SMR to stay off ballot and find new funding

The Southern Maine Review decides not to try to get funding via referendum

Richard Smart
NEWS EDITOR

Despite collecting the 200 signatures required to bring their funding request to the student body via a referendum, and narrowly avoiding a veto by the Student Senate, the staff of the Southern Maine Review will delay their plans to reinstate the publication for a little while longer.

After the Senate voted 11 to 1 against putting the Southern Maine Review referendum question on the ballot at its February 17 meeting, the question still would have gone before students at the end of March because of the five abstaining votes that prevented the two-thirds majority required to keep the question off the ballot.

It appeared students would be allowed to weigh in on the activity fee increase until the staff at SMR decided to take the referendum question off the ballot.

Melissa St. Germain, the former student managing editor of the Southern Maine Review and linguistics major, said she reconsidered after meeting with the Student Senate.

“We realized that if the Senate is opposed to it, and we had enough signatures to do it, then this probably wasn’t the best route,” St. Germain said.

According to St. Germain, the reaction from the Senate and the justifications for opposing the referendum question were strong enough that the staff at SMR changed their minds, deciding to pursue some other funding options instead. St. Germain said she has enough faith in the senators’ desire to represent the student body that she trusted their majority decision to stand against the referendum.

Andrew Bossie, chair of the Student Senate, said there were two key issues behind the Senate’s opposition to the referendum question. The first was the issue of the Southern Maine Review being a publication that prints material from faculty, staff and individuals outside the USM community but requesting that students foot the bill for the survival of the publication.

The second issue revolved around the wording of the referendum question that would grant the Southern Maine Review its $75,000 dollars for its operating budget prior to funds being allocated to the Student Senate or the Student Communication Board. According to Bossie, the Senate opposition stemmed from the fact that the Senate would have no financial control over a student group for which they would be legally responsible.

Bossie said there was discussion of amending the question as it would appear on the ballot to allow the Senate the financial control. However, the Senate constitution forbids altering referendum questions after they are submitted because students had signed petitions in approval of the original question.

Bossie said he is sympathetic to SMR’s reasons for wanting their funding to not be controlled by another department or organization. He said it’s understandable, given that its funding has been cut in the past and the SMR staff is looking for a way to guarantee funding, not just for the next year but for a number of years.

Bossie said he chose to abstain from voting on the issue because he “wanted this to go to the students and have the students decide whether this was something they wanted.”

The majority of senators seemed to echo the sentiments of Laura Saia, a Student Senator.

"Students shouldn’t have to support an academic journal that isn’t directly for them,” said Saia.

St. Germain said she has begun talking with other groups in hopes of getting funding and resurrecting the Southern Maine Review but was unwilling to go into detail because the plans are still in development. While the referendum question won’t be going on this year’s ballot, St. Germain said she is hopeful that the Southern Maine Review can resume publication in the 2007-2008 academic year.

Student dies in crash

Police unsure of cause of accident

Anne Hobey
ASS. NEWS EDITOR

Christina McKinney, a second-year nursing major, died in January in a car accident in Gorham.

The morning of the accident, McKinney’s truck crossed into oncoming traffic and crashed into a Gorham school bus. Two other passengers survived with injuries but McKinney died in the crash. Police do not yet know the exact cause of the accident.

In order to pay for school, McKinney worked two jobs, one at the Information Desk in the Student Center on the Portland Campus. “She was working so hard to make something of herself,” said her grandmother, Patty Pond. “My heart’s just broken.” She is remembered by family and friends as a very kind, generous person, always willing to help out.

It was reported in the Portland Press Herald that she was a student at the Southern Maine Community College, but she was in fact a USM student who lived on the Gorham Campus in Phillips Hall. McKinney is survived by her parents, Chris and Diane McKinney, her two sisters, Samantha and Tamara; her paternal grandmother, Mary Ann McKinney, and her maternal grandparents, Chuck and Patty Pond.

A burial will be held in the spring. Donations should be sent to: Christina McKinney Memorial Fund PO Box 1513 Windham, ME 04062
Letters to the editor

Two senators opposition to Southern Maine Review Referendum

The Southern Maine Review came before the Student Senate on Monday, February 17, asking to put a referendum question on the Spring 2006 ballot. Where they would be able to raise the student activity fee 15 percent and thus receive $75,000 to support the running of their academic journal, which takes two senators opposition not to support this financial assistance. The senate requires at least four years now. A full time employee who is not an academic, but should not be a financial burden to all USM students, and carrying the same bag for at least four years now. Then there are the obvious differences (diminishing disparities), tried to end affirmative action in college admissions, and cut college grant and loan opportunities for those in need.

Regarding previous crimelogs

Two senators opposition to Southern Maine Review Referendum

Regarding previous crimelogs, Greenglass’s testimony was the only direct evidence against the Rosenberg’s at their trial. The de-negation which proved Julius had been involved in other espionage cases, Greenberg’s testimony was the only direct evidence against the Rosenberg’s at their trial. The defendants were told they could escape the electric chair if they confessed to the crimes but they refused and were summarily executed.

Infringements including the use of torture, use of banned weapons, suspension of habeas corpus for military detainees, besieging of cities, armed occupation of hospitals, targeting of ambulances, targeting of journalists, to name a few. Sen. Snowe has not registered a single complaint about any of these issues. Regarding education, President Bush attempted to dismantle the scientific peer review process, pushed for private school vouchers (which would expand educational disparities), tried to end affirmative action in college admissions, and cut college grant and loan opportunities for those in need.

I could continue to expose the aspirations of the Bush administration (dismantling of under qualified and unprincipled individuals to posts as important as Attorney General, head of FEMA, Chief Justice to the Supreme Court, Ambassador to the United Nations, Director of National Intelligence, Defense Secretary, and Secretary of State. Sen. Snowe voted to confirm all of Bush’s nominees except John Bolton, confirmed via recess appointment.

This is what our Senator stands for. Please explain to me how such a person has any place in addressing our fine institution? The buck must ultimately stop at your desk, Mr. Patterson, but I also noted no protest by our faculty, staff or students, pointing to the frightening lack of emphasis placed on the most pressing national discussion we currently face. By presenting Sen. Snowe, we also endorsed endless war and crimes against both our nation and the world. There is no escaping this reality and I am ashamed to be connected with such an alliance.

USM must incorporate a transparent commencement speaker selection process to provide ample time and opportunity for open discussion regarding those under consideration. Where Paul Cunningham, Class of 1971, summa cum laude Russell Scholar
An interview with the new general manager of the student television station

JAMES ASHWORTH
STAFF WRITER

In addition to being the general manager of GTV, Franklin Kendrick is a media studies student with a concentration in video production and a resident on the Gorham campus.

What is your position at GTV?
I’m the new general manager, so that means that I oversee what goes on. I oversee the students that are making films and different projects. I make sure that the time cards are in on time and I make sure that nothing is missing from the station.

How did you get involved in that?
I knew Gail, [the resident director of Anderson Hall], before I came here and she knew that I liked to make movies. She told me about the station, and I was like, “Oh, cool, I’ll get involved,” and I got workstudy in my financial aid and I found out that you could do workstudy through the station. I talked with Jeff [Bilodeau], who was the manager at the time, and I got a job doing different little movie things for the station. That’s how I first got involved.

So was it a natural carry-over for you to go from what you’re studying in class to GTV?
Yeah, I do a lot of different movie things all the time, just for fun. So it wasn’t a lot of work to make things for the station because I was already making them just for myself.

How are you going to facilitate that as general manager?
We’re figuring out what direction we want to go, overall. We’re trying to make it more of a team thing right now, because before it was everybody just sort of doing their own thing, just making sure they made something but not a lot of ideas. So now we seem like we’re all trying to work toward the same goal. So, we’re trying to come up with a theme that we’re all going to try to follow and we’re going to try to apply it to all the things that are being made.

So, what are some of the ideas that are being thrown around for that?
Some of the ideas are doing more documentary-style shows. One suggestion was going to be a sort of reality or fraternity [and] getting their behind-the-scenes story of what it’s like, because a lot of people have ideas of what they think certain things are like on campus, but then you can see a show exactly what it’s like. I did one of the theater. A lot of people have their own preconceptions of what the theater is, but then there’s what goes on behind the curtain and all the work that goes into that kind of program. It’s kind of a way to let everybody know what kinds of things are going on and what they’re really like before they investigate it themselves.

What kind of feedback have you received?
My friends watch the show. They’re my main source of feedback. They like a lot of things that are shown. A lot of people, [at the station] make things that try to make a series so they can keep going with a certain idea. And a lot of the shows they [my friends] thought were pretty comical.

Sometimes we get mixed reviews from people. Some people like it, some people want to see something different. So we’re trying to eat to everybody this semester. So it’s not just leading toward one type of person. We’re trying to find something that everybody can watch and enjoy.

What are some of the things that people want to see but feel aren’t being represented?
We show professional movies, and in past months we’ve shown new movies and a lot of the times, it seemed like there was only one genre that was being played. And if you didn’t like horror movies and those were the movies of the week, then you just wouldn’t tune in. We’re trying to show movies that everybody can watch, and we’re also trying to find more visually entertaining things because there were things that some people thought were boring. We’re trying not to make it too boring.

What are some challenges that you’ve run into as general manager?
One of the things was that the studio itself wasn’t as organized as it could be, so I didn’t really know what everything did. So I had to take some time to figure out what was what.

I was being shown, but I was told that there wasn’t one way to run the station. So I had to figure out my own system of what worked and how to make everything flow. Like what time certain movies had to be played and what new things should be submitted by the student employees and things like that. That was the real challenge; to figure out my own schedule, because nobody was telling me how to do it.

Personally, what are you planning to do after college and GTV?
After college, I really would want to try writing screenplays or directing. It’s kind of a big ambition, but I really enjoy directing things and making my own little movies and writing a lot. I bought a book on how to write screenplays, so I’m figuring that out on my own. It’s just something that I enjoy and I think it would be a cool job.

For more information — www.gpmetropolitanbus.com or call 800-3531 or Visit Student Involvement Center at Woodbury Campus Center, Portland Campus
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE THE STUDENT COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER?

Speech Requirements:

❖ Speaker must be a graduating student, eligible to participate in commencement and have no more than 9 credit hours to complete at the end of the 2006 spring semester.
❖ Speech must be 3-5 minutes in length.
❖ One speech per graduating student may be submitted and it is encouraged that the speech be the original creation of the presenter.
❖ Two students may collaborate on a speech, but only one student will be permitted to deliver the speech and sit on the commencement stage.
❖ Speech should be addressed to the University community in general, including traditional and non-traditional students, family members, guests, faculty and staff.
❖ It is suggested that the speech reflect on the University experience and provide direction for the graduating class.
❖ Selection is based on quality, content and oral presentation.

Presentation Requirement:

❖ One or more selections will be made from all entries will be orally presented before the selection committee on Tuesday, April 11th, 2:00-4:00 p.m. in Rm. 212 Abromson Center, Portland Campus.
❖ If you submit a speech, please block out this time on your schedule. You will be notified by April 7th if you will be invited to present before the committee.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

Friday, March 24, 2006, 4:00 p.m.

Please return (or fax) cover sheet and speech text to:
Attention: Pat Haskell RE: Student Commencement Speaker, 117 Payson Smith Hall, Portland Campus
Questions: Call Helen Gorgas-Goulding, Committee Chair, 780-4629

The selected speaker will be honored with a University of Southern Maine Chair with engraved name plate.

For any writing assistance, you are encouraged to contact the Portland Learning Center, 253 Luther Bonney Hall; or Gorham Learning Center, Cosello Sports Complex.

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A letter from the editor

Executive Editor Joseph R. Thompson can be contacted at freepress@usm.maine.edu

Where are the womyn and grrrls at?

Almost every day I hear “USM is an actively liberal campus,” from various conservative demagogues on campus. It’s like a mantra almost. But after a look around, I’d have to disagree. I wouldn’t call it a liberal campus; I wouldn’t call it a conservative campus either. Let’s try a little experiment to find out what to call it. March 8th is International Women’s Day — a day first observed in this country in 1909 in accordance with a declaration by the Socialist Party of America. This has traditionally been a day to draw attention to gender inequalities and to promote related causes. So which of the following groups have sent out press releases or asked to write a guest editorial about the eroding rights of women in this country for their student paper? I’ll make it easy, you have four choices:

1. The Gender Studies Student Organization
2. The Women’s Studies program
3. The Women’s Resource Center
4. No USM organizations — only off-campus national groups

If the mantra was accurate, there would be a “yes” on numbers one through three. As it turns out, only number four is true. I called all three of the USM organizations before I finished up this letter to find out why. I discovered that press releases are handled through Public Affairs and on Thursday, I did get a listing from that office with all of the March events. But that’s faculty and staff and administrators. What about students? Are we supposed to sit back, can’t take it upon ourselves to make a stand for basic human equality?

What is going on here? I think USM is a politically silent campus, apathetic even, the recent flurry over the named American Bill of Rights (ABOR), it’s not a bill and the No on 1 campaign are rare exceptions that prove the rule. Woke. The college campus is a small, enclosed environment where a single individual can promote great, positive change. Why isn’t this happening?

Pretend I’m wrong. Or, if you want me to believe I’m wrong, Pretend National Women’s Day is an obsolete occasion and women have equal rights regardless of their backgrounds and ideologies. Pretend that we no longer have a need for the socially forward and aggressive Womyn and Grrrls. How have women been represented on campus? At the two ABOR panels, one faculty and one student, there were no women speaking for the conservative side. At the student panel, there were no women on the panel at all. Too political? Look at the list of USM college presidents: Out of 21 presidents, only one has been a woman — not that I’d point out that Patterson is doing a bad job, on the contrary I’ve been impressed with his work. Moving beyond USM, we live in a country where US presidents have a demonstratively elected president. Logically, we should be able to point at least 15 female US presidents. Of course, the national record is worse than USM’s record in that area. And in the job sector, a five year study done from 1995 to 2000 discovered that women are paid 73 cents for each dollar that men are paid. And if the women are black, drop that number down 10 cents. Since 1963 this gap has only shrunk by a third of a penny each year.

As a guy, I find this discrepancy disgusting, reprehensible even. As a member of the human species, I find it doubly disgusting to see fellow equals being treated as something less than a full human. At times, I don’t believe that a little bit of activism on one maine college campus will change much nationally. And as just one guy, what can I do? Since when has one voice in Maine ever had the power to shape the status quo? I found the answer the other day when I was at the Maine State Museum in Augusta. They have a statue of a 10-year-old girl who wrote a letter that changed the world just a little bit, just enough to help end the Cold War between the US and the USSR. Samantha Smith, where are you now? We at USM and in the USA need you more than ever.

I need to also pay attention to the things that undermine the very fabric of our relationship to society and how this plays into male dominance and entitlement. So on International Women’s Day, I am just going to be a woman. Not a womyn, not a grrrl, certainly not a feminazi – and I’m going to head on down to Borders and shoot an absolutely loathing look at anyone who approaches the porn rack. Who knows? Maybe I’ll even stake out a porn shop. Either way, it won’t be fun. I’m sure that I will get some nasty, derogatory-to-womyns terms chucked at me. I expect it and I’m interested in combating it.
Meet Joe Student

How did you decide on coming to USM?

To be quite frank, out of all the colleges I was accepted to, USM was the best. It has a nice layout and good food. I also like having classes on the Portland and Gorham campuses. Going from campus to campus keeps you alert and makes you learn to schedule your time.

What’s on your iPod?

Pretty much anything I can steal from my brother. I listen to just about everything except speed metal, heavy metal, silly dance music and techno. And I listen to rap because my roommate likes it to constantly.

What is a new experience you’ve had since becoming a student?

Being asked if I wanted sex on the phone by a total stranger. I thought it was some sorority thing because I heard another girl giggling in the background.

Any other interesting USM experiences you’d like to share?

Talking to my roommates for an hour before bed. We should record it – it’s like a philosophy class at night.

Do you vote?

Yes I do. And yes, I did vote against Bush. He is clearly the stupidest president America has ever had. Among dozens of other dumb things he’s done, he’s fallen off a Segway and choked on a pretzel. Bush is living proof that anyone can become president.

Do you have any questions you’d like to ask USM or The Free Press?

Why is the food at breakfast so bad? I almost gagged when I tried one of the waffles. It was like biting into pure vanilla extract. Also, why aren’t there more tacos and curly fries?

Do you have a favorite quote?

I have so many. My current favorite is “It’s not that we hate you, it’s that we enjoy screwing you over.” I got that from playing Sorry with some friends.

Sorry? As in that old board game?

Yes. The way I see it, you don’t need to get high. You just need to play really, really old games.
A classic medium with a new spin

Ceramics show puts pottery in a new light

JOSEPH R. THOMPSON  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Ceramics are the stepchild of the art world. They just don’t get the respect they deserve. Often, the only time one hears about it is when a friend, following a midlife crisis or a break up, says he or she will be taking a ceramic class to meet other people. And in Portland, it can seem like the gallery owners are running their shops like monochromes by only showing the works of second tier painters and photographers. But Aucocisco Gallery is shaking things up with their current show, albeit gently – ceramics are fragile. “New Ceramics” is the misleadingly minimalist title for Lucy Breslin and Mark Johnson’s showcase of their latest pieces. The name of the show does nothing to prepare a patron for the amazing level of craft exhibited by these two artists, married for almost 20 years but each with distinct and separate styles and inspirations.

Johnson’s work is wall hangings and platters, are a welcome burst of oranges and greens with touches of blues and light purples during the brown and muddy end of winter. Every platter is ringed with garlands of intricately created flowers and leaves, stemming from memories of her childhood summers in Pennsylvania. “I remember even at a very young age watching [my mother] put tiny seedlings in the ground and being amazed at the bloom of colors, textures and smells present by summer’s end,” writes Breslin, in her artist’s statement. “When I’m lucky my art speaks of these factors also.”

Johnson’s work, in comparison, is refreshingly sparse. While it lacks the delicate complexity of Breslin’s work, the solid lines and smooth contours of his bowls, vases and teapots are practical and comforting. Although new, they look suspended in time: They are simultaneously fully modern and filled with a sense of ancient tradition. They reveal Johnson’s idea of pottery’s Platonic form. “A truly successful piece of pottery reveals itself over time to be a seamless blend of visual, tactile, and conceptual messages,” reads Johnson’s statement. “In many ways pottery making is a figurative art; there are echoes and clues that suggest the human form in much of my work.”

The show will be up for the month of March. Aucocisco Gallery is located on 615 Congress Street, Portland, Maine. For more information see gallery listings (same page) or call (207)775-2222.

Lady Slippers, Lucy Breslin, 2006

Teapot, Mark Johnson, 2006

Vase, Mark Johnson, 2006

What’s the difference between an art gallery in Maine and a Museum in Norway? In Maine you have to pay before you walk out with a painting. In Norway you have to pay after you walk out. As March progresses and the weather turns windy and possibly wet, grey and rainy, don’t get stuck in your room. Check out some of the best art galleries in Portland. And then when you’re done, stop at your favorite watering-hole, grab a glass of wine and impress your friends with your new found culture.

Aucocisco Tuesday through Saturday 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. 615A Congress Street Portland, Maine 04101 207.775.2222

The Clown Monday through Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. 123 Middle Street Portland, ME 04101 207.775.2222

Exchange Street Gallery 425 Fore Street Portland, Maine 04101 207.772.0633

Fore Street Gallery Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday Noon to 6 p.m. 72 Fore Street Portland, Maine 04101 877.874.8084

SPACE 538 Congress Street Portland, Maine 04101 SPACE538.org

LISTINGS COMPILED BY ANGELIQUE CARSON
Drive fast, take chances

In L.A., racing against the sun

JOSH SCHLESINGER

Senior Staff Writer

Part five of “Drive fast, take chances: the chronicle of three guys traveling across America.”

In part four, the three guys stumble around Los Angeles, catch a glimpse of the world’s first acclaimed live music scene before heading west to L.A.

We were about an hour away from the California coast and we decided it would be best to just keep driving west. We figured it was only appropriate that we drive as far as we could until we ran out of road. Naturally, this was going to lead us to the beach, and since it was going to be sunset, we thought this was a great idea. At 11 o’clock we were on I-10 West, and with every pass second we were getting more and more excited that the past ten of our miles were finally going to pay off. It had been an adventure: starting in Maine, driving through Tennessee, the Gulf Coast, Texas, the Southwest, Las Vegas, and finally Los Angeles. I was driving, and it was a battle against the sun to get to the beach. We weren’t really sure which beach we would end up at. We all knew that I-10 eventually hit the Pacific, and that was fine with us.

When we were driving through Tennessee, our radio was blasting the music of a young, enthusiastic black woman jumping up and down, clapping her hands. When we were not learning about the doctors, we’re learning about their equally charismatic clients: the B-list model who believes she needs a new chin to take her career to the next level; the average chested, 19-year-old lingerie model wannabe who believes that all she needs is a huge set of tits to take over the world; and the 15-year-old aspiring singer who has convinced herself that a new nose will equal a new career. We can get a peak into their surgeries: open-tummy-tuck wounds that resemble Big Macs, breast implants shoved under the skin and along the torso by the belly button, pillars punching cartilage out of a soon-to-be reshaped nose. The only reality television that has become more interesting to watch than the carassed filled and consistently narcissistic Doctor 90210 [airing on Mondays between 10 and 11 ET] is the carassed and consistently narcissistic George W. Bush show. The interesting thing about being a television star vis-à-vis presidential status is that it is possible to maintain an incomparably lower approval rating (34%, as according to the most recent CBS poll) and still be guaranteed a slot on prime-time television every night. The wildly un-funny Chevy Chase had a higher approval rating in the early 90s than the President does now, and should have been ranked almost instantly after its premier. Bush and Co. send thousands of our loved ones to their death. They maintain a love-embracing irresponsible fiscal policy. Not to mention the recently released clip where Bush shows up on a scandalous behind-the-scenes video acting indifferently to a warning that Katrina would be sure to fuck anything up that stood in her way. Still, he gets more air time than a Ray Romano/Jerry Seinfeld/Dick Van Dyke cocktail would: how could such a hybrid television wet-dream actually existed.

Of course, not all television is bad. If you didn’t already know, you’ll be happy to read that “The Price Is Right” is still on television. Once in a while I like to take my mind off of the big things like presidential scandal (and its place on prime-time), sensationalized breast augmentation and anything that makes that itself work (3,000,000, 5,000 miles, $600 in gas, and 19 states later. We had really made it. Once I-10 ended we had to get on Route 1, California’s Pacific Coast Highway, to get as far west as possible. About 200 yards away we saw the Santa Monica Pier and the beach. As we pulled in to park the car and watch the sun set over one of the western-most points of the country, we were speechless. We all agreed that we had accomplished something. Watching the shadows fall over Santa Monica, Malibu, and Venice Beach was one of the most beautiful things I have ever seen. Shultz, Josh and I sat side-by-side like proud veterans of the road and watched the sun go down. We watched other families have picnics on the beach, little kids swim in the ocean, and couples cuddle up to watch the myriad of colors dance about on the horizon of the Pacific.

The three of us played Frisbee for a while and took pictures. Josh and Shultz both used their camera phones, and I used my digital since I was the only one with an actual camera. Naturally, I took the most pictures on account of my infatuation with sunsets. Once the sun was out of sight, we walked the pier searching for the best corndog (as we were instructed to do by one of Shultz’s friends).

After walking the beach to get back to the car we sat back down and just thought. We really hadn’t figured out where we were going to sleep that night, and without skipping a beat my cell phone went off. According to my caller ID it was my friend Nicole from high school—a girl who I haven’t spoken to since graduation four years ago except for a few drunken sentences at a party over this year’s Thanksgiving break, in which I mentioned that I would be out in L.A. in a couple of months. Being the very gracious girl she is, she invited the three of us to sleep at her house in Redondo Beach for the night. She is dating one of the Los Angeles Kings (Dustin Brown) who also went to my high school. I was never really friends with Dustin, so I had some weird feelings that the night had the chance to get awkward, especially since Nicole and I used to fool around from time to time.

“Guess what? I was right. The night was ridiculous, complete with awkward silences and Dustin and Nicole fighting. It was all worth it in the end, though. We were taken out for dinner and drinks, and we got to sleep in a place where we didn’t have to worry about all of our possessions getting stolen.

We left the next morning pretty early since we had a fourth member on her way out to California to get crazy with us. Upon her arrival, a whole new edition of stories would accompany this weary traveler who had only flown once in her life. Welcome to California! YEGO!
Poetry slams provide an open forum for good time

Ryan Parker, jazz piano

A familiar drug is again sweeping the streets of Portland, concentrating its users in one place. This high of choice: poetry reading. Every Tuesday from 7 to 10 p.m. in a cozy basement-like room of Acoustic Coffee. You’re going to have to get fucking hyped up to the audience before the commencement of the slam. “It’s the kind of thing where the level is high,” said Agrew to the judges. “It’s excellent. I love it.”

Despite last month’s slam being on Valentine’s Day, the love was not always flowing. Judges were harsh, giving some of the lowest recorded scores in Spoken Word Night history. “You guys are brutal,” said Agrew to the judges. “This is excellent. I love it.” The winner gets the contents of a glass fish bowl which is passed around during the last round. People drop money—or whatever else they want—into the bowl which is passed around during the last round.

Word up y'all

When did taking the elevator in Luther Bonney become such a faux pas? You’ve taken this magic box before. If you haven’t, you’re a twit. A Richard Simmons or Susan Powell enthusiast, the benefits of taking the elevator up multiple layers of the building seem to outweigh taking the stairs. Sure, the stairwells were just re-painted in a striking shade of white, and the air that you inhale on your way up are sparkling. But this is college, and sometimes a person is just plain late. We face the daunting task of virtually flying up five floors (10 flights) of stairs to the promised land. We carry bags, notebooks, coffees, water bottles, laptops, and Peanut M&Ms. As a perpetually disheveled traveler, that elevator sure can look tempting. Riding “Bonny,” as I like to call her (my God she’s old), is my new guilty pleasure.

On one particular fall day, I watched a plethora of students filter through the elevator waiting area. You’ve seen them, they’re that group that love to throw dirty looks at us elevator dwellers who have somehow managed to make it to the stairs. Inside, in places I only talk about at sleepovers, I long to be a part of them. However, springing five flights uphill to get to class on time is what I imagine it’s like to go to “fat camp.” You’ve seen MTV’s “Made.” You know what I mean. Those five flights of stairs are fierce and by the time I reach my seat I look like an army recruit that’s just completed a ropes course. Panting, sweating, and thirsting for liquids. Nobody likes a sweaty neighbor.

Waiting in front of those gray doors presents a hilarious scenario. There are three different types of elevator dwellers. There are the front-runners. They live in advance place. They are going to five, and you’re going with them. In expectation of something interesting. They generally hang back, casually lingering behind the front-runners, hiding behind their statusque leaders and determinated to ride. Cherry pickers. The third group consists of the ambulance chasers of suspension systems. They’re a sneaky group, lurking in the background but always with one eye on the retracting doors. “They’re going to take the escalator, when the unthinkable happened. The stair climbers, in a pivot stance as not to miss the inevitable arrival of the elevator, when the unthinkable happened. The stair climbers brushed by in that New York City sidewalk, school of fish kind of way that they seem to travel in just before classes begin. We were unsuspecting. We were but lambs grazing in the field while a cougar lurked in the distance. “Take the stairs,” one of them sneered, and then they were gone. They swerved around the corner in an exaggerated turn, like us invalids were in the middle of their speedway.

Things got awkward. Some hang their heads in shame. The front-runners stared ahead blankly, cut but not bleeding. “They’re tough. The silence was awkward, the shame unbearable. One woman policeman, another rubbed her pregnant belly. One very looking dude gave a cough. A cough? The sick trick is the oldest one in the book, and it got him some glasses. He would have been better off popping a cough drop, or even a vitamin. If you’re going to take the el- evator, you better come with ailment in hand. For any of you thinking about hitching a ride in the future, I’ll leave you with this: Always ride to the fifth floor. Always, in stride. It’ll be easy to remember, because the front-runner controlling the buttons will silently hit five and wait for the doors to close. Nobody will ask you, “Which floor?” This isn’t the Hilton. You’re going to five, so hold on. It’s going to be a long ride.
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   Campain 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
amusements

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Crypto-quote of the Week
TH FRP YGCPXOPCQ WJKD KPCP JAAWTPE, FRPY
PIPCM AZDF-KJC JXPCSTSY
ACPDTEPYF KZGWE RJIP OPPY RJYQPE.
– YZJX SRZXDVM

Hint: A = P

Sudoku

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

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.

the free press

06 March 2006
I’m organizing or partaking in an orgy? Are these things advertised today? So, Jen, I’m wondering: exactly how would one go about setting up an event?

Just mail or post flyers around your neighborhood. Focus on bulletin boards in area libraries, grocery stores, and soup kitchens. These are, after all, community hubs – plenty of foot traffic. Give the orgy a snazzy name (i.e. Orgypalooza 2012), then post flyers around your neighborhood. Focus on bulletin boards in area libraries, grocery stores, and soup kitchens. These are, after all, community hubs – plenty of foot traffic. Am I interested in putting something together with you?

No, but thanks for asking.

I’m in love with two people and don’t want to give up either. Has been a super difficult nine months, what do I do?

If you want to go traditional, make a list, pros and cons style. If your style is more eclectic and nuanced, you have a few options. You could a) kill both of your lovers, effectively eliminating the need to choose between the pair or b) start a family with both partners (in different cities), get a job that requires extensive travel between the two locales, and live happily ever after. Eventually, you’ll die and with any luck, your little charade will remain undetected until the funeral. Happily ever after. Eventually, you'll die and with any luck, your little charade will remain undetected until the funeral. Halfish.

Just wanted to write and give you a “high five” for reaching out to others and offering to help. I had often considered doing something down those lines in the past but the opportunity never afforded itself. I think that it sounds like a hoot. I’d also like to warn you to stay off my turf.

In return, I’d like to give you a “high five” for being such an amazing person. Giving advice to strangers is hard work and the last thing we need is amateurs like you gumming up the works for others. Need help? Of course you do.

Send problems, marriage proposals, and hate mail to ask.jen@gmail.com

Aries (6 of Pentacles):★★★★☆: Okay, Aries, you want to play it safe this week and that’s just as well. For somebody who likes to regularly shake up his or her life, this is a good week attempt to maintain a balance. If you get tempted to launch yourself into an extreme, walk away.

Taurus (9 of Cups):★★★★★: After a week of feeling out of place, Taurus, prepare for that good, good feeling of satisfaction. Why? Because you’ve learned, again, how to change the things you don’t like.

Gemini (Wheel of Fortune):★★★★☆: Jupiter will exert an unusually large influence over you this week, Gemini. Its lesson: Surrender. This week you have the fun of learning to let go. Add two stars if you can let go of the low star count but subtract three if you really felt like you had to add two to have a good week. Get it?

Cancer (The Devil):★★★★★★: The Capricorn nature of the devil card talks about the nature of our inner child, Cancer. Disconnected from the spiritual aspects of life, easy going and free natured but selfish and lacking empathy at the same time. How will you help that child grow up this week?

Leo (10 of Rods):★★★★☆: For most signs, this card of “perseverance in the face of resistance” is a sign to continue. But with your already stubborn nature, take it as a lesson for this week. Learn how to back down and let go, Leo.

Virgo (Stress):★★★★☆: The fiery Leo aspect of the stress card will be urging you to get out and change the world this week, Virgo. Just don’t take on more than you can handle, you little overachiever you, or else you might be left feeling drained.

Libra (7 of Rods):★★★★★★☆: Those private phobias that you keep hidden, Libra, will be trying to come out this week. Look at them closely. Do they irritate? Biased-based? If you can recognize that any of them are, let them go and move beyond the fear.

Sagittarius (7 of Swords):★★★★☆: Even though it’s cold out and you feel like staying in bed, don’t let your mind get lazy this week. Sagittarius! That’s the danger you’re facing. Put down that drink, joint or drug of choice. Turn off that TV and do something that challenges you.

Capricorn (The World):★★★★: Everything will be in your grasp this week, Capricorn. You’ve got the answers, the questions, common sense and dreams. Expect to be challenged by Virgos on all of these. Also, there would be some good karma in giving a little gift to help out Cancer.

Aquarius (Page of Rods):★★★★☆: Look around you, Aquarius. It’s time to re-enter your spiritual youth. Why? Because you get into ruts and occasionally need to be bounced from them. Don’t worry, you always find learning something new fun and this will be enjoyable.

Pisces (8 of Pentacles):★★★★☆: “Ahh.” That’s the sigh of relief you’ll be breathing this week as you come to terms with your current and future vocations, Pisces. You’re no longer a small fry in this world and as you become a big fish, expect the universe to point you in the right direction.
New Macintosh

eMac PowerPC G4, 512 MB RAM, 160 GB, FULLY LOADED with Tiger 10.4, Photoshop, iLife, iMovie, Microsoft OS, and more! Superdesigner, 17” widescreen, PROTECTION PLAN. Value of $2500 – asking $850 obo. 846-0623.

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Wanted – Business Student for Hire $12-17/hr, depending on experience. Biddeford Maine requests assistance in preparations of a professional business plan. Potential block-busting/newly patented children’s learning product. May look good on resume/class project. Possibility of future employment. Inquiries please call or e-mail Al at 284-3138 or akinnan@maine.rr.com

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interested in Linguistics? The Linguistics Fellowship? Tuesdays @ 10:15am in Campus Center B. Oooh, savvy!

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Criminology Student Volunteer

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

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New German Textbook

I wish to buy a used copy of the German textbook, “Deutsch Heute”, 8th. edition. Please e-mail me at kiesel@maine.rr.com or tel. at 767-5462 if you have one.

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HUSKY HERO MEGAN MYLES USM

PRE-GAME RITUALS:
I like to listen to one country song and one Eminem song before the game, one to relax me and one to get me fired up! Also, whenever I do stretching I always need to be next to #10, where you will find us lacking behind everyone.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT USB ATHLETICS:
The support and respect that all teams have for each other on and off the playing zones.

INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF SPORTS:
I enjoy cooking, drawing, laughing, family & friends, music, quotes, movies, relaxing, and I have this slight obsession with shoes!

MAIN REASON FOR PLAYING SPORTS:
I have been playing the sport my whole life and I have developed a love for the game. It also lets me show my competitive side – I hate to lose. It allows me to have sisters which I share everything with – my teammates are wonderful. I couldn’t ask for a better group of players, teammates and friends to end my career with!

MAJOR: THERAPEUTIC RECREATION  YEAR: SENIOR

PHOTO AND INTERVIEW BY ASHLEY ST. MICHEL

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Sports Editor Ashley St. Michel can be contacted at freepress@usm.maine.edu
If you were lucky enough to watch the game between our own University of Southern Maine Lady Huskies and the Eastern Connecticut Warriors in the Little East Conference Championship, you probably witnessed one of the only games with numerous examples of un- sportsman-like conduct coming from Eastern Connecticut. Within the first three minutes of the game, the Lady Huskies were up 2-4 to the Warrens. With the help of Megan Myles (Auburn) scoring on two free throws, Katie Bill Hardwick (Calais) pulling the lead to 9-7 on a three-pointer the Huskies took back the lead and never let it out of their sights.

The fouls on behalf of the Warriors did not seem to slow down or put pressure on the Huskies at all. Not once did it seem to take away from their performance and their domination of the court chemistry has been nothing but fantastic” Myles stated. “I couldn’t ask for better senior year teammates.”

Starting out the half, both teams ran a man-to-man defense, the Warriors focusing on keeping the Lady Huskies out of the middle. Although this defense forced the Huskies to work the ball around more and take more outside shots with their bigger players, this did not stop the Huskies from making plays with their cen-

The Huskies practiced this when they walked away with only 12 turnovers in a full game of high pressure defense from the Warriors. The Huskies, when they played a better defense, off set the Warriors defense by allowing one post player in the center whenever the Warriors played a pressure defense. “It opens up the middle so much,” Myles said, “because then they have one player they have to guard players like Marble, Kynoch and myself.” The Huskies, who realized relatively early on in the game that the Warriors would be putting hard defensive pressure on the wings, moved two of their post players, Marzouk and Bellemore, to control the ball, one post player on our team.

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This allowed the Huskies to strengthen their lead, just with fouls. As for the Warriors, every shot they missed, every turn-

over provided, and every foul they made, their sports-
manship took a dive. A call made by the referees allowed a Warriors player to keep playing after she gave an intentional swing but to the head of Marble. Marble was a player who saw a lot of the foul line, since the Warriors found the only way they could stop her from making a shot was to intentionally hit or slap her on her way to the hoop. Marble maintained her com-

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