And Pattenaude says... Botman for USM president

Selma Botman will be recommended as the next president of USM at the Board of Trustees meeting on Monday. The announcement came last week from the office of system Chancellor Richard Pattenaude.

Though the BOT must approve the recommendation, it is unlikely that they will go against Pattenaude’s decision, which came after hearing a report from the Presidential Search Committee in February that detailed results from surveys filled out by students, staff and faculty across all three campuses.

In a press release last Wednesday, Pattenaude explained his choice, saying that “Dr. Botman is an excellent fit for USM. She possesses exceptional academic and leadership skills...as well as a deep commitment to students and their success.”

Botman, 57, is currently the executive vice chancellor and university provost at the City University of New York, which serves 230,000 students and 6,300 faculty members.

During her campus visit, those who met her seemed unanimous in their feeling that Botman had student interests at the top of her agenda. One of the first things she said in a meeting in Gorham that was open to the public was that it’s her goal to “understand the challenges and successes of students and how we can help them achieve their goals and graduate.”

She went on to say that at CUNY, she’s “focusing on attention on students—and that attention is reaping results.”

Paul Dexter, the director of the office of early student success, said after hearing the announcement that he was excited by her investment in student success. “I’m looking forward to talking to her about her successes (at CUNY) and how we’ve begun down that path. She’s got the experience to keep us going in the right direction.”

See PREZ page 17

Suspicous man serenades the library, gets banned from campus

Erik Tillotson was removed and banned from the Portland campus after acting suspiciously Friday.

A campus safety alert arrived in USM e-mail inboxes on Friday afternoon, alerting the community about a man who had been found acting suspiciously on the Portland campus.

He has a history of frequenting college campuses, and has been reported to police at Bowdoin College and Portland as well as in Portland’s Old Port.

In the campus safety e-mail, Erik Tillotson was described as showing “a pattern of suspicious behavior towards women.” This information had been forwarded to USM Police by the Bowdoin College and Portland Police Departments.

Tillotson was first seen by students late Friday morning in the Glickman Library, wandering the building with a guitar. A few hours later, students saw him in the Woodbury Campus Center as USM Police questioned him and searched his backpack.

While traipsing the library, Tillotson wandered into room 423 to find a meeting of The Free Press in session. Dressed in a purple winter hat with a guitar case and a guitar slung over his shoulder, he attempted to serenade The Free Press staff and board of advisors.

“It is this the group I am supposed to entertain?” he asked, as those gathered assumed the man must have been lost.

One staff member recalled thinking the man might be there as a “singing telegram” of sorts, as he snuck up behind media studies professor Matt Killmeier, who was speaking, with his back to the door, when Tillotson came into the room.

See SAFETY page 17

Another Doogie Howser

17-year-old Alex Peppe is student, tutor, former lab instructor

Dressed in jeans, a white T-shirt and a dark sweater, carrying a briefcase, face obscured by a beard, Alex Peppe resembles a normal neo-hippie 20-something...but Peppe is not anywhere near normal. And he is not a grad student.

He was once a lab instructor, so his parents have footed the tuition bill themselves. Including all the early tutor costs, “it’s a lot of money,” Mrs. Peppe says, “but it’s been absolutely worth it.”

Peppe is 17. He started taking computer science (COS) classes when he was four, and his education was extremely varied. He learned everything from foreign languages to guitar and banjo; literature, fencing, martial arts and skiing.

As a professional writer, his mother oversaw his literature and English education, but as he reached the end of her knowledge in other subjects, the family hired tutors.

It was around the age of nine that Peppe became intrigued with computers, and by the time he hit 11, the high school teacher they hired had taught Peppe all he could and recommended that he take classes at SMCC or USM.

Peppe was too young to start guitar lessons, so his parents have footed the tuition bill themselves. Including all the early tutor costs, “it’s a lot of money,” Mrs. Peppe says, “but it’s been absolutely worth it.”

Home schooling and tutoring can lead to social awkwardness, but this wasn’t the case for Peppe.

He was instrumental in restarting the Computing Club and holds weekly events in the computer science lab. He is currently a tutor for computer science (COS) classes and once was a lab instructor.

When Charles Welty, COS chair and Peppe’s mentor, was looking to hire a lab instructor, Peppe was the obvious choice because of his talent and dedication—he once turned in exceptional work that had taken hours for an extra-credit assignment worth less than one percent of the total grade. Welty still has the project.

Welty says it is a shame that after just one semester, Peppe was

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It’s a Nomination Sensation that’s Sweeping the Husky Nation!

Nomination forms are due March 12th by 4:30pm.

Bring them to the Student Involvement Center in Woodbury Campus Center or in Brooks Student Center

Forms can be found at these sites or online at www.usm.maine.edu/studentlife/vote08

Elections are the week of March 17-20th

For more information visit www.usm.maine.edu/studentlife/vote08 or e-mail Sam Walton at samuel.walton@maine.edu
It’s August in the Ein Beil Ilma refugee camp in Israel’s West Bank. Argentina is playing Nigeria in the World Cup. “Listen man,” says an Israeli soldier to his lieutenant, an Argentinian fan “here and there, this house and that house, they’re all the same, but here they have a TV, man.”

They raid the house, shut the occupants—a Palestinian family—into a side room, and watch the game.

“You can be a good guy who can find himself doing things that bad guys do,” says Oded Na’am, of his three years of service in the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF).

The incident in August, though not his own, is commonplace. Na’am explains that things like this are normal—it’s so easy to become “numb to such cruelty and behavior.” The IDF, he says, is guilty of a wide range of abuses, from raiding civilian homes to allowing Jewish settlers to poison Palestinian wells.

Part of an organization called “Breaking the Silence,” Na’am is one of a group of former Israeli soldiers who are speaking out against what they feel are the injustices done by the IDF in the name of Israel.

They have toured throughout Israel, Europe, and are now in the United States.

Last week, Na’am came to USM to give two slide-lectures based on a photography exhibit, also titled “Breaking the Silence,” that is currently showing at Harvard.

The exhibit and presentations are meant to shed some light on the IDF’s involvement in the Jewish settlements on Palestinian land, and their systematic mistreatment of Palestinians.

Na’am is anxious to tell his experiences to a broad audience—and is the first to point out that he took part in the very injustices he is now speaking out against.

As an Israeli soldier stationed at checkpoints in Hebron—a city south of Jerusalem in the West Bank—he had complete control over Palestinians.

The Palestinians lived in so much fear that they would do whatever the soldiers told them to. Many soldiers, including Na’am, eventually became addicted to the power.

In Israel, both men and women are required to join at the age of 18, men staying for three years, women for two. This military service is part of the ethos of Israel, says Na’am, playing into the attitude that it’s crucial to defend the country from the “perceived threat” of Palestinians and terrorism.

Na’am, however, was quickly discovered another reality when he began his service in Hebron.

“When you get there, you find out that your job is to defend offenders,” he says of the Jewish settlers in Hebron.

The city is the only “mixed city” in the West Bank, divided into two areas, one under Palestinian control and the other consisting of Jewish settlements.

He explains that the Jewish settlers want to take over all of Hebron, and have a systematic approach to it.

At the slightest sign of Palestinian violence, says Na’am, the IDF can evacuate the entire affected block of Palestinians.

The Jewish settlers then send in their children to tear down one wall of a Palestinian store.

With the wall missing, the entire block of buildings is deemed unsafe, and the IDF is required to tear it all down.

Na’am wants to make it clear that the Jewish settlers living in Hebron and the West Bank are of a different mindset than the general Israeli public.

He says that where he grew up, just outside of Tel Aviv, he was never exposed to the same thinking that he came to know in Hebron.

He also says that it all went unspoken among the soldiers while on duty, and it was never talked about with families at home.

“You don’t ask your child, ‘well what cruel thing did you do this day,’” says Na’am.

He explains that the whole occupation and settlement issue is something that is “talked about, but not really talked about.”

When the IDF is pressed on some of the injustices and treatments of Palestinians, they deny that it happens.

Hence the creation of “Breaking the Silence.”

At his first presentation at USM, given to the history and political science classes of Eileen Eagan and Lynn Kuzma, Na’am was pressed by several audience members about the Israeli-Palestinian issue as a whole.

One woman commented that Palestinians have had 40 years to resolve the current conflicts and have been given many chances to find solutions.

While remaining calm and welcoming to dissenting opinion, Na’am made it clear that this is not what Breaking the Silence is about. The group does not exist to offer solutions or political opinions, but to give a voice to the soldiers.

The group is only trying to do what it says, break the silence about what is being done in Israel’s name.

When a man in the audience questioned the truth of his accounts, Na’am said that more than 500 soldiers have given similar testimonies about their experiences, so there is no denying the truth.

“I have no problem with people who disagree with me. I have a problem with people who try to cover up reality,” says Na’am.

“Reality should be acknowledged for what it is.”

He feels that no political discussion can ignore the soldiers’ point—that the reality of what is happening must be acknowledged first.

It is important, Na’am says, to expose the reality that soldiers are victims as well as victimizers.

His group seeks to undermine the dichotomy of the “good vs. evil” argument against Palestinians in Israeli society.

“Breaking the Silence” was first exhibited in Israel in 2004. The American tour has included Philadelphia and Boston, where it is currently on display at Harvard’s Hillel Center.

Local sponsors include the USM History and Political Science Departments and the Maine Chapter of Veterans for Peace. For more information, see http://www.shovrimshtika.org/index_e.asp.
SIFE students aim to impact USM, community

Matt Dodge
News Editor

Standing in front of the trophy case in the School of Business office, you might think we have a dynasty on our hands. Trophies fill the display case, each proclaiming the accomplishments of SIFE. It’s impressive, but it raises a question. What is SIFE?

The Students in Free Enterprise, or SIFE, is one of the largest student non-profit organizations in the world, with over 1600 participating colleges in the U.S. and 40 countries worldwide. Texas attorney Robert T. “Sonny” Davis founded the international organization in 1975.

USM has had a SIFE team for the past four years. The team coordinates local events for business and high school students and competes in regional and national competitions that involve solving business, marketing, and personal finance-related problems as a group and presenting their solutions to a board of judges.

Citing core goals of increasing financial and economic education within the university and community, SIFE is based on five core pursuits aimed at “practicing and teaching the principals of free enterprise.”

USM SIFE president, senior Buddy Lalemand, insists that the group is “absolutely essential for any business major.”

“The time-management skills and networking opportunities that SIFE provides are a valuable resource for students interested in business,” said Lalemand.

With groups in 42 percent of colleges nationwide, SIFE’s core pursuits aim to educate students and their communities on market economics, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, business ethics, and personal success skills.

SIFE groups practice these principles by designing programs for students and the local community to boost their understanding of free enterprise.

Last week the group hosted several projects at USM as part of National Entrepreneurship Week in Maine. The projects included a market simulation for high-school students enrolled in Junior Achievement, and a seminar on insurance fraud.

In January Lalemand, fellow seniors Sara Willey, Kelly O’Connell and junior Jason De Campos competed in the annual “Duel on the Heights,” a personal finance competition at Boston College. The team put on by the University of Arizona’s SIFE team.

They finished in second place behind Syracuse, and took home a prize of $1,500.

In its first year at USM, SIFE was awarded the title of “outstanding new student organization” in the annual Student Involvement Awards.

In addition to competitions and helping local high schoolers, the team spends all year developing projects to benefit the community. Such projects are submitted for review at regional SIFE competitions each year, where groups can win awards for projects in each of the five core pursuits.

This year, SIFE is running a program through the Long Creek Youth Development Center, a youth correctional facility in South Portland.

The group provides mentoring and tutoring for juvenile offenders, focusing primarily on personal success skills. By providing education on credit cards, loans, credit scores, and job interview skills, SIFE hopes to make integration into society easier on the youths.

Dr. John Voyer, SIFE’s faculty advisor, insists that SIFE is not just for business and accounting majors. “We let a group of students join who just for resume purposes, but some people find that they really get sucked into it, and become committed.”

The group has between 15 and 20 active members at USM, and cites its extensive alumni network as a valuable networking tool for business professionals—USM students have gotten jobs right out of school through connections via SIFE.

The best way to get a job is through contacts,” said Voyer. “There are a lot of companies that are looking specifically for employees with a SIFE background.”

As an international organization, there are more than 11,000 alumni worldwide. Locally, Voyer says the group is getting some real name recognition.

“SIFE has become well known in the Portland business community, and it gives students the chance to rub elbows with local CEOs and CFOs,” said Voyer.

Starting off with a bang, SIFE took home the first place trophy at the regional competition three out of its first four years and also was awarded “Rookie of the Year” at the 2004 national competition in Kansas City.

During this run, SIFE has won individual topic awards in all but one of the group’s core pursuits. They’re still looking to take an award in “entrepreneurship” one day to complete the set.

Not only have they seen success in regional competition, the USM SIFE group has earned several honors in the national “Take Charge America” competition designed by the University of Arizona-Tucson SIFE team.

Similar to other competitions, this situation-based contest presents a scenario containing a family and their financial problems and gives students two days to come up with a solution to their mock-family’s economic woes.

In 2005 SIFE took home second place honors in the regional competition, following it up in 2006 with a gold medal.

To get involved with SIFE or to learn more about them, stop by the office of the school of business, located on the first floor of Luther Bonney.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE THE STUDENT COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER?**

**SPEECH REQUIREMENTS:**

- Speaker must be a graduating student, eligible to participate in commencement and have no more than 9 credit hours to complete at the end of the 2008 spring semester.
- Speech must be 3-5 minutes in length
- One speech per graduating student may be submitted.
- Two students may collaborate on a speech, but only one student will be permitted to deliver the speech and sit on the commencement stage.
- Speech should be addressed to the University community in general including traditional and non-traditional students, family members, guests, faculty and staff.
- It is suggested that the speech reflect the student’s experience as a member of the university community.
- Selection is based on quality, originality of content and oral presentation.

**PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS:**

- One or more selections from all entries will be orally presented before the selection committee on Wed., April 9th from 3:00-4:30pm in Rm. 217 Abromson Center, Portland Campus. *If you submit a speech, please block out this time on your schedule. You will be notified by April 1st if you will be invited to present before the committee."

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION**

Friday, March 21, 2008, 4:00 pm

Please return (or fax: 228-8210) cover sheet and speech text to: Attention: Cathy Wright RE: Student Commencement Speaker, 135 Woodbury Campus Center, Portland Campus

Questions: Call Helen Gorgas Goulding, Committee Chair, 780-4629 or visit: www.usm.maine.edu/destinationgraduation

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

17-year-old student, tutor, etc.

As preparation for eventually moving out of state, Peppe moved out of his parents’ house at the beginning of the year. Most parents might be worried about their 17-year-old living on his or her own, but his mother concedes that it is just part of his experience.

Peppe is, after all, not a normal 17-year-old.

From PEPPE page 1

forced by the dean and then-provost Joe Wood to resign because of his age and lack of a degree.

None of Welty’s students expressed any problems with having a lab instructor younger than they were, and in fact, Welty has received only positive feedback from the students that Peppe taught and those he tutors now.

Peppe counts his short experience teaching as a positive one; it has solidified his desire to teach at the college level. Welty says that “there’s no question that he’d still be teaching if it was possible.

Peppe has plans to enter MIT this fall, and though he refuses to say that he will get in, his friends kid him that there’s no way he won’t be accepted.
One year later: is USM getting the message?

In response to school shootings, bomb threats, tech solutions are on the way

DAVID O'DOWNE
STAFF WRITER

It wasn’t until 9:26 a.m. that students at Virginia Tech received an e-mail from the university letting them know that a “shooting incident” had taken place earlier that morning. It was not a call to evacuate the premises or engage in any kind of lock-down procedure. Students were simply advised to be on the lookout for suspicious activity and to check back with the school’s website as the day progressed.

The e-mail was dispatched as a full two hours after Seung-Hui Cho, a 23-year-old business IT major, had claimed his first two victims in what would become the deadliest school shooting rampage in U.S. history. Cho left campus, changed his clothes and mailed a confession tape to NBC News.

Just as the message was popping up in inboxes, Cho returned to campus.

At 9:50 a.m., there was a second e-mail.

“A gunman is loose on campus,” it read. “Stay in build- ings until further notice. Stay away from all windows.”

By this time, it is believed that Cho had committed suicide after killing 30 more people.

It looked as though police and school officials had squandered a massive window of opportunity; they claim that a string of bad communications had led to believe that no threat remained.

Regardless, the vague and be- legged stream of of- messages led them to believe that no students were simply advised to remain inside until given an all-clear.

Hutchinson, USM’s Dean of Student Life.

“Between 8 and 10 a.m., it was still rather quiet back on campus,” says Craig Hutchinson, USM’s Dean of Student Life. “We had fortunately already made some changes and had those thought processes going on, but there was still clear work to be done, and there continues to be a good deal of work.”

The largest gap remaining in USM’s response system is that it has yet to fully take advantage of the most pervasive technology on campus: cell phones.

Following the massacre at Virginia Tech, there was in inf of companies offering the infra- structure to create databases of student phone numbers and, in the event of an emergency, send out discreet, detailed mes- sages with information and in- structions.

Hutchinson says that USM is likely to roll out one of these pro- grams in the very near future, with a service that UMaine Orono has been taking advantage of since last fall: called c2campus, it’s run by OmniAlert, LLC.

Hutchinson, the Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Robert Dana, has only good things to say about the school’s involvement with the service so far, which costs the university 90 cents per student who opts in.

“Thousands and thousands of students are currently enrolled,” he said in a telephone interview. “It seems as if students are some- times a little anxious about giving out their cell phone numbers, but this is purely a way to distribute information.”

So far, the school has not had the opportunity to test out its ef- fectiveness in an emergency.

“Cho, however, already made it a regular part of campus life,” registered users are among the first to learn when school has been cancelled or delayed due to extreme weather.

Elsewhere in the country, there have been more serious chal- lenges to the systems universities have put into place since Virginia Tech.

In September 2007, a gunman entered St. John’s University in Collegeville, Pennsylvania, and opened fire at Virginia Tech.

One year later: is USM getting the message? (continued)

On Feb. 14 of this year, a gunman opened fire on a lec- ture hall at Northern Illinois University.

The school had no text mes- saging system in place, though there is no evidence that such a service would have prevented any- of the 6 deaths or 16 injuries that occurred.

News was posted on the school’s website and included in e-mails within 20 minutes.

A history of university violence

Aug. 1, 1966 – University of Texas at Austin. Charles Joseph Whitman, a 25-year-old student, killed 14 people in shooting rampage from the obser- vation deck of the University’s 32- story administrative building after murdering his wife of 4 months. He was eventually shot and killed by Austin police. The campus shooting is considered one of the major reasons behind establishing SWAT teams and other special task forces and led President Lyndon B. Johnson to call for stricter gun control policies.

July 12, 1976 – California State Uni- versity Fullerton. Edward Charles Allaway, a custodian at the school, killed 13 people in shootings at lower levels of the library. His trial sparked issues relating to the use of mental illness as a defense.

April 16, 2007 – Virginia Tech. Seung-Hui Cho, a 23-year-old stu- dent, killed 32 people before com- mitting suicide in the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history. Schools across the country began looking into the fastest ways to notify students of incidents on campus. Many develop text-messaging services they hope will work faster than the e-mails sent out at Virginia Tech.

Sept. 25, 2007 – St. John’s Univer- sity, New York. Omid Farzaneh, a 22-year-old freshman engineering student, brought a rifle to campus. He was found unharmed by police within 10 minutes of being reported, and a text- messaging service warned students to remain inside until an all-clear. No one was injured.

Feb. 14, 2008 – Northern Illinois University. Steven Kazmierczak, a 27-year-old alumni, killed six people, including himself. NIU had no text messaging system; e-mails and the school website showed the warning within 20 minutes of the shootings.

How to file your taxes (while finishing your homework)

MATT DODGE
NEWS EDITOR

Tax season is upon us. With April 15 looming ahead, it’s easy to get overwhelmed with talk of W-2’s, 1040’s, and other number- letter combinations of seemingly endless paperwork.

Most students avoid the “pen- and-paper” route towards their federal income taxes, opting in- creasingly for tax-prep software, e-filing, and online preparation. Some are cheaper than others; some are free. Some you can do yourself; some let you hand the whole business over to a pro. A few get you your refund in less than two weeks.

In the coming weeks, as you prioritize between dealing with taxes, spring break, and all those assignments that have started piling up, remember that although the IRS is a little less lenient than your professors, you still have a lot of choices for filing your taxes.

E-Filing

A new service offered by the IRS, e-filing is the online alterna- tive to the pen-and-paper method. The instant Internet filing method means a quick refund, with most taxpayers receiving their checks within two weeks.

Cost: Free

Tax Preparation Software

These easy-to-use computer programs allow for tax prepara- tion at your own pace. They help avoid daunting paperwork through a friendly interface. Make sure to look out for其中有错或者不准确的地方，我希望你能改正。
After five years at USM, I have this semester found myself seeing this university in a new light. Just last week, I was walking across Bedford St. from my office toward class on my way to a meeting. I suddenly became aware, almost too soon-to-be-setting sun caught the ledge-over trees in the most perfect way...I wished I had my camera, it was a school-brochure moment. But aside from the actual light, I really have been seeing USM in a different way.

I walk across the “quad” between Luther Bonney and Payson and I feel like just that — a quad. Something you’d expect to find at a other school.

Perhaps my position — with hands always on the university’s hips, trying to sense where it might move next— has pushed me into a new kind of dance, but...No, I really do think things are different this year. Maybe it’s all the snow. Maybe it’s the fact that, in this time of constant and frustrating this year.

I really have been seeing USM in a different way toward class in Payson Smith. The moment.

camera, it was a school-brochure across Bedford St. from my of. • Columns do not re reserve the right to edit or refuse all materials submitted or solicited for publication. • Columns do not re...
Perspectives

Upcoming USM events

Monday March 10
Free Press Budget Meeting - Weekly meeting to as- sign stories/92 Bedroom Street, Portland Campus/ 5-6 p.m./ For more information email Sarah Trent at sarah.trent@usm.maine.edu

Safe Zone Project Session- Join us to learn more about the LGBTQ community at USM/ 10:11:30 a.m./ 208 Luther Bonney Hall, Portland Campus/ RSVP re- quired by 3:7. Email sparkler-holmes@usm.maine.edu or call 780-3767, and visit usm.maine.edu/safezone.htm for more information.

Reserve Your Seats Now For The Freedom Bus- From USM Portland to Lewiston Auburn campus, join in on the conversation of “Ideologies in the Classroom” 4-2: Portland Campus/ For more information and to reserve your seats please contact gdmaine@usm.maine.edu or call Pat Finn at 780-4284.

Manager of Fair Trade Company comes to speak- Jon Vertovec, Executive Director of Equal Exchange, a worker-owned fair trade coffee company, will be presenting “Talkin’ about Fair Trade” 11:45 a.m. on March 18/USM-Lewiston- Auburn/ For more information please contact Daniel Phibbs 207-753-6755 or email philbrick@usm.maine.edu.

Tuesday March 11
Free Press Writing Workshop- Weekly meeting, this week media studies professor Matt Killmeier will be teaching a workshop on opinion writing. All are welcome, you do not have to write for the Free Press to attend.92 Bedroom Street, Portland Campus/ 5-6 p.m./ For more information email Sarah Trent at sarah.trent@usm.edu

“Striving for a Healthy L-A Community”- A panel of nutrition and exercise experts entitled “Striving for a Healthy L-A Community” will be discussing how to develop and sustain a healthy lifestyle./ 6 p.m./ Southern Maine’s Lewiston Auburn College/ 51 USM Westminster St., Lewiston, in Room 170./ For more information please contact Daniel Phibbs 207-753-6755 or email philbrick@usm.maine.edu

Model United Nations Organization Weekly Meet- ing- This week, the USM Model United Nations Executive Director will present “Diplomatic Debating” to help students become more comfortable in the world of discussions and presentation. The Executive Director will present “Diplomatic Debating” to help students become more comfortable in the world of discussions and presentation. The Executive Director will address the way to present arguments and build a cohesive argument. Students will work in groups to respond to a question and prepare an answer to the question presented. This meeting will take place in Andrews Hall/ Contact the art department for info (207) 780-5460.

Middlebush Awards- Middlebush Award winners will be recognized at the Middlebush Banquet. This event is open to all students, faculty, and staff. The event will take place in the Student Center Lounge/ 5 p.m./ For more information contact usm.outing.club@gmail.com.

Leadership Development Board Meeting- This week’s meeting will focus on “Preparing to be a leader,” begin- ning to think about the annual Student Involvement Awards, and taking leadership recognition “Dog Pound Award” nominations./ 10:30 a.m./ Student Gov- ernment Offices, Woodbury Campus Center/ For more info contact board chair Molly Wentworth at molly.wentworth@gmail.com.

College Democrats Meeting- Regular meeting of the USM College Democrats. 5-6 p.m./ Woodbury Campus Center, Portland/ Please email elizabeth.trask@ usm.maine.edu for more information.

Poster Design- “A Visual Representation of You and Your Work!”- A scientific poster can be an effective way to present your research, engage the audience and generate interest in your work. Former USM student Blair Cairr will be presenting his research on poster design. He will talk about the techniques to success- fully present your work. This would be valuable to students who plan to present a paper at “Thinking Matters” this spring/ 12:15-1:30 p.m./ USM GB 187, 302 Bailey Hall/ Contact Michele Tranes at 780-5063 or gishab@maine. edu or more info.

Interfaith Conversations about Money- USM Associate Chaplains will model respectful, fruitful dialogue across lines of differing belief systems with a “fish bowl” experience in which others simply listen and observe as they discuss a real life, real world topic—this week, money. After the initial conversation in which only the Associate Chaplains participate, the conversation will be open to full participation by all./ 4-6 p.m./ Faculty dining room, Brooks Student Center/ For more contact the USM Chaplains, 228- 8903 or interfaith@usm.maine.edu.

Thursday March 13
Mediation Club Meeting- Please come to our weekly open meetings to learn and practice methods for fostering peace in yourself! 208 Luther Bonney Hall, Portland Campus/ 3:30-4:30 p.m./For more information please contact yoorlawson@hotmail.com

Health Services Open House- Plant the seeds for good health by growing a relationship with USM’s Health and Counseling services. Come to meet the staff, learn about the services your health fee covers, enjoy refreshments, win great door prizes and tour our facility. Don’t be one of the students who visits us for the first time when they’re ready to graduate and never knew we were here! (rescheduled from 2/13 due to snow cancellation) Gorham Health Center, 110 Upton Hall 3-4 p.m./For more information call 780-5411.

Gorham Events Board Meeting- GB meets weekly to plan events for the Gorham campus/ Husky Hut, Gorham campus/ 7-8 p.m./For more information contact aschwartz@usm.maine.edu.

Maine PHEG Meeting- Weekly meeting of the Public Interest Research Group 8-9 p.m./ Woodbury Campus Center Student Involvement Desk, Portland.

Friday March 14
Student Senate Meeting- Weekly meeting of the USM Student Senate Formal Lounge, Upton Hall, Gorham campus/ 2:30-4:30 p.m./ Call 228-8501 for more information.

Open your mind and read…

FROM THE RIGHT

Dustin Gilbert GOVERNMENT

I’m a registered Republican. How’s that sit with you? My guess is that it just made at least one person turn to the next page. So much for being open-minded. To be completely honest, I am a compassionate conservative, which means I’m a person who believes poverty is a top priority and those in it should be taught how to get out of it.

I believe in a smaller, less con- troling government. I believe in free markets. I believe in capital- ism and credit much of America’s success to it. I credit the rest of that success to our founding fathers, especially George Washington. I give most of the credit, though, to our military and the men and women who’ve died for America, its freedom and you, no matter what your beliefs are. I credit our constitution, the bill of rights, and the Republic. Yes, the Republic. America is a republic.

I’m pro-life. As in: when the child is conceived it is a human being and has a right to life.

I believe there is good and evil in this world and Islamic jihads are the evil, as well as anyone who sympathizes and/or harbors them. I believe in God and that his son, Jesus Christ, is my lord and savior and died for my sins. I believe in freedom of religion (which in- cludes Christianity, as some have forgotten).

I believe it is my duty as a citizen of this country to question authority—not disobey, just ques- tion. I believe in the right to bear arms and protecting the 2nd amendment. I believe in working for wealth, not begging or taking or giving (welfare). I am not a follower of Al Gore’s manufactured carbon that is in the global warming craze. I believe in wind power and nuclear energy. I believe America must drill her own oil and drop all restrictions preventing it. You could say we do, but I would say that much, much more could be done.

I believe Hillary Rodham Clinton should have divorced Bill as soon as she first found out he was unfaithful. Then she would have an ounce of my respect.

I believe Barack Hussein Obama should actually be a leader of something that is 1% the size of America before he is President. Even .1 percent would suffice. He’s enormously un-qualified although I believe he will be the next president.

I believe John McCain is one of the most dishonest men in American politics — and I will vote for him.

I believe government-run uni- versal healthcare will fail, just as Social Security has and most of the other programs the govern- ment has tried to run (free markets work).

I believe this country is great, though, and its future is in the Facebook and MySpace genera- tion’s hands. Yes, the Facebook/ MySpace generation. That’s us.

I believe history repeats itself and that is why it is important to know it — especially the history of Ancient Rome and Greece.

I believe that the pomifica- tion of America is the result of Californication and the hippie generation. I believe Marijuana should remain illegal. I believe the drinking age should be 18.

I believe Ronald Reagan was correct when he said that good friends will agree on 80 percent of every issue they come across and disagree on no more than 20 percent.

I believe that Comedy Central is the last place anyone should get their daily news.

I believe there must be an American military presence in Iraq for at least five more years to ensure stability, train Iraqi police and military, help gov- ernment leaders, and unite the Sunnis, Shiites, and the Kurds in an effort to prevent civil war when American soldiers eventually leave, and to further prevent Iraq from being a safe-haven for or- ganized terrorist groups.

I believe USM students need to better understand conservatives and Republicans.

I want to give you food for thought.

Dustin Gilbert is a compare- ative conservative hoping to help his fellow students better understand right-wingers.

Open your mind and read…

Let us know what you think, write a letter to the editor: freepress@usm.maine.edu

Sunday March 16
Outing Club Meeting- Weekly meeting of the South- ern Maine Outing Club. will discuss upcoming trips, including those for Spring Break/ Brooks Student Center/ Lounge/ 5 p.m./ For more information contact usm.outing.club@gmail.com.

Saturday March 15
USM Theater and Music present City of Angels- Set in the glamorous, seductive Hollywood of the ’40s, the world of film studios and filmmy nightmares, the musical combines the mature morality of a young novelist attempting to adapt one of his books for the silver screen. In doing so, we encounter both the real world and the “reel” world, as the writer’s life begins to unravel and his screenplay unfolds on stage. Tickets are $5 for students/ 7-9:30 p.m./ Russell Hall Munising/ For information call the box office (207) 780-5151.

Portland Events Board’s speed dating event last semester drew a crowd of nearly a hundred participants.
Setting the facts straight on Tom Manning and “Can’t Jail the Spirit”

DANIEL CHARD
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

I am writing in response to Dustin Gilbert’s “From the Right” column in the March 3, issue of The Free Press, entitled, “Manning gave up his freedom.”

Gilbert’s rant is but the latest in a long and tiring series of simplistic and uninformed right-wing written attacks on political prisoner Tom Manning, his supporters, and the organizers of his art exhibit, “Can’t Jail the Spirit.”

The exhibit, which also featured artwork by USM students and Portland community members, as well as information about Manning’s activist history, was taken down from the walls of the Woodbury Campus Center under the orders of former USM president Richard Pattenauke in September 2006.

Pattenauke made his decision to censor the show amid an atmosphere of intense outside pressure on the university from various police agencies and right-wing activists, who objected principally to the characterization of Manning as a “political prisoner” in the exhibit’s early promotional material.

My experience with the art show and the events surrounding its closure has deeply affected my career at USM. During the fall 2006 semester, I wrote a research paper on the Statewide Correctional Alliance for Reform (SCAR), the prison reform organization that Manning worked with in Portland during the early 1970s.

I am now in the process of researching USM’s cancellation of “Can’t Jail the Spirit,” and the implications of this act of censorship on academic freedom at USM and beyond.

In his column, Gilbert applauds USM’s decision to cancel “Can’t Jail the Spirit.”

According to this self-described “compassionate conservative,” Manning is a “killer” and a “criminal” who does not deserve to enjoy “any freedom whatsoever.”

Gilbert clearly views Manning’s involvement in the killing of a police officer as a black-and-white moral issue which should be fiercely condemned, rather than examined in a broader political and historical context.

The problem with his position is that it’s incredibly simplistic—so simplistic explanations rarely allow observers to gain truthful understanding of complex situations and events.

Tom Manning is considered a political prisoner by many because the actions that led to his arrest, conviction, and sentencing are not examined in a broader political and historical context.

After working with Portland’s SCAR as a social justice activist and witnessing police attacks on members of this group and other social justice movements throughout the country, Manning concluded that a militant response from the left was needed to end police and military attacks on poor and working-class people around the globe.

Manning and seven others associated with a domestic guerrilla organization known as the United Freedom Front (UFF) were later convicted for their involvement in a series of bombings of corporate and military buildings carried out in protest of U.S. support for South Africa’s racist apartheid regime and right-wing dictatorships as well as paramilitary death squads in Central America.

Bank robberies were also carried out by this group for the purpose of funding its revolutionary activities.

Manning was also convicted for the killing of a New Jersey State Trooper who Manning claims to have shot in self-defense after the officer pulled him over on the New Jersey Turnpike at a time when the FBI was pursuing him as one of the country’s most wanted fugitives.

In 1986, Manning and six of his co-defendants were charged in Federal Court with sedition—possibly the most political charge that a government can lodge against one of its citizens.

Though these charges against Manning were dropped, his comrades Ray Luc Levasseur, Pat Levasseur, and Richard Williams defended themselves by citing the Nuremberg trials, when an international court sentenced Nazi officials to death for their complicity in Nazi war crimes.

A jury of their peers could not come to an agreement and the charges were dropped after a mistrial in 1989.

In recent years, aspects of the story surrounding the unfortunate death of Trooper Philip Lamancio have been virtually lost for the past 20 years in a deluge of shallow rhetoric repeated by police, right-wing activists, and the corporate media.

Lamancio’s death was indeed tragic—as are the deaths of the millions who have been killed as a result of U.S. foreign policy.

Despite what Gilbert and other right-wing experts may suggest, however, the emotional sensitivity surrounding a subject such as political prison is not grounds for relegating it as off-limits to intellectual and artistic inquiry.

The purpose of “Can’t Jail the Spirit” was not to “glorify” Manning or his activities. In fact, following initial police complaints, USM posted disclaimers around the exhibit and invited police groups to participate in recounting their side of the story—an invitation which the cops refused.

The organizers of the exhibit were not trying to persuade attendees to adopt any particular ideology; the exhibit’s aim was to offer the USM community an opportunity for deeper, critical reflection on the history of Manning and the groups and movements with which he was involved.

That opportunity was taken from us when President Pattenauke decided to caveat the indemnity from non-USM private interest groups.

The controversy surrounding Tom Manning is not over—not are the controversies surrounding political prisoners, U.S. imperialism, and academic freedom.

I encourage Dustin Gilbert so do more research before he writes for a public audience, and to also avoid sensational rhetoric. I additionally encourage Gilbert and anyone else interested to get involved with events taking place on campus this semester as part of the Gloria Duclos Convocation on Academic Freedom.

FEATURED FACULTY

So you were born in Syria? What was it like growing up there?

Well, in the old days of Syria when it was not crowded and chaotic in terms of its politics and regional tensions, the people were quite involved with their lives. There was quite a deal of excitement about the future of the country, especially in the 1950s. There was a resurgence of nationalism, which was quite secular ideology, which contrasts sharply with the larger Arab world of the 1950s, there was so much...about teaching and learning?

My inspiration was in the old days of Syria, in the people’s enthusiasm to come back to the New England area. King Saud University in Saudi Arabia I always longed to go on a spiritual quest, like the Sufis. I...love walking! It’s bodily, mentally, spiritually active. I

I sleep on it, I dream on it, I eat on it. I’m always thinking about the state of the world and the human condition and this is what you deal with when talking about politics, it’s engrained in me, really. I’ve nourished it, nurtured it, turned it over, becoming seasoned in my vocation. I’ve grown to love it all the more. I’m meshed with it.

What advice would you give students to be more active and involved in their learning?

The most important thing really is to be aware, truly engaged in what is going on globally. To be enlightened about the issues, to try not to segment their lives by confining them within the confines of the classroom. Really trying to combine both the academic, knowledge-based perspective with real world events. You have to know what’s unfolding politically and be involved with the issues, try to give your own stance.

How do you decide to teach at USM? What has kept you here since 1987?

Though I was born in the Middle East, I always had this soft spot in my heart for the New England area. After so many years at Duke University, (when I was) at King Saud University in Saudi Arabia I always longed to come back to the New England area. The university environment provides a challenging mix of part-time, different age groups and backgrounds, it’s interesting. The campus has an international flavor as of late, so it makes it a nice enclave of all kinds of people.

What do you enjoy doing in your leisure time?

I like to take long, reflective, introspective walks. I love walking! It’s bodily, mentally, spiritually active. I go on a spiritual quest, like the Sufi Order.
Reza Jalali presents “Feminism in Modern Iranian Poetry”

Reza Jalali, director of the office of multicultural affairs in Lewiston-Auburn, came to the U.S. as a political refugee.

Iranian in exile makes USM home

“I felt it was important to show that we’re just the same; we write poetry, we stand up for rights, we go skiing,” said Jalali.

Reza Jalali, director of the office of multicultural affairs in Lewiston-Auburn, came to the U.S. as a political refugee.

He’s published. He’s accomplished internationally. He has appeared on Oprah, and besides serving as an adjunct professor, he heads up projects that aim at uniting Southern Maine’s immigrant community and the university. His community outreach has spanned the last 20 years. Did I mention he’s in exile?

His name is Reza Jalali; he’s from Iran.

The women’s and gender studies department teamed up with Jalali and the Stonecoast MFA program last week to hold their annual International Women’s Day Dinner—this year on Iranian women’s poetry.

Jalali, the program coordinator for multicultural student affairs at Lewiston-Auburn College, approached planners of the event months in advance.

He wanted to educate attendees on women’s issues outside of Western cultures; women’s and gender studies wanted to showcase his experience abroad and his way with words.

The event, “Breaking the Silence: Feminism in Modern Iranian Poetry,” featured women from the local Iranian community reading poems by Forough Farrokhzad and other Persian feminist poets, who were discussed by Jalali.

The evening’s program ended with a performance of Persian music from the Yaar Choir.

Jalali said he hoped to bridge the gap of understanding between the U.S. and Iran.

The evening was meant to give human faces to Iranians, thus poverty threatens feminists. Many find fault with Western feminists, in that they have left behind their poor sisters around the globe.

Jalali aimed first to remove myths of Muslim women as silenced, secluded people in huts in the desert. He showed images of them picketing in Tehran, the capital of Iran, marching for equality.

Jalali said he was arrested for his attempts to uphold his national identity, including speaking Kurdish and writing Kurdish poetry. Eventually he was expelled from Iran.

From Kurdistan to USM

Jalali was born in Kurdistan, an Iranian province, and went into exile at an early age. His family feared for his safety, so he attended college in India.

Jalali said he was arrested for his attempts to uphold his national identity, including speaking Kurdish and writing Kurdish poetry. Eventually he was expelled from Iran.

After being a political prisoner whose case was advocated by Amnesty International, they lobbied for him to become a U.S. citizen.

Jalali was educational. For Americans who don’t know much about the country of Iran, the message was educational.
A day in the life of WMPG

DAVID O'DONNELL
STAFF WRITER

WMPG is not exactly a college radio station. It sits on one edge of campus — the first of the white houses as you drive past the garage — but bumper stickers, t-shirts, banners and DJs all proudly proclaim it as southern Maine’s community radio.

If you were tuned in last Tuesday morning, you might have heard DJ Deirdre Nice cue up Jeff Tweedy’s rendition of “Simple Twist of Fate,” but you didn’t see her sit back in her chair and gaze out toward the parking garage at the gray, rainy day.

Sure, people come in here to feed their thoughts and musical tastes to the 200 listeners tuned in at any given time, but the dim lighting and cozy atmosphere of the booth makes for something a little private, too.

You’ve heard them on the air, at 90.9 and 104.1, but what’s it inside that little white house?

10:12 a.m. – As I walk down the hall toward the sound booth, Deirdre Nice is on the air. She’s sampling the “I’m Not There” soundtrack, a collection Bob Dylan covers by indie and alternative rock icons. Right now, Sonic Youth is either paying homage to or massacring the title song, depending on your preference.

The show is In Your Ear—and she’s been on the air with it for 19 years.

She remembers first being approached by the station’s program manager: he wanted more women’s voices on the air. She was already known around town—at the time, she owned Sully’s restaurant. Nice was kind of interested, and remembers when she and a friend first went on the air to mess around.

“It hasn’t changed too much since then,” she says, though as she looks around, she fixes on the LCD computer monitor that hangs beside the microphone. “Well, nothing dramatic. Things slowly get more professional, and work more often.”

10:30 – John Dennison wanders in with a pile of records under his arm. He is happy to get behind the microphone for Soundscapes, his “all-too-short” weekly music block. He’s been kicking Soundscapes around, through various incarnations across different regions, since about 1979.

Feeling the loss of a friend who died little more than a week ago, he opens the show with a mournful piece by Bill Evans—a take on “Suicide is Painless,” the theme from MASH. It fits, too, with the organic nature of his show: the dreary weather, he says, can’t help but creep into things somehow.

Demension has been working with radio since his teenage years, or “the high of punk rock.” He has no qualms about using digital files, CDs, or cassettes, but records remain his favorite.

“I love being able to see the music laid out on the vinyl,” he says. He watches as Miles Davis’ “My Man’s Gone Now” quiets down, and he realizes the Superoorange song “Fool’s Overture.” When it finishes, he rearranges his hands off the board triumphantly.

“I like that segue in my head for a couple of days. It was just a matter of making sure it’s not too abrupt.”

Less than a minute later, the phone rings: an old friend listening online from Rochester, NY appreciates the transition.

11:59 – David Bunker, the program manager who has been working in, out and around the offices all morning, shuffles through a stack of CDs. Democracy Now! — a daily show — is about to begin. For the show, which he added to the lineup a few years ago, he’s working on putting together an in-house news crew to cover the 2008 elections.

He’s enjoying his time at WMPG, after getting frustrated with public radio after spending the last half of the ‘90s as music director at Maine Public Broadcasting Network.

“When NPR and the like began in the (1970s), the goal was to reach new audiences,” he says, and cites Car Talk and Fresh Air as local shows that let emerging talent find a voice.

Now, he says, “it’s all big money projects that have to be ready and national on day one.”

That squashes the will to experiment, he says, and shuts the door on 99 percent of good ideas.

But his cynicism is reserved for the public. “Who cares if it comes to the medium, he is only excited, particularly by having an effect on other’s lives.”

One morning about ten years ago, serving up classical music on MHPN, he happened to crack a joke about a composer — nothing out of the ordinary, something he’d done a thousand times. That morning, he got a call from a physician who had just gotten off a brutal double shift in the emergency room.

He had managed to make her laugh, and she’d just called to tell him.

“That’s the kind of thing that gives me chills,” Bunker says.

1:06 p.m. – Chip Edgar — better known as Homebrew — ushers in the post-lunch-half hour with his short but lively and polished news-talk show. And he has a new crew with him: Jessica, his engineer, is ready for phone calls and to cue up music as Edgar is settled in the adjacent booth with his 3-year-old son (his in-studio guest) and a cameraman from the local cable access station.

Today he’s on the phone with independent U.S. Senate candidate Laurie Dobson, talking about her effort to accelerate the “impres-"bush” movement.

Generally serious, Edgar kicks into entertainer mode now and then.

When civil liberties come up, he asks his son if the name of New York’s former mayor is Guiliani, or “Ghouliani.” His son decides on the latter, or at least enjoys repeating it.

And, with no shame in wearing politics on his sleeve, there’s his nickname for the current U.S. President, whom he calls our “court-appointed, public relations, draft-dodging, corporate happy-face, who claims high-tech death and destruction is the only way to democracy.”

Looking over at my notes, I see that the line about Bush is actually typed right in.

The show was originally meant as a place for stay-at-home-dads to “spill their guts,” but Edgar quickly found that men wouldn’t even stop to ask directions to the studio, he says, never mind bare their souls on his little show.

So things turned to public affairs, and now he comes to each broadcast armed with a recent newspaper.

After repeating his pet name for Bush, Edgar decides that he’s pretty happy with his life — beautiful kids, nice home, healthy marriage.

“But all this rusty machinery of free speech,” he gestures around the studio. “Its just going to get dried up if nobody’s using it.”

Tune to WMPG at 90.9 or 104.1, or listen catch the online broadcast at wmpg.org. A full programming guide is also online. If you’re interested in trying to get on the sound booth you can, contact David Bunker at (207) 780-4598 or programdirector@wmpg.org.
Gideon Bok

Contribution Writer

Jared Thurber

Leaning against the wall in one corner of the Gorham art gallery are six paintings, all in various stages of completion. There’s also a record player and a comfortable old yellow chair speckled with paint.

Empty coffee cups, album covers, and paintbrushes are strewn about the drop cloth surrounding an easel, and stale tortilla chips crunch underfoot.

Gideon Bok, this semester’s artist-in-residence, has taken over this corner of the gallery — for the spring, it’s his studio, his classroom, and his show.

Bok, a Maine native, began painting in 1987 while, coincidentally, he was a student at USM. “George Burk started me off,” he says of his first painting class, which is still taught by Burk.

Since his intro-to-painting days, Bok has gone on to achieve national recognition for his work. “It started back in grad school,” Bok says, “I would stock up on coffee, beer and whiskey and people would just come and hang out; they would move around the space and I would observe and paint them.”

“People are important parts of his work, and central to the course of his development,” says William Stevens, a student at USM.

Here at USM, he doesn’t mind if nothing else, you might end up in the room -- in their depiction of the nude.

Bok grins as he looks at the paintings. “In the studio, he says, make interesting subjects — and music seems an important part of his life.”

And like a true connoisseur, he prefers vinyl to CDs. Elliot Smith, Tom Waits, R.E.M., and Sufjan Stevens can be found in his milk crate of music.

When asked how he likes it here, Bok points out that there are no windows. “I like it here, the light stays the same regardless of the time of day.”

In past studios, he was always starting over as the light changed throughout the day.

Like the ghostly images in his paintings, Gideon Bok’s time here at USM is fleeting. If you have a few minutes between classes, stop by the Gorham gallery and shoot the breeze. If nothing else, you might end up in one of his paintings.

ART 412

Last week, eight art students were in the darkened Gorham art gallery for his class. Tom Waits and PJ Harvey blaring, they sprawled across the floor with drawing pads and pizza boxes as a bright light reflected from a nude model in the corner.

In typical Bok style (of always reading from art and music literature in class), he read an excerpt from “33⅓,” a series of books published about the most important albums released since 1961.

The passage he picked out dealt with the ‘space’ that occurs in the music of PJ Harvey — the product of a 3-piece band. He wants students to create this space — the atmosphere of the room — in their depiction of the nude.

Perspective, space and atmosphere are important to Bok’s work, and central to the course he’s teaching to advanced art students.
“How do you find out about all this music I’ve never heard of?”

Pop culture and music blogger has the answer

ASAID THE GRAMOPHONE

Said the Gramophone (http://www.saidthegramophone.com) is far and away my favorite of the bunch. Partly this is due to the blog’s compatibility with my own tastes: rarely do the blog’s writers – Sean Michaels, Jordan Himeleff and Dan Beine – post a song I dislike. Sometimes their tastes are a little too precious, at others a little too self-conscious, but generally they’re impeccable. But mostly, what sets Said the Gramophone apart is the quality of the writing. It’s no exaggeration to say that, when they’re at their best, you’d be hard-pressed to find a more energetic, more original source of musical commentary. They’ve also got one of the more devoted readerships: their recent Funding Drive was filled in less than a day.

Some excellent artists found through StG: Fionn Regan, Lykke Li, Vampire Weekend, Orillia Opry, and The Exploding Hearts

AN AQUARIUM DRUNKARD

An Aquarium Drunkard (http://www.aquariumdrunkard.com), which takes its moniker from a Wilco song, is best suited for fans of more roots-y music: early rock ‘n roll, country, folk, or any cross-pollination thereof. This isn’t to say the Drunkard won’t challenge you: the rock is raw, the country ragged, the folk wild. Though the Drunkard frequently covers new music, they spend just as much time uncovering forgotten gems; posts have been known to offer up entire bootleg albums from such luminaries as Bob Dylan, Neil Young and Johnny Cash. And that’s just scratching at the surface. In short, the Drunkard is a true treasure trove.

Some bootlegs acquired via the Drunkard: Bob Dylan’s Freewheelin’ Session Outtakes, the Beach Boys’ Rehearsal 1967, David Crosby’s 1970 Studio Outtaktes, and Bob Dylan & Johnny Cash – The Dylan/Cash Sessions (from the same sessions which produced Nashville Skyline).

GORILLA VS. BEAR

One of the hipper examples I’ll provide. Gorilla vs. Bear (http://gorillavsbear.blogspot.com) is indie to the bone, the kind of blog that parallels Pitchfork’s POV just a little too closely. But they compensate for that with a keen focus toward new – and consistently excellent – music. Of course, it doesn’t hurt when they post, for instance, a song featuring the hip-hop stylings of NBA star Jason Kidd from the soundtrack to the film Love & Basketball!

SAID THE GRAMOPHONE

Said the Gramophone (http://www.saidthegramophone.com) is far and away my favorite of the bunch. Partly this is due to the blog’s compatibility with my own tastes: rarely do the blog’s writers – Sean Michaels, Jordan Himeleff and Dan Beine – post a song I dislike. Sometimes their tastes are a little too precious, at others a little too self-conscious, but generally they’re impeccable. But mostly, what sets Said the Gramophone apart is the quality of the writing. It’s no exaggeration to say that, when they’re at their best, you’d be hard-pressed to find a more energetic, more original source of musical commentary. They’ve also got one of the more devoted readerships: their recent Funding Drive was filled in less than a day.

Some excellent artists found through StG: Fionn Regan, Lykke Li, Vampire Weekend, Orillia Opry, and The Exploding Hearts

BRANDON’S BREW REVIEW

Allagash Dubbel

BRANDON MCKENNEY

STAFF WRITER

Belgian beers are generally regarded with high esteem by drinkers and critics alike. After finding a niche for this style of brewing in Maine, Allagash has carved out its own prestige in the beer community, and their Dubbel Ale holds up this tradition.

Coming in at seven percent alcohol by volume and sporting a very dark pour, it’s certainly nothing to scoff at. However, the Dubbel is surprisingly light and smooth. It has a sweetly roasted malt aroma that is subdued enough to remain pleasant. The sweetness was a surprise, but it matches nicely with the taste, which shows a nice mix between nuts, fruit, and a hint of chocolate.

Thankfully the Dubbel is not overly sweet and is balanced out by a naturally fermenting yeast that is added before bottling. Overall the ale has a refreshing quality that isn’t found in many of the traditionally English beers brewed in Maine. The result is a very drinkable and quite enjoyable beer from what may be Maine’s most unique brewery.

Brandon likes beer: No kidding. If you want him to test the waters before you drop cash on your next six-pack, send review requests (or brew-related questions) to free-press@usm.maine.edu with the subject: Beer.

WMPG

90.9 and 104.1

www.wmpg.org

Spring Begathon!!!
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Destroys The Plastique Man

New As Fast As album is wildly different

JEFF BEAM
MUSIC WRITER

When it was announced this summer that the Rustic Overtones were getting back together, the future of As Fast As was immediately thrown into doubt. Surely, AFA frontman and Rustic keyboardist Spencer Albee couldn’t pull double-duty with two of Portland’s biggest bands. But Sir Albee has done it again. This time, in a basement.

Not only is As Fast As still fully functioning, they’ve released a brand new album. It’s called Destroy The Plastique Man, and it’s wildly different from any of Albee’s past work.

The album, which is partly written by USM student Dominic Lavore of Dominic & The Lucid, features an unpredictable assortment of instruments, production techniques, and musical styles. It’s a strong step forward for As Fast As, and it’s sure to be one of the strongest releases in Portland this year. Albee produced it in the court of his own basement studio.

Destroy The Plastique Man, available now at Bull Moose Music, is a perfect blend of Albee’s past work and his willingness to explore new territories. “Homeworker” starts with a precise electronic scanner, only before hitting a wall of guitars and organs that are reminiscent of Albee’s first album, The Propsick.

The track “The Road To Hell” revisits the 1970’s funky dance vibe of the song “Saturday Night” from Albee’s Rocktopus days, 2002-2004. While the LP is full of brilliant experimental “electronic-meets-mash-up” mixes, As Fast As manages to retain their familiar catchiness and knack for melody. Also noticeable is the plethora of bands that continue to influence As Fast As. You can tell the band has been praying at the church of Electric Light Orchestra with the string-scattered track, “Dancing A Murderous Tango.”

The Melvern Taylor-tinged “Me Own” is highlighted with excellent use of ukelele, bells, and mellotrons. “What A Shame (Delicious Shame)” pays ample tribute to The Beatles, and features a progressive synth breakdown that would make Yes blush.

Go see As Fast As perform selections from “Destroy The Plastique Man at their CD Release Party on March 14 at The Asylum. The show is 21+.”

Photograph courtesy of AS FAST AS

Under The Circumstances, Planeside lives Portland music scene

New single can be requested on WCYY

JEFF BEAM
MUSIC WRITER

Though Planeside is from New York City, the Portland music community has openly accepted them as an honorary “local band.” Vocalist/guitarist Dave Harris, drummer Ken Hirakasi, and bassist Jon Wyman to create Under The Circumstances with Portland-produc- er Ian Wyman to create Under The Circumstances by Jon Wyman to create Under the Circumstances, Planeside seem like a perfect match, as this cohesive 6-song EP packs a powerful punch and pushes the band’s musical boundaries.

Planeside’s sound has often been called “the Foo Fighters on steroids,” and while they stay true to that stamp, they explore new terrain as well.

Sala plays the drums, but also plays keys sporadically through- out the EP. It’s a subtle addition that positively beefs up the band’s already-rich sound.

Rustic Overtones frontman Dave Gutter lends his distinct vocals for the tracks “Dead & Gone” and “Back On Top (There You Are).” Gutter’s backing vocal cameo is another subtle maneuver that lavishly adds to the songs.

“Ain’t Nobody Gonna Slow Me Down” is the standout track of the bunch. The acoustic approach is a departure from their signature sound, but it’s a welcomed addition. Bartone guitar and 3-string organ apply a vintage Dave Harris’ slow growl and steady picking in a unique blend of instrumental.

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Under The Circumstances by Planeside is available at all Bull Moose Music locations. The single “Stars” can be requested on WCYW. For more about the band, see www.planeside.com or www.myspace.com/planeside.

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The Free Press | March 10, 2008

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Dating Starts at 9:00 goes to 11:00
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Followed with Alt Rock Group from 11:00 to 1:00

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Bus leaves Portland @ 6:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30 & 1:00
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# Puzzles

## Newsday Crossword

**ACROSS**
1. Bottled soft drink  
5. Butterfly relative  
9. Glossy fabric  
14. Vietnam neighbor  
15. Fencing weapon  
16. Two times  
17. Time (never)  
18. Dinner or brunch  
19. Church official  
20. Stormy weather sound  
23. Use a plus sign  
24. Back of a boat  
25. Fry cook's need  
27. And so on: Abbrev.  
29. Respond  
32. Point at the target  
35. Lathered  
38. Volcanic flow  
39. Journeys  
41. Scrap of cloth  
42. Lucky number, to some  
43. Marathon unit  
44. Swimming pool sound  
46. New Hampshire hrs.  
47. Do figure-eights  
49. Cut calories  
51. Continuous  
54. Coward's lack  
57. Fireplace residue  
59. Most important skill  
62. Minimum amount  
64. Citrus drinks  
65. Race track postings  

**DOWN**
1. Venetian-blind part  
2. Solemn pledges  
3. Coffee-break snack  
4. United  
5. Keepsake  
7. Educate  
8. Phone answerer's greeting  
9. Tea variety  
10. Butcher-shop buy  
11. Powerful ocean surge  
12. Chilled, as champagne  
13. Greek  
21. Girl's garment  
22. Just slightly  
26. Land surrounded by water  
28. Complain  
30. Nights before holidays  
31. — and rave  
32. Cash dispenser, for short  
33. Part of the eye  
34. Malted's relative  
36. Good friend

**USE YOUR HANDS**

9. Trample  
10. Hole-punching tool  
11. Powerful ocean surge  
12. Chilled, as champagne  
13. Greek  
21. Girl's garment  
22. Just slightly  
26. Land surrounded by water  
28. Complain  
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**JANRICK CLASSIC SUDOKU**

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest). **Rating: BRONZE**

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

**UPCOMING GAMES**

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

**Monday, March 10**
Men's Lacrosse v. ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE (Fitzpatrick Stadium, Portland) - 4:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 11**
Women's Lacrosse @ BOWDOIN - 4:30 p.m.

**Friday, March 14**
Men's Indoor Track – NCAA Div. III Nationals @ Ohio Northern
Women's Indoor Track – NCAA Div. III Nationals @ Ohio Northern

**Saturday, March 15**
Men's Indoor Track – NCAA Div. III Nationals @ Ohio Northern
Women's Indoor Track – NCAA Div. III Nationals @ Ohio Northern

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**The Free Press is now hiring: ARTS WRITERS.**

Interested in Arts? Writing? or both?

The Free Press is now hiring arts writers. Inquire at 92 Bedford Street, Portland between 9 and 1.

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**The Free Press**

**ARTS WRITER**

Interested in Arts? Writing? or both?

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Puzzles

Emily Artesani
Year: Sophomore
Major: Psychology
Sport: Women’s track

FP: How did you feel when you broke the 17-year-old record for the 400 meter indoor race in NYC last weekend?
Emily: I felt pretty proud, that record has been standing for a long time, so it was exciting to break it. My time was 59.64 seconds and I’ve been trying to break a minute in indoor all season so I was happy to finally do it.

FP: What would you say is your favorite event?
Emily: I really enjoy all of my events, I love running with other girls on my team when we do relays. My main focus is probably the 400, but the 200 is a fun race for me because I really get to sprint all out.

FP: When did you start to become really serious about running track and field?
Emily: I started running track when I was in 6th grade, and I played other sports all through high school, but it was around my sophomore year of high school that I realized I wanted to focus on track.

FP: Was there any determining factor? Or did you just realize you had a strong potential for track?
Emily: I had a really positive experience with track during high school. My coaches and teammates were great, and I really enjoyed racing and wanted to see what competing at the college level could do for me.

FP: With that being said, how has your experience with USM Track been?
Emily: My experience has been great so far. I am training at an intense level which has helped me a lot in individual events. I only did outdoor track during high school, so to come to college and run the full year of indoor and outdoor really helped me to improve. Our team has had a very successful season this year so it has also been fun to be a part of that.

FP: Most women on your team are pretty modest about your team’s success; do you feel you have to give more effort to get noticed by the press, as well as the school?
Emily: I know we appreciate the recognition when we are successful. It does seem like the track teams get overlooked considering the amount of success that we do have, but I think our team focus is about running well for the sake of our team, and hopefully the recognition will come as we continue to be successful.

FP: Do you have any pre-run rituals?
Emily: I have certain songs that I listen to on my iPhone when I’m warming up to get myself excited, but I can’t say I have anything too strange that I do before meets.

FP: What is one of the songs you listen to?
Emily: Well one of the songs that our team has embraced this year has been “What is Love” by Haddaway. We made up a dance and everything.

FP: That’s solid gold right there. So anything else you want USM to know about the “real” Emily Artesani?
Emily: I’m an easy-going girl, I really enjoy music—playing, listening, singing, etc.—and I play a mean game of HORSE (basketball). Just ask my coach.

www.campuskitchens.org

Puzzles answers from page 15
"Change 08" asks students to come up with solutions

From CHANGE page 1

something about the lack of stu-

dent involvement at USM. 

While geared toward student 
group leaders, registration was open to any students who were interested in bringing about a positive 
change to the university. In one of the first leadership training sessions of the morning, Chris O'Connor, the assistant dean of student life, asked for all the stu-
dent leaders in the room to raise their hands.

Most hands around the room went up. But O’Connor wasn’t satisfied: he wanted everyone to be raising their hands—simply by attending the summit, they had put themselves forward as leaders on campus.

Many individuals and groups were involved in planning the summit sponsored and coordinat-
ed by the Leadership Development Board and their sponsors.

“I couldn’t have been more pleased with the overall results of the event,” O’Connor said. 

As the student government’s staff advisor, O’Connor was con-
tacted with the group of students that organized the summit and said that the aim in planning before

hand was to make certain that it covered issues that students were most concerned about.

“We surveyed to ask what they like about USM, what they don’t,” O’Connor said. “Two issues students are facing,” he said.

After talking to students from many different campus groups—

including athletes, the Student Senate, Maine PIRG and Greek life, among others, the planning committee came up with five major areas that were to be the top focus of the day.

These were: the lack of student involvement, the lack of school spirit and pride in USM, financial challenges, spaces and facilities challenges, and the lack of com-

munity amongst students.

During the actual summit, these areas were used to divide the attendees into more focused groups, and each was fa-
cilitated by a student and a staff member.

After brieﬂy the planners had hoped for a higher attendance, the roughly 60 students who came were “truly dedicated and had a great spirit,” said O’Connor.

One solution proposed for this issue was the creation of forums for student leaders to connect with one another and advertise their ideas. 

USM sophomore Eric Favreau helped lead the space and facilities group, which discussed the need for a more welcoming student center and classrooms—many of these issues, they decided, are connected, and this can hinder the learning process.

Favreau was optimistic about the results of the summit.

“It was really successful,” he said. “Actions plans were imple-
mented, and there were a lot of fresh ideas and solutions.”

Favreau hopes that these young-

er students will help to carry the momentum throughout the rest of their time at USM.

When the groups rejoined, the students worked in a skill-build-

ing session, focusing on student leadership. The summit leaders covered topics such as goal-setting and leadership, and helped students set realistic goals for the rest of the semester.

At the end of the day, the stu-

dents were given the chance to present their ideas to a “listening panel” made up of 10 members of USM’s administration, including the interim president, Joe Wood.

Wood was happy to be a part of the summit, and spoke to the stu-

dents about community after they had ﬁnished presenting.

Using the analogy of a New England village, Wood illustrated the fact that community is made by people, not just the spaces they inhabit, and that they were help-

ing to create community just by being a part of the summit.

He considered the day a success as well. “I was very impressed by the initiative and the constructive tone with which students recom-
mended things and talked about ideas with us.”

One of the biggest challenges for those involved with Change 08 will be to keep the momentum going.

There were a lot of amaz-

ing things that came out of that day,” said O’Connor, “and we’re working now with the groups to help con-

tinue that energy.”

Fitch also expressed the desire of the planners to keep Change 08 going long after the end of the day. “I think we got a lot of students connected to each other. It was truly fulﬁlling to see ev-

erybody do something and take charge.”

Man removed, banned from campus

From SAFETY page 1

When asked to leave by execu-
tive editor Sarah Trent, Tillotson took his time. When it seemed he wasn’t going to leave, staff tried to ignore him and continue their meeting.

After brieﬂy strumming his guitar and singing, Tillotson tried to get into a room. When asked to leave by execu-
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Sports

Seasons end, but athletes recognized

Men’s Basketball
Senior Drew Coppenrath (Barnet, VT) and Jamaal Caterina (Portland) were named to the Little East Conference (LEC) all-conference team. Coppenrath earned a spot on the first team, and Caterina on the second and all-defensive squad. Caterina averaged 18 points and nine rebounds per game this season, while also racking up 10 double-doubles. Meanwhile, Coppenrath averaged 15.4 points per game and blocked 26 shots this season. He also led the Huskies from the arc, hitting 33 three-pointers.

Men’s Hockey
Senior Dane Marshall (Yarmouth, Nova Scotia) was named to the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) East all-star team. Marshall has been recognized in all four years of play, being named to the all-rookie team, 2nd team all-star, and now twice as 1st team. Marshall played all 26 games this season, finishing his career with seven goals, 12 assists, and 19 points.

Freshman Paul Conter (Woodbridge, Ontario) was named to this year’s ECAC all-rookie team. Conter contributed 9 goals and 16 assists this season.

Women’s Basketball
Junior Stacey Kent (Northwood, NH) was named to the Maine Women’s Basketball Coaches Association (MWBCA) player of the year. Kent led the Huskies in scoring and rebounding, racking up an average of 14.3 points and 9.9 assists. Also recognized by the MWBCA were sophomores Nicole Paradis (Skowhegan), Becky Dixon (Pittston), and freshman Kaylee DeMillo (Jani) Parado. Kent was named to the MWBCA second-team all-state, and Dixon and DeMillo received nods to the all-rookie team. DeMillo was also awarded a spot on the Little East Conference all-rookie team.

Compiled by Brandon McKenney

Women end basketball season

From BBALL page 20
led the team in scoring with 22 points in the game and 422 for the season.
“Then with six minutes to go, we just ran out of gas.”
The Huskies had a narrow lead when they entered half-time, 38-37, after shooting 53.8 percent from the field and nailing seven of 12 from the three-point range. In the second half, “we were just clicking,” said Kent. “We were connecting; they were missing shots.”
They at one point took a 15-point lead on a three-point shot from senior Don Dross (Gray). They advanced after exchanging several baskets led 65-41 with just under seven minutes to play.
Kent took the bench and took the floor. “I may have been on the wrong side of the tracks,” he said. Kent, who was covering the men’s basketball playoff game at UMass-Darmouth: innocent enough. But as I took my seat in the relatively quiet atmosphere, I remembered what March Madness is all about.
“Not many schools can claim that they have Caterina and Coppenrath, Kynoch and Kent, Gordon and Gilbert, a pair of Wheelers and a New England champion like Mike Morin.”

Last week I found myself on the wrong side of the tracks, so to speak. I was covering the men’s basketball playoff game at UMass-Darmouth: innocent enough. But as I took my seat in the relatively quiet atmosphere, I remembered what March Madness is all about.
Sure, UMass Dartmouth can’t hold a candle to schools like Duke or North Carolina, but, oddly enough, it would be hard to imagine that the Cameron Crazies are, in fact, any more crazy than the Corsair faithful.
The crowd got a little out of hand at times, screaming obscenities at referees and generally forgetting fan decorum. But it wasn’t that bad. Certainly nothing that would require us to cover our children’s ears or that might provoke the super-sensitive to pack up and head home. The atmosphere inside that gym, cultivated by 2,000 fans – 1,993 of them – was one of exceptional athletes that we can. Not many schools can claim that they have Caterina and Coppenrath, Kynoch and Kent, Gordon and Gilbert, a pair of Wheelers and a New England champion like Mike Morin.

It is no small wonder that USM sports can be so successful, as exemplified by this winter’s season in particular, despite empty gyms and an anathetic fan-base. While and I do not expect things to change anytime soon with a looming budget crisis and the same old excuses garnering more rhetorical weight, I do think it is appropriate to underscore the dedication these athletes have.
It’s pretty obvious that the Wheeler brothers don’t run miles upon miles in the summer for the sake of gaining campus-wide notoriety and that Mike Morin doesn’t dedicate himself to a regimen of blood and sweat to get paddled on the back by adoring co-eds. Rather, all of the jump shots and wristers, dambells and discuses are an effort by these athletes to reward their efforts by, if not getting us exactly where we want half bad once I was there. And I know the whole “school spirit” issue has been beaten to death here, that everyone knows we’re just a bunch of non-traditional students who work full-time and can’t both- er with the juvenile (read: sports).

That’s hogwash.
I’m well aware that only a small number of our students actually live on campus, somewhere in the neighborhood of 15% and that our average student is 28 years old. But no statistic can encompass any. And if we’re going to have sports teams – and pretty darn good ones at that – then we should at least do them the service of trying, in our own way, to cultivate a respectable atmosphere.
Because, point blank, a little pride makes the experience (and I dare say the performance) of the students and athletes better.

It’s time that our greatest assets are marketed and exploited. Not many schools can boast the number of exceptional athletes that we can. Not many schools can claim that they have Caterina and Coppenrath, Kynoch and Kent, Gordon and Gilbert, a pair of Wheelers and a New England champion like Mike Morin.

For the sake of our stars

So how do we do it? How do we capture the “school spirit,” the ’school pride”, or whatever you want to call it? The first step is to comprehend what it is, both in the broadest sense of the word, and in the specific sense of the word. The broadest sense is that which encompass every aspect of the school, from the principal down to the janitor.
Mike Morin

COLUMNIST
MICHAEL TARUFFI

PHOTO BY JASON JOHNS

Above, Jamaal Caterina looks to the basket. He averaged 18 points per game. Below: Dane Marshall skates past Babson in his fourth season as Husky hockey.

Above, Mike Morin wrestles, and wins, the NWWA championship match. Below: Below; Nicole Paradis takes UMass down the court. She was named to the MWBCA second-team all-state.
It has been a record setting post-season for the USM men’s indoor track and field team.

Two weeks ago, the team broke three school records at the NEIcAAA championships, including best-ever results in the 4x400 meter relay and the 800 and 5,000 meter runs.

The 4x400 team of senior Derek Murchie (Windham), juniors Doug Mercer (Laconia, NH) and Jimmy Sawyer (Gorham) and freshman Corey Gobbi (Haverhill, MA) combined for a time of 3:18.92, breaking the previous USM record by three seconds and falling just 0.42 seconds shy of qualifying for the NCAA meet.

Murchie and Sawyer also lowered their own school record times in the 200m and 800m runs, respectively.

Following the pattern of their illustrious running careers, senior twins Curtis and Nick Wheeler (Derby, VT) finished first and third (respectively) in the 5,000 meter race, with Curtis turning in a school record 14 minutes, 37.99 seconds.

The brothers both qualified for the Eastern Collegiate Athletics Conference Division III championship race, held this past weekend, where Curtis won the 5,000 meter race. He finished 15 seconds ahead of the second place runner and earned a spot in the Division III national championships. He is currently ranked 14th in the Div. III nation in the 5,000 meters.

The Huskies came in a best-ever fifth place finish on Saturday. The team picked up six points in the second day of competition thanks to junior Doug Mercer’s third place finish in the 500 meters, and Jimmy Sawyer’s seventh place 400 result.

But Mercer and Sawyer were not done yet, together with relay-mates Murchie and Gobbi, they earned the team four points with a fifth place finish in the 4 x 400.

Freshman Sam Bennett (Gray-New Gloucester, ME), not daunted by the ECAC Championship atmosphere, set a personal best in the 1,000 meter race of 2:35.69, to earn 13th place.

Senior pole-vaulter Adam Haggerty (Hermon) finished eighth with a vault of 4.40 meters—just over 14’5”—for which he earned all-ECAC honors. Vaulting teammate sophomore John Davis (Westbrook, ME) tied for 12th with a vault of 4.25 meters.

For complete see the USM athletics website at usm.maine.edu/athletics and look for future coverage by The Free Press.
It’s a long ride home
The women end their season in New Jersey versus Brandeis, 71-74

SARAH TRENT
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

On Friday night, the women’s basketball team walked off the court for the last time this season. It was the first-round game of the NCAA national tournament—the Huskies received an at-large bid to the tournament after losing the conference championship game in overtime to Eastern Connecticut—and though they played one of their best games of the season and led most of the game, the Huskies couldn’t hang on in the end.

Topped in the final six minutes of the game, they took their fourth and final loss of a spectacular season to the Brandeis Pilgrims, 71-74.

“The first half was neck and neck,” said junior forward Stacey Kent (Northwood, NH), who

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Sophomore Mike Morin takes down Jake Tyler (Springfield College) in the NEWA championship match that sent him to the NCAA championships, held in Iowa this past weekend.

Morin ends season after two matches in the NCAA championships

SARAH TRENT
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Early in the season, head wrestling coach Joe Pistone commented that one of the toughest parts of his sport is that athletes train for 20 to 40 hours for each seven-minute match. On Friday, after two weeks of training, six hours on planes and four days in Iowa, sophomore Mike Morin (Freyburg) had just 14 minutes on the mat before he was eliminated from the tournament in a heartbreaking final match. Morin opened against sophomore Trent Zempel from Messiah College, who Pistone thought was a good draw for him.

He dropped a 4-2 decision to Zempel, who came into the tournament with a 33-8 record. Morin entered 30-6. On the knife’s edge, Morin took to the mats again versus senior Zac Bogardus from SUNY Cortland—and lost, 6-7, ending his season.

Neither of his opponents continued much farther in the 165 pound division, which was won by Tyler Burke of Coe College, the number two seed who was lucky enough to compete on his home turf.

Morin was the third wrestler in USM history to wrestle in the NCAA tournament, and finished his season 30-8 overall.

Students getting ready for bracket-mania despite no D-I program
March Madness is just around the bend

Michael Tariff
SPORTS WRITER

The annual rite of spring that captivates millions of American sports fans is rapidly approaching: students around USM are not immune to the frenzy that is March Madness in college basketball.

From casual fans to die-hard Dukies and those who bleed Tar Heel blue, the annual college basketball tournaments draw a boatload of attention and even more speculation.

But what is it that draws so many people to spend their spring breaks watching multiple games simultaneously and fall asleep clutching their coveted brackets? Well, apparently for a number of USM students, March Madness means one thing: upsets.

Senior Corey Smith, a former standout basketball player at Old Orchard Beach High School, says that he likes the tournaments because they’re unlike any other sporting event.

“Every year some team comes out of the woodwork and manages to make a run. And even though you know that they’re not going to make it all the way, it’s fun to watch them while their run lasts,” he said.

And Smith is right. Every year teams like George Mason, Butler and Vermont find a way to sneak into the tournament and upset a juggernaut.

Senior Husky basketball standout Drew Coppenrath knows a little something about upsets and it’s got nothing to do with his tenure in a Southern Maine uniform.

Coppenrath’s older brother Taylor—one of the all-time greats in the America East Conference—was on a Vermont team that, in the first round of the NCAA tournament, and finished his season 30-8 overall.

Stadium packed with more than 5000 fans, Morin celebrates his victory over Jake Tyler (Springfield College) in the NCAA championship match, held in Iowa this past weekend.

Drew Coppenrath
Senior Husky basketball standout

I’d probably have to say North Carolina,” he says, “but I think Duke could make a good run. They have a lot of good athletes and shooters. It really depends on who is healthy and who is playing well,” said Reid.

At USM, a school that doesn’t boast a Division I program and the typical March Madness experience, Reid doesn’t find himself living vicariously through his fellow basketball fans in places like Knoxville, Tenn., or Gainesville, Fla.

“I’ve got a buddy who goes to school at Clemson and he loves the sports programs. I’ve always thought about going to a big school like that, but really I just like it here and I don’t miss that experience much,” he said.

Whether you’re a die-hard fan who loves March Madness for the “love of the game” like Reid, have a vested interest like Coppenrath, or if you’re just a casual fan who loves the idea of Drake being crowned national champions, March has something for you.

Get out there, fill out your brackets (and don’t forget the upsets) because there’s plenty of basketball just around the corner.