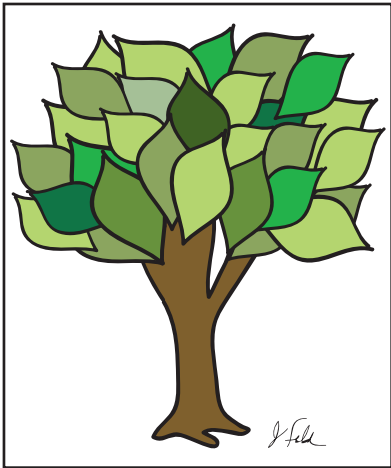


## NEWS



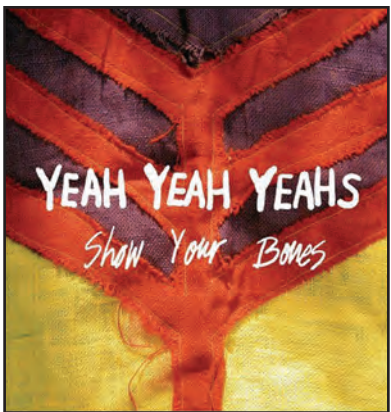
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# Loan relief for students may be on the way

## People's initiative to put a loan forgiveness program referendum on 2007 ballot

RICHARD SMART  
NEWS EDITOR

In an effort to keep one of his campaign promises, Student Body President Andrew Bossie has begun a people's initiative to create a college loan forgiveness program for Maine residents.

The initiative is a response to rising costs, not only in tuition, but also in room and board, books and the cost of living in general, which Bossie said is causing students to shoulder unreasonable amounts of debt. Bossie said this debt plays a part in many graduates moving out of state, and deters others from attending a higher education institution.

"It's important to many students to have a way to afford not only classes, but to eat dinner that night," Bossie said. "To be able to pay tuition and pay rent."

Bossie said because of inaction from the State Legislature in addressing higher education costs in the state, the responsibility falls on the shoulders of students.

While the specifics of the program haven't been determined yet—the proposal is being reviewed by the State Secretary's Office—the goal of the program is to forgive, or erase, the balance of a student's loans if they meet certain requirements. In order to qualify the student must be a Maine resident, attend a public institution, maintain good academic standing and live in Maine for two or four years after graduating—the length of time still needs to be determined. After the proper time has elapsed, the student's loans will be paid by the state.

The program will be paid for by a one percent increase to the state sales tax, or one penny on the dollar. Currently Maine's sales tax is five percent, which is comparable to other New England state's sales tax—Massachusetts is

also five percent and Vermont and Connecticut are both six percent.

"Any time you're talking about taxes, it's a very dicey game you play," said Bossie. He said raising taxes is never popular, but he hopes Maine voters will see the benefits from the program as worthwhile.

After student loans are paid for each year, the remainder of the money from the increased sales tax would go towards paying the administrative costs of running the program, then towards improvements to infrastructure at higher education buildings and creating programs to help high school graduates transition into higher education.

The state legislature would be responsible for seeing that the program is enforced, and jurisdiction would likely fall under Financial Authority of Maine (FAME).

According to Bossie, if the program were enacted, it would prove beneficial to not only Maine college graduates, but also to the state. He said the average level of education of a state's workforce is a major factor in how businesses choose locations. Bossie said Maine lags behind other New

England states by roughly 30 percent in terms of college graduation rates and income per capita.

So far the campaign is entirely student run, consisting of Bossie, Former Student Body President Joshua Chaisson, student representatives from all of the University of Maine System campuses and one student from Southern Maine Community College. Bossie said student involvement is essential if the initiative is going to be successful.

In order for the referendum question to appear on the 2007 ballot, Bossie and his colleagues will need to collect roughly 52,000 signatures by the end of January of 2007. Bossie said the bulk of those signatures will be collected on election day in November of this year, but he would like to have accumulated 20,000 signatures or more before then. He said most groups organizing a people's initiative collect the majority of their signatures on voting day.

"It will require massive mobilization of students on campuses," said Bossie. "[But] I can't think of anything that's more broad based than this." ♦

# Chancellor announces resignation

## After a year-long sabbatical, Westphal will return as a full-time professor

LINDSAY CARLSON  
STAFF WRITER

Effective June 30, Chancellor Joseph Westphal will step down as head of the University of Maine System after serving for four years. In an announcement on April 19, Westphal announced his decision to resign as chancellor and to return to teaching full-time. After his resignation, he will go on sabbatical for one year and then return as a full-time professor of political science at the University of Maine at Orono.

Westphal will keep his current salary while he is on sabbatical. Once he becomes a faculty member, his salary will be equivalent to 2/3 of the salary

he received as chancellor, said Executive Director of External Affairs and system spokesman John Diamond.

In a press release from the Chancellor's office, Westphal gave his reasons for leaving. "After many years of leading large and complex organizations, I want to use my energy in new ways to contribute to this university system and Maine," he said. "I want to fulfill some personal goals that rely on the many incredible experiences I have been fortunate to have had in my career, and returning to a full-time faculty position will enable me to pursue those objectives."

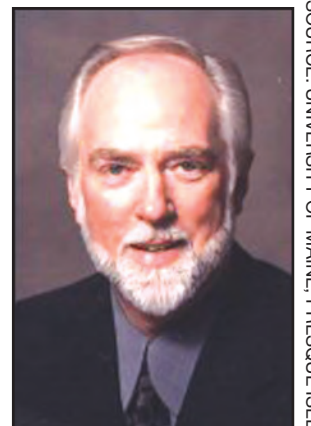
Westphal spent 12 years as a faculty member at Oklahoma State University, and has also served as an adjunct faculty member at Georgetown University. Diamond said the Chancellor's decision to return to teaching full-time came last semester, though the official announcement was not made until recently.

In the press release from the Chancellor's office, Westphal said, "Ever since I returned to teaching at Georgetown University and most recently at the University of

Maine, I have had a tremendous urge to work with students and engage in writing and research with colleagues in Maine and around the world," he said.

Provost Joseph Wood said that budget cuts and fiscal restraints that began before Westphal came to the University of Maine System made some things difficult for the Chancellor to accomplish. "It's been a tough time because we've been in deficit budgeting the entire four years he was here. I think we've survived quite well, but that means we haven't been able to accomplish the new things that we [would have] liked to," said Wood. "We should probably frame part of what happened to his four years as a toughness of times for the whole system."

In a statement to the Portland Press Herald, Westphal said, "I am happy where I am with this, happy where the system is. This is a good time to have this transition." The Board of Trustees is currently seeking to appoint an interim chancellor that will serve from July until a permanent replacement chancellor can be found through a nationwide search.



SOURCE: UNIVERSITY OF MAINE, PRESQUE ISLE

Chancellor Westphal

President Pattenau said he and other University of Maine presidents will be consulted by the yet-to-be-formed search committee.

"I don't know what the committee will look like," said Pattenau, "I hope it has students on it."

Pattenau said the search committee will likely look for a candidate who works well with the legislature, is willing to be visible and make the case for higher education, and will continue bringing about needed changes. "These are challenging times," said Pattenau, "and the new chancellor will have much work to do." ♦

# News briefs



## This week in history

### Mother's Day

While celebrations of motherhood and fertility date back to ancient Greek and Celtic traditions, Mother's Day as we know it in the United States goes back only about a century.

Anna Jarvis was a homemaker who encouraged mothers in her community to advocate awareness of the poor health care in the area. She created a day called "Mother's Work Day" to promote these issues.

When she died in 1905 her daughter, also Anna, wanted to memorialize the work of her mother, remembering what she had said one day in Sunday school, "I hope and pray that someone, sometimes, will found a memorial mother's day. There are many days for men, but none for mothers."

Anna Jr. took these words to heart and actively lobbied businessmen and politicians. In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill making Mother's Day an official holiday. The celebration quickly grew from letter writing and attending church to sending gifts and flowers.

Anna Jarvis Jr. was upset by the increasing commercialism and greediness of the holiday and in 1923 she filed a lawsuit to end Mother's Day. She died in 1948 regretting having started it. ♦

COMPILED BY ANNE HOBBY



## Letters to the editor

### My two cents

Even though the "Ask Jen" column is supposed to be funny - a farce, it's offensive. The column is loaded with references to issues that should be taken seriously. For me the column sends a message that it's ok to be offensive if it's disguised as humor. Several people found the reference to gender reassignment surgery in question #2 of the 01 May 2006 column to be offensive. Why does humor in this column have to be crude? I'll admit it would take more effort and talent to write positive humorous responses.

I challenge the Free Press to change the style of this column to one that promotes positive attitudes and behavior. If nothing changes, your 2nd tag line "Think Dear Abby, but better" should read "...but worse".

**Rosanna McCoy**  
**Administrative Assistant II**  
**Department of English**

# Honors college revisited

## Faculty Senate to prepare new proposal

LINDSAY CARLSON  
STAFF WRITER

The formation of a new proposal for the Honors College is currently being discussed by members of the Faculty Senate. The senate was overwhelmingly in favor of an Honors College, in principle, at the end of April’s Faculty Senate meeting, but voted against the proposal that was on the table. Now, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee is working to organize

a sub-committee. The sub-committee will work on creating a new proposal to present to the faculty senate in the fall.

Former USM student and member of the honors program, Phillip Gingras, heard about the Honors College proposal from a friend who is still in the program.

“When I heard they had lost the bid to become an Honor’s College, my heart sank,” said Gingras. “The Honor’s program deserves the funding and the stability that would be provided by becoming one [a college], and I think the University is missing out on one of the greatest opportunities to allow USM to grow.” Gingras said that he did not leave USM because of the Honors Program, but that he was disappointed the proposal did not go through.

Faculty Senate member Michael Hamilton said he voted against the proposal back in April, but he would love to see a new proposal as soon as possible. “What I personally hope,” said Hamilton, “is that the new proposal will not be based on taking different courses to meet core curriculum requirements, [rather] it will be based on honors students doing the same general education curriculum that everybody else does and then doing something extra to earn Honors.”

Hamilton said that model is the traditional Oxford University model of Honors and that he would like to go back to the origins of the ideals for honors education and build a college around that. “I’d vote for that with no trouble,” he said.

Hamilton said it seems unlikely much work will be done over

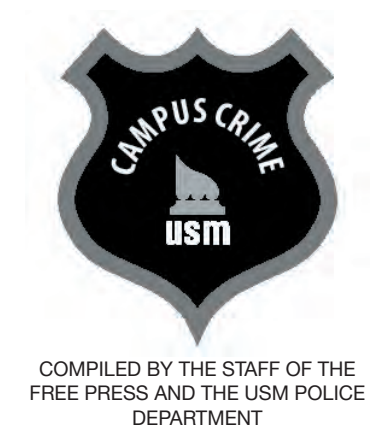
the summer, but he expects a lot to happen at the beginning of next fall.

Criticisms of the current proposal that the sub-committee will address include: the current proposal’s violation of the University Governance Constitution, concerns about the actual level of difficulty of the Honors courses as compared to other courses offered by the College of Arts and Sciences, and concerns about funding for the College.

Provost Joseph Wood said he is looking forward to hearing the comments from the faculty senate. “If they’re able to offer some constructive feedback then we have something to work with,” he said, “The faculty senate has, by its own statement, taken the ball into its court. So we’re waiting.”

Wood said his ideal model for an Honors College would be one that grew incrementally. “I would love to see us have an Honors College that does not imply the position of the governance document,” said Wood, “but that also is not consistent with what the Honors Program Faculty Council supports because they’re talking about a full-blown college with eventually its own baccalaureate degree.”

There is one more Faculty Senate meeting before summer break. Currently discussion of the Honors College or formation of the sub-committee is not on the agenda. If it is not discussed in this session, Hamilton said discussion will resume in the fall. ♦



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

**APRIL 30** – A sorority group was chanting and yelling in front of Dickey Hall. An officer asked them to quiet down.

**APRIL 25** – Someone reported reported receiving threatening phone calls from a person known to him. Under investigation.

A minor in Dickey Hall was issued a summons for possession of alcohol of minor.

Someone hit a utility trailer on the Gorham campus. There was a minor injury.

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# Lobsters, microbrews and political action

## This week in global news

GARRETT CORBIN

GUEST COLUMNIST

The world is virtually insane, as Jamiroquai put it a decade ago, but not entirely. Our actions, or lack thereof while we're holed up in the library, influence what happens in the rest of the world one way or another.

At a USM event last week, former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell mentioned three Maine qualities: integrity, independence, and dependability. A great way for us all to heed the advice of those who have not been confined by studying or the Old Port meat market is to vote.

The upcoming midterm elections, notorious for their low turnout, present the opportunity to make a statement that we are conscious of lil' ol' Portland's effect on the world and are willing to embrace our responsibility to make it a positive one. Portland is already one of the top cities for voter participation in the country; given its

manageable size, a student-driven, non-political voter registration campaign in November could make it the number one city not only for lobster and microbrews, but for using civic power to uphold this country's ideals.

Although Portland has more action on any given day than the rest of the state, we're still in Maine, and one semester can easily drag on to the point that it feels like it will never end. Until the end actually draws near, that is. For some reason, when there are only two weeks left to go, life suddenly and inevitably goes bananas. Whether it's speaking events, homework, or great weather, your diligence throughout the semester gives way to the preternatural obligation for it to get crushed. I attended three talks in the past week or so that may help to break that academic tunnel-vision and bring you back to reality.

The first talk was given by our nation's former Senate Majority Leader, George Mitchell. Mitchell's talk was entitled "Globalism: What it Means for America." He stated that we beat three challenges to democracy in the last century: depression, fascism, and communism, and today the prevailing view

is that democratic governance & free market economics offer the best hope for the world. This supported his premise that opportunity leads to hope, and hope to peace (a sort of mirror to Yoda saying fear leads to anger, anger to hate, hate to suffering...). But serious challenges await democracy and the free market because, while we U.S. citizens have been the principle beneficiaries of globalism, we have not harnessed its advantages well or mitigated its adverse consequences. These negative effects exacerbate the expansion and diffusion of terrorism and the need for resources. According to Mitchell, we must responsibly meet these challenges by ensuring that our actions and policies live up to the ideals within our own democracy. While our country's power is at its greatest ever, our standing throughout the world is at its lowest; to ensure that we alleviate hostility and uphold our responsibilities, we have to deploy our power in service to our ideals rather than in contradiction to them.

This considerably well-informed opinion on where we ought to be heading was sandwiched between other's opinions on where we are. A lunch talk given by the head

of local law firm Pierce Atwood's energy group, John Gulliver, discussed how Maine has been playing, and may continue to play, a strong part in the global economy. Innovation leads to changing industries, and while this state's economy has been harmed by a global shift in manufacturing bases and increased competition in lumber and fishing industries, Maine's future prosperity may be ensured by supporting higher education and expanding service-sector employment opportunities. Of course, one man's vision may be another man's smell, or something like that, and we all know that the true sense of reality may be read from locals sharing their few cents.

Locals used to get things off their chests in typical forums like town-hall discussions and after dinner talks, but today such gatherings in urban areas are hard to come by. After the last election, a group attempted to synthesize these two fora by creating "Citizen Salon," a free gathering of Portland residents to discuss books, host politicians, and generally reinvigorate our ability to get in touch with the times in a genuine way. Roughly two dozen Portland residents sat around discussing the John Perkins book

"Confessions of An Economic Hit Man" at the Zero Station art gallery, and listening to each other express their feelings and insights really put things in perspective. The age and ethnicity range crossed the entire spectrum, and I felt fortunate to have the chance to feel the pulse of our area by discussing a book which highlights how America's actions have negatively influenced the global state of affairs. A middle-aged mother expressed outrage, members of "the Greatest Generation" conveyed shame and confusion, and an optimistic artist addressed the need for accountability by creating a bumper sticker. Interestingly, two young African women, from countries that have struggled to reform their governments to conform to American-influenced global economic policies, explained how studying here has expanded their compassion for our actions, and numerous elders encouraged engagement and participation.

What of this? Email me at [garrett@tds.net](mailto:garrett@tds.net) if you'd like to break the norm and help the rest of the world see that some Americans still give a damn. ♦

## Staffer speaks

### Break out your wifebeaters and shades

ANNE HOBBY

A&amp;E EDITOR

There's a new spring in my step as I walk along the red brick sidewalks in downtown Portland. Spring has sprung, my friends, and Mainers all know it. After staying indoors hiding from the winds, the snow, the early darkness, and the abominable snowman, Portlanders have started taking to the streets.

When it's above 45 degrees we start wearing shorts and sandals so it's no wonder that I spotted sunbathers on the Eastern Prom this weekend when temperatures reached the low 70s. It's amazing how the quiet city of Portland is revitalizing with the warm weather. Everyone is out. Everyone and your grandmother, in fact. It's no longer just smokers hanging out in front of the entrance to Luther Bonney—they are now being joined by apple eaters, Red Bull drinkers, and just normal socializers. If this is not a sign of the season change then what is?

You can even hear spring in the air: aluminum bats hitting homers in little league fields, birds chirping, car radios blaring the newest hit singles, and fiddlers on Exchange St.

That's right, there was a whole ensemble of musicians playing a wonderful smile-inducing assortment of jigs and bluegrass tunes. Fiddles, banjos, guitars, even dancers were outside Fuji where other locals strolling by stopped to watch. But the best part: a chick was playing the upright bass—and she rocked at it.

I'm pretty partial to the upright bass. Scratch that. I fucking adore the upright bass. And this girl, donning a cute flowery dress and denim jacket, is my new hero. I want to be her when I grow up.

And I want to do the guitarist dude who was playing a Dylan tune outside of Starbucks. Thank you for making my ice cream eating that much more enjoyable.

And if street musicians and ice cream are not enough to remind you spring is here, well then remind yourself that you have finals to study for. Hey, not everything about Spring is fun, but the partying will be great when it's over and you can officially usher in this new season. ♦

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- Letters to the editor are welcome. Letters must be submitted electronically, include the author's full name, school year or relationship to USM, phone number for verification and may not exceed 350 words without prior approval from the Executive Editor. Anonymous and/or illegible submissions will not be published. Deadline for all submissions is Thursday at 4 p.m. preceding the week of publication.
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## Letter from the editor



ANGELIQUE M. CARSON  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

A  
movement  
for  
movement  
is upon us

I feel really excited about being at USM right now. It feels like we're in a transitional period, like we're moving from what was a very isolated and individualized college experience to a collective one. It's hard for us. While I love the advantage I have on those private school yuppies in terms of money saved, sometimes I envy their campus life. The problem here was that as soon as class was over, everyone hopped on their cell phones, threw on their sunglasses and strutted off to the parking garage..

The change I see is the visibility of students on campus. This was quite apparent a couple of weeks ago when I went to Paul Rusesabagina's lecture. Rusesabagina was responsible for saving the lives of over 1200 Tutsi refugees from genocide in Rwanda, allowing refuge in the hotel he managed.

Hundreds milled around in the lobby checking out the exhibits set up around the

room to publicize causes related to genocide, such as the "Save Darfur" campaign where solicitor's sought support for a similar situation happening in the Sudan. Tens of thousands have been killed and millions displaced from their homes.

Waiting in line to enter the lecture hall itself, people around me murmured concerns. "Are we going to get in?" they asked nervously. "Are there going to be seats?" The answer was: no, absolutely not. Even at 7 p.m., a half an hour before the lecture was scheduled to begin, the floor seats and the balcony were packed. People spilled out into the isles and stood flat against the walls hoping to be allowed to stay. An additional screening room was set-up impromptu by event organizers but there were simply too many people.

At first I cursed the fact that I would never get to see Paul Rusesabagina speak, and I'd be forced to sit outside on a tiled floor to listen to his words. And then I smiled.

There was an estimated 900 people at the event. The USM community made it clear that this was something that was important to them, and that they were passionate about. It felt so good to sit on the floor with so many of my contemporaries to hear a revolutionary leader speak on the importance of compassion and action. It felt like we were all taking the first step towards living the type of lives that Rusesabagina would ask us to lead, so that genocide and indifference, the theme of his lecture, never go unnoticed again.

In any case, USM showed up and showed concern. It's a step in the right direction. ♦

## Conservative is not a dirty word

### So Long and Farewell



CYNDLE R. PLAISTED  
COLUMNIST

Well, the semester is done for lucky people like English majors who rarely have commitments on campus after the final week of regular classes, and I am now graduating. That means that for all you people who loved me or loved to hate me or didn't care about me at all (in which case, you're probably not reading this), this will be the final epistle from the land of conservatism. At least from my address. I wish I could appoint a successor, but I am not the queen of the universe, no matter how fitting that title seems!

I would suggest though, for those of you who enjoyed my column, if you have journalistic talent, please consider taking over for me. A university paper should represent the voices and views of many different people involved with the institution, and I hope there is someone who is interested in bearing the torch for the conservative students in our community.

As for the experience I've had this semester, it's been a mixed bag. I got some really positive responses from people I didn't expect to be supportive of the column. I also enjoyed reading the letters to the editor, whether they were in agreement with my views or not. In fact, the most interesting ones were from people who did not like what I had to say. What can I do? I was born to enjoy debate and momentary conflict.

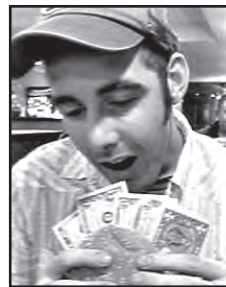
Actually, it was recently commented in a letter to the editor that I was causing further division between the two parties by attacking liberalism in pretty much every

column. I'm aware of this. But honestly, how interesting is it to read anything that never chooses sides? Something that says "Oh, they both have their good and bad points." We all know that many things in life are not all good or all bad. That's not stimulating. That's the method to the madness of highlighting my disagreement with some liberal tenets and worldviews. That's why it was a "conservative" column. The point was that I was a conservative girl in a liberal world. It was not even about bellyaching or complaining that I felt like part of some sad little minority. Obviously, if the country is run by a government whose three branches are slightly biased on the side of the right, I am not in a position to complain that I represent a minority.

I can't stress enough how important it is that the remaining USM students who have either moderate or conservative views be represented in the paper. I hope that one of you loyal readers will contact the new editor, Miss Angelique Carson. In my two weeks of having worked with her, she has been all kinds of wonderful. I know she wants you to write for her. Just pretend I have telepathically chosen you to be heir to the conservative column throne. It will make us both feel better.

I hope all of you have a great summer break. For those of you who are coming back in the fall, I hope you return from the sun and the beach (and for most, the bane of existence—work) energized to be active members of the academic community we have here at USM. For my fellows in the class of 2006, from people who have finished their degrees in three years (me) to those among us who have spent 10 years on this campus (my good friend Brian Farrell), I hope the prospect of your future excites you. Just keep in mind along the way that the self-appointed Queen of the Universe has spoken: "Conservative" is not a dirty word! ♦

## Last dandy on Earth



### Mr. Rogers was right

ALEX STEED  
ASST. A&E EDITOR

Though I grew up in a Protestant household, I came up through my teenage years intentionally separating myself from the Christian mythology. As a young boy, my mother believed in God and led my Sunday school and youth group studies. I served "God and my country" in Boy Scouts. I requested to be re-baptized under my favorite pastor. But at twelve when church politics became turbulent and my mother and father separated, I found little desire to continue with worship. I had been learning about religious history in school and watching the news and I realized that the groups that had organized themselves around the unconditional love of one man were capable of actions so heinous and so anti-person. I found that the name Christ had become a symbol of spiteful, intolerant hypocrites and fearing becoming like one of them, I pursued distance from worship.

I am finding that lately my own dogma of religious backlash that I struggled with throughout my adolescence and well into my twenties is beginning to become blurry. Traveling to Pittsburgh over the semester, I was inadvertently reintroduced to a childhood friend: Mr. Rogers. Fred Rogers, a Presbyterian minister, encouraged kids to believe in and love themselves while simultaneously respecting differences between themselves and other people. "Listening is where love begins; listening to ourselves and then to our neighbors." I believe in understanding where others are coming from and hearing what people's words are saying.

I adamantly object to belief structures that encourage exclusion, as there appears to be enough love, support and listening to go around. I believe that is how Mr. Rogers would like to have things in his absence. I denounce a dogma of exclusion.

Mr. Rogers once explained, "Listening is a very active awareness of the coming together of at least two lives. Listening, as far as I am concerned, is certainly a prerequisite of love. One of the most essential ways of saying 'I love you' is being a receptive listener." The Christians whose belief structures have only turned me further away from acceptance of their messiah, try to convey to me Christ's love via intricate and nonsensical systems of rules that reinforce a repulsive exclusivity. Why they can't sell their religion without this easy to remember, easy to respect and easy to love tenet—one I strongly believe in—I have always been uncertain.

Andrea Thompson McCall, USM's Interfaith Chaplain, worked a lot with one of my classes this year. I've gone to this University for some time and I remember first encountering Andrea after September 11<sup>th</sup>, at one of the series of student support events that Interfaith hosted. I have always found her presence on campus to be an inspiring one. She recently held a series of "This I Believe" forums where students and community members of various faiths talked about their religious and community involvement. These talks were times of listening and conversation; discussions of love, responsibility and possibility. For someone coming out of a teenage of scrutinizing the hell out of anything that even has the slightest bit to do with religious worship, I have found these opportunities to hear what folks have to say extremely educational and absolutely engaging. Thank you, Andrea Thompson McCall, and all of those involved in the "This I Believe" engagements. ♦

# Meet Joe Student

Interview and photo by Anne Hobby

*What's your specialty in art?*

I don't have a specialty, I like to do everything. Ceramics and painting are the greater of my loves. Woodworking is also a plus.

*What's in your record collection?*

I recently scored a collection of records from a pile of free stuff on Brackett Street. It includes Joni Mitchell, Jethro Tull, Duran Duran, and Johnny Mathis (my new frisbee).

*Why do you use vinyl?*

I lost my CD collection last year and I'm still sore about it. Somebody managed to give me a record player so I'm trying to be cool for the moment, step outside the box maybe. Plus, a lot of new music kind of sucks. Let's explore the taste of our forefathers.

*What new music in particular do you not like?*

The emo thing seems a little tragic and forced and we all grow out of the pop thing when they grow younger than us. What else is there? I'm too white for rap.

*What do you like to do around Portland?*

I just like to walk around. I'm new to "in-town," it's fun trying to get connected to my peers. My new favorite spot is the Irish music night at Blue on Wednesdays.

*Were you at the art walk Friday night?*

Yes I was, as a matter of fact. The exhibit at SPACE sucks. It's not all about the avant garde for me. I had a fun time at MECA. They're not old enough to be big-headed yet.

*What about the exhibit at the Portland Museum of Art?*

Fascinating, touching, kind of chilling. It gets in you. But it's photojournalism and that's the nature of photojournalism.

*What are your plans for the summer?*

Learning to do everything: make music, make instruments, be a humble potter, pay the bills and give up the car in lieu of riding gas-free on my bike.

*What do you think of Harry Potter?*

Biggest disappointment of the year. It could have been the best thing since, well, ABBA but Rowling fucked it up when she got popular.

*What do you want to be when you grow up?*

A firefighter, a spy, and a G.I. Joe. ♦



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MAJOR:  
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AGE:  
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# Choose your own Footprint



## The quest for the better grade

MELISSA ST.GERMAIN

GUEST COLUMNIST

When I was growing up, my library had this series of books called "Choose Your Own Adventure." As the reader, you got a different story depending on which course of action you chose for the character. Most of the endings were gruesome deaths designed to appeal to sixth grade boys. This is actually a great method of time-conservation for the reader, because you end up reading about a third of the book. In recognition of the time-crisis finals represents and in hope of giving you a laugh to ease some stress, I present you with "Choose Your Own Footprint: The Quest for the Better Grade."

Disclaimer: This column is for entertainment purposes only and in no way reflects the views of the Free Press, Footprint, or the author. Happy endings are uncharacteristic in life: this column tries to capture this truism. Proceed at your own risk.

Today is the last day before your biggest final. You know you've passed the rest of your exams with flying colors, but this one has you worried. You need the class for your major, and you must do well on the final to pass. You spend the morning at the library studying and drinking coffee to keep you awake for the final stretch. When lunchtime comes, you know you need to eat to keep concentrating. You can either (a) eat at the fast food restaurant across the street, or (B) walk a half-mile to the locally-owned deli. If you choose (A) read on. If you choose (B), skip the next paragraph.

You don't want to take the time to walk half a mile, so you run across the street for the cheap, quick solution. The greasy, salty,

sugar-heavy food puts you to sleep as you try to study. You might have been able to pull yourself together and pass anyway, but while you're in a grease-induced coma, a horde of raging environmentalists sees your empty wrappers and carries you away to their commune for rehabilitation. You live the rest of your long life peacefully herding sheep in Montanna.

The day is beautiful, and you really wan a break, so you decide to walk to the deli. The fresh, locally-grown food and the beautiful weather help clear your head, and when you return to the library, you're able to focus on your work. The hours tick slowly by, and the next thing you know, its late evening and you're feeling sleepy. You can either (A) chug a lot of coffee and pull an all-nighter to study or (B) get a good night's rest before the exam. If you choose (A), read on. If you choose (B), skip the next paragraph.

You surfed the java wave and studied all night, and you know the material inside-out. Unfortunately, when the caffeine buzz dies ten minutes into the test, you're so exhausted that you fall asleep at your desk and don't even answer half of the questions. After failing miserably, you decide to drop out of school and join the circus. You start shoveling elephant dung and work your way up to ringmaster before dying of scurvy at an early age.

Last night you went to bed early and slept well. Even though you could have spent more time on the names and dates of the first century Eypgtian viziers, you're confident you've done well. You pass with a B+ and go on to finish your major Magna Cum Laude, attend graduate school, and succeed in your field. You end your life as a tenured professor with a Ph.D., entirely unaware that the delight you take in lording your academic worth over unsuspecting freshman is daily causing bright young minds to join the circus and herd sheep. ♦

# Question of the week

Photos and interviews by Jen Feldman

## Where do you see yourself in five years?



Owen Murphy  
Anthropology

I'm going to live on a boat. I don't know what kind of boat.



Ashley Bame  
Aeronautical Science

Captain of an airliner for Southwest Airlines. LUV is their ticker symbol and their motto is "If our employees love working at Southwest Airlines, everything else will fall into place." They're the only people who didn't go bankrupt after 9-11.



Alli Pavek  
Education

I'll be independently wealthy and living on an island.



Chris Lueder  
Environmental Science

Graduating with a Master degree in public policy and management from SUNY.



Lauren Corder  
Neuroscience

I'm going to go back to school. I want to study neuroscience more.

Have a question you want answered? Send it to [freepress@usm.maine.edu](mailto:freepress@usm.maine.edu)



# arts & entertainment

## USM student wins national opera competition

### Q&A with Ashley Emerson

ANNE HOBBY  
A&E EDITOR

Ashley Emerson is a vocal performance major at USM's School of Music who attended the 37th Palm Beach Opera Annual Vocal Competition in Florida the weekend of April 28, 2006. Out of the 25 other singers in the junior division (ages 18-23), she placed first, winning a cash prize of \$5,500 and the opportunity to sing with the Palm Beach Orchestra with the other prize winners.



PHOTO BY ANNE HOBBY

Soprano Ashley Emerson

*How did you hear about the competition?*

I heard about it word of mouth, singer friends who had done it before so we had to send in a preliminary DVD (I did a contemporary piece by Stravinsky aria from The Rake's Progress.)

*What did you sing for the competition?*

We had to bring a list of a few arias we could sing. It was an aria of our choice to start and I chose one by Bellini. Then they chose a second piece to hear so they picked an aria by Handel. They picked the one I wanted to sing the least, of course.

*Did you get to watch the other performances?*

The advanced division performed the day before and I was able to watch most of that competition. It was amazing, just being there and being around such talent and being able to meet people. I had never been around such a concentrated amount of ridiculous talent.

*What are your plans for the future now that you're graduating and you've accomplished this?*

I was planning on hanging out in Portland and singing and honing my craft and getting ready for grad school, but I've gotten offers to audition for participating in young artists programs. It's not college; it's definitely a training program. You're paid a stipend for living expenses and work with people on staff for whatever opera company has hired you. You have an active coach and you learn foreign languages.

*What are your favorite styles or composers to sing?*

I like to sing Mozart and bel canto which is an Italian style of singing during the Romantic period. I like to sing those; I feel most comfortable and I can connect to that music the most. And I like listening to everything in opera.

*What operas have you performed in?*

We did The Magic Flute last year and there's an opera company here in Portland, Port Opera, and I've sung in the chorus with them. I'll be singing with them this summer in Don Giovanni. We're also going to do a smaller one act opera as a

young artist's training program for the summer. We'll perform it six or eight times around the state.

*How did you get interested in Opera?*

I've been singing and performing my whole life but I didn't really sing opera until I got to college. I just wasn't sure how music was going to be a part of my life when I started and I was able to have time to explore and see what I wanted to do. It just kind of happened; people had told me they thought I would enjoy it.

*Would you consider singing other types of music for your career?*

Maybe. And I did when I was younger for sure. I did a lot of musicals and little high school bands and all that stuff but I definitely want the majority of my career to be singing opera.

*What kind of music do you enjoy listening to?*

I do listen to a lot of opera but also a lot of Bob Dylan and Phish. I've been into Death Cab for Cutie lately; all kinds of stuff. I try to keep myself open and listen to everything and get influences from everything.

*So how do you feel about all this?*

It's really exiting. I'm thrilled, I'm honored. Singing is such an extremely subjective business. I guess the judges chose me last week, and I could go to another competition next week and whoever is there isn't crazy about the way I sing and perform. That's just the way it goes and that's fine. I'm really honored but the world is not necessarily going to change now. It's just a competition, it's not about winning. It's about the music and it's about loving the music and singing.. ♦

## Graphic Design Opportunities

Apply @ The Free Press | 92 Bedford Street | Portland

the free press  
08 May 2006

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## Don't stay home

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

### MONDAY, MAY 8

**Cat and Mouse Records Open Mic Night** / 7 p.m. / free / Acoustic Coffee / 32 Danforth St / Portland / 774-0404

**Pinback** with **Pleaseeasaur** / 8:30 p.m. / \$15 / 18+ / SPACE Gallery / 538 Congress St / Portland / 828-5600

### TUESDAY, MAY 9

**Pub Quiz** / 8 p.m. / free / Ri Ra / 72 Commercial St / Portland / 761-4446

**Gregorian Chant**, sung by Cathedral Schola Cantorium / 7:30 p.m. / free or donation/ Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception / 307 Congress St / Portland / 773-7746

**Sketchy Wednesday Karaoke with DJ Cougar** / Chappie's / 1192 Forest Ave / Portland / 797-9155

**Best Music Poll Award Show** / 6 p.m. / free / 21+ / The Pavilion / 188 Middle St / Portland / 773-8900

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

**A Riot of Words** / Maine posters and broadsides from around 1700 to the 1940s / 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. / \$4 adults; \$3 students / Maine Historical Society / 489 Congress St / Portland / 774-1822

### THURSDAY, MAY 11

**Beasts and Meditations**, collages by Becky Fitzpatrick / 5-8 p.m. / free / ubu studio / 316a Congress St / Portland / 699-2550

**Trilogy with A Company of Girls**, a performance piece based on works by Maria Testa / 8 p.m. / \$7 / St. Lawrence Arts Center / 76 Congress St / Portland / 874-2107

### FRIDAY, MAY 12

**Ragtime**, musical production / 8 p.m. / \$17-\$19 / Lyric Music Theater / South Portland / 799-1421

**Art Opening: Tickled Pink!** / 7:30 p.m. / free / Spindleworks / Brunswick / 725-8820

### SATURDAY, MAY 13

**17th Annual Little Festival of the Unexpected** / performances of four new plays / 11 a.m. / suggested \$10 donation / Portland Stage Company / 25A Forest Ave / Portland / 774-0465

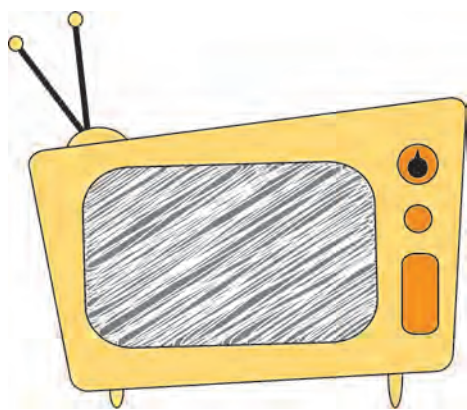
**Mozart Birthday Ball**, Portland Opera Repertory Theatre's annual benefit / 6 p.m. / \$125 / Eastland Park Hotel / Portland / 879-7678

### SUNDAY, MAY 14

**It's Mother's Day** / don't be a tool / call your mom or better yet, take her to dinner

**Jazz Breakfast** / 10:30 a.m. to noon / \$8 adults; \$6 seniors/students; \$2 ages 6-17 / Portland Museum of Art / 7 Congress Square / 775-6148

LISTINGS COMPILED BY ANNE HOBBY



## Media whore

### Media toast turns into a Bush roast

ALEX STEED

ASST. A&amp;E EDITOR

As you probably already know, Stephen Colbert might have stepped on a toe or two when he delivered his routine at the White House Correspondent's Dinner. He did, after all, open the speech with, "Wow, what an honor. The White House Correspondents' Dinner. To actually sit here, at the same table with my hero, George W. Bush, to be this close to the man. I feel like I'm dreaming. Somebody pinch me. You know what? I'm a pretty sound sleeper -- that may not be enough. Somebody shoot me in the face."

Colbert attacked everything from the NSA's attack on privacy, to the White House's alleged involvement with the leak of Valerie Plame's name and even Louisiana governor Ray Nagin's "Chocolate City" remark. "Mayor Nagin," he exclaimed. "Mayor Nagin is here from New Orleans, the chocolate city! Yeah, give it up. Mayor Nagin, I'd like to welcome you to Washington, D.C., the chocolate city with a marshmallow center. And a graham cracker crust of corruption. It's a Mallomar, I guess is what I'm describing."

The metaphor was brilliant.

Get into a conversation with a liberal who is upset with the media's handling of these goings-on and you'll get the same complaint. "Man, the media used to be the fourth tier of the government and they kept everyone else in check. Now it's controlled from the top to the bottom," and for the most part, this is true.

In this column I spend a lot of time poking fun at the media and its lack of substance. I've parodied Full House star's drug scandals and the exploitative magazines that cover that sort of crap. I've touched on the Nicole Richie diet issue, as if it's really important. What's more important than any of the idle fluff being shoved down our throats by this billion-dollar industry are the heroes who actually confront the issues of censorship and corruption.

John Stuart made a bigger name for himself than he already had when, last year, he went on Crossfire and told the hosts that their programming is bad for America. He addressed the issue seriously, not as a funny man (it only got funny when, in the midst of Tucker Carlson incessantly cutting him off, he called Carlson a dick). You could cut the tension with a knife. But finally, someone called these jokers on their bullshit, right to their face, aired for the whole world to see.

Its unfortunate that things have gotten so bad that the only mainstream media sources we're able to trust anymore are adult cartoons like Boondocks, South Park, or the Simpsons) and fake news sources (the Daily Show, the Colbert Report and the Onion). But if that's where we have to go in order to rely on people to give us something that closely resembles the truth without sensationalism (unless it's parodying it), then that's where we'll go. There are baseless arguments that the media has a liberal bias. As someone on the left, I can attest to the fact that, with few exceptions, all I feel I am able to trust on television anymore is satire.

So here's a toast to the kids of South Park who, no matter how crass their half-hour adventure is, always seem to find the moral high ground. And here's to John Stuart for calling the perpetrators of corruption on their actions daily, all while making us laugh. And here's to the new king, Stephen Colbert, for suggesting to George Bush, right to his face, "Mr. President, please, pay no attention to the people that say the glass is half full. Sir, pay no attention to the people who say the glass is half empty, because 32% means it's 2/3 empty. There's still some liquid in that glass is my point, but I wouldn't drink it. The last third is usually backwash."

Thank you. ♦

## An exercise in vulnerability

### The Yeah Yeah Yeahs Show Your Bones

CYNDLE R. PLAISTED

STAFF WRITER

Some have complained that the Yeah Yeah Yeahs' recently released sophomore album, *Show Your Bones*, is an over-produced disappointment. These are the people who don't want Karen O, front woman of the trio, to grow up. After the raucous drunken one-night stand that was their first album, listeners are a little afraid when the new disc seems to want to try dating, and actually having deep get-to-know-you conversation, however cryptic some of it is.

Karen O, in all her strangely-dressed glory, Nick Zinner's out-of-control hair and the always serious Brian Chase grace the cover of Spin's April issue. The feature inside delves into the personal relationships of the bandmates and reveals that all is not well in the land of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs. This has something to do with production of *Show Your Bones*, a slight departure from 2003's full-length *Fever to Tell*. On that debut album, Karen O was unabashedly wild, both in her vocal stylings and stage performance. The sound was unmistakably influenced by punk and garage with a rawness that was hard to ignore. Apparently listeners liked that Karen and are less sure about the one who has cut her signature mullet into a bowl cut that could be termed "sedate," but this album is not one that should be missed by fans of Yeah Yeah Yeahs as well as those who appreciate authenticity paired with great tracks that lend themselves to singing at the top of the lungs.

*Show Your Bones* is much more a "studio" album than the preceding disc. With the hire of a new producer and a solo project in the works, Karen wanted to write and record all in the studio. For Zinner, a sort of purist in the realm of music, this was a point of contention, but the newest offering from the band proves that at least for the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, the best of both worlds is a distinct possibility.

An undeniably catchy single, "Gold Lion" is the first track, Chase's bare-sounding drums being the introduction to the album. Karen begins the song with a vocal that is still strong and unique, but there is less of the desperate screaming featured in many of *Fever to Tell*'s tracks. She still ascends to the stratosphere with the chorus, a strange unfinished thought: "Tell me what you saw/ I'll tell you what to" that dissolves into a series of "oo-ooooos" that can only be Karen O.

The guitar is still what one can expect from Zinner—big, scribbling, with the occasional solo. On the quickie "Mysteries," the band delivers another screamer, complete with distortion, a driving out-of-control guitar line and a beat slightly reminiscent of mid-century rockabilly. This song is not a spare one. Karen yells out amid her impassioned yelping of the verse: "Do it, Nick!"

A few of the songs deliver the Karen O that was introduced with the debut hit "Maps." The lyrics and vocals reveal a restlessness due to experience and thought, not restlessness



SOURCE: WWW.YEAHYEAHYEAHS.COM

from drunkenness. The new Karen is vulnerable in an uncontrived way. She is in-your-face with a certain kind of maturity.

On "Dudley," a track whose guitar feels influenced by new wave, Karen sings about a relationship that is complex in the way the "Maps" relationship is: "My dear you've been used/ I'm breakin' the news/ Well love nearly beat us/ I'm thinkin' like you." It seems that experience has turned our screaming, drunk, broken, flailing Karen O into a living, feeling woman for whom vulnerability is a by-product of honest revelation, rather than an exercise for the sake of parading a sensationalized raw open wound.

In the album's final song, "Turn Into," Karen tells us amid guitar-playing that sounds more like a violin's



bow being raked across a saw: "I know what I know/ It's the last time 'round/ I'll hear it in my head real low/ Turn into/ The only thing it ever does." As the song closes, the guitar has devolved into a quiet acoustic strumming and Karen sounds sad and far away: "I know what I know." And this album proves she does. ♦

## Go see a movie

### Movies on Exchange

10 Exchange Street  
Portland, ME  
207.772.9600  
moviesonexchange.com

#### TRANSAMERICA

May 3-16  
(First Week 5/3-9)  
Wed-Tues 3, 7  
(Second Week 5/10-16)  
Wed-Tues 5, 9:15  
Sat-Sun Mat 12:30

#### WHY WE FIGHT

May 3-9  
Wed-Tues 5, 9  
Sat-Sun Mat 1

#### JOYEUX NOEL

May 10-23  
(First Week 5/10-16)  
Wed-Tues 2:30, 7  
(Second Week 5/17-23)  
Wed-Tues 5, 9:15  
Sat-Sun Mat 12:30

#### THE NOTORIOUS BETTIE PAGE

May 17-30  
(First Week 5/17-23)  
Wed-Tues 3, 7:30  
(Second Week 5/24-30)  
Wed-Sat 5, 9  
Sat-Sun Mat 1

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207.772.9751  
patriotcinemas.com

#### MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III

Daily at 1:00 3:45 7:00 9:40

#### THE PROMISE

Daily at 1:45 4:30 7:15 9:30

#### UNITED 93

Daily at 1:30 4:15 6:50 9:20

#### AKEELAH & THE BEE

Daily at 1:15 6:40pm

#### THANK YOU FOR SMOKING

Daily at 12:45 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:45

#### INSIDE MAN

Daily at 4:00 & 9:10pm

#### WORLD'S FASTEST INDIAN

Daily at 12:50 3:30 6:30

#### V FOR VENDETTA

Daily at 9:15pm

# Entertain yourself

## Tunes and flicks for summer

Conifer:  
A post-rock band  
5.13.06 | 8 p.m  
Geno’s  
\$5

Of Conifer, Relapse Records has said that they are “essential listening for those seeking a solid, dirgy mind-fuck.” The shows are slow and the music is tight and growling. Their hum can shake floors and their bellows can shatter walls. If you’re looking for a morose, angst-filled way to start the summer, pop in on this show, which will be opened by Kevorkian Angels (snappy name!) and Amoga.

Nine Inch Nails w/ Peaches:  
Family fun  
5.21.06 | 7:30 p.m.  
Cumberland County Civic Center  
\$32.50

The bad news is that this rescheduled show (poor Trent Reznor was sick a couple of months ago when they were supposed to come through Portland) only has reserved seating left available. More bad news is that this tour is for NIN’s new album, which is not particularly great. The good news is that Peaches is opening and it’s worth the thirty bucks (or 40 bucks, after all of the “convenience charges”) just to see her writhe around on stage and get all erotic. Like them or not, Nine Inch Nails does put on a phenomenal performance.

Dead Is the Sky:  
A hardcore show  
5.27.06 | 9 p.m.  
The Station  
\$5

While their music is impressive and it is clear that they have their talents together, they’re worth going to see for their stage presence alone. Also, there’s nowhere cooler to be on a hot, late-May evening than the basement dwellings of a hardcore/Hip Hop club/billiards hall that is The Station.

I Am a Sex Addict:  
5.24.06 | 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.  
SPACE Gallery  
\$6

The official film description reads, “Caveh Zahedi’s (In the Bathtub of the World, I Don’t Hate Las Vegas Anymore) Gotham Award Winning autobiographical comedy, I Am A Sex Addict, manages the difficult task of being both genuinely funny and utterly sincere.” Basically, Zahedi explains to his fiancé (of his third marriage) that his last marriages have failed because he is addicted to prostitutes. He uses re-enactments, documentary footage and camera address to tell this story. Bring a date (and a hooker).

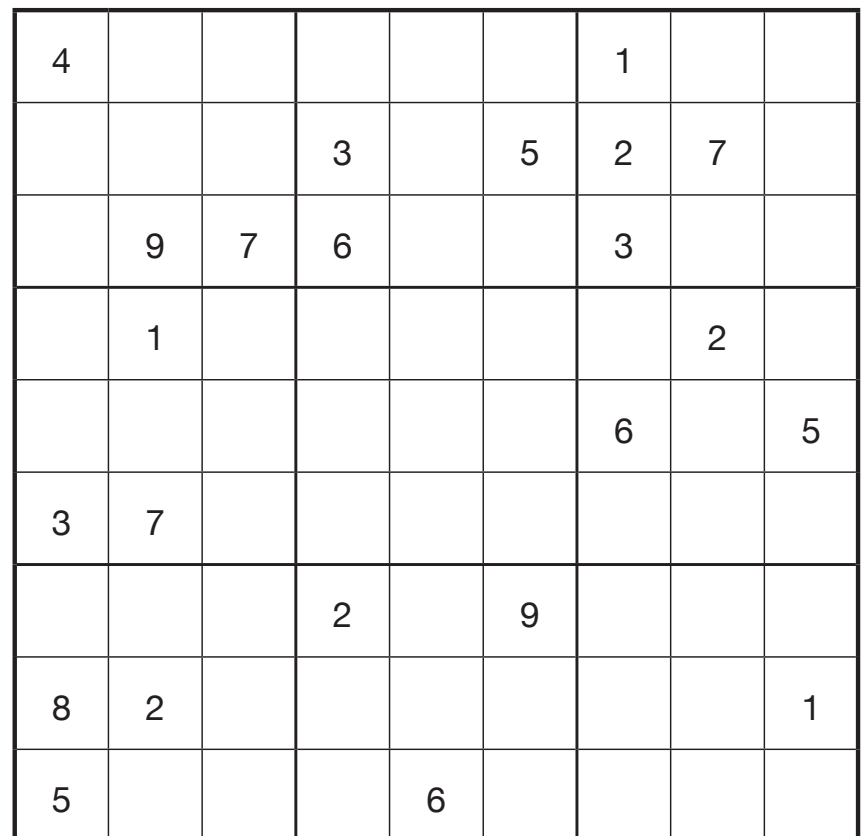
X-Men United:  
A film  
5.26.06

Back in the day, and this still seems to be the case, X-Men was the coolest thing ever. There’s all of this stuff flipping over and catching on fire, the floating people and folks who shoot lasers out of their eyes, and patented leather. There are the metaphors about multiculturalism and the civil rights debate. There is Hugh Jackman, pumped full of attitude (and probably shirtless), running around and saving the world. While the indie-darling films that are approaching such as Art School Confidential and Hard Candy will be great, yet another super hero movie does have its place this summer.

LISTINGS COMPILED BY ALEX STEED



# Sudoku



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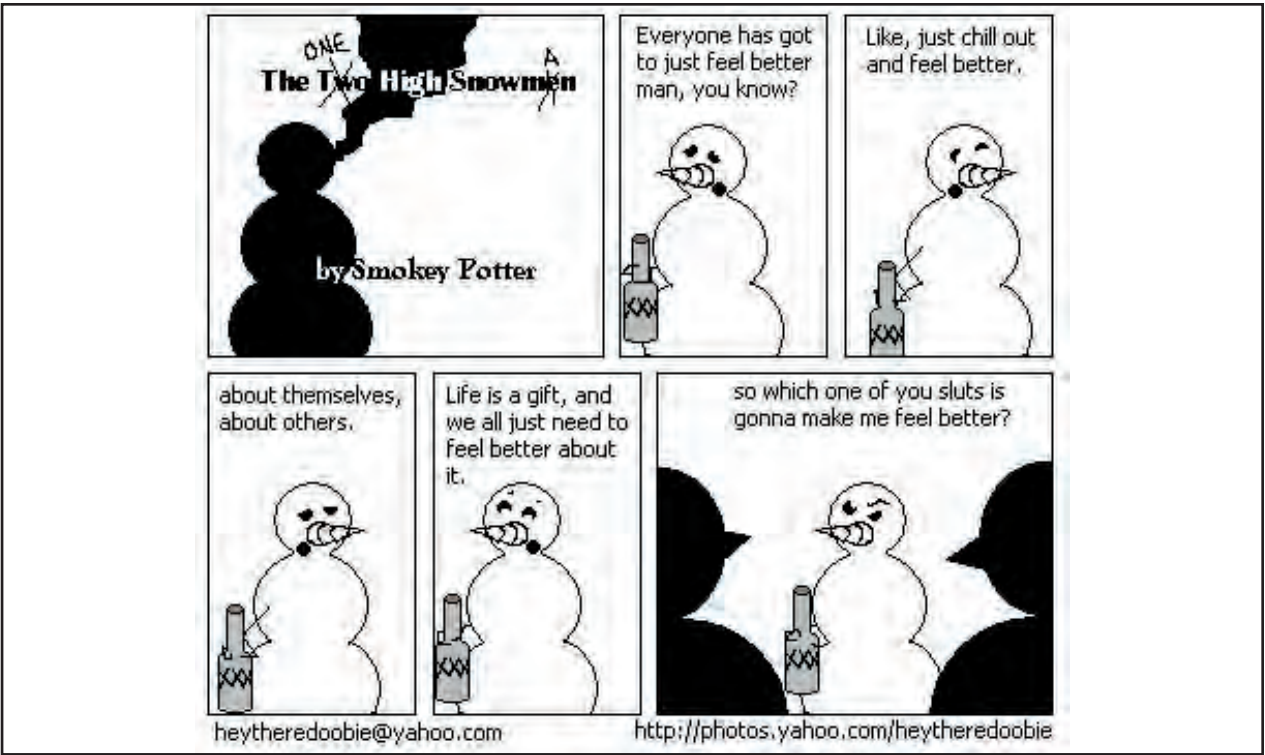
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GIRLS AND SPORTS



# 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** (6 of Pentacles)★★★: This is when you learn what money can do. Remember those time you were broke in the past? What did you learn then, Aries? Build off these lessons and watch your wealth grow.
- TAURUS** (2 of Pentacles)★★★: Welcome to the world of dualism. This week, Taurus, you'll be juggling your concepts of the material world with your concepts of the scientific world. Situations will arise where the limits you've placed on these two worlds will hamper you and a new understanding of how they work are intertwined will be essential for you to move on with your life.
- GEMINI** (The Lovers)★★★★: No Gemini, this is not the 'get lucky' card. Rather, the Major Arcana card Lovers corresponds to your dualistic sign. It indicates a spiritual union of the sexes, the culmination of the human experience, Nirvana. Of course, one benefit of this experience is that you begin to exude confidence, the natural pheromone. Meaning: you may just get luckier this week.
- CANCER** (Page of Pentacles)★★★★: Enjoying this exposure to new ideas and people, Cancer? Those people are enjoying meeting you too. Let the incoming summer weather blow in new friends and experiences. You and the world will be experiencing much this week.
- LEO** (The Star)★★★★: After a fairly tough week last week, Leo, it's high time for the universe to give you some relief. And here it is. A touch of inspiration will help turn those mundane tasks you have to complete into something a little bit special, a little bit more fantastic.
- VIRGO** (The Hierophant)★★★: So, you've got a truth. That's great, wonderful. But the Taurian stubbornness associated with this card makes that truth suffocating to others. You're in a garden of

- truths and lies. Who can say what are the herbs or the flowers or the weeds? No truth can exist with out its untruth.
- LIBRA** (Page of Swords)★★★★: First the good news: You'll find a hidden reserve of grace, dignity and inner calm you didn't know you had that will help you connect with a new community. The bad news? You find this out about yourself because of something petty and stupid that somebody in your life does or says to you.
- SCORPIO** (7 of Rods )★★★: This is not the week for indecisiveness, Scorpio. You need to take charge of the situation and assert your authority. It may be scary, but nobody will want to mess with you once you step up and start outlining your plans. Rather, you'll find a supportive team ready to help.
- SAGITTARIUS** (Queen of Pentacles)★★★★: Like all queens, you'll be empowered, thoughtful and creative this week. Just be sure not to act like a princess or you're friends will be sure to usurp that throne. Why not help Capricorn find a noble cause to champion for?
- CAPRICORN** (4 of Swords )★★★★: Look out for Big Brother this week, Capricorn. Something has stirred up your rebellious nature and you won't be able to sit and do nothing anymore. So, what'll it be? Would you rather try to unionize Wally World employees or write a new political manifesto? Either way, you're sure to stir up trouble.
- AQUARIUS** (4 of Pentacles )★★★: Don't take any big financial risks this week, Aquarius. In fact, the further away from your money you can stay the better. Spend time with the people who love you and let the material world take care of itself.
- PISCES** (Page of Rods)★★★★: Okay Pisces, summer is here. If you can take some time to sit in silence during the upcoming week you may find yourself entertaining deep, philosophical questions that you've never considered before. Don't be scared of them.

- 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

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## PERSONALS

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# Team leadership at USM

## USM excels in maintaining quality coaches

BRADEN ZAMORE  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In a day and age where quality coaches are harder to find than a college kid without a “Livestrong” bracelet, the University of Southern Maine has managed to not only find qualified leaders for their sports teams, but also been successful in keeping their coaches for substantial periods of time. The college coach today is a position which is becoming harder to fill and even harder to sustain. Despite these difficulties, USM has proven to be a school with hard working, dedicated coaches, and more impressively, a school that currently has six head coaches who have completed nine or more seasons with their respective teams; an astonishing number during a time when some schools do not have any more than two coaches with a tenure that long.

But how does USM choose such quality coaches? And how do they keep these coaches content for such a long time? It all starts with the hiring process. The USM ath-

letic department is thorough when hiring new coaches for one of their sports. According to USM Athletic Director, Al Bean, there are many different qualities the administration will look for in a candidate to ensure they are hiring the right person. “The fit of the person is crucial; how they are going to mesh with the students,” said Bean. “We want to be successful in competition, but we also want students to do well in the classroom and we want them to be active in the community. We’re trying to look for somebody who’s got that same sort of focus of being well rounded.”

After advertising a job opening over the internet and through NCAA websites, USM forms a committee which selects the candidates they feel deserve an interview with the college. This assembly then sits in on the interviews and work to determine who the best person is for the job. The committee is compiled of athletics administration, other staff members and current coaches at USM. But what may be a substantial reason why USM has hired successful coaches in the past could be that most committees include at least one student athlete who will be returning to the respective sport the next season. With the athletes involved, a completely different perspective and voice is incorporated to the whole process. A perspective which repre-


sents those who will be directly impacted by a new coach: the players.

In the Little East Conference, Southern Maine is a close second to Keene State College in having the most active head coaches who have been coaching for at least nine years with their current school, with six (Keene State has seven). With such an impressive statistic, one might wonder how USM is able to keep their coaches for so long. Yes, their hiring process is detailed and efficient, but according to Bean, coaches decide to stay at USM for perhaps another reason: “This is a good work environment. People here generally care about each other. They know about each others’ families and are supportive of other peoples’ programs. You’ll see other coaches at other games supporting their colleagues...it’s just a good situation.”

It all makes sense now: USM does not have a magic ball which allows them a glimpse into the future, nor do they hold the coveted hidden secret to keeping a coaching staff intact. What USM does have is a great community that comes out to support each USM game; it has student athletes who leave it all on the courts and fields after every game and practice; and lastly, it has an athletics staff who, in many cases, consider their colleagues as family more than they do co-workers.

Perhaps it is these characteristics which will bring Gary Fifield, women’s basketball head coach, back for a 20th season next year. Maybe that is why Ed Flaherty has been coaching the baseball team for 20 straight seasons and Bonny Brown-Denico is in her 11th season with the softball team. Maybe that is the reason why after nine seasons George Towle is still leading the women’s indoor and outdoor track teams to success. And quite possibly that is why the Men’s tennis team has had the same head coach for the past 46 years in Phil Cole.


These are only a few coaches and athletics staff members, of the many, who come to work each day doing everything they can to make USM successful in sports and in enhancing the life of the student athlete. And according to Bean, the staff’s job is about the students: “Most people understand why they’re here; they want to do the best job they can, and they want to be successful competitively, but it’s not just about that; it’s about dealing with the students and caring about the students.” Although there may not be a perfect formula for finding the ideal coach, by taking a close look at the current coaches at USM, you know the athletic department has to be doing something right. ♦



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## Husky Highlights

### Southern Maine edges out Keene, falls to Rhode Island

The fifth seeded University of Southern Maine softball team connected to the ball for one run over the Keene State Owls in the first of two games in the Huskies’ 2006 Little East Conference Softball Championship. The game was the first of two for the day. In their second game, the Huskies fell to the top-seeded Rhode Island Anchorwomen, 5-2. USM ended the second game with an overall record of 22-19. The Huskies played the sixth-seeded University of Massachusetts Dartmouth for the right to advance to the championship round against Rhode Island College. In the first game, senior pitcher Katie Mainville (Coopers Mills) threw her second straight complete game shutout in the tournament. Mainville allowed eight hits, struck out ten and let a walk to earn her 10th win of the season.

### UMass Boston destroys Southern Maine 19-6

The University of Southern Maine baseball team lost (19-6) to the UMass Boston Beacons on Friday, May 5. The game was a Little East Conference college baseball game, and lowered the Huskies overall record to 25-13 and 9-3 in their conference. The win was the first for the Beacons in 29 games between the two teams. Southern Maine junior Ryan Bourque (Sanford) hit the lone home run, which came in the second inning. Junior Jordan Yanni (Gray) went three-for-three with two RBI’s, while junior Nick Vardaro (Norwood, Mass.) and sophomore Eddie Skeffington (Everett, Mass.) each had a pair of hits for the Huskies.

### Women’s lacrosse season completed

The University of Southern Maine women’s lacrosse team competed in their last LEC playoff game on Tuesday, May 2. The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth made a come-from-behind victory over the fifth-seeded Huskies for a 15-7 win. The Huskies scored goals from senior midfielder Amanda Loomis (Poultney, Vt.) and junior forwards Shannon Kynoch (South Burlington, Vt.) and Sarah Trent (Chanhassen, Minn.) to take a 3-2 lead. Trent and Loomis led USM with two goals each. Ashley Dyer (Harrison), Kynoch and Lisa Henley (Bristol, Vt.) each scored one. Huskies goalkeeper Katie Quartuccio (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.) made 12 saves in the game.

### Keene State devastates Southern Maine

Keene State college freshman attack Tony Santa Fe (Derry, N.H.) scored a season high five goals and added an assist leading to a 16-4 Little East Conference men’s lacrosse victory over Southern Maine. Senior Zach Fermanis (Gorham) led the Huskies with two goals and two assists and senior Jess Lamoureux (Walpole, Mass.) had 24 saves in the game. ♦

# HUSKY SPORTS SCHEDULE

DATE	TEAM	OPPONENT	WHERE	TIME
Mon. 5/1	Baseball	St. Joseph’s	Home	3:30
Mon. 5/1	Softball	Bates	Away	3:30
Tue. 5/2	Men’s Lacrosse	Little East Playoffs - 1st Round	TBA	3:30
Tue. 5/2	Men’s Tennis	UMass Boston	Away	3:30
Tue. 5/2	Women’s Lacrosse	Little East Playoffs - 1st Round	TBA	4:00
Tue. 5/2	Baseball	Husson	Away	5:00
Wed. 5/3	Baseball	UMass Boston	Home	3:00
Wed. 5/3	Men’s Tennis	Bowdoin (B)	Home	4:30
Thu. 5/4	Softball	Little East Tournament	TBA	10:00
Thu. 5/4	Men’s Outdoor Track	N.E. Division III Championships	@ Springfield	12:00
Thu. 5/4	Baseball	Babson	Home	3:00
Thu. 5/4	Men’s Lacrosse	Little East Playoffs - Semifinals	TBA	3:30
Fri. 5/5	Softball	Little East Tournament	TBA	10:00
Fri. 5/5	Men’s Tennis	Little East Tournament	@ UMass Dartmouth	11:00
Fri. 5/5	Men’s Outdoor Track	N.E. Division III Championships	@ Springfield	12:00
Fri. 5/5	Women’s Outdoor Track	N.E. Division III Championships	@ Springfield	12:00
Fri. 5/5	Women’s Lacrosse	Little East Playoffs - Semifinals	TBA	1:00
Sat. 5/6	Men’s Tennis	Little East Tournament	@ UMass Dartmouth	9:00
Sat. 5/6	Softball	Little East Tournament	TBA	11:00
Sat. 5/6	Baseball	UMass Dartmouth (Dh)	Away	12:00
Sat. 5/6	Men’s Outdoor Track	N.E. Division III Championships	@ Springfield	12:00