Malaga Island: African American History in Maine,” featuring a program on the plight of the African-American settlement off Maine’s coast in the early 1900s, drumming by Michael Wingfield & USM students, and vendors representing the African Diaspora. 5-8 p.m., Luther Bonney Auditorium, Portland, free and open to the public, 780-4006.

Portland Pirates Host USM Night featuring the Pirates vs. Lowell Lock Monsters, 7:05 p.m., mention USM to receive the special price of \$8, Cumberland County Civic Center, Portland 828-4665, ext. 350.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

“One Acts,” written by USM student playwrights, directed by Professor Assunta Kent/ Feb 16-18: 7:30 p.m. Feb 19: 5 p.m. / \$12 public, \$8 seniors and staff, \$5 students / Russell Hall, Gorham, 780-5151.

“Love and Basketball,” Women and Sports Film Series / free / Alumni Reception Center, Costello Sports Complex, Gorham 780-4289.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

“Rough Crossing,” Portland Stage Company / \$19 to \$33 / 7:30 p.m. 774-0465.

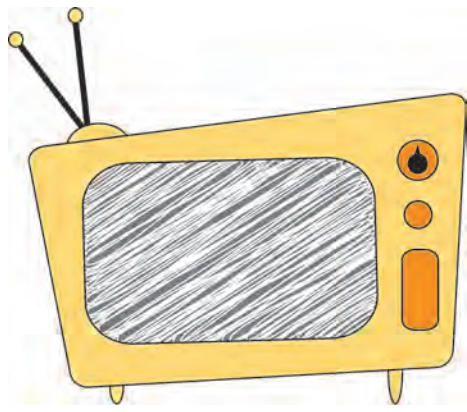
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Fancy Trash, The Red F, Ryan Lee and the Mindless – “semicountrified, punk-influenced music that recalls Neil Young or the Flaming Lips” and 90s alternarock bands. SPACE Gallery / \$6 / 8:30 p.m. / 538 Congress Street, Portland / 18+ / www.space538.org

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

“One Acts” special matinee show (see “One Acts” above) 5 p.m. / Russell Hall, Gorham. 780-5151.

LISTINGS COMPILED BY ANGELIQUE CARSON



Media whore

ALEX STEED

ASST. A&E EDITOR

This Valentine's Day, spend a little time with your significant other, some porn and an appreciation for your sexuality. To help, I investigated Videoport and Nomia to find out a thing or two about sex and renting porno. No Valentine's Day is complete without a good session.

Nomia:

Antsy to expand my carnal knowledge, I moseyed down Exchange Street to check out Nomia – an erotic boutique, the best sex shop in Portland. It is the one adult boutique in this city worth going to.

The beauty of this shop is that, while other sex shops sell sex, Nomia provides opportunities to better understand and appreciate it. They offer informational classes on sex toys, the G-spot and anal sex. It's clean and inviting. Its book section offers books like the ever-classic "Guide to Getting It On" and films that don't leave you with a greasy feeling after you check them out. The following is a list of my favorite things about the shop:

1. Thursday night is ladies night. From 5-8 p.m., they offer a ladies only atmosphere to ensure that all parties have an opportunity to visit the store, no matter what their comfort level is.

2. The Liberator. It's the best sex-apparatus product-line in existence. The actual apparatus comes in several variations, though the most popular models appear to be "The Wedge" and "The Ramp." Both are shaped as they sound and are used to encourage new or amplified pleasure via a plethora of exciting sexual positions. The Liberator's website advertises the wedge with a picture of a woman bent over the device with the words "Hit the Spot" above her. A pink G is positioned above her head with one of Cupid's arrows sticking out of it. A caption asks, "eating out this Valentine's Day?" The Liberator is that cool. Nomia has a ton of Liberator products. They're that cool.

3. So many nice dildos; so, so many nice dildos. There are pretty ones, fast ones, rugged ones, fat ones, skinny ones, big ones, small ones. They also carry a plethora of condoms and lubricants. Quality over quantity is important, but when offered both one can't help but to fall in love.

Nomia owner Gina Rourke is the sex-superhero of Portland, Maine. Picture Yoda, minus green alien, plus 30-something woman. Now substitute Yoda's knowledge of the force for Rourke's knowledge of everything sex. I don't use superhero lightly. Rourke is a revolutionary sex activist. She helps to demystify sex, and offers it not as a taboo but as an appreciated fact of life.

Videoport:

First, it should be noted that porn is porn—it just is. It has been defined by many as something that is unquestionably demeaning and exploitive. I won't say that the industry hasn't become characterized by some behaviors and traits that make even me scratch my head. And, Videoport is not a porn store or erotic boutique. It's just your neighborhood video store with a porn rental section hidden behind the sale racks. Surprisingly though, it has plenty of films that made me redefine what I consider odd. There, foot fetishists and "hardcore" fanatics can whet their appetite with an uncensored variety, and it is totally uncensored.

At said store, each porno can be found in a box labeled with a letter. "V" stands for "vanilla," or straight-up hetero, "I'm here to fix the copier" sex. "W" stands for women, or girl on girl. "S" is for fetish. "Y" stands for transgender. Finally, "X" is the label used for hardcore.

This may shock you but the hardcore movies sell, too, even titles like "Cum-Fart Cocktails: Vol. 2." Needless to say, this particular "X" feature is graphic and vulgar, but it sells. One description of the film read, "If you're down with hot girls getting down and dirty, this is a can't-miss title."

By the time I left Videoport, it had been open for only three hours and ten porn movies, including "Cum-Fart Cocktails: Vol. 2" had been returned. Who knew? ♦

Drive fast, take chances

Ambling in Austin

JOSH SCHLESINGER

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Part four of "Drive fast, take chances: the chronicle of three guys traveling across America." In part three, the three guys enjoyed New Years in Memphis, Tenn., before hitting the road again for Texas.

Monday, January 2, 2006: We pulled into Austin to clear blue skies and a bright Texas sun. Austin was one of the places that we were definitely going to visit when we first planned this trip. We were pretty jazzed up to be in the self-proclaimed "live music capital of the country." Unfortunately, I was still getting sicker and sicker, but a solution was at hand: two shots of NyQuill, two hour nap, red bull and alcohol. Some people might dispute the fact that mixing NyQuill and alcohol are a good idea, however my sentiments differ from "some people." Either way, while I was napping, Josh and Shultz sat around our hotel room and enjoyed one of Texas' finest brews: Ziegenbock. It is a beer that (according to the label) only Texans get.

Josh forced me to wake up around 10:00 p.m., so I pounded a Red Bull, prepared to groove, and spent the most of the night in a haze somewhere in between excitement and passing out.

We got downtown and cruised the famed 6th Street, a strip of restaurants and bars, most of which had unbelievable live music spilling out of every opening—mind you, this was a Monday night. The first bar we went to, Friends, had the best music and the best scene for people watching. Eric Tessmer, the lead singer of the appropriately titled Eric Tessmer Band, was shredding up his six string for an audience of about 60. Playing a blues-rock fusion that

most resembled Stevie Ray Vaughn, Tessmer and his two band mates knocked back shots of whiskey and Jager and had the crowd screaming for more. After Tessmer and company covered Pearl Jam's "Yellow Leadbetter," and the three of us had argued over the appropriate way to yell "YEOW" after an appealing performance, we went on to other bars to give the city as much attention as we could for one night.

We left Friends and were bombarded by club promoters attempting to convince us that their bars had the best drink deals.

While on the hunt for a new band, we were confronted by cover charges at various clubs, as well as dress codes and lame acoustic cover musicians. Subsequently, we decided to stick with what worked and we went back to "Friends." It had cleared out a little bit, but the true characters will still milling around. Take, for instance, the middle-aged blonde woman who was in a tight black miniskirt and shaking her teased blonde hair all over the place. Someone clearly needed to tell this woman that the '80s were over and it was safe to get off of Whitesnake's Jaguar. Of course, there was the short and skinny older gentleman who was doing stork-like interpretive dancing all throughout the dance floor in his cowboy boots, tight jeans and "Members Only" jacket. The three of us spent the rest of the night in Friends watching the myriad of patrons enter, some of whom knew everyone in the bar, and some, like us, just wanted to sit around, listen to some awesome music and laugh with their friends. ♦

Mixed media show mixes things up

A review of the latest exhibit at The Clown

LAUREN SMITH

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

At first glance, an art-loving college student may not see Portland as a thriving Mecca of art. However, upon closer inspection, you can find an abundance of small galleries scattered throughout the city, like The Clown, which is hidden behind a typical brick storefront located in the bustling center of the Old Port on Middle Street.

Past exhibits at The Clown include printworks, ceramics and landscape paintings. Holding this particular show together is its common theme of "mixed-media," a style of art that uses everyday household products and turns them into art. The pieces are made out of common materials like wax, nails, thread, dolls, stamps, gypsum and even shoes. A recurring sense of obscure humor and intense self-discovery seems to be an abounding theme throughout the exhibit. However, the pieces are delightfully varied.

The exhibit features artists Buzz Masters, Robert Hollingworth, Patricia Wheeler, Rosalind Fedeli, Erin Herbig, Chandra Glaeseman, John Andrews, and Deborah Randall.

Glaeseman takes a stand with her small but powerful series of mixed-media vaginas, named "Playing with my Vagina" and a painting called "The Art of Seduction."

The Clown art director, Suzanne Gagnon, says "Most people find it amusing and fun—certainly all the women can relate to it. It doesn't seem to be angry or in your face."

Robert Hollingworth brings a touch of the exotic with his earthy sculptures, including "The Fourth Buddha," "Lascaux Moose," and "Bedouin"—referring to the desert-dwelling nomads of the Sahara and the Arabian Desert. The sculptures don't look like they belong in a "mixed-media" exhibition until you see the diverse list of materials used to make them,



Erin Herbig at The Clown

including: gypsum, clay, sculpt-metal, marble, cellulose and alabaster.

Another highlight is a series of Hollywood paintings by artist Erin Herbig, who is also an assistant to the art director and works closely with the exhibits. The paintings feature an ink-copied dancer who appears and reappears throughout the works, mostly against backgrounds abstractly depicting West Hollywood, where Herbig lived for a few years before moving to Maine. Herbig claims this dancer to be a representation of the people of Hollywood, in that "they look beautiful on the outside, but sometimes really that's all that there is."

Gagnon says that many of the works currently on display "contain things that might link someone back to their childhood," particularly Deborah Randall's works, which have dress patterns peeking through paintings of '50s and '60s inspired children which are reminiscent of her childhood.

While the exhibit is considerably smaller than say, the Guggenheim or even a typical New York pizzeria, its art is not anything to be ignored. The pieces are interesting and highly complex. Though Portland, Maine, is not by any means the entertainment capital of America, The Clown may be able to prove, if you let it, that interesting things can come in boring packages. ♦

Sigur Rós enchants Portland

The Icelandic group thrills fans at its Monday night show.

ERICA HANSEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Sigur Rós show at the State Theater last Monday night was rad. The string quartet Amína, who played on Sigur Rós’s latest release, “Takk,” went on stage right around 7:30 as the opening act for the sold-out show. They performed a set of charming, airy songs consisting of violin, cello, bells, glockenspiel and beats from a laptop, all the while frequently switching instruments. It was a nice opening since Amína would later be playing with Sigur Rós once they took the stage.

Sigur Rós plays the type of music that makes you feel like you’re in a trance, being whisked away on a sonic journey through icy dreamscapes, places that are enchantingly beautiful yet strangely haunted at the same time. Their latest album, “Takk,” has some amazing sounds that are even more ethereal and otherworldly than their previous releases and overwhelmingly contagious. They kicked off this year’s string of U.S. tour dates right here in Portland, and it was a show to be remembered.

The audience stirred, likely wondering if Sigur Rós would sound as good live as they do on their albums.



Sigur Rós onstage playing a guitar

Would they really be able to recreate such unique and textured sounds on stage?

Any doubts were quickly extinguished as Sigur Rós came on stage, backlit onto a sheer curtain and opened their set with the song “Glósóli.” The band’s

shadows flickered repeatedly across the curtain as the music took shape and sprang to life, erasing any and all doubts about their ability to transfer their unique sound to the stage.

They were even better live than they are on their albums. In person, singer Jónsi Birgisson’s ethereal falsetto vocals were stellar, and he expertly created haunting textures of sweeping sound by playing his electric guitar with a violin bow. Their sound was full and powerful, and the modest light show was a perfect complement to the ambience.

After Amína joined the band on stage and for the rest of the set, they mostly played tracks from “Takk,” interspersed with a couple of tracks from their previous albums, including “()” and “Ágaetis Byrjun.” Between songs the audience applauded, but for the most part the entire theater was completely silent. It was almost akin to watching a theatrical performance, especially when the sheer curtain was drawn back across the stage at the end of the show.

The encore was an incredibly intense explosion of sound employing the most dramatic use of lights all night. At the end of the show, Sigur Rós and Amína came back on stage, linked together and bowed several times as they received a long standing ovation from the audience.

“Takk” is the title of their most recent album. In Icelandic, it means “thank you.” But it’s Sigur Rós who deserves the thanks for creating this incredible music, and for taking all that is excruciatingly beautiful, translating into sound and sharing it with the world. ♦

PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.SIGUR-ROS.CO.UK

USM playwrights get their chance to shine

Two student’s short plays take the main stage at Russell Hall.

ANGELIQUE CARSON
A&E EDITOR

Valentine’s Day is coming up and everyone’s got love on the brain. Why not? It’s a pervasive topic that concerns each and every one of us. Theater students Mia Perron and Tim Sheridan even wrote scripts on the topic and then turned them into reality. “One Acts” is a two-play show running February 16 to 19 at Russell Hall in Gorham. The show features Perron’s “Layers of Love” and Sheridan’s “Love and (Just) Romance.”

Perron and Sheridan wrote the plays during a playwriting program offered by USM’s theater department. This year, just like the past twelve, Assunta Kent, associate professor of Theater and Women’s Studies, selected two scripts to be turned into a full production. Kent worked closely with the two writers on bringing their words to life.

Comprised completely of USM students, an entire cast joined their efforts on everything from costume design to lighting and music.

The process started in October, giving students the time to work on costume designs. The soundtrack to the show, including pre-show and admission music, is original scores created and produced by USM musicians.



Seducers and Seductresses at rehearsal

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ASSUNTA KENT

In the past, the program has been very successful and appears to be thriving. Kent and Perron both speak very highly of the program.

“It’s just incredible that USM offers this experience,” said Perron. “Now I can go out and say, ‘Yes, I’ve had an experi-

ence writing for actors, [and] Yes, I’ve had experience in production.’ It’s great for the resume.”

“Layers of Love” is a post-modern romantic comedy. It follows the unsatisfactory love life of Audrey and the conflicting love advice that she gets from the quirky entertaining characters of the supporting cast. It even has a steamy make-out scene.

The second play “Love or (Just) Romance” is a glimpse into the lives of two conventional lovers whose bond is tested by a mysterious temptress. The plot twists and turns and is designed to keep you guessing until the very end.

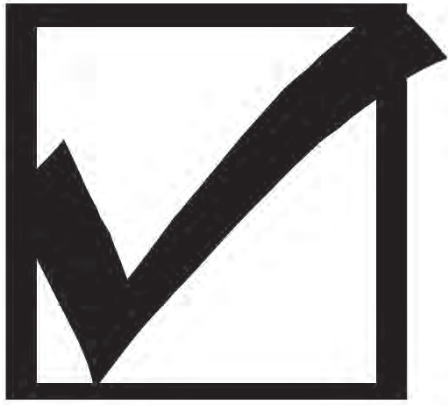
The plays are set in USM’s general area, in cities like Windham and Gorham. The topics are described as being for a mature audience and are written by twenty-somethings for twenty-somethings.

“This has been a wonderful experience for me,” said Sheridan, who graduated in 2005. “I’ve been very inspired by this experience to continue pursuing writing. It’s given me a firm idea of what works and what doesn’t.”

Similarly, Perron had nothing but good things to say about the early experience this production process has given her, and why it’s a valuable tool to have at USM.

“I learned what it is to make it a production,” said Perron, “instead of just words on the paper. I learned how to turn [my work] into something that is alive.” ♦





CHOOSE USM 2006

Student Government Elections Nomination Information

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

- ✓ Student Body President
- ✓ 21 Seats on the Student Senate
 - 9 commuter seats
 - 6 resident seats
 - 6 at-large seats

REQUIREMENTS TO RUN

- ✓ Undergrad student taking 3 or more credits in Portland/Gorham in Fall 2006
- ✓ Minimum GPA of 2.0

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, 2/1	Nomination Forms Available
Friday, 3/3	Nomination Forms Due at 4:30pm
Monday, 3/6	Campaign Weeks Begin
Friday, 3/17	Campaign Weeks End
Monday, 3/20	Elections Begin at 12:01am
Thursday, 3/23	Elections End at 11:59pm
Week of 3/27	Votes verified & results announced

Nomination forms Due by 4:30pm on Friday, 3/3

Turn in forms at either **Office of the Dean of Student Life**
Woodbury Campus Center - P **Brooks Student Center - G**

Pick up an Elections Resource Packet for all
 Elections policy and campaigning guidelines.

CONTACT US

Caroline Young
 Elections Commissioner
caroline.young@maine.edu

Christopher O'Connor
 Administrative Coordinator
oconnorc@usm.maine.edu
 780-4942

www.usm.maine.edu/studentlife/choose06

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Sudoku

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

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

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

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because you need help.

(Think Dear Abby, but better.)

JEN “TOO SEXY FOR TIMES ROMAN” F.

How do you seduce a female?

Like composing a symphony or getting away with a double murder, seduction is hard work. Very hard work. That’s why God made Roofies.

I was/am in a relation with a woman that I have known for over 20 years. Things kind of got dull and I went through some times when I was second-guessing this relation. She is 8 years older. Because of the age difference I was ashamed of her. Always felt that “OMG what if a hot babe likes my looks and sees me with her?” Then one day I met a woman at work (12 years younger). It seems she really dug me so we talked about developing a relation together but because of my relation with the older woman she didn’t want to see me. I fell totally in love with her, became desperate and left the other woman but it was too late. She started seeing another co-worker (my friend and boss). I was devastated when she told me she no longer wanted to talk to me. I was enraged at my friend. I ended up quitting my job and moving out of state. I still love her. What to do?

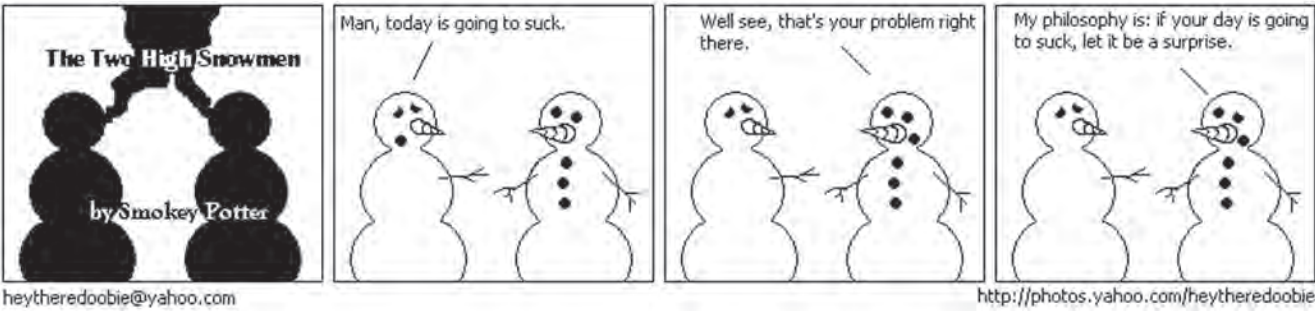
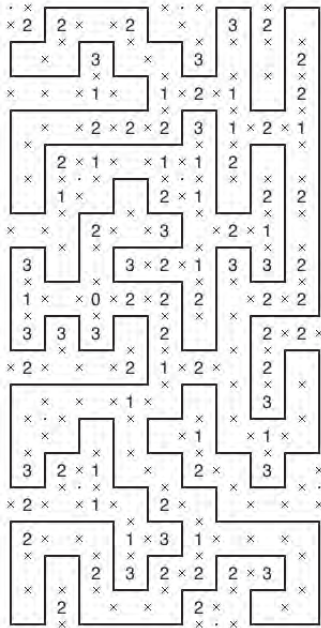
First, don’t call relationships “relations.” Only crazy people do that. More importantly, you need to come to terms with the obvious: humans age and then they die. You too will grow old and die. So maybe instead of lurking outside pre-schools trying to score dates you should stop by your local nursing home. There, you’ll come to terms with the inevitable (i.e. mortality) while performing a community service (i.e. granny sex). Also, stop having friends. As your situation shows, friends are only good for one thing: screwing you over. Become a hermit and trust no one. And forget the broad because obviously she’ll sleep with anyone. Who’d want to have a “relation” with someone like that?

My girlfriend is a Trotskyite and I am a Social Democrat. While the sex is great, we constantly argue whether the former Soviet Union was a deformed worker’s state that should have been uncritically defended against the Capitalist West or whether it was a society run by a new class of bureaucratic Communist Party hacks. I’ve also noticed that she keeps an ice pick under the bed. What should I do?
- Politically confused but not correct

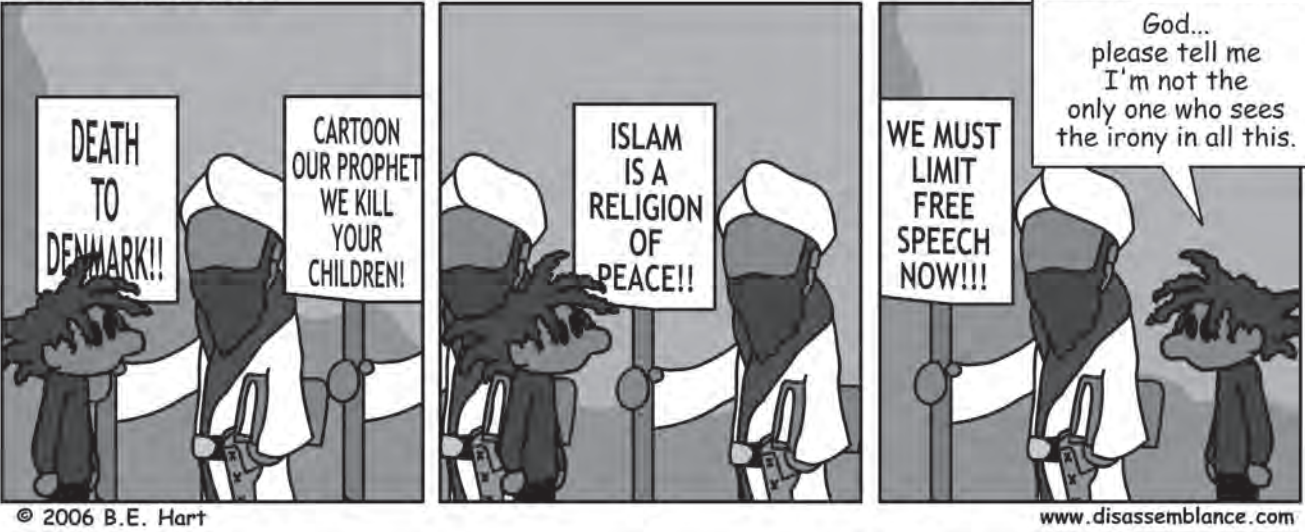
She sounds like a frisky one, your Trotskyite. Literate, kinky, and argumentative. Great combo, but proceed with caution. These Trotskyites can be crafty and that’s why you need

Solutions to puzzles

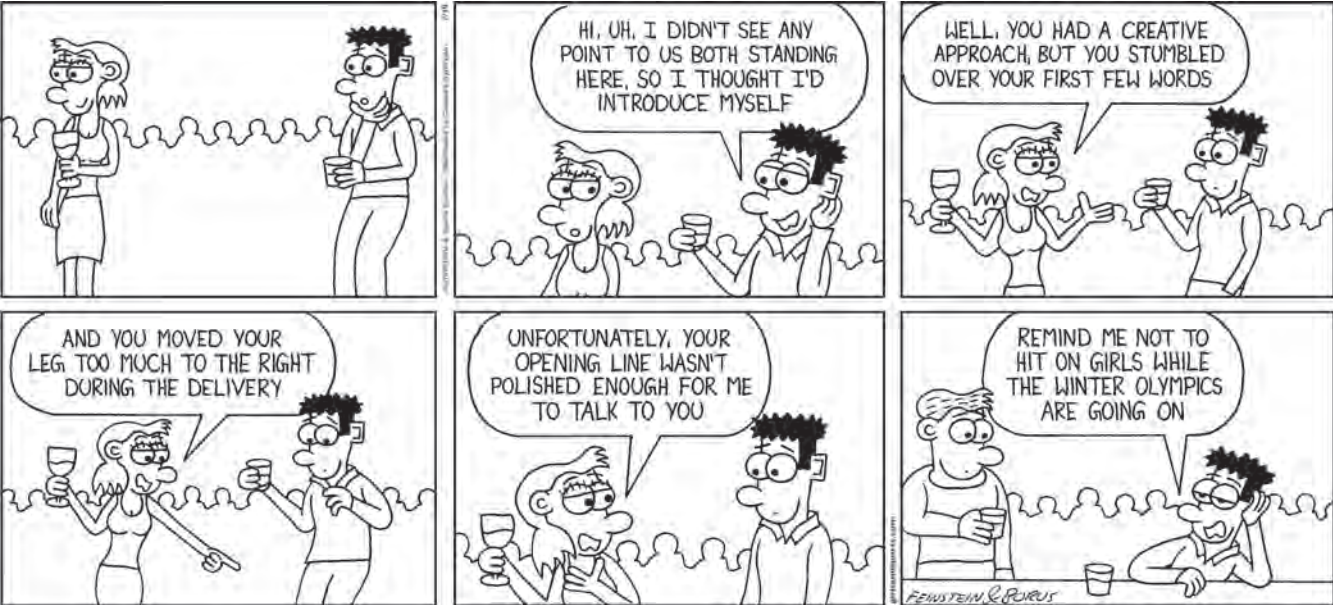
4	7	9	2	8	1	5	6	3
1	8	5	3	9	6	7	4	2
6	3	2	5	7	4	8	1	9
5	1	7	6	2	3	4	9	8
3	9	4	1	5	8	2	7	6
2	6	8	9	4	7	3	5	1
8	4	6	7	1	2	9	3	5
9	2	3	4	6	5	1	8	7
7	5	1	8	3	9	6	2	4



DISASSEMBLANCE



GIRLS AND SPORTS



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 (Ace of Swords)★★★: In the Tug of War game we call life, Aries, be prepared to feel like the rope. The strong forces of love, hate, ambition and laziness are acting on you this week. Don’t get pushed into one extreme or another. Rather, learn to find the balance.

TAURUS (Queen of Swords)★★: Here’s a word of the week for you, Taurus: Privation. The state of being deprived, lacking what is needed in your existence. Now I need a word from you, Taurus. This week, you need to find a name for what you feel you’re lacking.

GEMINI (Queen of Cups)★★★★: Expect to find strength in the areas that make a good monarch, Gemini. Your interpersonal skills, practicality and intuitiveness will all help you envision your next big endeavor.

CANCER (2 of Swords)★★★: Good news, Cancer. If you and a friend have been butting heads, expect a change. This sword card depicts a woman blindfolded with two swords, choices and the future before her. The reverse indicates a removal of the blindfold and the end of a stalemate.

LEO (9 of Rods)★★★: The opposition facing you this week is a hidden blessing for you, Leo. Expect to find people challenging you left and right. Why this week? Because the universe thinks you need to build your inner strength.

VIRGO (7 of Pentacles)★★★★: A funny card to get in the dead of winter, Virgo. But it looks like this is the time for you to be planting the seeds of your worldly garden. Start those investments – they’ll take off and before you know it you’ll be resting on your laurels.

LIBRA (2 of Pentacles)★★★★: Don’t juggle your money too much this week, Libra, or else it may just slip through your fingers. Instead, this is a good time if you wanted to engage in written communication – like sending a letter to Mom or Pop or a Valentine’s Day card to a lover.

SCORPIO (4 of Cups)★★★★: Expect a surprise, Scorpio, or it may pass you by. Whether it’s karma or something else, the universe is granting you a boon this week. Just be sure to use it well – gifts like this don’t happen everyday.

SAGITTARIUS (5 of Pentacles)★★★★: Don’t be too lavish this week or else you’ll feel quite pinched, Sagittarius. Maybe it’s those holiday bills coming back or maybe you’re blowing too much on your lover this week – what ever it is, you might want to be a bit thrifter.

CAPRICORN (The Fool)★★★: You run the risk of being sidelined for being to flippant and glib this week, Capricorn. Think twice about every decision you make – even the minor ones can have huge effects. In fact, before you do anything, find some butterflies and just watch their wings

AQUARIUS (The Emperor)★★★★: Yes, Aquarius, you are very intelligent and very rational and these aspects will show this week as noted by The Emperor card but this card has another aspect to it: Authoritarianism. Be sure to listen to those around you, not as your subjects, but as your equals.

PISCES (The Tower)★★★: This is a complex card, Pisces. The tower speaks of change and we know that change is inevitable. But if the change is positive or negative, that is for you to decide. Change what you want but if you don’t choose to change anything, expect the universe to make some changes for you.

- r: 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

BAKE SALES

Tarot Readings/Bake Sale

11-3, Monday 13th

Luther Bonney Lobby

Buy some goodies for yourself or a loved one!

Bake Sale!

On February the 28th from 10:30 am until 2:00pm, the Geography and Anthropology Student Association will be having a bake sale on the Portland campus in Luther/Bonny Hall. Stop by and enjoy the treats!!

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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.

Are you a student w/ concerns (tuition, food, etc.)? Voice those concerns in the lobby of Luther Bonney, November 17th, 8-5pm with your student senators.

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.

STUDENT GROUPS

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

Interested in Linguistics!?

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

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Layers of Love

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and

Love and (Just) Romance

by Tim Sheridan

Directed by Assunta Kent
For mature audiences only

February 16-19, 2006

7:30 p.m., Feb. 16, 17, and 18;
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I THINK MY PROJECT
WILL MAKE A GOOD
POSTER AT THINKING
MATTERS

I THINK OUR PROECT WILL
BE A GREAT PANEL AT
THINKING MATTERS

I THINK MY PROECT
WILL BE A GOOD ORAL
PRESENTATION AT
THINKING MATTERS

NEXT WEEK ...

WRITING THIS ABSTRACT
IS A CHALLENGE.
ONLY 200 WORDS!

I'M GLAD THE TWO
OF US ARE WRITING
THE ABSTRACT FOR
OUR PANEL
PRESENTATION THIS
WEEK.

YEAH, ME TOO.
IF WE FINISH IT
TODAY, WE CAN
SUBMIT IT ONLINE

I THINK I'LL ASK MY
FACULTY MENTOR TO
READ THIS ABSTRACT
ONE MORE TIME BEORE
I SUBMIT IT ONLINE.

HAVING TWO PEOPLE
WORKING ON IT
MAKES IT A LOT
BETTER, FASTER.

I WONDER HOW MANY
PEOPLE IN HERE ARE
WORKING ON THEIR
THINKING MATTERS
ABSTRACTS

I WONDER WHY
THE WEATHER
HASN'T CHANGED
FOR THREE
WEEKS

WHEW! I'M SO GLAD I
GOT MY ABSTRACT IN
EARLY. THAT FEELS
GREAT

IS IT I BEFORE E?
OR E BEFORE I?

AND DOING IT
ONLINE IS REALLY
EASY

RESEARCH.USM.MAINE.EDU/THINKINGMATTERS



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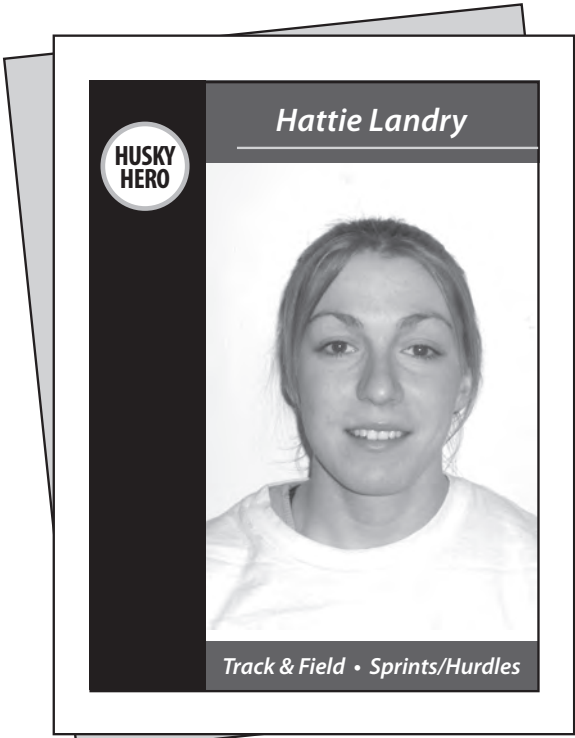
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HUSKY HERO	HATTIE LANDRY	USM ATHLETICS
RECENT HIGHLIGHTS: Little East Conference Track Athlete of the Week for January 30 to February 5. Competed in three events February 3 at State of Maine Championship at Bates. Won the 55 meter dash, came in second in both the 55 meter hurdles and 200 meter dash, yielding 26 points for Southern Maine	PRE-GAME RITUALS: Make sure I warm up on my own, just think about what I have to do and how I am going to do it.	TO WHOM I GIVE SPECIAL THANKS: Basically anyone who has helped me along the way.
INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF SPORTS: • Photography • Film Developing	FAVORITE THING ABOUT USM ATHLETICS: The Team is great. I enjoy everyone's company. We are all pretty close, outside of practice and meets we hang out for each others birthdays	WHAT HER COACH SAYS: I feel fortunate to have athletes like Hattie on our team. She brings a tremendous work ethic and understanding of the sport. To run the 55 meter hurdles, 55 dash and 200 dash at the level she performed at the state championships is quite an accomplishment.
	MAJOR: UNDECLARED	
	YEAR: SOPHOMORE	

PHOTO AND INTERVIEW BY ASHLEY ST. MICHEL

HUSKY SPORTS SCHEDULE

2/14	Women's Basketball
	UMass Boston @ Home 5:30 PM
2/14	Men's Basketball
	UMass Boston @ Home 7:30 PM
2/16	Women's Basketball
	@ St. Joseph's 6:30 PM
2/17	Men's Ice Hockey
	@ Saint Anselm 7:00 PM
2/17	Men's Indoor Track
	New England Div. III Championships
	@ M.I.T. TBA
2/17	Women's Indoor Track
	New England Div. III Championships
	@ M.I.T. TBA
2/18	Men's Indoor Track
	New England Div. III Championships
	@ M.I.T. 11:00 AM
2/18	Women's Indoor Track
	New England Div. III Championships
	@ M.I.T. 11:00 AM
2/18	Women's Ice Hockey
	@ New England College 12:00 PM
2/18	Women's Basketball
	Keene State @ Home 1:00 PM
2/18	Men's Basketball
	Keene State @ Home 3:00 PM
2/18	Men's Ice Hockey
	@ New England College 4:00 PM
2/19	Women's Ice Hockey
	@ Saint Anselm 3:00 PM

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Lady Huskies chew out Panthers 80 to 39

Marble,
Kynoch, and
Myles lead
Lady Huskies
to victory

ASHLEY ST. MICHEL

SPORTS EDITOR

As the fans and students of the University of Southern Maine packed the gym on Tuesday, February 7, they had no idea how tough the USM Women's Basketball team was going to be on Plymouth State. USM not only heated up their defense on the floor, but their relentless offense offered very few forced shots during the entire game.

The game tipped off at 5:30 p.m. and almost immediately went downhill for the Plymouth Panthers. Panthers' sophomore Meghan MacDonald started off the game with a three-pointer but then USM took the lead for good after an 8-0 run against the Panthers. The Panthers couldn't keep the Huskies defense off of them during the first half including three steals from junior guard Katie Sibley in less than three minutes. Sibley also went on to score six field goals, one three-pointer, and got away with four more steals in the 26 minutes that she played. Senior forward Megan Myles also paced the Huskies, adding a game-high 15 points, two of which came from three-pointers. Myles also grabbed two steals and five rebounds in the twenty-one minutes that she played.

Although junior forward Ashley Marble didn't break any school records or contribute her usual double-double,



Dianna Thibaudeau from Sanford, Maine takes a shot

Marble's defense was relentless. She tapped in with five field goals and one three-pointer, and contributed, in large part, to other aspects of her game. Marble grabbed one offensive rebound and six defensive rebounds to earn herself, along with junior Shannon Kynoch, the ebouling honors, each of them grabbing seven rebounds for the Huskies. Marble also had one steal and three assists in the 24 minutes she played. Junior guard Lindsay Welch also contributed to the Huskies well-organized defense with three steals and three rebounds. Welch was fouled early on in the game, hitting the ground hard on a breakaway, but recovered quickly to come back out and repeat another steal from off the bench.

The Panthers started to regain their ground after being fouled, but fell short again when the Huskies came back for a 17-2 run in the first seven minutes of the second period. The Huskies ended the half with a 40-19 score, leaving the Panthers in their dust.

The second half was lead by senior guard Katie Frost and Kynoch. Kynoch opened up the lead to 71-28 after her three-pointer and Frost's five unanswered shots all scored in under the first seven minutes of the half.

The Huskies well-balanced defense and offense was key to their 80-39 win over the Panthers in the Little East Conference game, although their defense seemed more effective, forcing the

Panthers into 34 turnovers. The Panthers did walk away with some of their dignity, allowing them to say they did force 15 turnovers and eight steals, although only four of their players contributed to the scoring in their game. The Panthers, although able to keep up with the face-paced Huskies, could not seem to keep the ball long enough to score. While the Panthers chimed in 23.5 percent from the field goal range, the Huskies shot 44.8 percent for the game. The Huskies also shot over 57 percent from the three-pointer line and 50 percent from the free throw line.

Are the Huskies unbeatable? If the Huskies can continue to play their offense and defense as they have been playing, combining the leading roles of Marble, Kynoch, and Myles, the Huskies may just be unbeatable. Their face-paced breakaways seem almost unstoppable, and their unbreakable defense leads to a turnover almost every time an opponent over the half court line.

The win was the 12th straight for the Huskies and raised their overall record to 20-1. They have won their last 56 games against Little East opponents and 43 straight games at home. Following the game, the Huskies were honored with the NCAA Division III record for 26 consecutive seasons of 20-or-more games won. This dates the record back to the 1980-81 season for the Huskies. ♦

Husky Highlights

Marble Named Player of the Month

Junior USM Women's Basketball forward Ashley Marble (Topsfield) was named the Women's Division III News Player of the Month for the month of February. Marble averaged 18.1 points and nine rebounds per game for the Huskies in eight games. She has had eight 'double-double' efforts this season. She is shooting 54.4 percent from the field and is second on the team in steals with 36.

Panthers devour Huskies

Junior forward Devin Ruocco (Dover, N.H.) scored a game-high 23 points and grabbed eight rebounds to lead the Plymouth State University Panthers to a 69-51 Little East Conference win over the Huskies Tuesday evening. Suffering their second conference loss in as many games, the Huskies drop to 10-12 overall and 3-8 in the LEC. Senior forward Bill Hardwick (Boothbay) led the Huskies with 17 points, while sophomore guard Walter Phillips (Portland) was the only other Southern Maine player in double-figures with 12 points and seven rebounds.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEY ST. MICHEL

Spencer Wrestles into Rookie of the Week

Freshman Wrestler Nick Spencer (Bridgewater, Mass) was named Pilgrim League Rookie Wrestler of the Week January 30 through February 5. Spencer had a 4-0 record last week, including two pins out of four matches. Wrestling in the 133-pound division, Spencer earned a pin over Rhode Island College senior Todd Bloom in a time of 6:29. Spencer also helped Southern Maine to a 33-18 win over Pilgrim League opponent Zack Henninghausen (United States Coast Guard Academy) in a time of 2:10.

Landry Dashes for Southern Maine

Sophomore Hattie Landry (Acton) was named the Little East Conference Track Athlete of the week for the week of January 30 through February 5. Landry competed in three events Friday, February 3, at the State of Maine Championships at Bates College. She Helped the Huskies to a first place finish in the four-team meet. Landry won the 55-meter dash with a time of 7.58 and placed second in both the 55-meter hurdles and the 200-meter hurdles. Her time in the 55-meter dash was just 0.01 seconds shy of the school record.

Huskies Roll On

The USM Huskies women's basketball team defeated the Plymouth State University Panthers 80-39 Tuesday night. The win was the 12th straight for the number one ranked Huskies and raised their overall record to 20-1. The 20 wins for the season extends the Huskies' NCAA Division III record for consecutive seasons with 20-or-more wins to 26, dating back to the 1980-81 season. Senior forward Megan Myles (Auburn) paced the Huskies' offense scoring a game-high 15 points. Junior forward Ashley Marble (Topsfield) added 13 points and shared team-high rebounding honors with junior Shannon Kynoch (South Burlington, Vt.) as each grabbed seven caroms. Kynoch and junior guard Katie Sibley (Boothbay) each contributed nine points to the offense.



Angela Santa Fe from Derry New Hampshire shoots a three