

the free press

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE



MACKWORTH
ISLAND WORTH
THE TRIP
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Job cuts, mergers, major changes Wood lays out action plan to fix budget problems

ERIKA DIFFIN

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Budget problems often mean cutting costs. At USM, some of those cuts will eliminate jobs to help fill a \$12.4 million gap in its operating budget. Interim President Joseph Wood said USM will undergo changes and explained what prompted him to favor these courses of action in an interview last Thursday.

Eighty percent of USM's annual budget pays the salaries and benefits for employees in all academic, financial and administrative divisions. The remaining 20 percent pays for fixed expenditures such as energy costs, software updates, building maintenance and operations.

While Wood recognizes this 20 percent can be used with greater efficiency, such as using less paper, he said he is confident that the best way to target spending is to focus on where the cost is greatest.

"Forty, fifty, sixty people will resign or retire, from faculty to professional staff to the plumber," he said. "We then have to evaluate if these positions are truly essential."

By re-examining the necessity of vacated posts, 30 jobs were eliminated in 2006 USM began the task of cutting jobs this summer.

"All layoffs are mandated by contracts," Wood said, adding that dismissals occur after established notice periods, and factors such as seniority are taken into account.

"Layoffs eliminate a function," he continued. "We cannot turn around and hire someone else for the same position three months later."

USM is looking to eradicate 60 more jobs. Layoffs would be spread evenly among the three main staffing areas: faculty, pro-

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Teens, freaks, and other outlaws

Transgender activist speaks at USM

ANGELIQUE CARSON

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Kate Bornstein doesn't believe in binaries like happy/sad, young/old, man/woman, or even alive/dead. She says these types of "either/or" situations are a bullying tool.

"Are you alive, or do you want to kill yourself?" she asked her audience during her performance at USM on Oct. 24.

Bornstein believes that though opposites like alive/dead are good for categorizing, they are confining and limiting to humans. As a transgender author and playwright, Bornstein spends her life defying categories. She's polyamorous, a pot smoker, a "cutter," at-times anorexic, at-times

depressed and lonely, and working via her art, to destroy what she calls "oppressive binaries."

During her performance, she asked the audience how many people had ever thought about killing themselves. So many hands went up, it was impossible to count before they went down.

"Oh my God, look around," said Bornstein, her tone soft, indicating concern but not surprise. "That's too many hands."

The talk was an introduction to her new book, *Hello Cruel World: 101 Alternatives to Suicide for Teens, Freaks and Other Outlaws*, which offers coping skills for those who struggle to live a life outside of the

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PHOTO BY ROBERT JOHNSON

Kate Bornstein, 60, is a transgendered author and playwright who spoke at USM last Thursday. She says she's found a way to happily live a life less ordinary.

USMer's sails and spirits are up in Casco Bay



STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

Juniors Dan Jussaume and Tyler Arsenault try to keep their boat flat and sails filled, sailing for USM last weekend in the Wellahan Trophy, their second home regatta of the season. Lacking numbers and experience, enthusiasm runs high on this team, as they focus on growing and learning together without concern for the championship titles coach Jeff Cumming sought after in the program's early years, the mid-1990s. With two fleets of boats, co-owned by USM and non-profit SailMaine, the sailing team sails on Casco Bay in the fall and spring, and welcomes students of any level of experience. See story, page 20.

More state money a possibility for UMaine system

Ballot question asks voters permission to allocate funds on Nov. 6

MARIE FOLLAYTTAR

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Maine voters will decide on two bond issues at the Nov. 6 elections that directly effect economic growth and higher education in Maine. A bond is a low interest loan in which the government guarantees repayment.

Question 3 asks for \$43.5 million in direct allocation of funding to improve education in Maine. Maine Maritime Academy, the community college system and the University of Maine System's seven schools would receive funding for renovations, improvement and construction. One million dollars would also be placed in the State Revolving Restoration Fund for improving and renovating Maine's educational facilities.

USM is slated \$5.9 million if the bond referendum passes. UMaine's Board of Trustees (BOT) wrote in their action plan last September that

a \$1 million supplement from temporary investment earnings would be added., and the BOT approved each university's project outlines Sept. 10.

USM's \$7 million bond proceeds are designated to fund campus improvements in Portland and Lewiston-Auburn, including relocating Portland's Glickman Family Library entrance to face the rest of its campus, and a connecting building to the nearly-completed Wishcamper Center to house the Osher Map Library.

Construction of the new Learning Works building in Lewiston would be able to enter phase two with the new funding.

Question 2 on the ballot asks Mainers if they favor borrowing \$55 million dollars to "stimulate economic development and job creation." Of that, \$50 million, overseen by the Maine Technology Institute, would be an open pool for students, staff, professors and researchers across the state.

Distribution of these funds is a competitive process to projects in targeted industries with high economic and educational gains. Maine state legislature identifies areas of growth in biotechnology, aquaculture and marine, environmental and informational technology, as well as precision manufacturing and forestry and agriculture.

Grants awarded will have to be matched dollar for dollar through Maine-based private sector funding or government grants to generate an additional \$50 million in research and development funds.

John Diamond, executive director of UMaine's external affairs, said the research and development grants will attract around \$50 million more to Maine for research projects and estimates that half will fund researchers and student employees. Governor John Baldacci had originally requested \$150 million dollars over three years from the state legislature.

"Our state currently ranks 50th out of 50 states in university R&D," wrote Robert Blackwood Jr., chair of USM's Board of Visitors and senior vice-president of Norway Savings Bank, in a letter endorsing both bond referendums to members of the community "as well as 50th out of 50 states in the number of science and engineering graduates. We must do better."

All faculty within UMaine were notified of the opportunity and many have begun writing grants. The university system's original request to the governor offered to take the traditional 20/80 split in funding of R&D for USM and the Orono campus.

USM, poised in the two highest populated communities of Maine, Portland and Lewiston-Auburn and serving 60 percent of Maine's population has the opportunity to capitalize on its external and internal community assets, said UMaine Chancellor Richard Pattenau. When the Lovett-Collins Associates consulting group prepared "An Assessment of Research, Creative and Scholarly Activity at the University of Southern Maine" in 2005, he said. USM is "not only in

its community, but it is of its community."

"The connection between the University of Maine State and the State of Maine" said Vice Chancellor James Breece, examining the relationship between state appropriations and economic benefit to Maine.

UMaine directly supports 21,553 full and part-time jobs in Maine and supplies \$659.8 million in salaries for university and system employees, and the initial investment engenders a \$1.5 billion economic impact for Maine every year. "That represents a return of \$8.10 for every one dollar in investment," wrote Breece, "Maine taxpayers realize a more than 800 percent return."

While there is strong support for education funding in Maine, others disagree.

"While we need to improve our State's attractiveness to businesses and organizations by controlling state spending," Michael Dubyak of the USM Board of Visitors wrote his workplace Wright Express, "higher education is not the place to withhold adequate funding and possibly compromise Maine's economic viability."



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Budget problems mean big changes at USM

From **BUDGET**
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fessional staff, including advisors, staff in a supervisory role, and classified staff such as maintenance and administrative workers. Wood said that the non-represented staff, including those working under him, will be subject to equal scrutiny and possible layoffs as well.

While layoffs will continue to be utilized as a short-term budget fix, potential long-term solutions have included reorganization of academic schools.

"Intellectually, they (the mergers) make sense," said Wood.

Though Wood and USM Provost Mark Lapping jointly came up with the idea, it has been left up to individual schools to determine which mergers will happen. No definite time frame in which these discussions will take place is set, but Wood said he hopes that he will have a proposal to take to the Board of Trustees by the end of the year. UMaine's BOT has final approval of any restructuring decision.

"The goal of restructuring is to eliminate administrative overhead—to become more efficient

while cutting costs," said Wood. "The goal of re-examining academic programs is not to scrutinize who has the fewest students but rather who supports the mission" of USM's prosperity as a whole.

Wood used physics as an example. While not necessarily a popular academic major, he said, physics is "extremely important as a service science" for students majoring in the biology and engineering and would not be in the best interest of the school to eliminate the program.

Despite majors disappearing in the future, Wood said current students need not worry about their ability to finish their chosen majors. The USM student handbook states that any student who is presently matriculated has the right to complete their degree and the university has an obligation to help that student do so. "We will see you through graduation," vowed Wood.

To keep students abreast of changes at USM, Wood posts updates entitled "Moving Forward" on the president's Web site at <http://www.usm.maine.edu/mcr/update/>.

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An Israeli man stands up against his country

BRANDON MCKENNEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For the last 24 years, Jeff Halper, who spoke at USM Oct. 19, has been demonstrating, protesting and at times obstructing these demolitions, chaining himself in front of bulldozer's paths to illustrate his objection to the illegal and systematic destruction of Palestinian houses.

Since 1967, over 18,000 Palestinian homes have been demolished in the Occupied Territories, regions of Palestine penetrated by Israel.

Halper is a leading member of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD),

a group that opposes the Israeli government's continuing efforts to both demolish Palestinian homes and form Israeli settlements, actions illegal under international law of the Geneva Convention. Though illegal, these practices continue to this day. Halper, and the other members of ICAHD, have made it their mission to defend the Palestinian's and their homes.

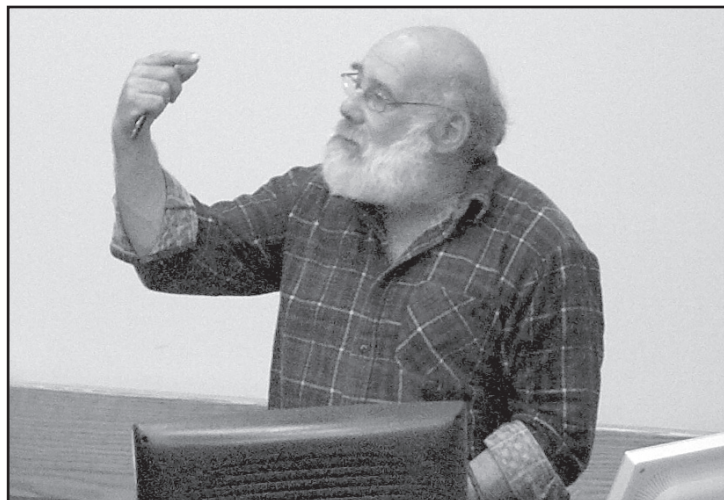
Halper is passionate about his cause, and this is evident when he speaks. He's one of many Israelis standing up to their country and demanding an end to ethnic injustice. Halper said he can use his "privileged position" as an Israeli Jew to resist this destruction, because the Israeli forces will not harm him. If Palestinians were to

Jeff Halper, an Israeli citizen who spoke at USM Oct. 19, is devoted to saving Palestinian homes, often torn down due to the Israeli government's orders.

try and defend their homes, they would be shot, he said.

Along with the destruction of homes, Israel has begun construction of a fence twice as high and five times as wide as the Berlin Wall was. This wall divides Palestinian neighborhoods, often separating families. One portion of the structure runs directly through a Palestinian university, making it problematic for students to go from class to class.

"This is a quintessential academic issue," Halper said. "It



STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

should be a crucial issue on every American campus."

Halper said the policies Israel has been pursuing against the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories serve as a micro-

cosm for their increasing stance in the world.

"Israel has turned into a major global actor, especially with the United States," says Halper. He said Israel appears to have given up on the two-state solution, and is pushing for an increasingly large and strong Israeli nation. Israel now boasts more than 250 settlements and half a million Israelis living in the Occupied Territories. Halper feels that Israel is seeking apartheid, and that it will likely come soon.

"We have to be the watchdogs and be sure they don't pull over our eyes apartheid in the guise of a two-state solution," said Halper.

Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State, is attempting to convene an Israel-Palestine Peace summit in Annapolis, Maryland, this November. Halper feels that the summit is unlikely to yield peace, and that it may not even occur.

"Israel feels that Bush is a lame-duck president. It feels we are in a period of two years in which there will be no pressures on Israel," said Halper. "They have no interest whatsoever in compromising with the Palestinians. For the Palestinians though, this is a crucial meeting. I think this is it."

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ROTC returns to USM

Military readiness program preps potential Maine officers

JOEL C. THERIAULT
NEWS EDITOR

After an eight year absence, the US Army revived their student ROTC program at schools in Maine this year.

ROTC is a military-sponsored program for high school and college students to prepare them for a career in the armed forces. Command Sgt. Major (CSM) Joseph LaPlante, based on the Gorham campus, currently oversees the programs at St. Joseph’s College in Standish and the University of New England in Biddeford as well as USM.

Cadet command officials did a market analysis on the funding to Maine’s ROTC programs and decided to concentrate the military program on areas with higher populations like New Hampshire and Massachusetts. “That was probably five to eight years ago,” said LaPlante.

“The ROTC program here at USM was here roughly, I believe, eight years ago, and we were on campus at the time,” he continued. “Based on funding and everything else, they (the military) decided to move to other locations within the United States. The main home school for us is the University of New Hampshire in Durham.”

Following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the US, LaPlante said the military decided to invest more in national ROTC programs in an effort to increase recruitment and commission of officers each year.

“Usually the Maine market is a good market,” said LaPlante. “The people in Maine—the students, of course the parents, the overall public—is more patriotic about the military than, let’s say, if you’re down in California or someone like that.”

After signing up, students take a military science class in Gorham. “We’re actually teaching ROTC here at the university on Mondays and Fridays so the cadets don’t have to drive to University of New Hampshire,” said LaPlante. Cadets in Maine’s ROTC are bused from their campuses to the UNH campus once a month for a Leadership Lab to

participate in training drills and hands-on tactical training.

“We don’t normally do drilling like a high school ROTC unit would do,” LaPlante said. “They do a lot of drilling. We’re mainly more of a classroom-based and stuff like that, big on tactics and things like that and also leadership classes and a lot of management classes.”

ROTC graduates are commissioned as second lieutenants if they choose to advance their military careers. The next step is Officer Candidacy School (OCS).

LaPlante said students are representative of varied backgrounds.

“We get a lot of students that are prior-service at USM that are currently veterans,” he said, “and they came back (to school) after basic and AIT, which is their training piece, or they already did their three or four years in the military, had some military component, and they come back to USM on their veteran benefits and that’s how they’re paying for school, through the veteran’s piece, you know, through the GI Bill and the Army college fund.”

He added that Rick Wright of the Veteran’s Service Office reported more than 300 students at USM collect veteran’s benefits. LaPlante finds veterans in ROTC classrooms to be useful for the class experience. “They bring something to the class, especially if they have any combat experience or any overseas experience, they bring that portion to the other students that have never been in any kind of military organization before. So that helps out during the classroom instruction.”

US military organizations take the brunt of financial responsibilities off students enrolled in ROTC. Besides paying for full tuition and all fees, the program also doles out \$1200 a year to pay for textbooks and a monthly stipend of up to \$500. GI Bill and ROTC scholarship benefits also may apply, and a reserve option exists for students wishing to concurrently join the National Guard provides an additional “kicker” stipend of up to \$400.



PHOTO BY ROBERT JOHNSON

Kate Bornstein performs at Luther Bonney’s auditorium last Wed. on suicide alternatives. Nearly 300 people attended, 40 or so were turned away due to fire codes.

Bornstein performance fills Talbot to capacity and more

From KATE
PAGE 1

proverbial box, and the ramifications that so often follow. A self-proclaimed “freak,” Bornstein knows a lot about the dangers of not obeying the rules, both written and un-written.

Bornstein grew up in North Dakota, and was named after her grandfather, Albert Herman Bornstein. But manhood never felt natural. So after her father died, a sex change operation transformed Albert, then 39, into a woman by medical standards. But that didn’t feel right either. she says.

Now, at age 60, she goes by Kate but claims no category for herself, especially not gender. She says she’s comfortable with that, even when others aren’t.

“People say ‘What are you?’” Bornstein explains to her audience. “I say, ‘I am not a man, and I am not a woman. I don’t know, I’m still looking.’ It fries your brain...I am a major freak. But I’ve found a way to live with that.”

Bornstein, who now lives in New York City, says that life is better than it has been in years, though she’s still prone to patches of depression and despair.

In thick-framed glasses, a silk tank-top, red shoulder-length hair and lipstick Bornstein recognizes that her choices can make it difficult for many to relate to her.

“Can you give yourself permission to take seriously someone who looks like this?” she asks. “The fact is, I am nothing new to this world.”

Within the her performance, she encouraged “the art of selective, serial suicide.” She spent years killing parts of herself she says, a practice she describes as emotionally healthy.

“Don’t kill yourself, kill the parts of you that need to die,” she tells her audience, “the parts of you that are holding you back.”

Bornstein, who also is the author of 1994’s *Gender Outlaw: On Men, Women and the Rest of Us* and the upcoming *Kate Bornstein is a Queer and Pleasant Danger*, offered a universal suggestion to her audience, simple in concept.

“Live your life according to the value: don’t be mean,” she said, adding its simplicity adds to its value because everyone can recognize mean.

“Mean is a kid’s word,” she said, repeating the mantra several times throughout Wednesday night’s performance. “Don’t be mean, as long as you’re not being mean you can do anything you want, anything at all, just don’t be mean,” she said, lowering her voice and speaking slowly for emphasis.

Perhaps Bornstein is so emphatic about this simple principle because of the bullies she has encountered over time. She shared, briefly and matter-of-factly, that she had been raped twice, once on a date and once at a national park

Bornstein begged the audience to find a way, “any way at all,” to make their lives worth living.

“I know I’m a deeply flawed human being, and I’m only showing you guys the good parts of me,” she said. “But if I’m being

kind, if I’m not being mean, then does it matter?”

Wendy Chapkis, chair of sociology and a women’s studies professor has been a friend of Bornstein’s for more than 20 years. Chapkis said in an interview that it was important for the university to host the event, which was sponsored by the women’s studies department, because Bornstein defies the expectation we share to a confining image of normalcy.

“Those pressures lead to despair in almost all of us, because who’s really normal?” said Chapkis. “I think it’s really important to have the reminder that despair doesn’t need to lead to suicide, and despair doesn’t need to lead to conformity. You can be a glorious outlaw. And I can’t think of a better role model for how to survive as a freak or an outlaw, than Kate.”

Annie Bredbury, a junior and sociology major, stayed after the performance and listened to a question and answer session from the Talbot Lecture Hall’s back row.

“I didn’t fully know what I was going to be listening to,” she said. She wasn’t put-off by the show’s language or content. “I wasn’t offended. People obviously had the choice to attend or not to,” she said.

As for Bornstein, she’s happy with life these days. She says she still stops traffic sometimes, but now she smiles at the gawkers and comments on the weather, because they never expect “it” to speak.

“I can smile at people and they smile at me,” said Bornstein. “And that’s the way that I’ve always wanted to walk through life.”



Greetings All!

My name is Jelena, I am the public relations chair for the student senate. I am writing to you on behalf of my colleagues to inform you about student senate affairs, ideas, concerns and what you can do about it! Recently, Joe Austin, dean of student life, was the guest speaker at one of our meetings. Some of our discussion was around a new campus center in Portland, and

what the senate, along with our fellow classmates, can do about it. Another concern that students brought up was the lack of consistency within academic departments. The senate needs to hear student voices to better our USM community. We need your input and your help to take initiative for better changes at USM.

I encourage you to come to our meetings to voice your concerns and ideas. Our next meet-

ing is Nov. 2 at 2:30 p.m., in Rm. 423 of Glickman Library in Portland. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you are all welcome to stop by our office in the Woodbury Campus Center. You may also write questions to the Free Press, and we will gladly answer them for you.

Best Wishes,

Jelena Sarenac,
36th Student Senate Public
Relations Chair

The Free Press will publish written questions posed to the student senate and the governing body’s responses in the Senate Corner. To have your question heard, e-mail your questions to Jelena no later than Thursday of each week to allow her to bring them before the senate.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Livin’ ain’t easy, but it’s worth it

ANGELIQUE CARSON
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Last week I had the most valuable experience I’ve had at USM in my four years here thus far. As I walked through the glass doors of Luther Bonney’s lecture hall, a hot, thick air greeted me immediately, like that of an over-crowded night club. Gabe Demaine, diversity and scholarship liaison for USM and the event’s organizer, looked at me with sorrowful eyes and told me there were just no more seats. People stood in the back or spilled onto the aisle’s steps. Devoted to student access, Gabe let me sneak in. Later, she had to turn away more than 40 people due to fire codes. The last time this many people attended a USM event was to see Bill Clinton or Paul Rusesabagina, a hero in the Rwandan genocide. Portland’s “Kings of the Hill,” opened the show, gyrating on members of the audience to the sounds of Destiny’s Child’s “Bootylicious” and The Village People’s “Macho

Man” in drag. It was then I realized that I would be part of an interactive experience, not a lecture. Kate Bornstein, a transgendered author was here to perform portions of her new book, *Hello Cruel World: 101 Alternatives to Suicide for Teens, Freaks and Other Outlaws*. The night before, I’d attended Kate’s lecture and relished her blunt words. The night was not about being gay or transgendered, really, though both have shaped Bornstein’s own life. It was about finding reasons to make life worth living, stripped bare of stiff, safe language like “seek help” and “you’re worth it.” Bornstein was immediately disarming, claiming from the start to be the biggest freak in the room: a cutter, anorexic at times, transgendered, a masochist, and often depressed. She asked the audience if anyone else out there could say to all of that, “me too,” and nobody moved. No matter how personal things got from that point on, Bornstein had already set the tone: don’t be shamed here, I’ve seen worse.

“Nobody knows the trouble I’ve seen.” She discussed sex, desire, power politics and her hatred for George W. Bush, among other things. “I hate how he’s fucking up our lives. He’s the guy who picked on me in school, and now he’s picking on you,” she told her audience. But mostly she talked about staying alive, something she said she only has been able to do because of those who believe in the commandment, “Thou shalt not kill.” She touched on racism’s pervasive existence, on the radical right wing’s attempts to squash people like her, on great orgasms and group sex. It was dangerously provocative. But it was real life. Any Republicans in the room surely had an anxiety attack and likely went home breathing into a paper bag. But it was real life. What stopped my pen and brought tears to my eyes came at the end of a question and answer session, after nearly half the crowd had left. Earlier, Bornstein suggest-

ed that those with suicidal urges not act on them, but instead kill the part of themselves that is holding them back. A woman spoke humbly about what this meant to her. “It’s like, nobody’s ever said it to me like that, after years of therapy,” she paused, wanting to say more but unsure of how to say it. Bornstein paused with her, willing to wait until she was ready. “And, I’m not normally one to speak up, but, that’s a beautiful way to live. And to me,” she said to Kate, “it’s like, you’re a hottie.” The crowd laughed, and cheered. And it felt like someone’s life literally had changed with one sentence, “kill the part of you that needs to die.” Mea Tavares, a former student who left USM because, she said, she was essentially bored with the scene here, said that she returned to our campus for the night when she heard about Bornstein’s appearance. She said that she “came out” in 2000, the year she first saw Bornstein.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOEL C. THERIAULT

“I left (USM) for a lot of reasons, and mostly because no one ever talked like Kate does. But hearing a world perspective in an environment that often can be so theoretical was cool,” she said. As our convocation theme this year, academic freedom is a hotly debated topic in our newspaper and on our campuses, jump-started after last year’s decision by the university to shut-down a controversial art exhibit. Our administrators insist that this university is dedicated to such freedoms, that as students we’re allowed to at least hear or see controversial content so that we can make our own decisions, having heard all sides of any given issue. Lucky for all who attended, Bornstein’s show demonstrated that commitment with something more than lip service.

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92 BEDFORD STREET - PORTLAND, MAINE 04101
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EXECUTIVE EDITOR	ANGELIQUE CARSON
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- The deadline for all submissions is Thursday at 4 p.m. preceding the week of publication. Send submissions to freepress@maine.edu
- Anonymous and/or illegible submissions will not be published.

USM’s Model UN wonders which borders should be

DAVID BROWN
GUEST COLUMNIST

So, are national borders justified? It was the one question not really answered at Wednesday’s panel discussion hosted by the campus Model UN organization (MUNO) in honor of UN Day. The topic was “International Immigration: Are National Borders Justified?” at Masterton Hall’s room 113. The panel, which included Dr. Peck as moderator, Dr. Bjelic, Matthew Ward of World Affairs Council and the only homegrown American on the panel, Ina Demers, and Reza Jelali, represented six different national backgrounds. Consequently, this translated into six different ideas of what international Immigration meant, and six different experiences with national borders. As with so many USM student events, the attendance was sparse, however this in no way detracted from the debate. The MUNO team had prepared a five-minute power point presentation to help set the mood and provide background information. After that, it was all about the speakers. Considering the number of panelists and how much information they had to share with the audience, the two-hour time slot was limiting. This was not helped by the rather long introduction given by the moderator, nor his difficulty in keeping panelists on topic and limited in their speaking time. Speakers were given a few minutes to introduce themselves and talk about their personal connec-

tion to the topic. The stories provided a fascinating insight into the complexity of the issue and helped to dispel some of the commonly held myths about Immigration. For example: did you know that most immigrants don’t actually plan on staying here indefinitely? Did you know that most immigrants are not here to steal your tax dollars? Finally, did you know that most immigrants come here out of necessity rather than choice? If you do know this, then you realize that immigration is not a “problem” as so many of our political representatives claim it is. Take the case of Jelali, an Iranian Kurd who found himself in an international student exchange in India in 1979 during the Iranian Revolution. With the overthrow of the Shah by Ayatollah Khomeini et al, Jelali found himself stateless, persona non grata at home because of his ethnicity and unable to stay in India. He was forced to seek asylum through the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in India. He was one of the lucky ones. Millions of refugees apply each year, but only a small portion are granted asylum. Jelali found himself in Maine after his application was accepted by the United States. A similar case applies to Demers who, coming from an ethnically Chinese family, became unwelcome in Indonesia following the leftward turn of President Suharto. The moderator, Peck, was born in a refugee camp shortly after World War II as his family was waiting for asylum approval.

Bjelic and Ward heavily dominated the debate that followed partly as a result of their impressive intellectual capacities, and partly because they disagreed with each other. On the one side, Bjelic approached the question of national borders by arguing that humans invented political borders—which find their origins in European history and were spread through colonialism—and are nothing but a racist design. Bjelic said these designs were meant to increase the power and control of the government, to regulate the make up of its population and to give people a sense of protection against “otherness”. Ward argued that these were in fact natural out-growths of human desire to live collectively, that as soon as your community exercises a claim over territory, borders are inevitable. While conceding that the use and manipulation of the borders was often questionable, he said they are also necessary to our existence, as we have defined it. There was one matter all the panelists were certainly able to agree on: the policy of restricting human movement while the movement of money and capital becomes increasingly liberalized, was simply unjust. While we didn’t get a comprehensive answer to the question of national borders, it was an important debate non-the-less. We all walked away with more questions than answers, but probably also a new perspective on the difficulties that immigrant populations face when trying to find their place in the world, a place of respect and free from persecution.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Photos and Interview by Joel C. Theriault

"How do you think the university could best resolve the budget problem, or at least save some money?"

Is there any kind of book trade at USM? Some kind of a new program where, you know, they charge for trading, something with textbooks. That would be a huge money maker because students pay ridiculous amounts for books and I think it would work out better for the students and the school. So maybe like a fair where you could charge at the door or something."



Hannah McComish,
freshman psychology
major



They try to cut down on power usage, but I mean, it just doesn't work because you can't control (it)...you can't regulate every single person's dorm. Well, they're building green buildings now, aren't they? That would definitely help, but I mean...they have lot of buildings now that, you know, run a lot of heat and run a lot of air conditioning, and they either got to tear them down and start over or...a cost-effective way to improve the existing buildings.

Brendon Ford,
freshman undeclared



Ashley Roy, freshman
psychology and
philosophy major

schools and everywhere I go that seems to be the problem...They're not really investing in the education, they're investing in the infrastructure.

Invest more in teachers and less in bureaucracy. Any time I go to any sort of school I feel like there's so many administrative people, too many people decisions have to go through, the process isn't efficient. I don't know the specific structure of this school, but I've interacted with many administrators at other

Stop building new buildings until we have enrollment enough to fill those buildings.



Nick Suydam, junior
criminology major

You could cut down potentially the transportation needs. I mean, that's a huge expense.

Kelly Chabot,
sophomore
undeclared



Nancy McKenney, junior
social work major

A lot of common areas have electricity running when they don't need to. Right over there (*points to light on the side of Luther Bonney Hall in Portland shining in the middle of a sunny day.*) there's an outdoor light on. I've seen a couple others, too.

Programs that the least amount of people are in, that has the least amount of impact for future students coming in.

Jacob Thich, junior
sports medicine
major



Letters to the editor

9/11 facts may be wrong

Roughly 500 people, representative of positions across the broad spectrum of political thought in the world, have all come to a single conclusion, in most cases independently. They are not "ravers," irresponsible or illogical people. Some have recently asked to be added to this list. What they share in common are public statements that question the accuracy and thoroughness of the 9/11 Commission

Report, the official account of the events of 9/11. Major General Stubblebine said, for instance, "One of my experiences in the Army was being in charge of the Army's Imagery Interpretation for Scientific and Technical Intelligence during the Cold War. I measured pieces of Soviet equipment from photographs. It was my job.

I look at the hole in the Pentagon and I look at the size of an airplane that was supposed to have hit the Pentagon. And I said, 'The plane does not fit in that hole'. So what did hit the Pentagon? What hit it? Where is it? What's going on?"

Judy Wood, PhD Materials Eng Science said, "...for the [WTC tower] to be collapsed in about 10 seconds, the lower floors would have to start moving before the upper floors could reach them by gravity alone.

...This would require something like a detonation sequence...

In conclusion, the explanations of the collapse that have been given by the 9/11 Commission Report and NIST are not physically possible.

Paul Craig Roberts, former Assistant Secretary of the US Treasury, and former editor of the Wall Street Journal said in 2006, "We know that it is strictly im-

possible for any building, much less steel columned buildings, to "pancake" at free fall speed. Therefore, it is a non-controversial fact that the official explanation of the collapse of the WTC buildings is false."

Morgan Reynolds, PhD, Chief Economist US Labor Department under George W. Bush in 2006 said, "I first began to suspect that 9/11 was in inside job when the Bush-Cheney Administration invaded Iraq... We can prove that the government's story is false."

Suspend your disbelief.

Stephen Demetriou
Alumnus

CORRECTIONS

In the Oct. 22 edition, the top field hockey photo on Page 17 credited to sports editor Sarah Trent should have read "Courtesy of Jason Johns." The bottom photo was taken by Trent.

Justene Dorr's name was spelled "Justine" in a quote above the story "Class, practice, motherhood and marriage."

FEATURED FACULTY

Interview and photo by Joel C. Theriault

Despite leukemia, teaching and learning continues

Tamara Szafranski, an English and women's studies professor, used her love for teaching to carry her through leukemia, pausing for one year due to a bone marrow transplant. Her accomplishments include writing children's stories for pagan publications and overhauling the women's studies program at Susquehanna University. During her tenure there she visited Maine to attend a Stonecoast writer's conference, and fell in love with it. After this semester, Szafranski will leave USM for Ireland's University College of Cork for 18 months to two years to earn a doctorate in pedagogy research.



Where are you from?
I was born in Pennsylvania, but I was only born there. The place where I consider I'm from, because I spent my entire life there up until I graduated high school, is Virginia, Northern Virginia. Actually, it was around Washington, D.C., so it gave me a bit of an international flavor because it was vastly different from what I saw with the rest of my family living in Western Pennsylvania.

How do you mean?
Because I think—looking at my cousins, they're the same age as me—it was very homogenous, like the culture was very homogenous. They went to school with the children of people that their parents were friends with, everyone kind of knew everyone

else. Being around Washington, D.C. was probably the best thing that ever happened to me because it was a very transit area.

How did you come to choose teaching as your path?
If you were to ask my mother, she would tell you she has pictures of me when I was a child standing in front of a chalkboard, with all my stuffed animals lined up. They were a captive audience (laughs). But in reality, I may have always enjoyed being in groups of people, or being in front of groups of something. I was never shy or backwards, I've always been kind of chatty.
What really made me choose teaching was when I was in high school. I had kind of an idea that I

might like it, but I had two teachers when I was in high school. I remember my history teacher's name was Mr. Kent because he was my favorite teacher...you either really liked him or you didn't like him, and the people that didn't like him were people that didn't want to do work. Some people like to be challenged and some people don't. His teaching methods were very unconventional. He was very much a hands-on experiential kind of person with history, which was fascinating.

Besides being a woman, how did you become interested in Women's Studies?
I think the real epiphany moment was the first time my father told me not to cut my hair. When I was in middle school he said, 'Don't cut your hair, boys like girls with long hair.' All I knew was that I wanted to cut my hair. I cut it—and then I grew it back, because I like pulling it in ponytails and braids, but that's a girly thing.

You teach some pretty interesting classes. I like the sound of the Murder, Madness and Monsters class.
Oh, yes. I taught that for four semesters and I'm now teaching my Contextualizing Fear class.

You also chose an interesting focus for Basic Comp., too, with media's influence on people.
I do that because I think that we live

in a world that's no longer just about traditional writing. Basically, good writing is about good critical thinking. Since we're not living in a world that's completely of the traditional writing bend anymore, people don't read newspapers like they once did. I mean, people still pick up magazines and things like that, but a lot of people do a lot of reading on the Internet and they spend a lot of time watching visual images and seeing a constant barrage of images. If you don't know how to critically assess those then you're missing out on a vital component of your experience in the world today.

So you've been telling me about your trip to Ireland...
Yes, let's talk about that. I'm a little sad because I love the student population at USM, they're great. I love the mix of traditional/non-traditional people with experience, I don't like the sort of four-year canned private university experience.

You have some down time, right?
I play video games (laughs)! I love my Xbox 360, I play them (games) on my computer and I also play them on my GameCube, too.

That's excellent. What kind of games do you like to play?
I love RPG's (role-playing games). Give me a sword!

Introducing...

Interview by Joel C. Theriault

Petter Bialek, 27
Senior
Economics major

Why major in economics?
It was the most challenging thing I was interested in. I figure there's no point in going to school if you're not going to be challenged, because you'll come out even better. I don't inherently like a challenge, but....

You've been going to school here for four years solid now?
I've been going here more than four years because I worked full-time, but now I'm full-time going to school. But I worked

down on the (Portland) wharf for a few years now.
Really? Smell didn't bother you?
Oh my God...(laughs). I worked at a lobster shipping company, which is like retail, we'd Fed Ex it right to (the customer's) door, so they'd go online and order and we'd ship them like two lobsters.
Did you find lobstering hard?
We were kind of like the snobs, I guess (laughs). We didn't really get that dirty.

Like the middle man?
Right. Retail, but we're down on the wharf. We worked right next to this place called

The Bait Lady. One morning I came in and our driveway was full of maggots. I mean, the entire driveway was moving....
Whoa. From, like, fish guts strewn all over?
I think they had a few barrels of redfish back there for like three months or something like that. One day, they just came out....

What're you going to do when you graduate?
That's a good question. I'm going to move out to Colorado, hoping to get into the Leeds School of Business...it's a school at the University of Colorado.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Coach lacrosse. Well, I used to coach lacrosse.
Really? At what level?
Uh, seventh and eighth grades.
Not anymore?
Nah. Just, time (shrugs).

How'd you get into that?
I played through high school. Then my brother, when he was in third and fourth grade, I would coach him. The other coaches would see me coaching him. These coaches didn't know how to call a timeout, I guess. So I would take charge and they were impressed.





STAFF PHOTO BY JENNA HOWARD

Gwen Tatro, ASU President, works in the Printmaking Shop where ASU meetings take place. The ASU is a group of energized art students who work in the community and organize events on campus.

Art Student Union works with local businesses to bring home the bacon

JENNA HOWARD
A&E EDITOR

During their most recent meeting, Gwen Tatro, a studio art major, was harping at the group to wear matching outfits and encouraging them to wear pearls when they meet up for the next First Friday Art Walk in Portland, Nov. 2.

Posters speckle the Gorham campus, pointing studio artists to the Wednesday evening meetings of ASU, the Art Student Union, a student organization that teamed up with local businesses last weekend to bring art to the community. *The Free Press* met with Tatro, ASU's president and spokeswoman, to discuss plans, parties, (and pearls) for the group. She calls the squad 'artsy' and uses the word 'slamtastic'.

FP: Tell us about the art event held in Gorham on Saturday.

Tatro: The Art Student Union (ASU) played a part in assisting Jeremy from the Art Guru (art supply store) in town, Carson who runs the Gorham Grind, COA (Coalition of Arts) from here on campus, and



STAFF PHOTO BY JENNA HOWARD

Art Major, Chris Ryall, a member of the ASU, prepares for Saturday's art event in Gorham.

See ASU
PAGE 13

DON'T

STAY HOME

DEAD POETRY
DISTURBING ART
AND ROCK 'N ROLL.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29

"Art in the Environment" kicks off, the USM lecture series that is gaining attention of the area art scene. Sustainable materials and large-scale construction make their way into the sculpture of Steve Badgett, visiting artist. Rumor has it he's spending the day in USM sculpture classes before giving the 1:00 pm talk. Free/ 1 p.m./ Burnham Lounge/ Robie Andrews/Gorham Campus/780-5508

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30

Although you'll still be decorating your Halloween costume in sequins by hand, consider taking time off to get in the spirit at North Star Café's **Dead Poetry Slam**, where readers will bring three poems by the dead poet of their choice, costumes are optional, DJ Mystery Machine will be featured. You never know, maybe you'll do the Monster Mash. Free/ 7 p.m./ North Star Café/ 227 Congress St/ 699-2994

WEDNESDAY, OCT 31

Option A: spend Halloween traipsing the streets asking for candy in an outfit that's not appropriate for the temperature. Option B: Spend Halloween night in style at the **White Heart for the release of Project Dark**, a cd listening party from 8-10 p.m. followed by performances by Moshe, The Secret Weekend, and Brown Jacket Media until 1 a.m. Free/ 8 p.m.-1 a.m./ The White Heart/ 551 Congress Street/ Portland/ 828-1900

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Had a long Halloween? Need some laughter to counteract your dose of fright last night? **Good Theater presents Souvenir**, a play based on Florence Foster Jenkins, a lass who fancied herself a singer, and sold out Carnegie Hall, but couldn't carry a tune. NBC called Souvenir "The funniest show on Broadway." \$17-\$25/ 7:30 p.m./ The St. Lawrence Arts and Community Center/76 Congress St. Portland/ 885-5883

'The Limits of Diversity: Disturbing Art Disturbing Spectators,' The public is invited to a panel discussion featuring Bates Professor of Art and of Women and Gender Studies Erica Rand; artist Derek Jackson; USM student Daniel Chard; Sampson Center Scholar-in-Residence for the Judaica Collection Abraham Peck; and moderated by Sampson Center Scholar-in-Residence for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Collection Howard Solomon. Free/ 4-5:30 p.m./ University Events Room/ Glickman Family Library/ Portland

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Oxfam is one of my favorite international aid organizations. They were in the 'top 8' of my myspace for a while. The USM **Hunger Banquet** is an event put together by USM student group, AAAS, to raise awareness of problems we have in this country and around the world with food distribution. Professors, staff, students are invited to attend. Speakers will talk about hunger on local and global levels. Free/ 6:00-7:30 p.m./ Woodbury Campus Center/ Portland Campus

SATURDAY, NOV 3

Jeff Beam's solo debut is too good to be missed, and is causing quite a stir amidst Portland's music scene. He will be playing his **rock show** for us, at USM very soon. Free/ around 8 p.m./ Brooks Student Center/Gorham Campus

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

While you're doing your homework in the Glickman Family library, Check out **'Remember Me? The Life and Legacy of Jean Byers Sampson'** that honors her and the Center for Diversity's 10th anniversary through photography. Sampson was Maine resident who founded the first NAACP chapter in Maine and served as executive director of the Maine Civil Liberties Union and as chair of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees. This show goes until Jan. 18. Free/Special Collections Section/ Glickman Family Library/ Portland



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LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

Boombazi's self-titled CD keeps the party going, features USM student

JEFF BEAM

STAFF WRITER

When Boombazi's new self-titled album loaded on my iTunes, I noticed that the album had 69 tracks. Tracks 10 through 68 were all blank and lasted only four seconds long, the album's final track being a hidden track of sorts. This is a move first patented by Spencer Albee with his album *The Popsicko*, and Boombazi uses the same tactic. I'm not sure what it adds, but it's an eye-catching move.

The next thing I noticed was Boombazi's explosive sound. From the opening chords of "Portland Ambassadors Club" to track 69, called "What The Funk," the quintet of Portland locals demand your attention, and they certainly turn a few heads

in the process. Justin Hogan rapping mixed with Luke "Mello" Mallett singing creates an interesting blend of dynamics, especially when coupled with the driving instrumental section featuring Nick Lean (bass), B3 (organ), Adam Trull (trumpet) and USM student Greg Happe (percussion). Luke's on guitar, though the group's MySpace page makes no mention of Luke, and claims that Nate Soule is now the guitarist.

Boombazi does an effective job of mixing funk, rock and R&B elements to fill out their sound. The band channels a grab-bag of several bands, ranging from Rage Against The Machine to Sublime. Shades of the early Red Hot Chili Peppers surface on the track "TV Dinner," while laid-back reggae is in full force on "Na Say It."

"37 Exeter" features the album's most catchy chorus, with



Boombazi's self-titled CD is sure to get any party bumping, with a wide-variety of artists collaborating on the tracks.

ARTWORK FROM BOOMBAZI CD COVER

the line "Dear Momma, can you say 'Revolution'?"

Boombazi's full sound is further boosted with the addition of the Rustic Overtones' Ryan Zoidis on saxophone, DJ shAdezilla on turntables, and Will Holland on guitar and organ. The three make sporadic appearances throughout the LP. Boombazi also makes use of local MC's Juba, Heavy Dread, & Saiyid in the album's opening cut. With so many different musicians and voices on the album, it

can be difficult at times to establish a constant vibe.

However, Boombazi keeps a constant pace with a solid high-energy album. It is excellent party music, and serves as something to dance to. With this tight album and a remarkable live show, Boombazi continues to prove themselves an impressive force on the local scene. Listen to Boombazi live on WCYY with Mark Curdo on Nov. 8 at 8 p.m..



PHOTO BY CHRIS ROSSI PHOTOGRAPHY

Greg Happe is Boombazi's percussionist; you'll see him around campus, maybe sitting in class, tapping his pencil beside you.

New veggie bistro in Portland Hall's neighborhood

New eatery is a (green) host with the most

JENNA HOWARD

A&E EDITOR

Riding my one-speed red bike to work on Congress Street this week, I realized that where others don't notice topography, I see uphill battles. Congress Street is hilly, and I'm going a little slower than those of you who control your speeds or ride the bus.

I'd like to say this makes me a little more observant of changes in Portland's landscape, but when the Green Elephant emerged, the newest self-proclaimed "Vegetarian Bistro" in town, it caught me totally off-guard.

What to my wondering eyes should appear, but a Congress Street storefront that had been transformed into a well-designed, simple "green" eatery.

It thrilled me for more than one reason. First, the place is totally meatless, offering as many vegan options as vegetarian choices. Second, the lunch menu swoops down into the \$4 range, while dinner only peaks at a do-able \$13. For daring carnivores, the menu offers filet and spare ribs, though both are soy.

I recently swept one of these daring carnivores off his feet for dinner, and we were sat on a weeknight without wait at about 8:30 p.m. For a vegetarian who usually looks at a menu and has two options, the Green Elephant was like a whole new world.

The dinner menu is split into "Quick Bites," soups and salads, and entrées. Lunch consists of "Lunch Prix-Fixe" as the latter.

We split the Roti Canai to start. A perfectly crispy platter

of Indian-style pancakes with a warm, vegetable curry sauce soon arrived, and I was already pleased. Cost: \$5.

The next round emerged from the kitchen promptly. The pace of wait staff, food and service was relaxed and quite pleasurable. I ordered a \$10 entrée, and could've easily boxed half up for the next day's lunch. I ordered the Pineapple Brown Rice with sunflower seeds, soy protein, sweet corn, peas and carrots, scallions and egg and was thrilled.

"I won," I said to the accompanying carnivore, but he was so satisfied with his Chinese broccoli and crispy soy filet stir-fry (in medium spicy brown sauce with carrot and Thai bird chili) that planned our next trip right then; a luncheon and afternoon tea. His plate was large, spiced real nice, and as crispy as the title promised. The vegan dish filled him up and set him back a mere \$9.

A menu infused with stir-fry, Thai cuisine, tofu kabob, watercress veggie duck and king oyster mushroom tempura, this affordable dining spot could be great for a quick bite pre-movie or a nice meal out in a small group.

The interior is inviting and compliments the simplicity of the menu, but also reiterates the power it's packing. You can sit and watch Congress Street pass you by from the front window, or settle into a black leather booth closer to the kitchen. Candles line every table, chandeliers hang from the ceiling and the dress code remains casual. Diners ranged from teenage to seniors.

The amount of "healthy" at the Green Elephant is powerful in



STAFF PHOTOS BY JENNA HOWARD

The new Green Elephant Vegetarian Bistro on Congress Street should be your next stop. The Bistro offers a wide-variety of options for both lunch and dinner, affordably priced.

itself. I'll be back for lunch. Those of you living in Portland Hall, you should join.

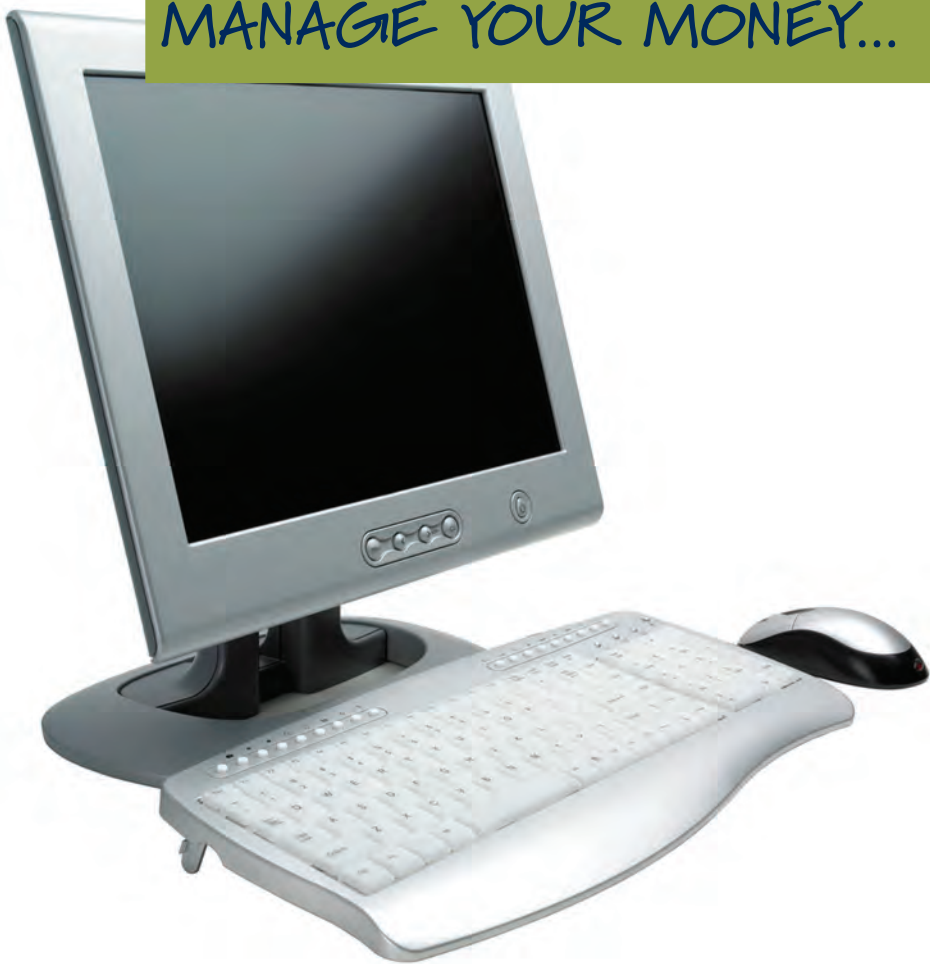
Lunch is served weekdays from 11-2:30, Saturday's 12-2:30. Dinner hours are 5-9:30. Sunday Closed.

Green Elephant Vegetarian Bistro is located at 608 Congress Street, a couple of blocks from Portland Hall, between the Portland Museum of Art and Coffee By Design.





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PHOTO COURTESY OF KIRSTIN KURZ

Kristin Kurz keeps performances afloat. As stage manager, she's worked on six full productions at USM.

If all the world's a stage, who's in charge?

Behind the scenes, Kurz puts on a show

JACK FOSSETT

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

People attend theatre performances around the world everyday, whether out of sheer enjoyment or to act pretentious, these shows require a dedicated cast and crew to suspend our disbelief and move our emotions. But how many theatre-goers really know those behind the scenes? How many understand what it is that the crew-members do besides those we see on stage? The director tells the actors where to stand and how to feel, but who runs the show for everyone else?

A stage manager, that's who.

USM is fortunate to have a promising theatre student focusing in stage management, who understands the ins and outs of this difficult position. Kristin Kurz, a senior in the theatre department, has already gained recognition around New England for her excellent work as the glue that holds the show together, winning a national award for her work as stage manager. She was given the National Stage Management Award from the American College Theater Festival in January 2007 in Washington D.C., an annual competition in which theater students around the country compete to see who is the crème of the crop.

"I like to be challenged with what I do," Kurz said. "Each day of being a stage manager brings something different. It's a very dynamic sort of job... I mean it could be boring, but I love watching the actors really come into their own."

Kurz has watched many actors do just that. At USM alone, she has managed six full productions.

What sets Kurz apart in stage management is her approach: take the bull by its horns.

"Being a stage manager really is about creating a respectful environment," she said.

"Professional directors are removed from the personal lives of the actors, so I take

"Professional directors are removed from the personal lives of the actors, so I take interest in what they do and help them feel more comfortable. I mean, they act in front of me everyday, so it's helpful to know what's going on with them and be able to read their moods."

— Kristin Kurz

interest in what they do and help them feel more comfortable. I mean, they act in front of me everyday, so it's helpful to know what's going on with them and be able to read their moods. The better stage managers can really relate to and embrace these different personalities, so they can communicate better."

Kurz began her theatre career when she was just a little girl growing up in New Jersey, acting and singing in local and school performances. But she didn't think about it as an occupation until an influential teacher in high school, Colleen Hulse, told her she would make a good stage manager. When the position was described to her, Kurz instantly realized that it was a job she would love doing. She then set off to college, where she found a program at USM that would suit her endeavors.

Kurz's attitude and work ethic in the theatre is what has helped her achieve success, including her recent award. Though she is proud of her accomplishments, Kurz takes a realistic, professional mentality on her future career.

"In the theatre world, networking is everything. If you always do your best and keep at it, you'll be guaranteed work again."

USM art students make moves on campus

From ASU
PAGE 9

the Gorham Boy Scouts in hosting the first (hopefully annual) Gorham Art Fair at the old gym in Gorham on Saturday. Local artists and musicians signed up to play music and sell their wares and art in the gym.

FP: Did you say Boy Scouts?

Tatro: All this happened while the Boy Scouts got their grill on, cooking food all day and jamming out to some rocking tunes in their sweet little uniforms. Yeah!

FP: Who's involved in ASU?

Tatro: ASU is a slamtastic collection of artsy and open-minded individuals who work at fundraising and making wicked cool stuff together, in order to broaden and enrich the arts community at USM and its surrounding communities.

FP: What are people missing if they're not involved?

Tatro: We sponsor trips afar, for art. We do fun activities like pumpkin carving and movies outside, student group art shows and outings, and in general have a lot of creative pow-wows, discus-

sions, and fist fights in the name of art. We're passionate and a little crazy, but we mean well and work hard.

FP: What other events will you put on this year?

Tatro: As mentioned, we host artsy-movie night. The next one will include popcorn, hot cider, and John Waters' films. This goes on in the Burnham Lounge (in Robie Andrews) on the 28th of November.

We work really hard making and selling our hand-made cards and t-shirts and ceramics so we can send students to annual print-

making, sculpture, and ceramics conferences in states far away.

FP: I hear you put up a show or two.

Tatro: We also organize the annual juried student art show, and the end of year final show "Out to Dry," which is open to all students and includes fun prizes (like a date with hyper-intellectual art professors...haha).

FP: Any delightful tidbits you'd like to share about ASU?

Tatro: We're very thematic. It is a possibility that meetings end up proclaimed 'Ugly Sweater

Night', 'Dance Like You Mean It' (trading of new/classic dance moves). In the past they have included 'Prince's Purple Rain on Repeat Night,' Rastafarian Rants, and Kelly Clarkson vs. Whitney Houston: who's gestures are the most authentic? Other such debates ensue, various competitions, ruses. We often have one person read out loud from cheesy novels and/or art magazines while we hold our print marathons making posters or cards, which often last into the wee hours. The list goes on. In other words, we have a lot of fun.

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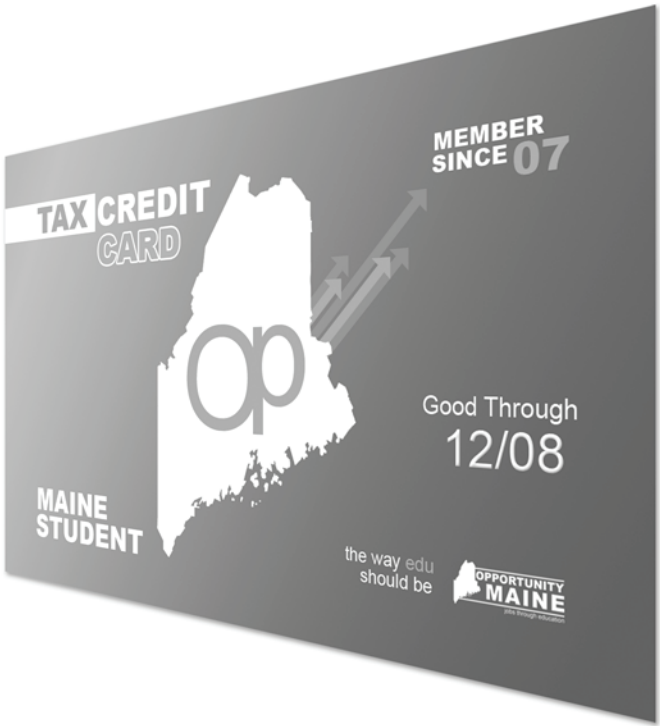
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Changing the face of baseball

MIKE TARDIFF
COLUMNIST

He helped bring peace to Northern Ireland, was appointed to investigate violence between Israel and Palestine and was pivotal in the Iran-contra meetings. As for his latest project, former Maine Senator George Mitchell was asked to quell the steroid problem in Major League Baseball.

Shortly after the World Series ends, Mitchell's report, already labeled a "bombshell," will be released. Rumor has it that many players, some unexpected, will be implicated.

Amidst controversy over conflicts of interest (Mitchell is a director for the Boston Red Sox and could be partial to them) facing claims that the report is merely a publicity stunt and without the power to subpoena suspected players, the former Disney CEO has been fighting uphill battles.

But this has not deterred Mitchell or his purpose.

Mitchell is a seasoned veteran of scrutiny: while attempting to bring peace to Northern Ireland, he faced similar skepticism and, had he succumbed to it, may never have made progress or won the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the country's highest civilian honor.

Because of his history working in stressful environments and ability to be productive, MLB Commissioner Bud Selig selected him to head the investigation.

With an extensive list of triumphs behind him, Mitchell's Maine roots should be noted.

Growing up the son of a janitor and immigrant textile factory

worker, Mitchell is a no-nonsense kind of guy, which he demonstrated in his admonishment of Oliver North at the Iran-contra meetings when he said "God does not take sides in politics."

He's a product of Maine politicians who never blinked in the face of adversity. People like Margaret Chase-Smith, who stemmed the tides of McCarthyism, and Edmund Muskie, who led the modern environmental movement, have paved the way for Mitchell and his maverick political style.

Equipped with independent-minded, commonsensical politics, Mitchell is in search of what is just, rather than what is "best" for baseball, and is not afraid to shoot holes in the egos of baseball legends.

His report will transcend baseball and sports. It will be about justice, and what is right. It will be about the role our country's leaders should play and how.

Amateur athletes around the country are abusing steroids, cheating is slowly becoming acceptable and gamesmanship is starting to look like a thing of the past.

Post-Mitchell, American baseball will never be the same. Asterisks and tainted records, if they are not already common-place, will come to define this era in baseball. The records set by Barry Bonds and others will become irrelevant.

When baseball players shrink in stature and homerun numbers plummet, keep in mind that classic Maine ideology has something to do with it.

Though small compared to the strides he made in Northern Ireland, Mitchell's effect on baseball will be profound.

Recreating USM women's tennis

Hans Römer revives respect and a love of the game

SARAH TRENT
SPORTS EDITOR

In 2000 and 2002, USM's women's tennis team won the Little East Conference championship title. In 2003 they took a close but disappointing second to Rhode Island College. It was the peak of the women's tennis teams glory; full of titles, honors and awards, and led by ten-year veteran coach Wayne St. Peter.

But in general, the players had an awful experience. Lori Royer, a freshman in 2003 and business graduate as of last May, tries to remember the program she never went back to. "We had a very talented team," she said, "with powerhouse Chelsea Gray (then sophomore, Madison) and Katie Welch (then sophomore, Calais). But the team was very disjointed, there wasn't a passion. Chelsea was such a strong player, she had tennis engrained in her since she was young. Everyone in the league knew who she was, but she didn't love it."

Lori describes practices as frequented by players swearing, throwing rackets and having no patience. "There was just a huge clash in personalities," she said.

Even worse than that, she said she could have no respect for her coach.

"It was pretty scandalous," she said. "I don't really want to talk much about it, but coach did illegal maneuvers for the championships. He stacked matches, and everybody knew it. We kicked ass, but we never got respect."



PHOTO COURTESY OF HANS RÖMER

The tennis players at a team dinner, joined by coach Hans Römer and Tank the dog.

Feeling that no one in the league had any respect for Coach St. Peter, Lori had no desire to return to the team.

"I didn't go back—a lot of us didn't go back. The plan was that none of us would return, we wanted to boycott it because of the coach. And he wasn't an asshole, he wasn't mean, he just—I don't know. When I play a game, I play it fair, you know?"

After 2003, the team began its downward spiral. St. Peter left after the following season, and the Huskies have since seen four coaches in four years. This season, which came to a close last weekend, brought them to the bottom of the conference. They lost every single competition, and it was rare for a player or doubles pair to win a match.

But defying expectations, the team feels they had an amazing season—they valued their fellow players, their new coach, Hans Römer, and their dynamic as a team much more than titles, honors, wins and awards. They had fun as a team, and are happy with that alone.

"We actually had a great season," said Römer. "Scores don't always reflect what actually happened. The foundation for any success is atmosphere. That seed has been planted. After coaching high school, college, USTA teams and club teams in Europe this was by far my funnest season."

Eating well before every game rather than sticking to the fast food on the road, and holding team dinners throughout the season, Römer helped to create an atmosphere of camaraderie and friendship, healthier for a team than winning every match.

"Practices were great and the girls expressed that they had learned a lot this season," he con-

tinued. "Improvement was very noticeable, even though that doesn't always reflect in scores. The success of any college team is continuity in the program. That starts with the coach creating a certain culture that will result in attracting players to take part."

Starting the season with only two returning players and a new coach came with its difficulties and the team was unable to maintain a consistent number of players in September.

"There were nine players at the beginning, so we had hopes for a full team, but some of them just weren't serious," senior captain Sara Willey (Windham) said.

The team finally settled out at six players, the bare minimum to bring to the courts. When players had to miss a competition, which is not unexpected in intercollegiate athletics, the Huskies were forced to forfeit matches.

"There were definitely girls who didn't come back because of the coach situation," says sophomore Chelsea Cutler (Dayville, CT), citing the turnover in coaches over the past few years.

Unlike any other team she has played on, Willey said "nobody ever minded going to practice!"

To prove her point, she pointed out that practices were scheduled from 7-9 a.m. "To get your butt out of bed for 7 a.m. practice every day and still have fun, practice must have been good."

Hans Römer, it seems, is finally bringing back to the team the energy it needs to rebuild its program.

The winning streak led by the questionable St. Peter only a few years ago sent USM women's tennis catapulting toward the lowest ranks in the conference, but with the help of a well-knit team Römer is creating the culture and atmosphere of fun and respect that is changing the shape of the program.

"It sounds like this team is pure," said Lori, happy to hear of the team's successes despite its losses, "and for a love of the sport," which her team never had.

Summarizing her experience of this year's tennis program, Willey said "We all became good friends, and just had a good chemistry on the team. I mean, we lost a lot, but I still feel really good about it."

Husky Scoreboard

Field Hockey

10/20 – USM 2,
Bridgewater 1
10/23 – Bowdoin 9, USM 0

Men's Soccer

10/20 – USM 2,
Western Connecticut 0
10/23 – USM 2, Salem 1

Women's Tennis

10/20-21 – LEC
Championship, 8th place
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Women's Soccer

10/20 – Western
Connecticut 4, USM 0
10/23 – Bowdoin 6, USM 0

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STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

Mackworth Island, on the border of Portland and Falmouth, offers a beautiful trail and a handful of oddities including a pet cemetery and fairy village.

Mackworth Island is worth the trip

SARAH TRENT

SPORTS EDITOR

Looking out across Casco Bay from my grassy seat below the Eastern Prom, I can think only that I love, *love*, where I live. With Fort Gorges toward the right, Peak's Island farther out, and a father and son playing Frisbee with their dog in the leaf-covered grass below me, there is no question in my mind. I love it.

Straight across the water, the leaves are starting to turn on Mackworth Island, framing the Baxter School for the Deaf in oranges and reds. Tracing my eyes across its shoreline, my brain latches on to a detail I had nearly forgotten about: on the tip of the island farthest away from the narrow causeway toward mainland Falmouth, is a small stone wharf sticking out into the bay. You'd never notice it. I had never noticed it.

Mackworth Island, on the border between Portland and Falmouth, is the former summer home of Percival Baxter, Maine governor from 1921-25. The first recorded owner of the island was Sir Ferdinando Gorges, the 1622 founder of the Province of Maine and North American entrepreneur who had never actually visited the New World. From him, the land was passed on to his Casco Bay Deputy, Arthur Mackworth, in 1631.

Baxter deeded his island home to the state in 1953, alongside a \$625,000 donation to create the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf. More recently, it has become an established part of the Portland area trail system, with a nearly 1.5 mile loop circling the island. The path has been discovered by high school cross country teams and morning dog-walkers, as well as people like myself, searching for a moment of calmness amidst an insanelly busy life.

Just five minutes north of the largest city in Maine, the trail cuts through the woods, offering intervals of ocean views across to Portland, Peaks, and Cousins



STAFF PHOTO BY SARAH TRENT

Student Brandon McKenney fixes up one of the more complex fairy houses. Most are teepee structures made of twigs.

Island. The place is mysterious and silent, owing more to a shared respect for the island than the school it is famous for.

Along the path you'll find Baxter's pet cemetery, including

gravestones for a horse and his 19 Irish setters. Farther along the path is a "fairy village," where all are welcome to build tiny houses—of only natural materials—so that the fairies might keep coming back. Full of dwellings as diverse as tiny tepees, large log-cabin-style squares and elaborate miniature buildings with fenced-in yards, the small clearing is at once amusing and strangely welcoming.

But my favorite place is the wharf that extends off its southern tip. Walking to its end, I can't help but have the same silly urge best dramatized by Mr. DiCaprio on the bow of his Titanic. Surrounded by Casco Bay, with the wind brushing whips of hair across one cheek, I can look back toward Portland's east end, toward the wide green hill sloping down toward the water; toward the trees whose tops have left orange skirts on the grass; and toward a couple, tiny and far away, huddled close on a bench. And I, king of the world, can think only that I love, love, where I live.

Sailing team growing, learning

From SAILING
PAGE 20

years, the team has a strong history of doing well. They've ranked several times in New England, and hold a handful of championship titles in what is considered the toughest collegiate division in the country. Dave Hughes, a USM alum from the mid-1990s who sailed during the high-point of the program, took second place with his crew in the Olympic trials last month. They were the favorite to win and though they lost, remain alternates for the China games.

With USM's coach running back and forth between Maine and California for the first half of their season, this year's program has struggled to keep up, often practicing with the high school teams. But one of the larger reasons for their long-term struggle with low numbers, according to Cumming, is just the nature of USM.

"There is always just a lot of turnover. We rarely see sailors

come back all four years," he said.

Between changing course schedules and the life commitments that a majority of USM students face, it is difficult to maintain a consistent team. So rather than pursuing the championship titles that Cumming's own team chased after in the 1990s, current USM sailors are focused on growing, learning and sharing their love, often newfound, with fellow students.

The team has historically run a "learn-to-sail" program during the fall season, during which anyone is welcome to learn the ropes of sailing. From there, sailors can choose to race with the team or not. The spring season is open to everyone, but because of the low temperatures, only sees returning sailors.

Though the fall season is almost over, those interested in the program should contact captain Dan Jussaume at daniel.jussaume@maine.edu or coach Jeff Cumming at jeffcumming@sailmaine.org.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

USM's sailing program is now 12 years old, and has gone up and down from their early slew of championship titles to their current state of relative inexperience. No matter how well they seem to be doing, the sailing team is never short of fun. Here they sail in last weekend's Wellahan Cup, hosted by SailMaine, on Casco Bay.



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Twins lead men’s cross country, together

From **WHEELER**
PAGE 19

Week on four occasions and Nick’s performances, often just seconds behind his brother’s, have been equally important to the Husky’s continued success in the 2007 season. Nick has been the second USM finisher in all of their meets this year except for the Alumni meet, where the two finished with the same time.

Their remarkable success can be attributed to their relationship with each other and their collective work ethic.

“We like the competition and the hard work” said Curtis. But, as is their nature, this is an understatement.

The twins, who hail from Derby, VT, woke up every morning this summer at 3:30 a.m. to be sure they got their necessary running in before going to work at a local golf course. The pair would then walk five to ten miles hand-mowing greens at work before going on yet another run in the afternoon.

As is the team protocol, the Wheelers run approximately 75 miles a week and have done so since joining the team their freshman year. This is a drastic change from the 30 or so miles they ran weekly while at North Country Union High School, but the Wheeler’s have seemed to welcome that change.

“I wish I had seven of them. I asked their mom to give me five more of them and she said if she could get five more just like them she would.”
– Coach Scott Hutchinson

“It has made us better runners,” said Curtis, explaining that it lowered each of their times by about a minute and a half.

But at least some of this hard work is the result of typical sibling competitiveness. “It helps to have someone to run with. Like on hot summer days when one of us doesn’t really want to get out there, we definitely push each other,” said Nick.

Though this will likely mark the last year the brothers live together and collectively evoke fear from cross country and track coaches across New England, they still have one final goal at hand.

“Division III’s is where it matters,” they said together.

And that simple statement embodies much of what the twins stand for. Rather than become complacent and stationary, the twins look ahead to what’s next. Until the season ends, it’s their next race.

Men run toward Division III championships

A strong bond between teammates means a strong force on the ground

MIKE TARDIFF
STAFF WRITER

Following their second-place finish at the Maine State Championships, the USM Men’s Cross Country team is looking to carry some momentum into their two most important events of the season.

Led by senior captains and twins Curtis and Nick Wheeler (Derby, VT), the team has had an incredible season including a pair of meet victories at Gordon College and the University of New England, and a second-place showing at UMass Dartmouth. In addition, there was that 20th place finish at the New England Intercollegiate Amateur Athletes Association (NEIcAAA) championships in early October, which included Division I programs.

But the team is not yet satisfied with their accomplishments. Second-year coach Scott Hutchinson and his Huskies have their eyes set on the Little East Alliance and New England D-III Championships.

“We’ve got to tighten up our pack,” said Hutchinson, “Our top three can run with anyone, but we need seven guys to finish strong if we want to win.”

Case in point, at the Maine State Championships, Curtis Wheeler claimed first-place, his

brother Nick finished fourth and senior Chris Hopkins (Worcester, MA) cracked the top-ten at seventh place. However, the Huskies lost to Bowdoin, whose top three finishers were 2nd, 3rd and 6th. Bowdoin finished only 13 points ahead of USM, while Bates, at third place, was 41 points behind the leader.

The Huskies will need strong performances from senior tri-captains Forrest Tobie (Mt. Vernon), junior Nick Downing (Winthrop), sophomore Tyler Jasud (Rumford) and freshman Marc Halverson (Falmouth), who all have the capacity for strong finishes to complement Hopkins and the Wheelers.

The team will look to capitalize on its hard work, team unity and senior leadership to carry them to a successful conclusion to their season.

“They’ve done everything they had to do over the summer and that’s why we’ve been successful so far,” said Hutchinson.

Arriving two weeks before most students, the team had plenty of time to get to know and run with one another. This, and having 10 returners on a team of 22, allowed the men an opportunity to come together and helped them become a strong, cohesive team.

“We have dinner together every single night and we hang out quite a bit,” said Nick Wheeler. “It defi-

nately helps. It makes us push each other.”

With this consistency from the Wheeler brothers and the strong performances recorded by Hopkins, the team has a strong base to score from.

The Huskies, who were ranked 24th in the most recent NEIcAAA poll, will need to outrun league rivals Keene State, who are ranked 20th, if they hope to capture the LEC crown. If the past is any indication, this is certainly possible: the Huskies finished two places above Keene at the NEIcAAA’s on Oct. 6.

But this isn’t enough to comfort Nick Wheeler: “We’ve beat them this year, but that doesn’t mean anything. We have got to be good on that day or we can’t win.”

With this attitude as the team mantra, instilled by both their coach and tri-captains Tobie and the Wheeler twins, the team should make a strong bid at capturing the ECAC Division III Championship and the New England Regional championships Nov. 3 at Williams College and Nov. 10 in New London, Connecticut. From there, they would move on to the National Division III championship at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. To follow the Husky’s championship quest, turn to the USM athletics website, or pick up November issues of The Free Press.

UPCOMING GAMES

Opponents names written in capital letters means the game will be played at home

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HUSKY HERO

Interview by Sarah Trent

Alison Bradley

Year: **Junior**
Sport: **Women’s Soccer**
Position: **Goalie**
Major: **Exercise Physiology**
Hometown: **Auckland, New Zealand**

Alison Bradley came from the opposite side of the planet to play soccer for USM. A backup goalie for two seasons, she was given the chance to step up and strut her red-headed stuff after starting goalie Mindy Morneault (junior, Winterville) got hurt. For her tenacity, her attitude, her laugh and her very cool Kiwi accent, she is this week’s hero.

FP: So, my kiwi friend, how on earth did you end up at USM?

Alison: I always wanted to study and play soccer in



PHOTO BY JASON JOHNS

America, and I had a friend back home who graduated from USM. When I was applying places she told me about USM and it sounded nice, so I ended up here.

FP: What’s are the differences in soccer between New Zealand and the US?

Alison: In New Zealand, we don’t play for (university), but for clubs—I’d play with women in their forties and with girls who were 13, 14. Anyone can join a club and play at any level. And it’s a more social atmosphere, we

go out for drinks with the other team after a game, or they might give us lunch.

FP: Which version of soccer do you prefer?

Alison: I prefer both in different aspects. Here, we have practice or games every day, it’s more intense. But I love the social atmosphere of New Zealand. Back when I was at (the university) the club would only practice twice a week.

FP: How was it stepping up when Mindy got hurt?

Alison: I was nervous. It sucks she was injured, but it was a great opportunity. I just didn’t want to screw up for the team.

FP: Is there anything you do before games, things you do to get ready to be a crazy goalie?

Alison: I go for a run in the morning, it settles me down and gets me ready. Apart from that, I just turn up!

Sailing program lacks numbers, not enthusiasm

Student sailors hit the water in program's 12th year

STAFF PHOTOS BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

SARAH TRENT
SPORTS EDITOR

The weather was clear, a front of blue sky pushing away the morning clouds in a perfect line stretching from horizon to horizon. From our boat in the middle of Casco Bay, a line of sails approached. Back on the dock, pairs of students from Tufts, McGill and Bates heaved mainsails up USM's fleet of 14-foot boats.

Other paired sailors came from USM, Vermont College, Bowdoin, Mass. Maritime and the Coast Guard. They sailed in circles, practicing "tacks" and "jibes" and waiting for the race to begin. A team wearing Providence College life-jackets slid by us in the water.

"What's the course?" they called out. The man behind me yelled back, his voice cutting through the wind, "Port triangle, once around!"

Waving thanks, they scanned the waves for the orange buoys marking the corners of the course, and tacked around another boat.

The man behind me stood up and held a whistle to his mouth, sending out three long blows.

Three minutes later, after a progression of whistles marking minutes and half-minutes, 12 boats cut across the starting line, vying for good wind and a strategic course, factoring in winds, tides, currents and angles as they chose their path toward the first orange mark.

USM skipper Dan Jussaume (junior) and his crewmate,

Tyler Arsenault (junior), cut left, away from the pack. The Wellahan Trophy, USM's second home regatta of the year, was under way.

Though it seems most students don't realize it, USM does, in fact, have a sailing team. Varsity-funded but run like a club team, according to fifth-season sailor and captain Dan Jussaume, it doesn't have the strict requirements of the NCAA and is run through the local non-profit SailMaine, which also oversees several local high school programs, including Cheverus and Cape Elizabeth. SailMaine has also sponsored and coached sailing teams making Olympic campaigns.

"It's the coolest school sport ever!" said senior Sri Dyhana as she pulls on her fleece coveralls. She, like most of the university, had no idea that Southern Maine had a sailing team until the start of this semester. "I just decided I wanted to learn to sail," she said. "I helped race big boats in California over the summer, and came back looking for a place around here." She found what she was looking for in September, after running into Dan. "It was meant to be," he said, laughing.

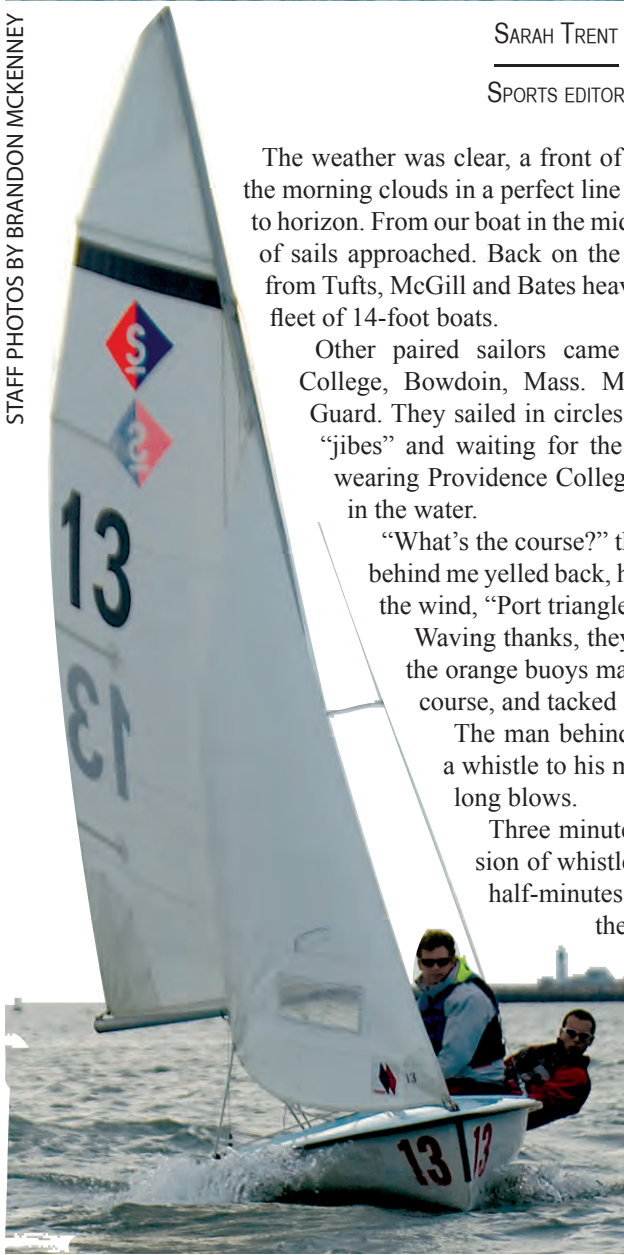
Despite having a small, young and relatively inexperienced team, everyone involved shares Dan and Sri's enthusiasm.

"We almost went to MIT without USM's permission because we wanted to sail so bad," says Dan, "I just called MIT and told them we were coming."

Matt Dodge, a new sailor and junior at USM, chimes in, citing one of the major strengths of the program: "We have such a nice facility, and nice equipment. Sailing is an expensive sport to start up. It's great that USM just happened to fall in with SailMaine."

Jeff Cumming, a USM graduate (English) and alumnus of the sailing program, now runs SailMaine, which is located on the eastern end of the waterfront, near Portland Yacht Services and the Narrow Rail Museum. The USM sailing team, which began in 1995 and sails against the best teams in New England, has always been a part of SailMaine's program. Though USM has struggled to compete over the past few

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Playing Running TOGETHER Learning Living

Curtis and Nick Wheeler lead the Huskies cross country team as only twins can

MIKE TARDIFF
STAFF WRITER

They live together, run together and are even in the same major, environmental science. Now the Wheeler twins, seniors Curtis and Nick, are looking to lead their team to the Little East and New England Division III Cross Country championships, together.

The brothers, who are routinely the first two Huskies to cross the finish line at any event, are looking to cap their impressive senior campaigns with strong finishes in the two most important meets of the year.

Though soft spoken and remarkably humble about their accomplishments, Curtis and Nick are the consummate leaders.

"I wish I had seven of them," Coach Scott Hutchinson said of the pair. "I asked their mom to give me five more of them and she said if she could get five more just like them she would."

So far this year, the twins have done nothing short of leading the Huskies to their second straight impressive season—each of them playing their own pivotal role.

Curtis has been named Little East Conference Runner of the

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Nick and Curtis Wheeler crossed the finish line at their alumni meet—together. Throughout their senior season the twins have consistently been USM's first and second place runners, Curtis taking the lead and Nick following only seconds behind.

STAFF PHOTO BY JASON JOHNS

HUSKY HIGHLIGHTS

Field Hockey

Caitlin Albert, Alyssa Kraus put USM past Bridgewater

10/20 – Junior Alyssa Krause (Standish) notched her eighth goal of the season last Saturday during a scramble in front of her opponent's net, scoring the game-winning point that pushed the Huskies past Bridgewater State in a conference game last Saturday. The goal complimented her earlier assist to Caitlin Albert, who scored just ten minutes into the game. Despite the win, USM still remains number two in the conference defending LEC champs, Keene State. The Huskies play Fitchburg on Oct. 27 before moving into the conference quarterfinals, which should be at home this Tuesday afternoon. The time and opponent has not yet been determined.

Men's Soccer

Overtime win versus Salem State

10/23 – Junior Colin Reilly (Evergreen, CO), bumped USM past Salem for a 2-1 overtime win on a goal scored just 1:25 minutes into the first sudden-death overtime period. Putting his foot on a free kick from sophomore Peter McHugh, the game-winning goal was his first of the season. The first goal came unassisted from junior captain Greg Cox (Brookline, MA) toward the end of the first half. The Vikings answered just two minutes after halftime. Despite dominating the game in terms of shots, Salem couldn't put anything past USM's sophomore keeper Steve May (Brunswick), who was making his debut appearance in goal this season. Their fourth consecutive win in a 10-6-1 season puts the Huskies in a good position to finish regular play at the top of the conference.

Women's Basketball

Season begins with 9th place Division III ranking

10/22 – The Huskies, who will tip off their game schedule Nov. 17, were ranked the number nine Division III team in the country in a preseason top-25 poll in *Women's DIII News*. Missing key component Ashley Marble (who graduated last spring) but maintaining a strong, well-rounded team, the Huskies look to improve upon their 27-3 record from last season. The Division III 'Sweet Sixteen' tournament marked the end of the '06-'07 season, but USM looks to continue its most successful program this year. They boast 18 Little East conference titles—including 11 straight beginning in 1997—21 NCAA tournament appearance—including 17 times advancing to the 'Sweet Sixteen' on four occasions—the "Elite Eight" ten times, and the 'Final Four' in 1988, '98, 2000, '05, and '06. Three times they finished as the national runner-up.

– Compiled by Sarah Trent