



See candidates. See
candidates run.
Vote students, vote.
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Pickers protest low pay and expired contracts

ACSUM members and supporters rally for contracts

LINDSAY CARLSON

STAFF WRITER

Over 100 non-contracted employees gathered in front of Payson Smith Hall to protest what they believe to be unfair contract negotiations and unreasonable salary proposals on Friday, March 10. The demonstrators' contracts expired last year and they have not yet come to an agreement for their new contracts.

According to demonstrators the COLT (clerical, office, laboratory, and technical) staff of the University is the lowest paid unit. President of ACSUM (Associated COLT Staff of the Universities of Maine) and demonstration organizer, Jim Bradley, is concerned those workers cannot afford to take a pay cut.

"When students celebrate successes we're right there with them, but we can't go broke in the process," said Bradley.

The protest intentionally coincided with the arrival of University System Chancellor Joseph Westphal. Bradley said the protesters were "hoping to draw public attention to the fact that literally thousands of employees are working without a contract." Faculty, staff, and students from all of the univer-

sities throughout the University of Maine System made up the bulk of the demonstrators.

According to Bill Steele, professor of theater at USM and AFUM (Associated Faculties of the University of Maine System) chapter president, a university needs happy employees and he does not think the University System is doing enough to keep its employees happy. "We haven't had a cost of living raise in five years," said Steele, "It's time the University steps up."

After speeches from the union leaders, the picket line moved from the Payson Smith lawn to the Abromson Center auditorium, where Westphal was scheduled to speak. Picketers gathered in the auditorium to hear the Chancellor and ask questions.

Chancellor Westphal spoke to demonstrators about the tight budget and potential cuts to universities throughout the system. The Chancellor said there is a \$15 million budget deficit statewide and new regulations limit requests for additional funding. Westphal said the new regulations prevent him from submitting more than a \$5 million request for extra funding.

According to Westphal, his request for an additional \$5 mil-



Activists gather on the skywalk

lion has not been approved by the governor or legislature yet. He also said that even if it is, the universities will still face a \$10 million deficit.

Westphal acknowledged the salary concerns of workers; he said it is "a very high priority" and asked for the support of the union workers and leaders in finding resolutions.

However, president of AFUM, Ron Mosely, disputes Chancellor Westphal's claim. "We were told over ten years ago that compensation is a priority [but] our chart shows a 30 year drop in the purchasing power of our salaries. When is it going to become the kind of priority that we see in budgets?"

Demonstrators emerged from the meeting feeling no more encouraged than they had before they met with the Chancellor. Shannon Cox, project coordi-

nator at University of Maine in Orono, called it, "the same old, same old." She does not expect things to change at all.

"It's a tough situation. People come here in good faith [thinking] they'll make some inroads and they don't have intentions of that."

Those feelings were echoed by other picketers who said that Chancellor Westphal had been evasive and unwilling to answer their important questions.

Westphal, on the other hand, said he felt communication lines had been opened. "I think it's always important to just hear from people," he said. "I think that overall they wanted to make a point with me and they made it."

The Chancellor said that his next step is to start a dialogue with the workers and union leaders and try to figure out a plan

Passing the torch, but to who?

Campaigns underway for USM's newest political position

LINDSAY CARLSON

STAFF WRITER

The term of USM's first student body president is ending, and for the three hopefuls it's time to make large posters, appeal to their constituents and shamelessly self-promote.

This year's candidates are Andrew Bossie, Lenny Ceglarski and Jason Lavoie.

Bossie, the current chair of the Student Senate, has held a seat since 2004. During his time at USM, he worked in the USM Coalition to Vote Louder, helped organize "No on 1" on campus and participated in a number of student leadership

programs, such as A Rising Tide Civic Leadership Training Institute and the Leadership Development Board.

Some of the big issues Bossie said he would tackle if elected student body president include the rising cost of tuition as well as improvements to the university campuses and academics.

"I've got the experience within the student government and my administration has the experience. It's hard work, but it's what I live off."

Lavoie, a recent appointee to the Student Senate and the chair of the College Republicans, has worked to organize a number of political movements on campus, from campaigning for "Yes on 1" last fall to trying to pass an Academic Bill of Rights at USM.

Lavoie said he sees passage of an Academic Bill of Rights as one of the most important issues on the USM campus right now as well as the cost of textbooks and the quality of USM's dining services. He also said being elected student body



Candidates Andrew Bossie, Jason Lavoie, Leonard Ceglarski (left to right)

president would give him an opportunity to provide leadership for students that has thus far been lacking on the campus. Lavoie said he also believes the position is an important means of creating a checks and balances system in the student government.

"This is about setting up a checks and balances system to bring balance to the Student Senate," said Lavoie. "The student body president gives us more of a voice on campus and across the state."

Ceglarski is a Residential Assistant on the Gorham campus and the founder of USM's club

hockey team. He identified rising tuition, sustainability, the USM Police Department and parking as some of the big issues he would tackle as student body president.

Ceglarski could not be contacted for comment by deadline, but in a prepared statement he said, "I believe making change in the life of others around you is important to the student government process."

He also wrote that he wants to encourage more student involvement. "Without the help of students sharing their feelings and beliefs, nothing can be done." ♦

PHOTO BY JEN FELDMAN

PHOTO BY JEN FELDMAN



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

FEBRUARY 27 — Someone reported a man in a dark coat trying the door handles on a car. They were gone when an officer arrived on the scene.

The women's bathroom on the fourth floor of Anderson Hall flooded, and had about an inch of water on the floor.

Kappa Iota was found holding a meeting in Bailey Hall beyond the allotted hours. The police suspect the group has been moving to different rooms in the building in order

to hold their meetings. The sorority denies this and said they had never been spoken to before.

FEBRUARY 28 — Thirteen people were stuck in the elevator in Bailey Hall. The police report it was a sorority group overloading the elevator, which has been done previously.

MARCH 1 — Someone vomited in the bathroom on the third floor of Robie Andrews Hall.

Someone reported a male student with a beebee gun in Upton Hastings Hall. The officer was unable to find the subject, but found a broken window on the fourth floor that looked like it was caused by a beebee or pellet gun.

MARCH 2 — An officer advised a student not to drive his car with the boot still attached to it because it would damage his vehicle. The student said he was

going to drive it anyway because he doesn't have the money to get the boot removed.

An RA reported a student on the third floor of Dickey Wood Hall had too much to drink and was throwing up. The student was transported to Maine Medical Center for treatment and was issued a summons for possession by consumption.

MARCH 3 — Someone reported a couple fighting in Anderson Woodward Hall.

Someone reported approximately \$260 was stolen from her handbag while in the Law Building on the Portland campus.

A woman reported that the hub caps were stolen off her car sometime the night before while parked on the Gorham campus.

A student, off campus, was robbed at knifepoint in Portland. The case is being

investigated by the Portland Police Department.

MARCH 4 — An RA reported that the elevator in Portland Hall stopped between the first and second floors, then dropped down to the basement where it let the passengers out.

MARCH 5 — A student reported that \$100 was missing from their room, but didn't want to file a report because they have no faith in the legal system.

A woman reported someone poured paint on her car while it was parked on the Gorham campus.

MARCH 6 — Someone reported her car was scratched in the Gorham parking lot over night.

Corrections for issue 16:

Page 8: Shultz not Schultz



This week in history

March 17, 1762:

First St. Patrick's Day Parade

Irish soldiers serving in the British army put on the first parade celebrating St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, in New York City.

Parades in Ireland did not start until the late 19th century and the New York festivities are, in fact, the biggest in the world, with over 2 million people attending annually. Chicago is known for dying the rivers green and worldwide wearing green and drinking green beer is a popular way of celebrating the "Emerald Isle" of Ireland.

Saint Patrick, alive during the 4th century, was actually born in England. He believed that he had been divinely called to Christianize Ireland and was sent as the Catholic Church's second missionary to the island. He was there for almost thirty years before he died. In that time he converted most of the Irish population.

COMPILED BY ANNE HOBBY

Letters to the editor

Response to Women's Day columns

I am writing with the utmost respect for Joseph Thompson and his point of view. That being said, I have a major issue with the letter from the editor published last week. First, Joseph, how dare you ask where all the "womyn and grrrls" of USM are! Here is a short list of where we are and what we are doing:

1) We are returning to school to finish our degrees while working full time to support our children, partners, and aging parents.

2) We are in class voicing our concerns about society in the short time that we have sandwiched in between shuttling our kids to soccer practice and voice lessons.

3) We are sitting behind a desk in virtually every office at USM. We are the Classified Staff.

4) We are active in the greater Portland community, blogging, supporting the arts scene, and planning personal projects.

Asking where we are is frankly an insult and discounts our hard work. A quick look at any bulletin board on campus will prove that the Women's Studies department is the most active program at this university. Students, staff and faculty work tirelessly to promote and organize an abundance of thought provoking programs that are always open to the public. There are thousands of feminist activists at USM. We may not be on the picket line everyday, but rallies, protests, and boycotts are not the only methods through which to be an activist. We are powerful activists in the way that we live our daily lives.

This being said, I do believe that Joseph is correct in implying that we need to organize around political issues on this campus. For example, how many of you know that the governor of South Dakota just signed into effect a law that outlaws abortion in his state? How many of you know the implications of this for the nation, and how many of you even care? It is up to the "womyn and grrrls" of USM to continue the fight against the assault on our human rights that is snowballing out of control in our nation.

Kate Brown
Undeclared

Another response to IWD

Your column "Where are the womyn and grrrls at?" was disheartening to me but unfortunately accurate. I feel part of this stems from this University's lack of support for its female students, which make up more than half of the students here at USM.

This plays out in many ways. The Women's Resource Center, which you mentioned, has been without a program director for over 3 years. Though Maya Kasper has stepped up to ensure it continues to function, students have really missed out with the lack of USM support of this office. The gender studies students have done an awesome job here on campus in this and past years advocating as well as educating, but those students are volunteers, they do it out of a sense of responsibility to their future. But where is the University in these endeavors? When I first started my academic career here at USM, I was in the Family Crisis Shelter Transitional Program. I lived in a safe house with my daughter, and had access to advocates that worked with me to not only remain safe, but also to thrive as a woman, mother, worker, activist and student. The first connection I made here at USM was with the Women's Resource Center. Without that connection I certainly would have left my first semester. It also offered many programs to educate, inspire and help raise awareness of the plight of women not only in the U.S. but also around the world. As women we still have many hurdles to overcome, such as fair wages, domestic violence, sexual assault, economic insecurities around motherhood and growing sexualization of our young women. The University should be assuring that Maine women have access to higher education that we can afford, and jobs that will pay a livable wage with health care. So wake up women!!! Your future is under attack!!!!

Janine Gorham
Mother/Student/Activist

And another IWD response

I am writing in response to the Letter from the editor in last week's issue. I am happy that you have made a mention of International Women's

Day and consequently forced readers to, in the very least, consider such an important day that may have otherwise gone more unnoticed than not.

I believe you've made a fairly significant mistake, however, in where you suggest blame is to be placed in terms of the campus-wide silence about this day. The women's movement has been around for well over a hundred years; arguably its first official day of order was on July 19, 1848 at the Seneca Falls Convention when a group of women drafted the Declaration of Sentiments. Since then we have seen an innumerable amount of women working toward rectifying the gender inequalities you acknowledge are still prevalent in many parts of our culture.

My main concern is that you target 3 organizations (the GSSO, the Women's Resource Center, and the Women's Studies program) that work the whole school year to offer lectures, art and performance events, classes, discussions, forums, and literature to students concerning everything International Women's Day stands for. It is time the movement gains support from the very areas it is trying to improve and that we no longer pass this work off as the burden of women specific programs

Where is the letter from the Economics Department about gender and economic inequalities? Where is the letter from the Political Science Department about gender discrimination on the government level? Where is the letter from the History Department about the absence of women's history in standard text books? Where is a letter from any of our 3 male candidates running for Student Body President?

You ask "where are the womyn and grrrls" and I ask where are the men for this cause? For hundreds of years progressive women have been doing a great deal for gender inequality. I think it is time we start demanding everyone else to finally join in. It is absolutely crucial that we understand the issue is finally at a place where it's now on all of our backs to say something.

Keith Foster
Undergraduate Student

And Cyndle Plaisted has a fan

After swearing off this newspaper because of its single mindedness,

its criticism of anything conservative, and just because I simply think the paper sucks this year, I picked the paper up again when I heard that there was at least one good article from a student who has both intelligence and a point of view that actually reflects the student body. Good job Cyndle! As for the editor's point of view on almost anything: you don't reflect the student's wants and needs. Yes, you are liberal. Any idiot can pick up the paper and see what your belief's are. But you honestly have no idea what is going through the mind of students here at USM. We do have political views, you aren't the only one! It's just that you can't tolerate anyone else's views but your own, so you bitch and complain about it in front of the entire student body, and we are forced to cringe at your writing and hope that the year will end so that we can get a better editor. Please, please(!!!) be quiet already! And stop embarrassing yourself by complaining to the entire world!!!!!! Once again, great job Cyndle!

Eric Hollands
Psychology

On Operation Phoenix

I know that some people are upset by the Operation Phoenix crew's decision to rescind the referendum question asking students if they support funding for "The Southern Maine Review," but we feel that doing so is the only reasonable option.

The SMR had a very long and valued history with students, and that kind of relationship can only emerge from an unwavering trust that everyone involved has the students' best interests in mind. Thus, we simply do not feel right moving forward with so many Senators voicing concerns about the plan. We believe that continuing the campaign would only result in disservice to the Senate, the students, and the SMR. In our minds, this campaign has never been about "winning"; rather, it has been about bringing our case to the students honestly and transparently and letting them decide. Given that the Senate represents the interests of USM students at large, we believe that we must listen carefully to its collective voice.

Students from Operation Phoenix will continue talks with the

Senate about ways in which the SMR might fall under its care. During my 18 years with the SMR, I saw firsthand the numerous and varied benefits that the journal and organization can bring to students, and I sincerely hope that they will find a way to continue the work of the SMR and thereby reap the benefits they so deserve.

Wanda Whitten
Former Managing Editor of SMR

Things around USM in need of fixin'

Have you ever spent a week-end on the Gorham campus, or hung around in Portland, just to "see what's going on?" In either case, the answer is not too much. USM lacks adequate facilities for the many groups and organizations on campus to host events, and any decent hang out spot. While this is true for the Portland campus, this is especially true for the Gorham campus with its 1100, and soon to be nearly 1400 residents. The Brooks Student Center, while providing the majority of student space on campus, is woefully outdated and inefficiently laid out. There are few spaces for events, meetings, and simple hang out space.

Also, the Gorham campus' primary academic space, Bailey Hall, is similarly in need of enhancements. Despite being the University System's highest priority for the past few years, improvements have not materialized. The University needs to redouble efforts in this area, and work with state, local, and federal officials to identify funding to make this happen. This is necessary to improving the quality and image of the University.

As USM's next Student Body President I promise to press for the community of this university on both the Gorham and the Portland Campuses. We can lobby the University of Maine System Offices and the state legislature to acquire the funds that are needed for the physical improvement of our university, allowing more community prosperity. As the next Student Body President I will help build advocacy needed to make these necessary changes.

Please consider voting Bossie for Student Body President March, 20-23.

Andrew Bossie
4th Year Student

And the candidates are...

Here are profiles of the 17 candidates running for the 21 seats on the 35th Student Senate.

Photo not available

Rachel W. Bragan, Resident

Major/Minor: Biology/Junior
Class: Junior
Community involvement: I am an RA in Anderson Hall. I am

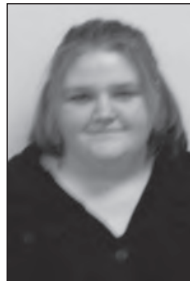
also a peer tutor in the Learning Center in Gorham as well. I also work in the Residential Life central office.
What are the top three issues facing USM students today? USM needs community! Not only among the students but within the entire university and the Greater Portland area as well. I also believe that there needs to be better communication between the departments and between the departments and students as well. As always parking, or lack thereof and transportation, the quality of which are always an issues here at USM.



David C. Colson, Resident

Major/Minor: Political Science
Class: Junior
Community involvement: I currently serve on the 34th Student

Senate, where I am a member and the Chair of the Student Affairs Committee. I am also the current Communications Director of the USM College Democrats, as well as a University Tour Guide for the Office of Undergraduate Admission.
What are the top three issues facing USM students today? The top three issues facing USM students today are community, administrative policies, and rising tuition costs. Community needs to be a collaboration of all university offices to get students invested in USM, administrative policies need to be more refined, and tuition costs need to be alleviated.



Kristi L. Gagne, Commuter

Major/Minor: Political Science and Philosophy
Class: Junior
Community involvement: I am a member and

officer of the Philosophy Symposium, member of the Political Science Student Association, and President of the USM College Democrats.
What are the top three issues facing USM students today? There are many varied issues facing USM. One of the many other issues is the high cost of books for classes which they are already paying for. Also the problem the Student Senate and BSO have faced with having very limited funds for student groups.



Angelica D. Kimball, Commuter

Major/Minor: Linguistics (Speech Science)
Class: Senior
Community involvement: I am a Peer Advisor,

a New Student Orientation Leader, Treasurer of the Student Senate, and I work part-time in the President's Office.
What are the top three issues facing USM students today? I think the top three issues facing USM students are the rising cost of tuition, the availability of services and activities, and the increasing necessity to juggle a full-time schedule, part-time job, and activities.



Amanda L. Slaterry, Resident

Major/Minor: History
Class: Sophomore
Community involvement: Currently I am the Student Senate Parliamentarian. I

serve on the Executive Committee, the Constitutional Review Committee, and help to facilitate Board of Student Organization meetings. Also during the previous semester I served on the Student Affairs Committee.
What are the top three issues facing USM students today? The top three issues facing USM students today are the rising cost of tuition, high cost of textbooks, and lastly the need for a greater feeling of community throughout the university.



Alexander C. Steed, Commuter

Major/Minor: Philosophy
Class: Junior
Community involvement: Hip Hop Without Borders, The Free Press, and SPACE Gallery.

What are the top three issues facing USM students today? Paying for University, diversity issues, and gender equality issues.



Jaric T. Fontaine, Resident

Major/Minor: Nursing/Biology
Class: Senior
Community involvement: College Republicans, Student Nursing Association, and the Outing Club

What are the top three issues facing USM students today? Cost of books; intellectual diversity in the classroom; commuter involvement in school activities.



L. Brenda "Shorty" Eung, Commuter

Major/Minor: Political Science/ Latin
Class: Junior
Community involvement: Student Senate, Asian American Association

& Symposium (Founder and Empress), New Student Orientation Leader, Board of Student Organizations, and the Student Communication Board
What are the top three issues facing USM students today? Student involvement, diversity and culture, tuition and costs.



Matt J. McGowan, Resident

Major/Minor: Undeclared
Class: Freshman
Community involvement: No answer
What are the top

three issues facing USM students today? No answer



David A. Brown, Commuter

Major/Minor: Political Science
Class: Junior
Community involvement: Model United Nations Organization (MUNO),

and the Political Science Student Association
What are the top three issues facing USM students today? Library hours, cost of textbooks, and communication with our administration.



Laura A. Saia, Resident

Major/Minor: Biology
Class: Junior
Community involvement: I am involved in Alpha Xi Delta, Student Senate, and on the

Homecoming Committee.
What are the top three issues facing USM students today? The top three issues facing USM students today are tuition, lack of involvement among student, and lack of funds for the University of Southern Maine



Jason M. Lavoie, Resident

Major/Minor: Political Science
Class: Junior
Community involvement: Chairman of the College Republicans at

USM, Current Student Senator, and Commissioner in the Boy Scouts of America
What are the top three issues facing USM students today? Cost of textbooks; imbalance in the classroom, geared too far to the left; lack of good facilities, lack of appropriations to higher education.



James J. McKeon, Resident

Major/Minor: Political Science/ Marketing
Class: Senior
Community involvement: I am currently the Vice

Chair of the Student Senate and I am on the tennis team for USM.
What are the top three issues facing USM students today? The top three issues facing USM students are Academic Advising, student apathy, and school pride.



Basil E. Lynds, Resident

Major/Minor: Political Science/ Writing
Class: Junior
Community involvement: I am a member of the Model United Nations

Organization, president of the Council of Indigenous North Americans and the Political Science Student Association.
What are the top three issues facing USM students today? In my experience the top three issues facing USM students are rising tuition costs, book costs and poor cafeteria food.



Shaun M. Cote, Resident

Major/Minor: Biochemistry
Class: Sophomore
Community involvement: Currently I am participating with the Chemistry Club. I am

also a Russell Scholar, and I help USM Upward Bound through work-study and volunteer.
What are the top three issues facing USM students today? Rising tuition, overcrowding in the dorms, and student involvement.

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Honors college creation may violate Faculty Senate rules

No vote until April

RICHARD SMART

NEWS EDITOR

Approving the proposal to change the Honors Program into a college may be in violation of the Faculty Senate's governance documents. Not because the language of the documents is vague but because there's a page to the document missing.

The issue was raised by Tom Parchman, vice chair of the senate, towards the end of the session, after an extensive discussion about the Honors

Program that was filled with confusion and clashing ideologies. After being asked if passing the proposal would require the governance documents to be rewritten, Parchman said according to an older version of the bylaws it would require changes but he was uncertain about the newest version because the page with those laws is missing. In order for the Senate to pass a proposal that's in violation of their governance documents they would need a two-thirds majority.

The discourse surrounding the proposal was varied, with some making statements about an honors college draining all of the "bright" students from general education class-

es. Others said if USM was going to create an honors college, it should use the proposal that people had already put so much effort into drafting. The discussion elicited applause and unsolicited comments from the gallery.

There seemed to be as many opinions of the proposal as there are faculty senators, but the majority seemed to be ambivalent towards the proposal before them.

President Richard Pattenauade spoke in favor of adopting the proposal, citing both his own experience in an honors program when he went to college, and the usefulness of such a program to USM in terms of recruiting.

"With the rise of community colleges and the demographics of Maine, it's important to have [an honors college] for the health of USM," said Pattenauade.

Members of the Senate were not as resolute as Pattenauade. Michael Hamilton attempted to pass an amendment to the proposal that would call for the creation of an honors college, but wouldn't use the model set forth in the proposal. After lengthy discussion the amendment was voted down 23 to 3.

After further discussion, the Senate decided to divide the proposal into two separate issues to be voted on. The first vote would determine

if the Senate was in favor of creating an honors college at the University in principle. The second vote would determine if the Senate was in favor of the proposal for an honors college that had already been drafted. Before either issue could be voted on, the meeting was adjourned. The issue will be taken up at the Faculty Senate's next meeting in April at the Lewiston-Auburn campus.

As the meeting ended the members of the gallery shuffled out, some in anger, some in disgust and even some crying. ♦



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Letter from the editor

A couple of thoughts on the upcoming student government elections

JOSEPH R. THOMPSON

EXECUTIVE EDITOR



Okay, it's been a busy week here at USM. In case you've been away, let me quickly catch you up before I launch into what I really want to talk about. If you've already read the rest of the paper, skip to

the second paragraph. On Friday of this week, Chancellor Joseph Westphal visited the Portland campus and the Student Senate, two protests coincided with his visit (check out Lindsay Carlson's article on the front cover). The faculty senate held a contentious vote and they're still mopping the blood off the floor (if you weren't at the meeting be sure to read Richard Smart's article on page four), and we're beginning the hiring process for our editors (look in the classified ads). Got all that?

And most interestingly, at least to me, it's time to elect a new student body president and the 35th Student Senate. Last week

I heard a student say that voting was pointless for student senators because there were only 17 people running for 21 seats. I'm afraid the only response I can make is that a government is the exact opposite of a leaky boat: If everyone bails, of course it's going to fail. But, I believe, that with a little faith in the process and if everyone writes in a candidate rather than automatically clicking a little box, this election could become very relevant and very unpredictable very fast.

But, student body president is a different story altogether. There are three people running for student body president with only one seat available. There's been some talk in the office if we, as a paper, were going to give a voting guide and endorse a particular candidate. Jokes were made and we've decided not too. Why? Because we feel that the best thing an opinion leader can do at times is to let people choose for themselves.

But we did do a quick poll around the office to find out what traits we think the SBP should have:

- He or she should be informed.
- He or she should have experience working with a diverse group of people.
- He or she should be receptive, industrious and proactive.
- There are lots of other qualities that could be listed here but you get the idea.

And one last thing: thank you for all your letters regarding International Women's Day. We were quite surprised and thrilled this week. That being said, I'm off to go vote. ♦

Republican is not a dirty word

Sick and tired of liberals on the war

CYNDLE R. PLAISTED

COLUMNIST



I am supposed to be writing a column in support of the Iraq war. But I really don't want to do that. I know what I think about it, but I actually

have very limited knowledge on the subject. Sure I hear the liberal media's coverage of it (always Bush-bashing), but how much fact can I really find there? I think not much. There is nowhere to get unbiased information on this topic. And I have seen way too much argument encircling it.

I do know how outraged people were when it was revealed that there was a possibility that President Bush had some kind of warning that the attack on the Twin Towers was going to take place. But let's be logical. Would terrorists really warn that they were going to attack? And if they did, they would surely not divulge specifics like coordinates and exact locations, right? So the idea that he knew doesn't hold up for me. But people got pissed about it anyway. They wanted the president to be proactive, not reactive, in that instance. Then Afghanistan was invaded in a search for Bin Laden. That sounds pretty proactive to me. But that wasn't what the liberals wanted either. Nor do they want us occupying Iraq. I can't tell you how many people I hear complaining on "behalf" of the soldiers that are stationed in Iraq. It seems that they don't really understand the concept of the military. You enlist, you go wherever they tell you, whether you agree with the rationale or not. There is no basis for complaint here, if one understands the contract that is made between a military man and the country.

But I know people enlist thinking they want the benefits of the armed forces without sacrificing much. When I was in high school, many of the young men in my class wanted to enlist because they were "patriotic" and also thought it would be an easy way to be guaranteed a decent job. As soon as they saw that troops were being sent into Afghanistan, they were not so interested. It seems that people don't support a cause quite so much when they themselves might be endangered.

I think it's ridiculous that people try to argue that we're in Iraq for no other reason but oil. Let us not forget that there are people who suffered unmerited violence at the hands of their own state. Some liberals follow that up with the argument that the U.S. is not taking care of its own people, and should try that before getting involved in other people's problems. But don't many liberals love to get involved in fighting for the downtrodden, at the same time supplying themselves a much-needed dose of self-esteem? How very odd that they don't see fit to involve themselves in lessening the hardships of oppressed people in another country! I wonder what these people may have said when America got involved, admittedly out of both self-interest and altruism, in taking on a different dictator over half a century ago? Basically, we have people that refuse to accept a part of life that is never going away: conflict and violence.

I'm not presenting my opinion as official; I'm not even going to argue that we're trying to spread democracy. Everyone has heard every argument about this issue and I am tired of talking about it. It's not my job to decide if we're there for the right reasons. The President has to do that in order to sleep at night. But I tell you what: even though I love him, I would not want to be that guy, constantly hearing bitching when no one has a better idea. ♦

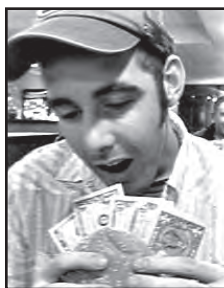


Last dandy on earth

The Republicans and me on the war

ALEX STEED

COLUMNIST



Interestingly, a fringe contingent of Republicans on this campus are pretending to have their tails between their legs because they feel underrepresented here. Speaking on behalf of the Academic Bill of Rights, these particular "conservatives" have gone on record to say that they feel so alone on campus, they're too scared to speak their minds to tyrannical leftist professors and fellow students. Hearing that white, socially conservative Christians feel like outsiders on campus makes me want to shed a tear for them because I can relate. Where this group feels like their opinions aren't welcome on the university level, I remember how much of an outsider I am on the national scale—

being a secular believer in the preservation of reproductive rights, conservative government spending and reasonable use of military force—and I remember that I am a minority as far as the three Republican-controlled tiers of the government are concerned. As it turns out, we all have something in common.

Actually, Republicans across the United States and I have other things in common: we believe the Iraq War is unjustified. With the Commander in Chief maintaining a 34 percent approval rating, it's more than just angry Democrats that aren't satisfied with Bush's baby, the war in Iraq. In fact, at a forum at the Cato Institute last Wednesday, former Reagan aide Bruce Bartlett called the administration

"unconscionable," "irresponsible," "vindictive" and "inept."

Republicans and I also mutually believe that Iraq faces a daunting fate. The *Washington Post* reports that 80 percent of Americans (7 out of 10 Republicans, 8 out of 10 Democrats) believe that a civil war is bound to break out between Sunni and Shiite Muslims. According to the *L.A. Times*, U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, a high-level American official, agreed, noting that "the potential is there" for a full-blown civil war. There was once a time when my leftist friends would get dirty looks and negative responses from nay-saying war enthusiasts for saying that our troops were being engaged in another quagmire, another Vietnam. Our troops are now facing a nation that is actively being torn apart by a perceptibly impending civil war, constant acts of insurgency and a teetering political structure — all while being mismanaged by an incompetent administration that believes in tested-and-failed, fairy-tale political ideology.

President Bush wants you to forget all of this. Forget public opinion. Forget that the reasons for a U.S. invasion of Iraq have changed several times since we launched an aggressive campaign against the country. Forget that after U.S. Ambassador Joseph Wilson called the White House on lying about Iraq's weapons ambitions, a White House official committed a felony by leaking the name of Wilson's wife — a CIA agent — and put her in danger. Forget the fact that Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was recently noted as being non-responsive to Paul Bremer's message, noting the necessity for more troops in Iraq, or that Rumsfeld was the subject of a "no confidence" statement issued by the American Federation of Government Employees. Forget that a little more than a decade ago, Dick Cheney — one of the most vocal supporters of this war — defended leaving Saddam Hussein in power after the first Gulf War, explaining that capturing Hussein wouldn't be worth the U.S. casualties or getting "bogged down in the problems of

see DANDY, page 6

Meet Joe Student

Photo and interview by Jen Feldman

Are you taking any interesting classes this semester?

I'm really enjoying Representation of Animals in Literature.

Who's one of your favorite USM professors?

Margaret Reimer. I took an Ancient Literature course she taught.

With rising tuition costs and cuts to financial aid, times are tough for many students. How are you paying for your college education?

Through a Native American training waiver.

How does that work? Also, please accept my apologies. White people suck.

The federal government gives grants to tribes for various things. So my education is free. They pay for tuition and living expenses.

Do you have any spring break plans?

I may go to Canada and Niagara Falls.

Not that I'm hitting on you, but do you have a boyfriend?

No. We just broke up.

Can readers of this column contact you for a date?

Sure.

Where in Portland can we find you?

I like Plush and Gritty's.

Does this outfit make me look fat?

No, not at all.

What are your current pet peeves?

Ignorant people and having to repeat myself.

Any questions for me or The Free Press?

Why is Abbey Burnett the most

awesome person in the world? And why doesn't she have a boyfriend? ♦



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MAJOR:
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USM CARD

On being green



A tribute to the first "R"

MELISSA ST. GERMAIN

COLUMNIST

When I was in elementary school, I clearly remember my mother being disgusted that the original three R's, "reading, and 'riting, and 'rithmatic", were being replaced by a triplet that had more claim to the name: reduce, reuse, recycle. Given my mother's apparent early issues with the real three R's, I was dumbfounded last week when my mother told me about the time she spent on the town's committee to start a recycling program in our hometown. Apparently her disgust was orthographical.

Anyway, I hear less and less these days of the real three R's. The buzzwords of the day seem to be recycle, recycle, recycle. I'll be the last person to tell you to stop recycling, but, to quote my roommate, "There's a reason 'reduce' is the first R." It may be more productive to recycle than burn unwanted materials, but recycling stuff still takes energy. For example: making, transporting, and recycling hundreds of paper bags takes more energy and more trees than reusing hundreds of times, one durable shopping bag made from recycled soda bottles.

Life is messy, no question about it. My roommates and I go through fifteen gallons of trash a week, give or take. Most of this is food-related plastic. Our recycling bin is full at least every other week, again mostly with recyclable food-related plastic. My roommate and I discussed this packaging waste problem as I made my lunch to take to work last week. I pulled a sandwich container from a cabinet and was immediately attacked by the precarious pyramid of plastic food containers from my

mother sending me home with leftovers after my visits. As I reassembled the cupboard contents and put my sandwich in one of my Mom's smush-proof containers, we realized that we eat a lot of coldcuts, and buying them from Hannaford, we get them in resealable plastic bags which tear too easily to reuse and can't be sensibly recycled.

"Wouldn't it be great if Hannaford would let us buy cold cuts in our own containers instead of these bags?" I said to Sarah.

"I bet they would," she replied. "They can just weigh the container first, right?"

"I don't know. Do you think it would be a problem with health codes?"

"You can always call and ask."

And so I did. Apparently they don't get this question every day.

Me: "Hi, I was wondering if I could bring my own container to put cold cuts in. You know, to save the little bags?"

Clerk: "Ummmm..." I could hear chagrin in the voice of the guy who answered the call. *Why, oh why am I always the one who picks up calls like this?* "I, uh, well I suppose we could just tare the container for you. Sure. I don't see why that wouldn't work."

Me: "Thanks a lot. Have a nice day."

I harbor no illusions that my phone call and new plan of action will stop global warming or significantly reduce the use of fossil fuels needed to manufacture plastic bags - it's just a matter of saving a few bags a week. Still, small things are sometimes the only things I can do, and I'm happy to do what I can, when I can. Small things do add up to make a difference. In this case the difference might be one small plastic food bag that doesn't blow out of a torn trash bag as a collection truck drives down a Portland street. And that bag doesn't end up in Casco Bay and isn't mistaken for a jellyfish and eaten by a hungry sea turtle. Now, if I can only just remember to bring the containers with me... ♦

Question of the week

Photos and interviews by Jen Feldman

What function should USM's Student Senate serve?



Harry Carter
English

I didn't even know we had a senate. How about they tell people what they do? What do they do?



Fletcher Baron
Business

How about getting better food around here, so that you don't shake when you look at the salad bar?



Rebecca Libby
Art

It would be really awesome if they weren't all about themselves.



Bethany Trembaly
Social Work

They should address all the student issues, such as tuition and the university rules. With the new alcohol policy you now get a summons to court. Honestly, it promotes drunk driving because no one wants to stay in the dorms.



Evan Metivier
Communications

Organize what's going on, inform students, and act as leaders. They should make sure that students get involved.

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

DANDY, from page 5

of trying to take over and govern Iraq' (Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 09.29.04). Just remember that in his State of the Union address a month and a half ago, the President lulled us with the same lie he's been insulting us with for the past three years: "We're on the offensive in Iraq, with a clear plan for victory."

The only people who are left confidently in favor of this war appear to be blind-supporters of the President's ambitions that are hiding their thinly-veiled imperial aspirations behind the guise of "conservatism." While

it's unfortunate that we learned this as a country after the invasion, there is nothing conservative about supporting an ill-planned, ill-executed campaign of aggression that has cost U.S. tax-payers \$251 billion. There is nothing patriotic about contaminating the future of our country with unmanageable debt and a bad international reputation. The venture has been ill-conceived, mismanaged and poorly executed and now there's no way to hold the accountable parties accountable. As noted above, true conservatives, Republican and others, and I all agree on Iraq. The War in Iraq has been, and continues to be, a failed mission. ♦

A peek into next week's productions

A&E EDITOR

“Watching a film in this atmosphere changes the way people watch films and changes the way the people think about them,” said Wesson. “It opens up a sparkling dialogue for people in the room and gets people thinking about ideas that stretch way beyond. These movies tie us together because they all have something universal about them that everyone will be able to relate to.”

One goal of the festival coordinators is to get more college students involved. They have even collaborated with three other colleges to have satellite screenings of the films shown on campus, including Bates, Colby and UMaine Farmington. Lucky for USM Portland, students can take advantage of the location of the event, being held just down the road a piece. Many of the topics addressed are relevant to those frequently taught in USM classrooms, issues that include tolerance, racism, sociology, psychology, politics and ethics. In an effort to welcome USM students, Bess Welden has offered a special college discount for the March 22 showing of "Discordia," a documentary about Concordia University in Montreal. The entire film takes place on the college's campus, and all the main characters are students there. The film was made by two students who recently graduated from Concordia and focuses on how the Israeli/Palestinian conflict in the Middle East affects a lot of what's going on at this particular campus in the Northeast. The film is an eloquent demonstration of how college students can be actively involved in creating the politics of their own world. A movie ticket generally costs \$7, but on this special night

see FILM, page 8



Alice and I, directed by Micha Wald



Don't stay home

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

MONDAY, MARCH 13

Karaoke with DJ JD Noise / all night / Big Easy /
55 Market Street / Portland / 871-8817.

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

“The Grand O’Neal”/ An original one-act play by David E. Butler about an American who travels to Ireland to explore his roots and finds much more than he bargained for / 7 p.m./ suggested donation \$5 / Bull Feeney's Irish Pub / 370 Fore Street, Portland / www.airetheater.com.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

USM American Sign Language Annual Maine Deaf Film Festival lecture by artist, filmmaker and actor Levent Beskardes / 4 p.m. / Luther Boney Auditorium / Portland / the lecture will be ASL interpreted and is free and open to the public / FMI call 780-4582/4989.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

“Bend it Like Beckham” Women and Sports Film Series / free / Alumni Reception Center, Costello Sports Complex / Gorham / 780-4289.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

Swing Dance! Beginners and singles welcome / lesson included / all ages / chem. free / 8 p.m. / \$8 / North Deering Grange Hall / Portland / 653-5012.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

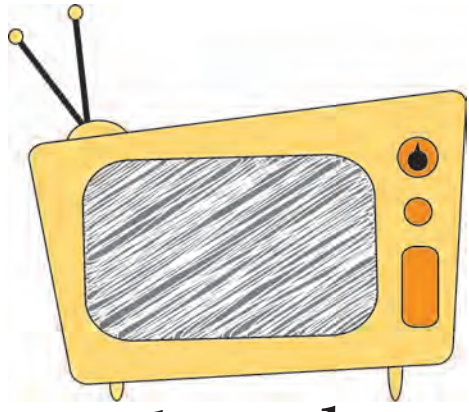
Maine Jewish Film Festival begins / “Local Call”
showing tonight at Nickelodeon Cinemas / 7:30 /
\$7 / www.mjff.org.

Junior recital, Kathleen Donovan, soprano / 5 p.m. / Corthell Concert Hall / Gorham / free and open to the public / 780-5555.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

Traditional Irish Session / whenever the band feels like showing up / Brian Boru / 57 Center Street / Portland

LISTINGS COMPILES BY ANGELIQUE CARSON



Media whore A review of what you missed watching the Oscars

ALEX STEED

ASST. A&E EDITOR

Sunday night, March 5, the Oscars overshadowed a ton of more-significant-than-the-Oscars events. I will detail the two most important shows you missed as a result of wetting your pants about celebrities, red carpets and whatever straight actor/actress is best at playing a dysfunctional outcast dealing with an “alternative life-style.”

While you had your fingers crossed for “Transamerica” and “Brokeback Mountain,” I was watching a 19-year-old Mike Tyson beat the hell out of some guy on ESPN Classic. I am somewhere in between the least masculine man you’ll ever meet and absolutely the least masculine man you’ll ever meet. So aside from telling you that this guy was meaty, big and slow versus Mike Tyson who was small, chiseled and fast, I can’t offer you any other statistical details about the fight. All I know is that before he raped a beauty queen, went to jail, got huge and joined the Nation of Islam, he looked like a peanut of a heavyweight whose credits included being fast and intimidating as hell. Only then he was intimidating because of his talents, not because of his reputation for biting or sexually assaulting people.

The Tyson fight was in 1986, a golden year as far as ESPN is concerned, as it was just last week that I was watching the 1986 candlepin bowling championships. ESPN Classic is easily one of my favorite stations, in that the program is good at repackaging the ‘80s without doing so in a gimmicky, self-conscious way. Watching the channel isn’t like watching VH-1 “remember this” shows, which offer B-list celebrities talking about their unmemorable childhoods in order to cash in on nostalgia. The Tyson fight and the bowling championships, among others, are aired as they were originally without the running commentary of no-name, gap-toothed comedians. Who needs a funnyman while they watch bowling championships from two decades ago? The tight pants, tighter shirts, gold chains and chest hair are enough to keep me laughing from beginning to end without some disaffected, smart-aleck jerk telling me why it is funny.

The second thing you missed actually occurred the night before on the Independent Film Channel. To quote Eric Cartman (everyone’s favorite animated fat kid), from a few years back, “Independent films are those black and white hippy movies. They’re always about gay cowboys eating pudding.” The Independent Spirit Awards aired on Saturday, offering a “smoke a bowl in the bathroom” alternative to the Oscars’ “doing lines of coke in the limo on the way to the big night.” The show featured likable people in a tolerable setting (the red carpet makes the class warrior in me want to die a little), saying interesting things. Henry Rollins presented an award; Felicity Huffman delivered a funny, fuck-riddled story as an acceptance speech. Sarah Silverman hosted and didn’t even do the singing out of her vagina shtick she’s become so famous for over the past few months. Oh yes, and the Olson twins showed up. Are the Olson twins married to each other? They’re each worth over 100 million, you know. Christmas movies starring Bettie White and Steve Gutenberg, and a decade of sharing the small screen with Bob Sagat really pay off. That reminds me, there was a really in-depth interview with Jodie Sweeten (Stephanie Tanner from Full House) in *People* magazine a few weeks back. She speaks about her two-year addiction to crystal meth and how it ruined her marriage. Now, I know what you’re thinking. Isn’t crystal meth a white trash drug? There are only a few possible answers to the very valuable point you bring up here:

1) *People* magazine is lying, the interview is a fake and Jodie Sweeten has never had a crystal meth addiction.

2) Jodie Sweeten, as designated by this hard-hitting exposé about her lurid drug past, is in fact, white trash. I am willing to bet that because *People* magazine only publishes pieces of the highest integrity, the second possibility is the most likely. ♦

Bangkok Thai, crazy good

Great food, decent prices, and all
the entertainment you need

ALEX STEED

ASST. A&E EDITOR

If you haven’t been to Bangkok Thai yet, you’re truly missing out. Some people will tell you that it’s on Congress Street, across from the Center of Cultural Exchange, right next to Joe’s Smoke Shop. Actually, it’s basically right across the street from the blackened, neon-lit windows of Video Expo, everyone’s favorite Congress Street porn shop.

Bangkok Thai is the best Thai joint in Portland, hands down. The servers are always nice, the restaurant is always clean and the food is always inexpensive in relation to the quality and quantity of the meal. Try their red curry dinner with tofu for fewer than seven dollars. Leave satiated and with enough money to buy pills off of that sketchy guy hanging out across the street.

And then, there’s the crazy quotient that comes with having a business on Congress Street to consider: my first night of working at another upper Congress Street restaurant, I had to kick a drunk out of the establishment two minutes before closing. Like many drunks, he wanted to make sure that we were “cool” and that there “wasn’t any problem between us,” and that I knew he was “just looking to sit down and relax.” After assuring him that my middle name is cool, that he and I were problem-free, and that the only reason I was turning him away was because the sooner we closed, the sooner I could sit down and relax, he was on his way.

The drunk and crazy quotient on upper Congress Street has always made whatever one does up there an interesting experience. Get a haircut at Columbia and sooner or later you’re going to hear some sort of speech by some sort of crazy person. I’ve seen alcoholics taken outside of the Friendship Café and arrested while still chewing their eggs and toast. I’ve seen a guy in his mid-twenties steal a case of beer from 7-11 while I stood in line, stoned and waiting to get some Ben and Jerry’s. No upper Congress establishment, however, has had a higher crazy quotient than Bangkok Thai.

I went to Bangkok last night, only to be annoyed by a middle-aged man with a bleached, balding head of hair. He was sitting with two giggly, middle-aged women watching television or listening to the radio on some super-annoying personal entertainment device. They sat in the same seats that I once watched a domestic squabble turn into a man slapping his woman companion in the face, after he apparently didn’t like her gift consisting of a brown paper bag



PHOTO BY JEN FELDMAN

Good Thai at 671 Congress Street

filled with cigars and penny candy. All the while, my roommate really enjoyed the duck.

One of my favorite encounters there occurred when I went to enjoy six or seven beers and cashew nuts (exquisite) with my friends. On one side of us was a guy in his mid-twenties ranting outrageously to a woman in her mid-fifties about impending anti-ferret legislation. On the other side were two old queens who I heard discretely remarking to each other how young I look despite how tall I am. Old queens have always had a thing for me, and this is flattering. But forty-five minutes later, I was drunk and this became more and more annoying. I was finally ready to say something bitchy in response, when I realized that they were leaving. Only minutes after they left, I found myself lonely in the void of their lecherous flattery.

If you’re looking for good Thai food for a good price accompanied by a hearty amount of heart-warming (and sometimes face-slapping) insanity, there’s no where else to go but Bangkok Thai. Just keep an eye out for the blackened, fluorescent-light illuminated windows of Video Expo, look across the street and get ready for a heaping helping of great food and a whole lot of crazy. ♦

FILM, from page 7

USM students are admitted for \$5, and can even bargain that price down if needed.

“Every single one of these films has something really wonderful and special about them,” said Wesson. “We really worked hard to pick the best of the best.” ♦



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.MJFF.ORG

Isn't This a Time!, directed by Jim Brown

For a thorough description of each film’s plot, visit www.mjff.org and click on the film’s name. All films held at “The Movies” at 10 Exchange Street unless otherwise noted.

Even if a film listing reads “SOLD OUT,” it has been included because up to 50 additional tickets may be sold 20-30 minutes before show time. The festival box office urges students to come to the show early, there’s still a good chance of getting in. Don’t forget about the USM student discount for “Discordia” on March 22.

Complete festival listings

SATURDAY, MARCH 18 - OPENING NIGHT GALA

5:30 p.m. Opening Night party
@ Greenhut Galleries, 146 Middle St., Portland 7:30 p.m. Local Call*
@ Nickelodeon Cinemas, Temple St., Portland.
Guest Artist: director Arthur Joffé
Opening Night Gala SOLD OUT
(Film only tickets available at the door)

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

Women Filmmakers Forum
@ the Portland Museum of Art
1:30 p.m. Another Road Home
Guest Artist: Danae Elon
Youth Program Screenings
11:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. Paper Clips
SOLD OUT except for All-Festival Pass Holders
8:00 p.m. Red Diaper Baby

Blood Brothers: a bloody good time

A new USM musical hits the theater this week

LAUREN SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Who doesn't love British humor? The newest play to come to USM, "Blood Brothers," comes from the U.K., in the form of a twisting and emotional comic tragedy. The musical is a hybrid of dark tragic scenes depicting old English city streets and traces of the popular off-beat style of British comedy. Assistant director Calien Lewis sums up the show as "the impact of one's environment on how one's life turns out."

"Blood Brothers," is a tale of two brothers, Mickey and Eddie, growing up in Liverpool but on opposite sides of the tracks. The boys are separated at birth when their impoverished mother realizes she cannot care for two children. She gives Eddie to a barren couple who are quite wealthy, and the two women make a pact never to speak of it again. As fate would have it, the two boys later become friends. Upon realizing that they share the same birthday, they perform the ritual to become "blood brothers". The story is not so simple though, and class conflict soon wreaks havoc on their friendship—to the tune of violins, trumpets, saxophone, drums, and of course, keyboards—with the musical ending in a heavily foreshadowed but still surprising twist. The play does seem to carry somewhat of a political message. Though most students going to the musical will not have a long lost twin, class is part of everyday life and anything related to money has proven a popular subject in the past.

"What happens to the brothers as the result of their very different circumstances growing up is something that people are going to be able to relate to," said Lewis. "It's always easy to connect with [characters] that are going through things that you're going through."

Almost two dozen songs are scattered throughout the play, and with titles such as Marilyn Monroe I & II, Shoes Upon the Table I & II, The Robbery, and Madman, the show promises to be eventful if nothing else. While British musicals may not be everyone's cup of tea, Russell's first stab at the genre did turn out to be a great success in England. Blood Brothers has been nominated for six Tony Awards over the years, is one of the longest running musicals in London's West End, and even won Musical of the Year in the 1983 Laurence Olivier Awards. The play should be entertaining to the American audience here, if not with its sheer British tone then perhaps with its universal appeal to audiences through themes like class, love, and friendship throughout a lifetime.

All of the actors in the musical are students from USM, mostly music and theater majors. Casting was held last fall, with weekly rehearsals beginning mid-January. The play stars



Jason Edward Cook as Mickey Johnstone and Jared Poulin as Eddie Lyons. The play follows its main characters over a span of about 25 years, and the director has chosen to use the same actors throughout. The actors have the difficult task of portraying a character at 7, and then that same character as a grown 25-year-old but are made believable through what Lewis says are mannerisms and tones of voice. The actors had to create a differentiation between the actions that their characters had as children as opposed to how they are when they're grown up.

Theater professor and director of "Blood Brothers", Wil Killroy is quite pleased with his actors performances as well as the overall outcome of this production.

"My favorite thing about the show is it's a story that students, or anyone seeing it, can find parts to relate to," said Killroy. "It deals with honesty, issues of fidelity, violence, acceptance, class and discrimination, and family relations among others. It's a musical that's not just about being happy and tap dancing. It's got quite a bit of drama and layers to it." ♦

Blood Brothers

Where: Main Stage at Russell Hall, Gorham campus
When: March 17 and 18: 7:30 p.m., March 19: 5:00 p.m.,
March 23 thru 26: 7:30 p.m.
Tickets: students \$5, faculty \$10, general admission \$15

For reservations and more information contact the Russell Theater Box Office at 780-5151.

Word up y'all

Why am I chicken to cross the road?

ANGELIQUE CARSON
A&E EDITOR



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JEN FELDMAN

There is a widely used pathway of pavement defined by two horizontal white lines that stretch from the sidewalk outside of Luther Bonney to the Free Press/WMPG offices. Some may call this a crosswalk, but as a frequent patron,

I know it as "the deathwalk." Friends, we need a crossing guard. Those cars wiz past us like this is the Long Island Expressway. I'm uncomfortable because walking from the parking garage to class, I fear getting clipped. What I'm thinking is that we need a white-haired, grumpy old man with a road sign and a goal, a simple but satisfying goal, like "keep crosswalk traffic functioning and upright." It's more challenging a task than it may seem.

The other day I stood waiting in the biting wind of winter. The trees were thrashing and the street signs were spinning around like pinwheels. I stared boldly ahead at the crosswalk, which was starting to feel more like a plank. I yearned to reach the other side. It was freezing, class was starting in minutes and my seat next to cute guitar-hippie was a coveted position that I didn't intend to give up. However, darting across the street is a daunting task. The cars were streaking past me and I wasn't wearing reflectors. (I had forgotten them at home along with my over-sized stop sign and shiny whistle). I was just digging in my bag for a lighter to use as a torch when a silhouette appeared in the distance.

The figure approached sporting an iPod and a latte at a brisk, steady pace. I was psyched because having bodies standing at either side of the crosswalk looking scornful puts the pressure on drivers to submit and come to a stop. It's known as double-teaming, and it creates a comradery between crossers. I anticipated my counter-part to stop at the sidewalk's edge and scorn at the drivers with me until we could safely cross the road, so I put my game face on. She walked down the steps that precede the crosswalk staring straight ahead, eyes fixated and lips pursed together. It was barely a glance in either direction before she sprung right off of the curb towards me. She was fierce. She was a vixen in the night. She was Tyra Banks minus the reprehensible personality, and she was on the catwalk.

I froze, perched at the edge of the sidewalk, my jaw teetering above my shoelaces in shock and awe. A steady rumbling sounded in the distance. A city bus roared towards us determined and unwavering. It was a showdown. This woman wasn't slowing her pace, and neither was the bus. Time was running out. The bus slammed on its brakes and came to a complete stop mere inches from the crosswalk and the woman's middle finger. The bus driver let out a honk for over twenty seconds. He might as well have used a fog horn. Crowds gathered in the distance. Geese scattered. Unflinching, the woman reached my side of the great divide and passed by smirking at me like, "that's what's up." Homegirl was for real.

Since then I've started noticing more of these brave pioneers strolling through the crosswalk whistling or staring at the sky. There's a social movement taking place at USM. Pedestrians are claiming their territory back from the roadsters who presently dominate it in a similar way that my Terrier does our mailman; it's a ferocious, daily territorial battle that has both sides barking at each other. Drivers hate to stop, pedestrians hate to wait. The fight is a ruthless one and the odds are against pedestrians. Nobody wants to roof surf a speeding vehicle.

I'm dazzled by those who occupy the crosswalk leadership roles. Do they not fear death? Do they think they are immortal? Or, are they shopping for an open-shut law suit where they're awarded damages? Gold diggers.

Once, I hesitated to cross while one of these crosswalk leaders breezed by me towards the other side.

"C'mon," he said. "If you're in the crosswalk and they hit you, they pay you."

As brilliant a suggestion as it was, if I can avoid being struck and propelled by massive metal equipment, I'm going to go ahead and shoot for that. I love cash money as much as the next collegiate, but I also love the mobility of my limbs and my general motor skills. I hope I can keep them through graduation. ♦

MONDAY, MARCH 20
5:30 PM Short Shorts (5 short films)
7:00 PM Isn't This a Time!

TUESDAY, MARCH 21
3:00 PM Hineini: Coming Out in a Jewish High School
5:30 PM A Cantor's Tale
7:30 PM Protocols of Zion

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22
5:30 PM Discordia with God on our Side
7:30 PM Local Call*

THURSDAY, MARCH 23
5:30 PM Short Shorts (5 short films)
7:00 PM LGBT Program
Love Story and Lover Other
Guest Artist, Barbara Hammer

FRIDAY, MARCH 24
Seniors Free Matinee
@ Maine Historical Society
489 Congress St., Portland
12:00 PM Seniors Luncheon
1:30 PM A Cantor's Tale
SOLD OUT except for All-Festival Pass Holders

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
5:30 PM Gloomy Sunday
7:30 PM Go For Zucker!



Ushpizin, directed by Gidi Dar

SUNDAY, MARCH 26 - CLOSING DAY
11:45 AM The Ritchie Boys
Closing Film and Party
@ the Portland Museum of Art
2:15 PM Ushpizin

* = fully-captioned, accessible for Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing patrons.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.MJFE.COM

CHOOSE



USM 2006

Student Government Meet the Candidates Forum

Tuesday, 3/14 11:45am-1:15pm
Woodbury Campus Center Amphitheater
Portland Campus

Thursday, 3/16 7:30pm-9pm
Brooks Student Center - Lower Level
Gorham Campus

VOTE ON-LINE AT:
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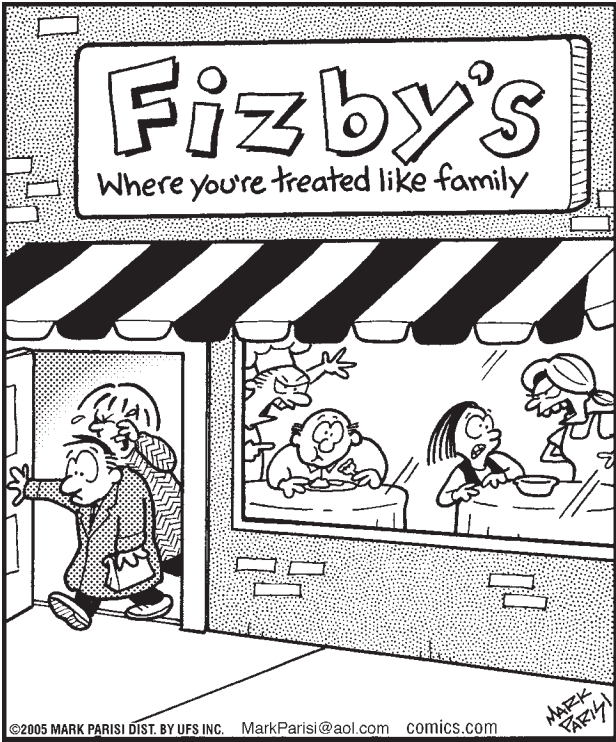
www.portlandpirates.com



Sudoku

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

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



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:
Student and University Life
Attention: Pat Haskell RE: Student Commencement Speaker, 117 Payson Smith Hall,
Portland Campus

Questions: Call Helen Gorgas Goulding, Committee Chair, 780-4629

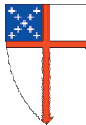
- ❖ The selected speaker will be honored with a University of Southern Maine Chair with engraved name plate.
- ❖ For any writing assistance, you are encouraged to contact the Portland Learning Center, 253 Luther Bonney Hall; or Gorham Learning Center, Costello Sports Complex.

An Opportunity for Community Prayer
"Take Twenty"

Wednesdays, beginning March 15 –

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 12 noon | Boiler Room, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland
A mid-day respite with music, musings & prayer. |
| 4:00 p.m. | Husky Hut, Brooks Student Center, Gorham
End the day with reflection, music & prayer. |

Sponsored and facilitated by the
Episcopal Campus Minister, The Rev. Shirley Bowen,
through the Interfaith Chaplain's Office.
Materials used will be from a variety of faith traditions.
All are welcome.



sbowen@episcopalmaine.org, (207) 205-4155, www.maine-campusministry.org

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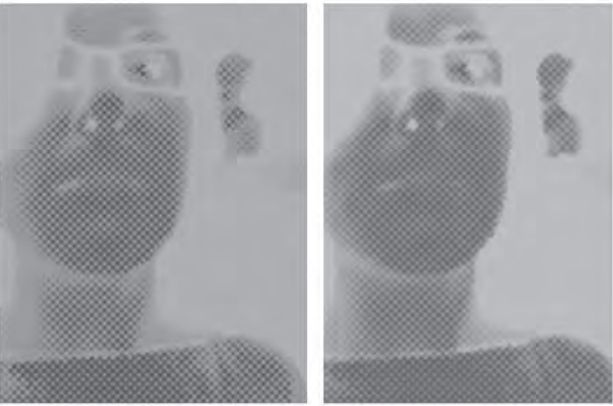
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Checking accounts have no fee and no minimum balance and are customized with other free products like Home Banking. Fees would apply for unusual activity like overdraft. Contact UCU for eligibility requirements.



Ask Jen



because you need help.

(Think Dear Abby, but better.)

JEN “TOO SEXY FOR TIMES ROMAN” F.

So, I thought bestiality was illegal. However, I was in NYC recently and while I was there I was dragged into a porn store that was equipped with a very extensive bestiality section. What gives!?

What gives is that the preferred name for bestiality is zoophilia. What also gives is your mom. Dear reader, you may be shocked and/or pleased to learn that bestiality is, in fact, legal in eighteen states: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey (2006 legislation proposed), New Mexico, Ohio, Texas, Vermont, Washington (2006 legislation in process), West Virginia, and Wyoming. You will notice that New York is not on the list. There, bestiality is a Class A misdemeanor, per NY CLS Penal @130.20 (1994). Legal issues aside, who do you think you’re fooling with this “dragged into a porn store” business? This advice columnist may be dumb, but she’s not stupid.

Where are all the descent men folk at? I’ve checked the bars, USM’s classrooms, college parties and my bed. They aren’t occupying any of those spaces, I’ve only found “boys” there. I’m looking for someone intellectually stimulating and good in the sack. My boss says that I can find straight men hiding out at gay bars. I’m running out of hope. Is there some pot of gold hiding from me over the rainbow? Also, will you marry me?

Your boss is an idiot. Straight men do not hang out at gay bars unless they like having sex with other men. My dear deluded reader, your problem isn’t that you’re looking for men in the wrong places. No, your problem is that you have standards. High standards. Maybe instead of searching for JFK you need to settle for William Howard Taft. That’s right, Taft. Sometimes the truth hurts.

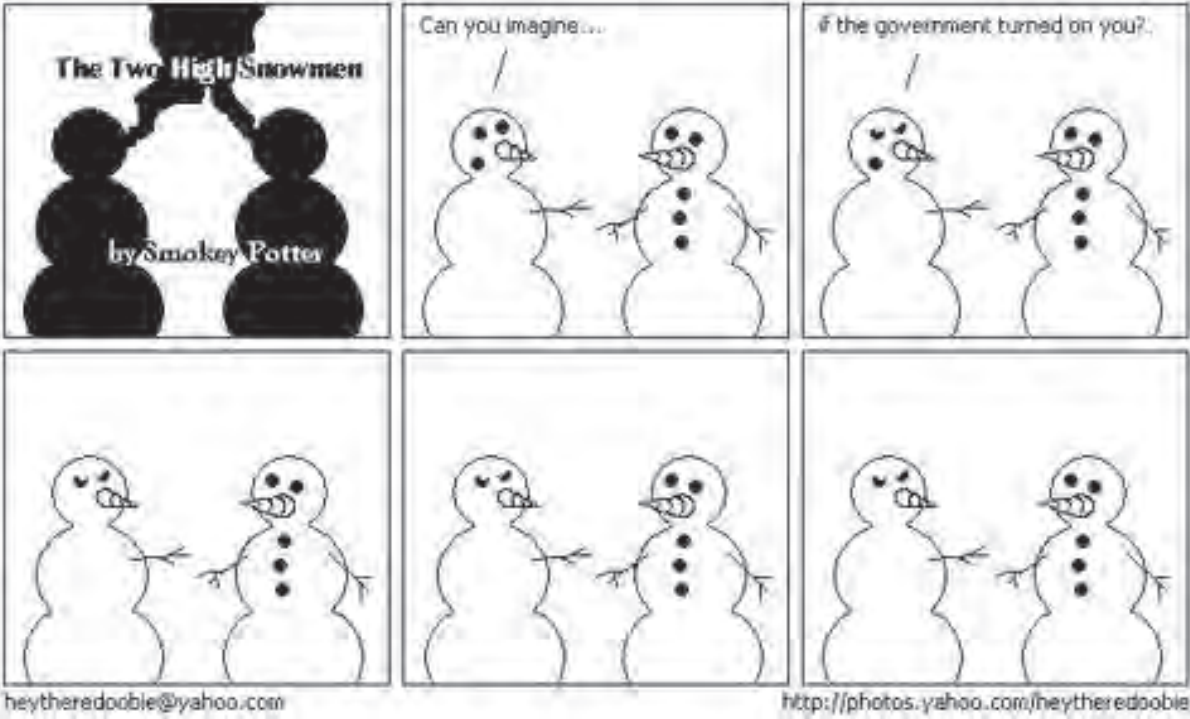
This guy and I are totally in love with each other. Everyone around us knows it. He just got out of a long-term relationship and says that he’s not ready for another relationship right now. Does this mean he’s gay?

It means one of three things. One: he’s gay. Two: you’re gay. Or three: he’s just not feeling sexy right now. His ex left him devastated and he needs time to heal so stop hassling the poor shlub, Miss Pushy. Sheesh.

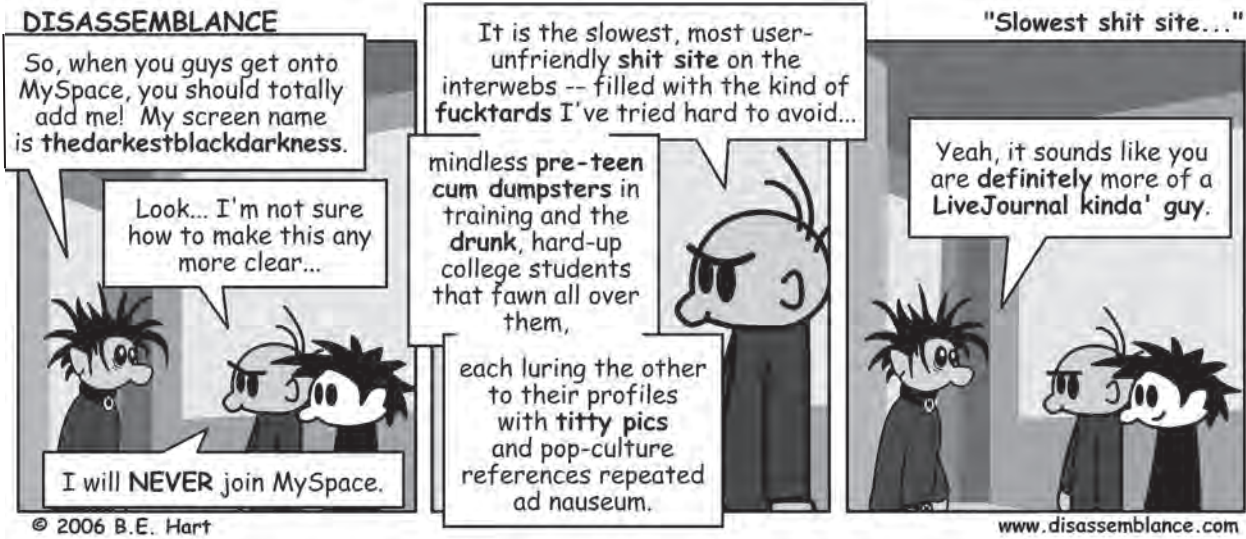
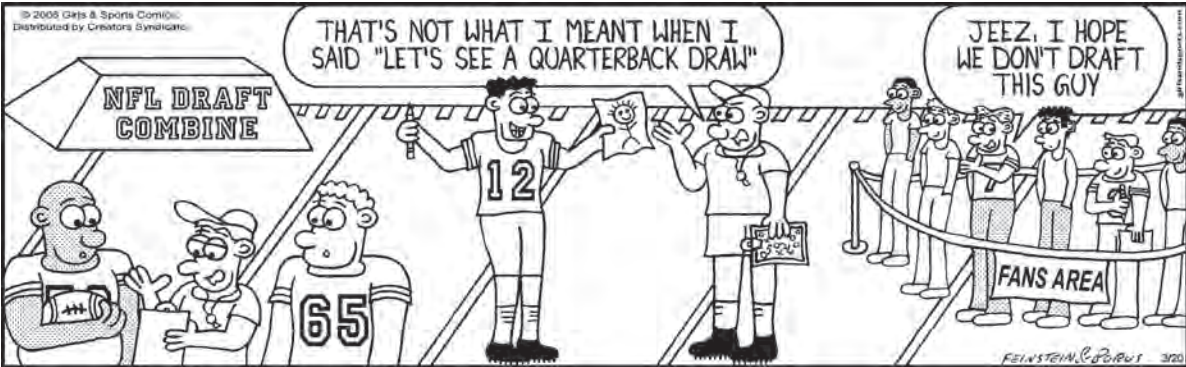
Need help? Of course you do. Send problems, marriage proposals, and hate mail to ask.jen@gmail.com

Solutions to puzzles

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



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 (The Hanged Man)★★: The Neptunian aspects of this card indicate a change in your perspectives this week, Aries. Whatever happened last week that made you stop and think isn’t going away this week. Don’t be scared to change as you learn and grow. That’s just a part of life.

TAURUS (The World)★★★★: This has been happening to you a lot, Taurus. Every opportunity – every dream that you can dream – is being offered for you to actualize, all you need to do is reach for it. This week’s reaffirmation comes with a warning though: you’re running out of time to waffle.

GEMINI (Judgment)★★★★: As you go through this week, Gemini, expect to feel a strong sense of duty. The Plutonian influence of this card will keep you aware of the darker side of life – aware and annoyed. Don’t be surprised to find yourself speaking out against injustice and know that there are Libra behind you waiting to help.

CANCER (2 of Rods)★★: The by-the-book definition of this card’s inverse is confusion. So, add two stars if you can figure out what you want in life by Wednesday. Subtract two if you decide to just keep muddling about. Oh, and add a star if you take time to sit in silence on Monday and reflect on what is going on.

LEO (Ace of Pentacles)★★★: Every aspect of your day-to-day life in this physical world will be exactly as you’d expect it. No surprises and no punches this week, Leo. This may be a good time to re-examine your life plan.

VIRGO (The Hermit)★★★★: That thirst you’re feeling, Virgo, is for a spiritual knowledge that you won’t find on T.V., in books, or

on the radio. Spend time this week looking for it very deep within yourself – you have the answers to those questions that keep you up at night.

LIBRA (The Magician)★★★★★: Action, not words, are your strength this week. If you know a Gemini, be on the look out, he or she may need help during their social-justice crusade this week but don’t expect to be asked. Just jump right in.

SCORPIO (3 of Rods)★★: Put your games on hiatus this week, Scorpio. If you don’t, you may just piss-off that one person you need something from (like a job, a loan, a friendly ear). You’ll know when you’ve gone too far when you’re told “to grow up.”

SAGITTARIUS (Knight of Rods)★★★★: With spring in the air and hopefully a song in your heart, this is a good week for you to be focusing on the future. Who will you be, where will you go? Entertain these questions this week through the perspective of your current reality.

CAPRICORN (4 of Pentacles)★★★★: Your greed will be your downfall this week, Capricorn. Reach for what you can, be happy with what you’ve got and stop trying to take that little bit more. Why? Think of yourself on a ladder and if you stretch way out and reach for somebody else’s pile, your ladder will tip over.

AQUARIUS (2 of Pentacles)★★★★: Did you spill some salt and toss it over your shoulder? Shudder when your black cat crossed your path or when you dropped a knife, Aquarius? For some reason you’re feeling superstitious this week. A word to the wise for tonight: Take a bath and throw Stevie Wonder’s “Superstition” on the hi-fi.

PISCES (6 of Swords)★★★★★: You understand this week, Pisces, and you can use that understanding to bend the week to your own means. This is great but subtract two stars if you start to actually try and manipulate people – Geminis and Libras won’t tolerate it.

- 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

SALES

iMac Like New
FULLY LOADED PowerPC G5, 256MB
Ram, 80GB, 1.8GHz/56K,Tiger10.4.4,
Superdrive burns/plays DVDs-CDs,
iLife5, Photoshop, Illustrator, Microsoft
OS, Quicken 2006, Dreamweaver!
Superdrive 17” flatscreen, APPLECARE
PROTECTION PLAN. Total value \$3000,
steal for \$1200. 846-0623.

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chairs-\$500,Qn.Lxry, bed w/hdboard-\$950
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on resume/class project. Possibility of future
employment. Inquiries please call or e-mail
Al @ 284-3138 or akinnan@maine.rr.com.

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Free Press Editorships
The Free Press is accepting applications
for editorships for next year. For more
information, email freepress@usm.maine.edu.

Student Legal Services
Providing free legal advice, information and
consultations. Open to USM undergrads
taking at least 3 credits
Woodbury Campus Center
FMI Call 780-4792, or email hopkins@usm.maine.edu

Interested in Linguistics!?
Join the linguistics Fellowship Tuesdays @
10:15am in Campus Center B. Oooh, sassy!

Pagan Students’ Assoc. Meeting
Thursday, March 16th from 2-4. Husky Hut,
Brooks Center, Gorham. Topic - Gender and
Spirituality. Free and Open to all Paths! FMI
email usm_psa@yahoo.com

**Join us for Ostara Circle, Spring Equinox
Celebration**
Come Celebrate the Return of Spring!!!!
Tuesday, March 21st @7:00 pm Husky Hut,
Brooks Center, Gorham. Refreshments will
be served.

Wanted-Experienced Caregiver
To stay overnight, awake with senior woman
in her home near Portland campus. \$10-
12/hr. If interested, please contact Tracey
Carlson, 773-3397. maineangels@maine.rr.com

STUDENT GROUPS

Math Club
Meetings on Fridays @ 10:00 a.m. Math
Dept. @ 300A Payson Smith – Portland.

CSI - NEW STUDENT GROUP!
Criminology Student Involvement (CSI)
has just been created and is looking for new
members. Please come with ideas on March
15th & April 19th from 3-4pm in 301A
Payson-Smith Hall, Portland Campus. If you
are interested, please contact Garrett Strout
at garrett.strout@maine.edu.

“I Am My Own Wife”
Tickets are \$12.00, and the show will
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DID YOU DO A THINKING MATTERS AD FOR THE FREE PRESS THIS WEEK?

HOLY SCHEDULING, ROOMPERSON, THERE ARE MORE THAN 150!

NO, I'VE BEEN TOO BUSY WITH ALL THESE GREAT ABSTRACTS WE RECEIVED

I HAD NO IDEA THERE ARE SO MANY NEAT PROJECTS GOING ON AT USM

AND LOOK HOW COOL THEY ARE!

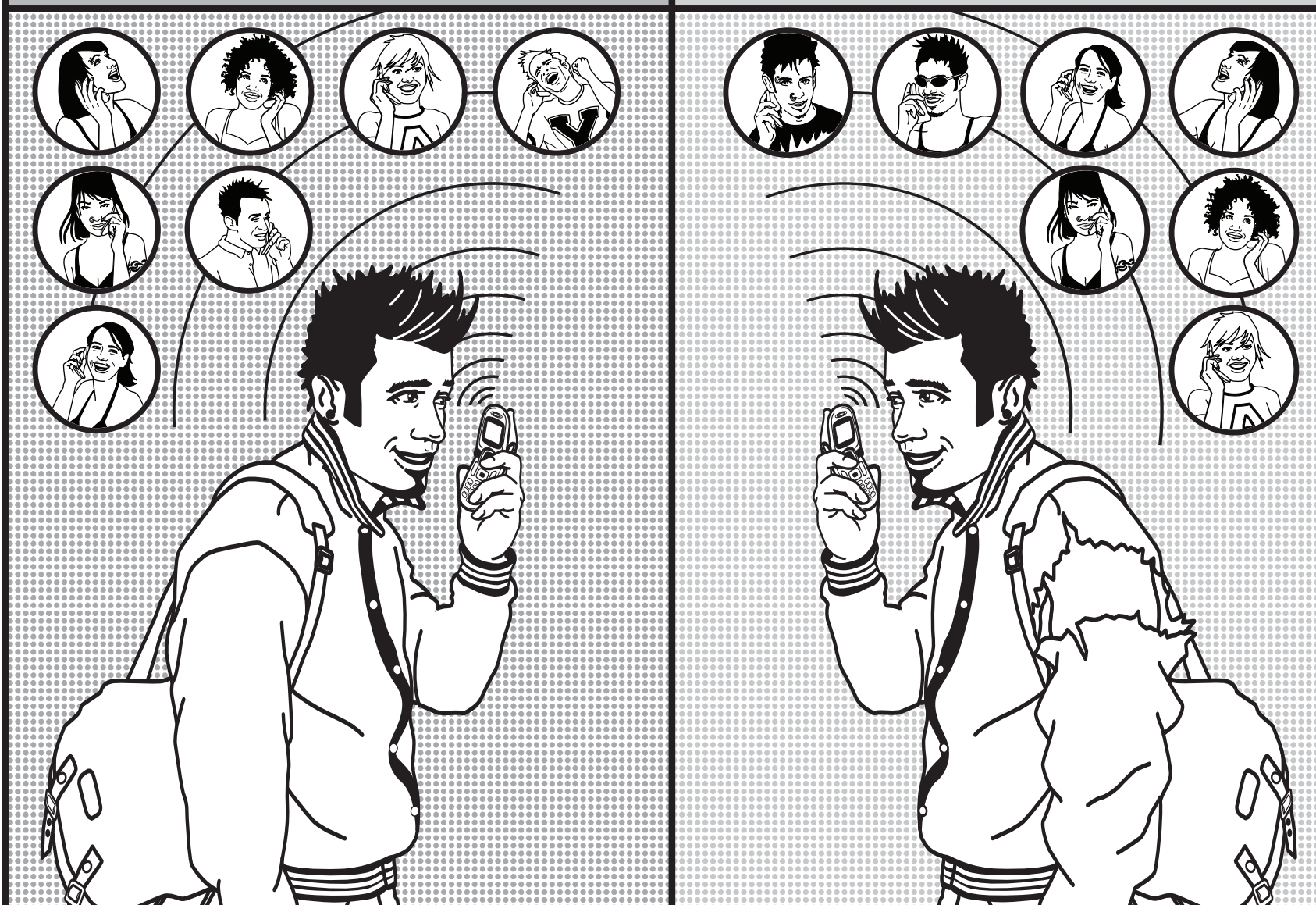
THINKING MATTERS: USM'S CELEBRATION OF STUDENT RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVITY APRIL 21ST

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USM SENIOR HEROES



#11 Donna Cowing
Height: 5'6
Position: Guard
Hometown: Weeks Mills, Maine
Stats: 8.0ppg – 3.1rpg



#33 Megan Myles
Height: 5'11
Position: Forward
Hometown: Auburn, Maine
Stats: 12.6ppg – 5.5rpg



#30 Katie Frost
Height: 5'8
Position: Guard
Hometown: Calais, Maine
Stats: 8.4ppg – 2.2rpg



#12 Diana Thibaudeau
Height: 5'10
Position: Forward
Hometown: Sanford, Maine
Stats: 1.4ppg – 1.1rpg

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- ▶ Find out what you need to qualify for a loan
- ▶ Talk to lending professionals
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Wed. March 29th 5:30-7:00^{p.m.}
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It's the Sweet Sixteen for the Lady Huskies

Team moves forward in Division III

ASHLEY ST. MICHEL
SPORTS EDITOR

As the University of Southern Maine Lady Huskies entered the gym Saturday, March 4, a crowd of rowdy, yellow-shirted USM students, faculty, and staff members were ready to rumble. Abnormally loud hoots, screeches, and yelping exited the mouths of usually quiet, nerdy physics majors at the Hill Gymnasium in Gorham. The match-up was the 28-1 USM Huskies against the 25-4 Norwich Cadets.

Through foul trouble, uneven man-to-man height match-ups, and excellent scoring percentages, (on behalf of the Huskies), the Norwich Cadets watched as their game slipped away and USM expanded their record to 29-1.

The first half was a struggle for the dominating Huskies who only scored 31.3 percent from the field. The Cadets used three of their tallest players underneath the hoop at the start of the half, in order to better control the USM forwards. The Cadets ran into trouble when the Huskies' smaller point guards like Frost and Sibley drove to the basket, and were fouled by the larger players like Norwich's Kristi Powlovich (Jericho, Vermont). The fouls sent the Huskies to the line scoring 19 points just off of foul shots. The Cadets foul trouble plagued them as they ended the half with 12 fouls. The fouls helped continue to push the Huskies into the lead.

"They [all the championship teams] are hard at this time of the year" Huskies Coach Fifield said. "we must give our best effort every game to advance." That was exactly what the Huskies did.

Although the Norwich Cadets' record was not number one in the nation, the Cadets worked hard to contain the Lady Huskies. Unfortunately, the Cadets could

not slow the ball down enough from USM's run-and-gun offense to make a comeback. The Huskies, who have won their last 21 consecutive games this season, out-scored, out-rebounded, and out-played the Cadets. With this win, the Lady Huskies moved themselves into the Sweet Sixteen Tournament for the fourth year in a row.

"I felt we played really well," Fifield added. "If we play as well defensively as we did [on Saturday] and take care of the ball the way we did, it will take a very good team to beat us."

The second half exemplified the abilities of senior forward Megan Myles (Auburn) shooting from beyond the three point line, (four of her three pointers came in the second half), and Ashley Marbles' (Topsfield) capability to drive the lane. On many attempts, Marble was fouled on her way to the hoop, allowing her eight points just from the foul line. The Huskies fastened their lead with a 12-3 run as second string, and up-and-coming player Lauren Samuelson (Southbury, Conn.) finished off the game with two back to back lay-ups at the end of the second half. The Huskies ended the game with a 72-42 win over the Cadets.

"Right now we are just maintaining timing and tightening up some of the things we are doing offensively and defensively," Fifield said, noting the little improvements the Huskies can make as they continue their journey to the final four. If the Huskies make it to the final four, it will be their fifth time since 1988.

The Huskies also saw the final four tournament in 1998, 2000, and 2005.

Myles topped all scorers with 24 points, five of which came from beyond the three-point line. Junior forward Ashley Marble (Topsfield) contributed with 23 points for the Huskies. Marble and Myles combined to grab a total of 12 rebounds against the Cadets. The 12 rebounds were less than half of the total 38 boards USM snatched against the 29 the Cadets took. Senior guard Katie Frost (Calais) also helped the



USM's Lindsey Welch is guarded on her way to the basket

Huskies along with eleven points in the game.

As for the fan base turnout for the upcoming tournament games, Coach Fifield said "I hope the student body will come out in full force and have a good time at the games supporting us..." Fifield also added,

"We need a great atmosphere with a lot of school spirit."

USM finished the game shooting 38.6 percent from the field and 55.6 percent from the three point line. Norwich shot 35.7 percent from the field. ♦

Entering Elite Eight



USM's Ashley Marble (23) guards Bridgewater's Ashton Mitchell

The University of Southern Maine Lady Huskies played in the Sweet Sixteen tournament on Friday night at Warren G. Hill gymnasium in Gorham. Southern Maine took on Bridgewater College from Virginia. Southern Maine trailed the Bridgewater Eagles for the first five minutes of the game, until Megan Myles answered back with one foul shot, two lay-ups, and a three pointer. Donna Cowing also chimed in with a three pointer. In addition Myles walked

away from the game with three steals. Ashley Marble topped all players with 21 points and 12 rebounds. Marsha Kinder scored 17 points for the Eagles. The Lady Huskies averaged 43.6 percent from the field, while the Eagles only averaged 29.3 percent. Southern Maine won the game, 68-55, extending their record to 30-1. The Huskies took on Bowdoin on Saturday, March 11, in the NCAA Elite Eight Conference. ♦

Husky Highlights

Marble, Myles, and Fifield earn MWBCA Honors

Senior forward Megan Myles (Auburn) and junior forward Ashley Marble (Topsfield/ Woodland) were named to the Maine Women's Basketball Coaches Association (MWBCA) All-State first team. Marble was also recently selected as Little East Conference Player of the Year and MWBCA player of the year. USM head coach Gary Fifield was named the MWBCA coach of the year. Marble averaged 16.9 points and 9.3 rebounds per game, while Myles averaged 13.0 points and 5.5 rebounds per game.

Southern Maine races to 12th

Southern Maine men's indoor track and field team set one school record while finishing in 12th place out of the 44 teams attending the ECAC Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships at Ursinus College. The only record set at the championship was by the distance medley relay team of sophomores Curtis Wheeler (Derby, VT/North Country Union) and Forrest Tobie (Mt. Vernon/Maranacook), freshman Jimmy Sawyer (Gorham) and junior Chris Hopkins (Worcester, Mass./St. Peter Marian) who finished third with a time of 10:20.63. The previous record was 10:22.41, set two years ago.

Bellemore vaults into first place

Junior Melissa Bellemore (Manchester, N.H./Manchester West) won the pole vault and placed fifth in the 55-meter hurdles, leading Southern Maine indoor track and field team to a sixth place finish at the 2006 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) held at Ursinus College. Bellemore won the pole vault by clearing 3.52 meters (11-6 ½) and entered her personal best in the 55-meters with a time of 8.81 seconds.

Curry conquers Southern Maine 9-3 in opener

Freshman midfielder Garrett Shaw (Brunswick), Zack Fermanis (Gorham), and Chris Brookes (Hallowell) scored the only three goals in Southern Maine's Lacrosse season opener against Curry. Sophomore Ryan Rooney (Newton, Mass.) of Curry scored five out of their nine goals; defeating the Huskies.

Norwich ends Southern Maine's season

Junior center Mark Carragher (Charlottetown, PEI) scored one goal for the Huskies, while Ben Loss (Wilmette, Ill.) scored two goals in the first semifinal game of the 2006 ECAC East Championship Tournament on Saturday March 4, in Northfield, Vt. Southern Maine finished its season at 12-13-2.

DIVISION III TOURNAMENT BRACKET

