

the free press

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE



MEN'S TRACK
AT ECAC'S

PAGE 19

Suspicious man serenades the library, gets banned from campus



PHOTO COURTESY OF USM PD

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

MATT DODGE
NEWS EDITOR

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 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 slung over his shoulder, he attempted to serenade The Free Press staff and board of advisors.

"Is this the group I am suppose 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

And Pattenaude says... Botman for USM president

SARAH TRENT
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

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 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



STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

Another Doogie Howser

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

JESSICA PURSER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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 grad student about to teach a lab. He was once a lab instructor, but Peppe is not anywhere near normal. And he is not a grad student. Nor is he in his 20s.

Peppe is 17. He started taking college classes at the age of 11, and is one of the youngest students ever to attend USM.

His mother, Helen, started teaching Peppe at home 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 she 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 the early studies program at USM, 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

See PEPPE page 4

Connecting students, administration in creating university goals

LAURA FELLOWS
INTERNS

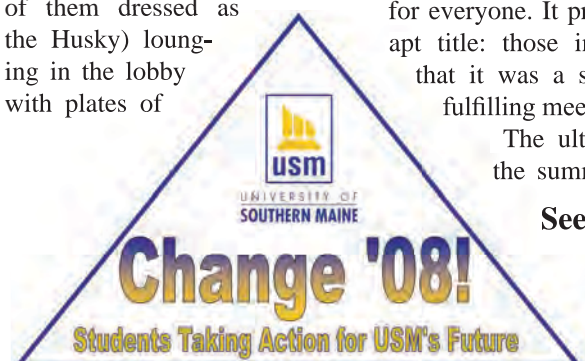
If you happened to wander through Bailey Hall around lunchtime on Friday, Feb. 29, you had to weave through a crowd of students (one of them dressed as the Husky) lounging in the lobby with plates of

Aramark pasta salad and sandwiches.

These students — including the Husky — were gathered for "Change '08," a day-long summit for student leaders to reflect on what's wrong with their USM experiences, and what they might do to make them better—for everyone. It proved to be an apt title: those involved attest that it was a successful and fulfilling meeting.

The ultimate goal of the summit was to do

See CHANGE
page 17



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

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS!

Israeli soldier breaks the silence at USM

BRANDON MCKENNEY

STAFF WRITER

It's August in the Ein Beit 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 Argentina 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'aman of his three years of service in the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF).

The incident in August, though not his own, is commonplace.

Na'aman 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'aman 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'aman 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'aman 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'aman, 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'aman, playing into the attitude that it's crucial to defend the country from the 'perceived

threat' of Palestinians and terrorism.

Na'aman, 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'aman, 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'aman 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 amongst 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'aman.

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'aman 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'aman 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 si-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BREAKING THE SILENCE

lence about what is being done in Israel's name.

When a man in the audience questioned the truth of his accounts, Na'aman 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'aman. "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'aman 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.shovrimshatika.org/index_e.asp.

Above, Oded Na'aman talks about photographs submitted by former Israeli soldiers at a talk in Boston. Na'aman is part of "Breaking the Silence," a group of former Israeli soldiers speaking out on their experiences.



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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 re-

source 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 community 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 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



PHOTO COURTESY OF SIFE

Members of SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) pose for a portrait while at an event last year in Boston. Shown left to right are: Heather Reed, Buddy Lalemand, Tristram McNeill, Carissa O'Brien, Lori Royer, Lindsay Michaud and Sara Willey.

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 get a lot of students who join 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 REQUIREMENT:

- ❖ 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, Costello Sports Complex.

17-year-old student, tutor, etc.

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.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA PURSER

Maine Students Against Handgun Violence T-Shirt Design Contest

\$1,000 prize!
Submission deadline: April 2
Winner announced: April 16
For contest details visit

www.mcahv.org
Sponsored by Maine Citizens Against Handgun Violence



One year later: is USM getting the message?

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

DAVID O'DONNELL

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 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 buildings 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 leads led them to believe that no threat remained.

Regardless, the vague and belated stream of official e-mails fell on the media like a high-tech whimper.

Especially as reports surfaced of how quickly students had whipped out their cell phones and began text-messaging rumors of the incident within minutes of the first shootings.

The clear and tragic picture at Virginia Tech was one of untapped potential.

After the shooting, universities across the country reacted, reassuring their students that rapid emergency response systems were either already in place or being modified based on the experiences of Virginia Tech.

At the time of the incident, USM was already evaluating its own emergency response system in response to the slew of bomb threats the school faced during the previous semester.

Though the bomb threats proved to be an annoyance more than anything else, they provided ample opportunity to test the school's existing procedures.

"I don't want you to think we didn't have to react at all after Virginia Tech," 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 clearly work to be done, and there continues to be work to be done."

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 an influx of companies offering the infrastructure to create databases of student phone numbers and, in the event of an emergency, send out discreet, detailed text messages with information and instructions.

Hutchinson says that USM is likely to roll out one of these programs in the very near future, with a service that UMaine Orono has been taking advantage of since last fall: called e2campus, it's run by OmniAlert, LLC.

Orono's 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 users are currently enrolled," he said in a telephone interview. "It seems as if students are sometimes 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 effectiveness in an emergency.

It has, 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 challenges to the systems universities have put into place since Virginia Tech.

In September 2007, a gunman entered St. John's University in Queen's New York — one of the first universities to institute a text messaging program.

The masked gunman was detained ten minutes after he was first spotted, and the campus police immediately dispensed with the following notice:

"From public safety. Male was found on campus with a rifle. Please stay in your buildings until further notice. He is in custody, but please wait until the all-clear."

The school drew praise for the calm reaction from students, and those who had originally been reluctant to give away their cell phone numbers flocked to the service in droves.

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

The school had no text messaging 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 observation deck of the University's 32-story administrative building after murdering his wife and mother. He was eventually shot and killed by Austin police. The shootings were 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 University Fullerton. Edward Charles Allaway, a custodian at the school library, killed seven people on the 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 student, killed 32 people before committing 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 University, New York. Omesh Hiraman, a 22-year-old freshman engineering student, brought a rifle to campus. He was detained and arrested within 10 minutes of being reported, and a text-messaging service warned students to remain inside until given 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 increasingly 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 alternative 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 preparation at your own pace. They help avoid daunting paperwork through a friendlier interface. Make sure to buy the latest version, as tax law changes year to year. Some of the more popular programs include TurboTax 2007 and TaxWise 2007.

Cost: \$20-\$80

Professional Tax Preparers

These services vary greatly, from small local firms to franchise operations like H&R Block. If

financial events in the past fiscal year (inheritance, marriage, purchase of a home) threaten to complicate your filing, it might be time to go to the pros. Students could be turned away by the high cost of professional tax preparation, but security and accuracy is often guaranteed by the company.

Warning: companies that offer "instant refunds" are often actually giving you a loan, that should be repaid as soon as your actual refund arrives to avoid high interest rates.

Cost: \$100-\$300

Online Tax Preparation

Many websites offer online tax prep. These services are similar to tax prep software, but are internet-based. Several sites offer "free" tax prep for taxpayers filling out 1040, 1040a, and 1040-EZ, but other tax forms and state tax forms are not included. These sites offer more complete tax prep for additional fees, but beware — many charge additional fees for e-filing.

Cost: \$15-\$80

IRS "Free File"

For taxpayers with an income of \$54,000 or less (hello students), the IRS offers free, fast online filing. This service, launched in January, includes e-filing. To make sure you are eligible, check the IRS website.

Cost: Free

Pen & Paper

The traditional method of tax preparation. If you feel up to the task, feel free to tackle the paperwork yourself, but be careful. Missed deductions could cost you money on your refund, and incorrectly filled-out forms could lead to a "fraudulent return," which can mean problems down the road.

Cost: Free



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



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 in Payson Smith. The soon-to-be-setting sun caught the iced-over trees in the most perfect way...I wished I had 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 it feels like just that — a quad. Something you’d expect to find at some 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 of the snow. Maybe it’s the fact that, in this time of constant and frustrating news — from budget cuts to new presidents to the infamous 26 programs (and sudden coverage from the Press Herald) — people have started paying attention.

Maybe it has something to do with the fact that nearly every athletic team this winter performed amazingly.

Or the frequent meetings I have with professors, just to talk, or the fact that after so many years of so many activities, half the administration knows who I am.

Maybe it’s because new buildings are springing up, buildings that, though I think won’t see much use from the general population, make Portland feel more like a college campus, and make Gorham look even more like one.

Bailey Hall now has a café — a real, coffee-shop-feeling café with high tables along a full wall of windows. Perhaps that one small thing is what did it for me.

What about the fact that I have regular conversations with the Portland cafeteria staff —Andy who makes the best sandwiches ever (and sometimes remembers that I don’t like pickles) and Meghan who will only tell you her second job if she really likes you (I won’t share it here).

USM finally feels like a university to me, not just the place I go to take classes and see friends.

It was an odd transition. I don’t know where it came from. Maybe it was just the woman smiling to me in the elevator.

But I like it.

Sarah Trent
Executive Editor

Letter to the Editor

Gilbert is a filbert (a nut)

In last week’s “From the Right,” Dustin Gilbert advocates the censorship of prisoners and their art. I would like to ask him and you, the reader, a question. Could we imagine a world in which Martin Luther King Jr. or Nelson Mandela had their voices silenced while imprisoned? We would have lost the inspiration of “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” and the education of Mandela. Could we hope for a world in which the millions imprisoned by Stalin and Hitler were able to express their opinion?

They, too, are political prisoners — but only when judged in hindsight by a different political sphere. They committed treason, incited riots, used violent force and were convicted according to ‘just’ law.

That we are unable to distinguish between the rightly and wrongly convicted is recognized by our justice system.

Thus, we must grant all prisoners the same rights.

It is unfortunate this point has been ignored by the recent columnist, Dustin Gilbert. He offers dull comments and undeserved congratulations to USM

for banning the artwork of Tom Manning.

Mr. Gilbert also appeals to the families of the victims to stir the reader’s emotions and make us think, “Well, I would be offended too!”

He is missing the central point about freedom of speech. Freedom of speech is not meant to protect the sensitive and the grieving from opposing opinion. It is meant to protect the words and thoughts of the oppressed and the disenfranchised, including prisoners.

He blabbers on, “No university...should ever glorify a man behind bars, no matter what his sentence.” This offers the same harsh judgment to repeat traffic offenders, shoplifters, high school pot dealers and murderers.

If you call on God to be the final judgment, She would probably ask you to relax and let those who have committed crimes be judged by Her, not you.

One final question, one final request. If this is a compassionate Republican what can we expect from other Republicans? Vindictive condemnations? Compassionate censorship?

We are responsible enough to make our own decisions as to what we would like to view and what is important to us.

We enjoy our freedom of speech, as well as our freedom to observe.

The Republican Party’s impulsivity to control the voice of individuals is indicative of its lack of self-assurance and a failing power base. The people of the United States would like Mr. Gilbert and his party to stop intruding on the free market of ideas with governmental oversight, intrusion, and censorship.

Raviv Ramdial
Former USM student

CORRECTIONS

In “Cause I wanna drive the Zamboni” in our March 3 issue, we improperly referenced the word “Zamboni.” As a trademark, the word should have been capitalized in all instances. Zamboni Merchandising Co. has also informed the Free Press that the ice resurfacing machine at USM is not, in fact, a Zamboni.

BREAKING TRADITION

Recalling Edward.....

MARIE ALLEN
COLUMNIST

Believe it or not, you can find conservatism in some pretty strange places. I read Dustin Gilbert’s original letter to the editor very closely.

When I introduced myself in this column, I tried to describe some of the many facets that make up who I am.

A mother and English major, gay and very close to being 45, deep within me beats the very conservative heart of a woman whose oldest brother was a police officer who was shot and later died of his injuries.

While I am sure Dustin and I could find much to disagree about, we do not disagree about wholeheartedly supporting the university’s cancellation of Tom Manning’s art show.

I was very upset when I learned the story of how Tom Manning had learned to paint in prison, after killing the state trooper.

My brother loved horses, he never had the luxury of learning how to paint, and he stayed busy trying to keep his section of New York City safe.

My brother was shot in pursuit of a drug dealer.

He died before the advent of bullet proof vests and other equipment that thankfully keep law enforcement officers more safe today.

I will never forget that day. I was home with my parents, my mother walked into the room with a gaping mouth and handed the phone to my father.

It was one of the first times, I ever saw my father cry.

The rest of the day remains a blur; they were whisked to the hospital by police car while I remained at home, too young to be allowed to go into the hospital.

I saw my brother’s face on the news, I thought of my nieces — his children — and I thought of what it would be like when he came home.

I planned his arrival. I was the youngest of my family, and he was the oldest. He was someone I looked up to. He never came home.

I do not see how Mr. Manning and his supporters can claim him to be a political prisoner. Murder is never just.

I am gay. I do not hide that, and yet it can be said that my community is treated unjustly every day.

I love my partner, and have for almost 20 years now. This society will let us (with some wrangling) buy property together; we can raise children together, but they will not let us publicly validate our relationship.

Do you have any idea how crazy that can make conservative old me?

Being gay is as much a part of my being as my green eyes are.

But our society will not yield.

More and more of my tax dollars go to fund a government that wastes my money on things like the “Defense of Marriage Act.”

While it is maddening, it does not give me the right to kill any one.

When struggling against injustice, we need to be careful not to assume the tactics and ways of our oppressors. While struggling against injustice, we need to do it in a just manner, else we become oppressors ourselves.

I will defend with my last breath anyone’s right to speak out against what they see as injustice.

Universities are places of learning, not self-contained biospheres that grow only left-leaning, allegedly forward-leaning leaders of tomorrow.

Diversity matters. My brother mattered. Diversity of opinion matters. My voice matters.

My tuition dollars fund this university, as do my tax dollars; had the university not pulled the show, I would have transferred.

I am part of this community and my voice matters as much as my money does.

My brother was not an oppressive person, he was sworn to uphold the laws and values that we all share in this life.

My brother was not a social cause; he was simply that, my brother Edward.

My voice, and the voice of my family, is the only voice he has left.

the free press
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Upcoming USM events

Monday March 10

Free Press Budget Meeting - Weekly meeting to assign stories/ 92 Bedford Street, Portland Campus/ 5-6 p.m./ For more information email Sarah Trent at sarah.trent@yahoo.com.

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 required by 3/7 - Email sparker-holmes@usm.maine.edu or call 780-5767, and visit susm.maine.edu/glbta/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”/ 4:20-8 p.m./ Portland campus, Woodbury Campus center/ For more information and to reserve your seats please contact gdemaine@usmm.maine.edu or call Pat Finn at 780-4284.

Manager of Fair Trade Company comes to speak- Jon Rosenthal, co-founder and former 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 Philbrick 207-753-6575 or email philbric@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 Bedford Street, Portland Campus/ 5-6 p.m./ For more information email Sarah Trent at sarah.trent@yahoo.com.

“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 Westminster St., Lewiston, in Room 170. / For more information please contact Daniel Philbrick 207-753-6575 or email philbric@usm.maine.edu.

Model United Nations Organization Weekly Meeting- If you like global affairs and conference planning, please join us!/ 5-5:30 p.m./ 217 Abromson Community Education Center, Portland campus/ For more information please email jelena.serenac@maine.edu.

Wednesday March 12

Leadership Development Board Meeting- This week reflecting on the Change ’08 Summit, beginning to think about the annual Student Involvement Awards, and taking leadership recognition ‘Dog Pound Award’ nominations./ 10:30 a.m./ Student Government 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@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 Currier will be presenting his research on poster design. He will talk about the techniques to successfully present your work. This would be valuable to students who plan to present a poster at “Thinking Matters” this spring!/ 12:15-1:30 p.m./ USM GIS Lab, 302 Bailey Hall/ Contact Michele Tranes at 780-5063 or gislab@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 info, contact the Interfaith Chaplain, 228-8093 or interfaith@usm.maine.edu.

Thursday March 13

Meditation Club Meeting- Please come to our weekly open meetings to learn and practice methods for fostering peace in yourself/ 208 Luther Bonney, Portland Campus/ 3:30-4:30 p.m./ For more information please contact yoorilawson@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- GEB meets weekly to plan events for the Gorham campus/ Husky Hut, Gorham Campus/ 7-9 p.m./ For more information contact aschwartz@usm.maine.edu.

Maine PIRG 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 Hastings Hall, Gorham campus/ 2:30-4:30 p.m./ Call 228-8501 for more information.



Portland Events Board’s speed dating event last semester drew a crowd of nearly a hundred participants.

Speed Dating/ Alternative Rock Show- Woodbury Campus Center Cafeteria, Portland Campus/ 9 p.m.-2 a.m./ Contact the Portland Events Board at farnhamj@msn.com.

Artist Talk: Gideon Bok- hear this year’s artist in residence speak/ 1-2:30 p.m./ Burnham Lounge, Robie Andrews Hall/ Contact the art department for info 780-5460.

Saturday March 15

USM Theater and Music present City of Angels- Set in the glamorous, seductive Hollywood of the ‘40’s, the world of film studios and flimsy negligees, the musical chronicles the misadventures 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 Mainstage/ For information call the box office (207) 780-5151

Sunday March 16

Outing Club Meeting- Weekly meeting of the Southern 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.

FROM THE RIGHT

Open your mind and read...

DUSTIN GILBERT
COLUMNIST

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 controlling government. I believe in free markets. I believe in capitalism 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 includes Christianity, as some have forgotten).

I believe it is my duty as a citizen of this country to question authority—not disobey, just question.

I believe in the right to bear arms and protecting the 2nd amendment. I believe in working for wealth, not begging or taking or taking then giving (welfare).

I am not a follower of Al Gore’s manufactured cash cow that is 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 weakest conservatives in American politics — and I will vote for him.

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

I believe this country is great, though, and its future is in the Facebook and MySpace generation’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 pornification 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 government 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 organized 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 compassionate conservative hoping to help his fellow students better understand right-wingers.

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

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 Pattenaude in September 2006.

Pattenaude 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 fervently condemned, rather than examined in a broader political and historical context.

The problem with his position is that it’s incredibly simplistic—and 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 were blatantly political in nature.

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 guerilla 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 Nuremburg 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.

The aspects of the story surrounding the unfortunate death of Trooper Philip Lamonaco 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. Lamonaco’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 rightists may suggest, however, the emotional sensitivity surrounding a subject such as political prisoners 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 Pattenaude decided to cave to the intimidating pressure from non-USM private interest groups.

The controversy surrounding Tom Manning is not over — nor 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

Photo and interview by Liz Lugosi

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 today’s religious discourse, which is taking a pervasive grip on the people there.

What inspired you to pursue the field of political science? How were you influenced?

What inspired me was in the old days of Syria, in the larger Arab world of the 1950s, there was so much politicalization among students. There was very much an awareness of what was going on in the world and region, and people were very much politically involved.

Political parties would penetrate high school kids in those days and try to recruit them. They were recruiting future leaders, so to speak. I was politically inclined, but more in terms of the intellectual and academic realm of politics, as an observer.

How important do you consider it to be passionate about teaching and learning?

To me, not only is it being passionate, but teaching and learning is a vocation in life.

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 is engrained in me, really. I’ve nourished it, nurtured it over time, becoming seasoned in my vocation. I’ve grown to love it all the more. I am 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 staying 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 did 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 students; traditional, matriculated/non matriculated, part-time, the 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.



MAHMUD FAKSH

*PROFESSOR OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE*

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.

Arts & Entertainment

9 The Free Press | March 10 2008



STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

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

Reza Jalali presents “Feminism in Modern Iranian Poetry”

JENNA HOWARD
A & E EDITOR

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 Farokhzad 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 about Iran, and to humanize his home country through the recognition of our commonalities, specifically in the international art of poetry.

For Iranians like Jalali who call the United States their home, the message was important. For Americans who don’t know much about the country of Iran, the message was educational.

“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.

He began his presentation with a slideshow of the country of Iran showing images of the natural beauty of the country; of highways and operas and ski slopes, of schoolchildren women protestors.

He explained that women’s movements are vibrant in Iran, as they have been for years.

This feminism, he explains, isn’t the same fight feminists in the West fight.

In Iran, men are the traditional economic breadwinners, 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.

The evening was meant to give human faces to Iranians, and to show that music and poetry are universal.

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.

He claimed the status of a political refugee in the United States in the 1980s and then began working for Amnesty International.

See REZA page 13

DON’T
STAY HOME

YOU COULD BE IN FILM
KNOW YOUR COPYRIGHTS

MARCH 10

Come tango at the North Star Cafe with Tango Mucha Labia, and show off your moves. The lesson starts at 7, and the dancing at 8. \$5/ 225 Congress St., Portland/ 699-2994

MARCH 11

Want to be an actor? Come audition for student films at the USM media studies production facility. They’re looking for men and women between the ages of 20 and 50, ish. Four films are being cast - production schedules will vary. 7:00/ 68 High St., Portland/ (207) 772-1326

MARCH 12

The interfaith chaplains present the next topic in their discussion series: money. This event will be a respectful discussion of money and how it relates to different faith traditions - anyone is welcome to attend, listen, and speak out. Free/ 4 to 6 p.m./ Faculty Dining Room, Brooks Student Center, Gorham/ 228-8093

MARCH 13

The band Paradigm will be in concert at the Big Easy (paradigmband.com) with special guests Adam and the Waxmen (myspace.com/adamandthewaxmen). \$5/ 9 p.m./ 55 Market St., Portland/ 775-2266

MARCH 14

Are you interested in law and copyright, creative expressions, or both? This seminar will cover copyright laws and how they affect the creative process, and is co-sponsored by the Center for Law & Innovation and the Maine Center for Creativity. \$5 students/\$10 public/\$20 for CLE credit/ 3:30 to 5 p.m./ Moot Courtroom, USM School of Law, Portland campus/ pre-register at 207-874-6521

MARCH 15

Come and see “City of Angels,” a play that won six Tony Awards. It is set in the 1940’s, and follows a young man in his struggles to adapt one of his novels to the movie screen. USM’s version is a co-production between the Music and Theater departments. Directed by Wil Kilroy. Reservations required. \$5/\$10/\$15/ 7:30 to 9:30 p.m./ Russell Hall, Gorham campus/ (207) 780-5151

MARCH 16

The Portland Museum of Art will be hosting a Jazz Breakfast, featuring Diane Hanson’s Night & Day. The concert is free with admission, and breakfast items can be bought in the Cafe. Night & Day bring a taste of South America, and are well-known in Europe. \$8 student/ 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m./ 7 Congress Square, Portland/ 775-6148

A day in the life of WMPG

DAVID O'DONNELL

STAFF WRITER

WMGP 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 Silly's restau-

rant. 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.

Dennison 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 readies the Supertramp song "Fool's Overture." When finishes the changeover and pulls his hands off the board triumphantly.

"I had 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 appreciated the transition.

11:59 — David Bunker, the program manager who has been weaving 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 WMGP, 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 state of the business — when 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 MBPN, 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 Homedad — ushers in the post-lunch half-hour with his short but lively and polished news-talk show. And he has a 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 "impeach 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, sociopathic, draft-dodging, corporate happy-face, who claims high-tech death and destruction is the only way to democracy."

Looking over at his 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. "It's just going to get dried up if nobody's using it."

Tune to WMGP 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 the sound booth out for yourself, contact David Bunker at (207) 780-4598 or programdirector@wmpg.org.



Dave Bunker, program manager at WMGP, is on the air. His show, Democracy Now!, plays every day from noon to 1 p.m. You can listen to Bunker and his staff of student and community DJ's at 90.9 and 104.1 FM, as well as online at wmpg.org.



STAFF PHOTOS BY ROBERT JOHNSON

Gideon Bok

JARED THURBER

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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.

Walking through the gallery is like walking through a photo album: the subjects of Bok's work are the various studios he's inhabited over the years.

They include whatever people, dogs, and beer bottles happened to be in the room while he was painting.

Any visitor might find him or herself in his next work.

The static objects in the studio—windows, furniture, even other works of art—appear as the most solid in his paintings. Objects that

move—like people—have an unfinished, transparent quality.

"It's kind of like chasing something you'll never catch," says Bok, explaining how he paints moving subjects in a slow medium.

Some of the people are solid, some you can see through, some appear multiple times and others don't have legs—evidence that they didn't stay long.

Often, he paints someone only while they're in his studio and then paints over him or her as soon as they leave.

In one of the unfinished paintings in the corner is the figure of a student sitting in the paint-spattered yellow chair.

"I will probably eventually paint him out," says Bok.

Far from being staged, Bok's style is organic—his paintings just happen.

"It started back in grad school," says Bok of his subjects and his style. "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."

Here at USM, he doesn't mind when students come by just to chat, read, or play the guitar—he encourages it.

Portraying studios from Manhattan to Rockland, all of Bok's paintings have a story.

"That was one of my favorite times," he says, motioning towards a large painting of ghostly musicians jamming in the corner of a studio.

The summer it was painted, a friend and record producer had invited some musicians to his Rockland studio to record.



Bok grins as he looks at the painting. Musicians, he says, make interesting subjects—and music seems an important part of his life.

An old Fender guitar sits next to a large amplifier in the middle of the floor. If you look hard enough, you can spot the guitar in most of his paintings.

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 "33 1/3," 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.



Shown here is Gideon Bok's makeshift studio in the Gorham campus art gallery. Bok is this semester's artist-in-residence through the USM Art Department. Above, he works on his latest painting, titled "16 Shells from a 30 Ought 6."



“How do you find out about all this music I’ve never heard of?”

Pop culture and music blogger has the answer

TYLER BUSSEY

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Once in a while, when I’m hyping a great new band or a generally unheard of musician to a friend, they’ll ask (to paraphrase): “Tyler, how do you find out about all this music I’ve never heard of?”

I used to get this question more often, when I was more active in seeking out strange or unknown artists. In the past couple years, I’ve fallen a little behind. Even so, every now and then I am granted the privilege of revealing to friends a singer or a band they’ll love that they probably wouldn’t have found otherwise. It’s a great feeling.

And it’s a feeling which mp3 blogs provide for their readers just about every day. In fact, I’d guess that the vast majority of the great artists I’ve discovered over the past few years have been found through reading mp3 blogs. (In other words, I can’t really take any of the credit!)

So how can you find some great music that you might not find otherwise? Here are just a few of the many great mp3 blogs out there, just to get you started.



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 bootlegged 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 Outtakes, 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. (Hilariously terrible, or terribly hilarious? You be the judge!)

Some of the lovely artists Gorilla vs. Bear has hyped: J. Tillman, Birdmonster, St. Vincent, Sunset Rubdown, Bell.



FLUXBLOG

The almighty Fluxblog (<http://www.fluxblog.org/>) really gets it right. Here you have just about everything you could ask from an mp3 blog: thoughtful, vivid writing paired with genre-spanning music. Even stand-up comedy is shared, the recently posted bit “Fridge, Audience Member’s Tab, Best Celebrity Sighting” being a highlight. Best of all, whether the subject is Stephen Malkmus or Beyonce Knowles, both the writing and the tunes – most of the time, anyway – transcend the limitations of genre by sheer creative force.

Fluxblog hipped me to: BATTLES, The Clientele, rare Destroyer tracks, and the demo version of Feist’s “Mushaboom.”



SAID THE GRAMOPHONE

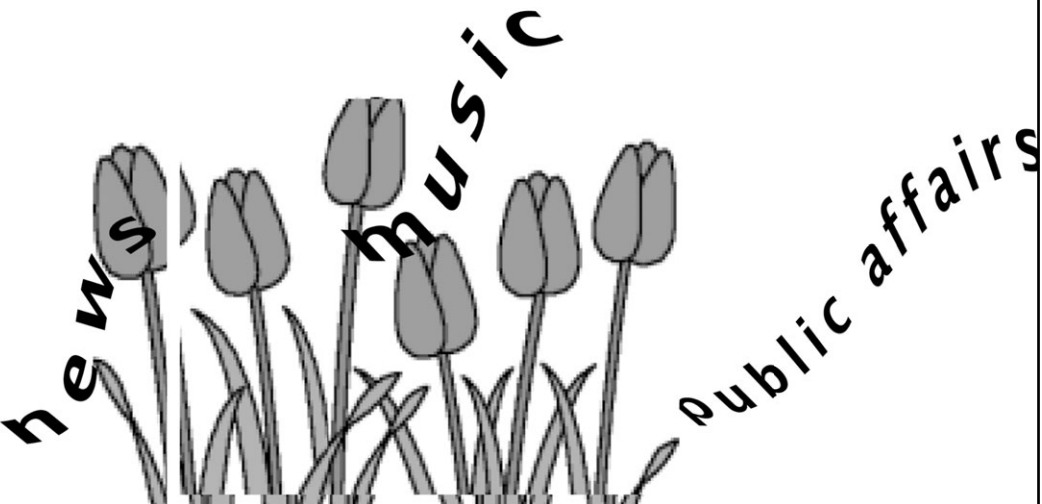
Said the Gramophone (<http://www.saidthegramophone.com>) is far and away my favorite of the bunch. Partly this is due to the blog’s compatibility with my own tastes: rarely do the blog’s writers – Sean Michaels, Jordan Himelfarb and Dan Beirne – post a song I dislike. Sometimes their tastes are a little 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 fulfilled in less than a day.

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



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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



STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

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.

Jalali brings culture to campus

From REZA page 9

That is when he met southern Maine.

He went to graduate school at Antioch University in New Hampshire, commuting from Maine.

He got his MFA from USM's Stonecoast Program, a program he raves about and with whom he has worked on projects such as last week's event.

From there, he traveled the globe for Amnesty International, the London-based NGO. It was work that led Jalali to Bosnia during volatile times, where he was again arrested and put in jail — accused of arms-dealing because of his American passport.

The organization had to prove Jalali was a writer and humanitarian aid worker. He returned and began publishing essays in southern Maine newspapers.

In 2001 he traveled back to Iran, after 29 years of being away from the place he grew up.

Reformers had opened up the country again, and he finally felt safe to go back.

But a lot had changed.

"Leaving a place and then returning to it years later is like leaving a romantic relationship. And, of course things change, looks change, you just imagine things will be exactly as you left them. You think the person you loved will look just the same as when you left, ageless, even wearing the same shirt. Going back to Iran was like that, I was shocked when I didn't know the place."

Jalali represented New England for two terms as an elected member of the national board for Amnesty International.

He testified and presented papers at Second Human Rights Conference in Vienna, held by the UN.

He went to the White House. He met celebrities.

Then, back in Maine, he received his favorite honor yet: after starting a chapter of Amnesty at Greely High School, students nominated him for their yearly "Ordinary Hero" award. He won.

University without walls

Jalali works with the office of service learning and civic engagement to get students out in the community, and the community interacting with students.

"Service learning is huge. Good higher learning institutions should be an extension of the community. Community members should think of USM as their university. Every Mainer—Franco, Sudanese, 5th generation Mainer, and newcomer—young and old, must look at USM as an option."

He went on to say that USM has not done a good job at being an extension—"We're not there yet."

In dealing with administration's concerns, he considers himself a 'myth-buster.'

"There is a misconception that someone will have to pay for immigrants to go through school, a silly thought that newcomers are helpless," he says.

Jalali clears this myth up again and again.

Not only are they eligible for financial aid, their families often think highly of education and have looked to the U.S. as a place where it's possible to get it.

He estimates that there are 120,000 refugees in southern Maine — more than ever. Many of them are dying to get here, but we need to reach out.

"We are on the way to becoming a university without walls. You visit a large university and the population is 45 percent immigrant. Our hope is to reflect 15 percent." He hopes to diversify USM more each year.

"High school students would rather go to New York or Boston, where they can be exposed to different cultures, learn from others. Imagine," he says, "a classroom where you're beside four Africans, two South Pacific Asians, one Russian, one Israeli, rather than someone from Gorham and someone from Scarborough."

Jalali has spent eight years with USM, in various rewarding positions, and says he is certainly committed to this institution.

Publishers and friends have been pushing Jalali to write a memoir, but with all his activities, goals and various projects, he says it is out of the question for now.

Now, it is more important that he gives voice to people who's voices, he fears, are vanishing.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AS FAST AS

Destroy 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 Lavoie 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 comfort 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 terri-

tory. "Homewrecker" starts with a precise electronic scamper, only before hitting a wall of guitars and organs that are reminiscent of Albee's first album, The Popsicko.

The track "The Road To Hell" revisits the 1970s' 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-rock" mash-ups, 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 Ow" is highlighted with excellent use of ukelele, bells, and mellotron.

"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+.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PLANESIDE

Under the Circumstances, Planeside livens 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, bassist Ken Hirasaki, and drummer Craig Sala has been performing in Maine longer than most local bands have lasted, and they continue to stay fresh, attract large crowds, and put on some of the most energetic live sets this side of New England.

Planeside recently teamed up with legendary Portland-producer Jon Wyman to create Under

The Circumstances. Wyman and 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 throughout 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. Baritone guitar and B3 organ aptly complement Dave Harris' slow growl and steady picking in a unique blend of instrumentation.

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

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directed by Thomas Power

Director Wil Kilroy
Musical Director Edward Reichert
co-production with USM School of Music

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5 p.m. March 16, 19, and 23
10 a.m. student matinee March 18

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Newsday Crossword

USE YOUR HANDS by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

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: Abbr.

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 Racetrack postings

66 Tea variety

67 Butcher-shop buy

68 Chick's chirp

69 Pay out

70 Choir voice

71 Lays down a lawn

DOWN

1 Venetian-blind part

2 Solemn pledges

3 Coffee-break snack

4 United

5 Keepsake

6 Switchboard worker: Abbr.

7 Educate

8 Phone answerer's greeting

9 Trample

10 Hole-punching tool

11 Powerful ocean surge

12 Chilled, as champagne

13 Geek

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

37 "Goodness gracious!"

40 ___ moss (gardener's material)

42 Woolly mammal

44 Usher's offering

45 Woos with music

48 Tried out

50 Girl Scout units

52 Serious play

53 Song sung on 57 Down

55 The "V" of VCR

56 Finished

57 Swiss peaks

58 Ooze slowly

60 Well-groomed

61 Sugar amounts: Abbr.

63 Dad's boy

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20					21					22			23	
	24						25			26				
					27		28			29			30	31
32	33	34			35			36	37			38		
39			40				41			42				
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	47				48				49		50			
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62			63				64				65			
66							67				68			
69							70				71			

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

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

HOW TO TURN YOUR SPORTS OBSESSION INTO A CAREER WITH WINGS



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The Free Press



ARTS WRITER

Interested in
Arts? Writing?
or both?

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

Puzzle answers from page 15

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

S	O	D	A		M	O	T	H		S	A	T	I	N	
L	A	O	S		E	P	E	E		T	W	I	C	E	
A	T	N	O		M	E	A	L		E	L	D	E	R	
T	H	U	N	D	E	R	C	L	A	P		A	D	D	
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					E	T	C			A	N	S	W	E	R
A	I	M			S	O	A	P	E	D		L	A	V	A
T	R	I	P	S		R	A	G		S	E	V	E	N	
M	I	L	E		S	P	L	A	S	H		E	S	T	
			S	K	A	T	E			D	I	E	T		
				S	T	E	A	D	Y		N	E	R	V	E
A	S	H			S	T	R	O	N	G	P	O	I	N	T
L	E	A	S	T			A	D	E	S					
P	E	K	O	E			M	E	A	T					
S	P	E	N	D											

HUSKY HERO

Interview by John Forestell

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.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY EMILY ARTESANI

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 iPod 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.

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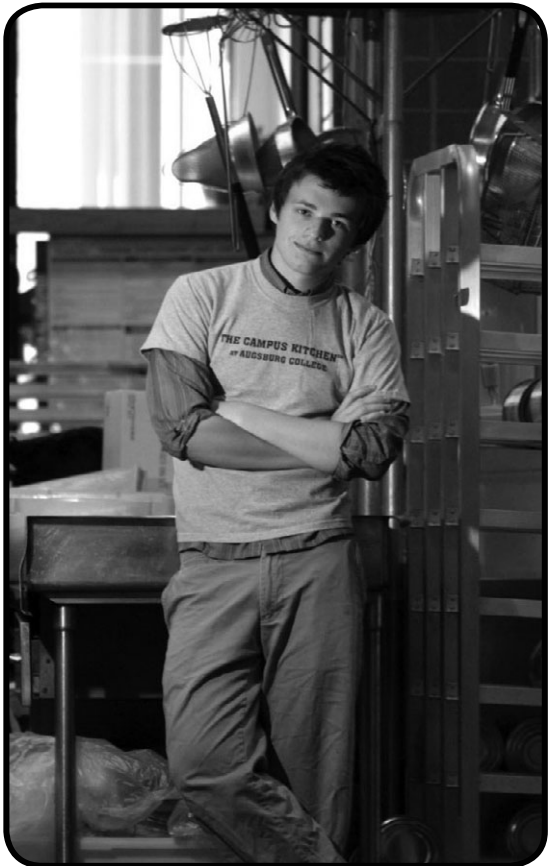
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"Change 08" asks students to come up with solutions

From CHANGE page 1

something about the lack of student involvement at USM.

While geared toward student group leaders, registration was open to any students who were interested in bringing 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 student 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 coordinated by the Leadership Development Board, and their work paid off.

"I couldn't have been more pleased with the overall results of the day," said O'Connor.

As the student government's staff advisor, O'Connor was connected 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 like, and what issues students are facing," he said.

After talking to students from many different campus groups—student 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, space and facilities challenges, and the lack of community amongst students.

During the actual summit, these areas were used to divide the attending students into more focused groups, and each was facilitated by a student and a staff member.

Although the planners had hoped for a higher attendance, the roughly 60 students who came "were truly dedicated and had some great ideas by the end of the day," said Emily Fitch, the chair of the Student Senate.

She spent part of the morning sweating in the Husky costume as she worked with the school spirit and community groups, who decided to combine because of the close relationship between the two issues—after all, says Fitch, "if you don't feel you're part of the place, you're not going to run out there and put on a Husky suit."

Overall, Fitch believed it was a fulfilling experience, and a great opportunity for students to develop practical goals.

In Fitch's group, one of the biggest problems they saw was that, despite the good things going on amongst student groups on campus, "people aren't reaching out to each other."

Developing more communication between the groups and individuals could help events to be much bigger, and Fitch noted that the most successful events that take place on campus are generally those that are sponsored by more than one group.

One solution proposed for this issue was the creation of forums for student leaders to connect with each other 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 the current facilities are run-down and this can hinder the learning process.

Favreau was optimistic about the results of the summit.

"It was really successful," he said. "Action plans were implemented, and there were a lot of freshmen and sophomores."

Favreau hopes that these younger 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-building session, focusing on leadership. The summit leaders covered topics such as goal-setting and action-planning to help students set realistic goals for the rest of the semester.

At the end of the day, the students were given the chance to present their ideas to a "listening panel" made up of 10 members of USM's administration, including 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 helping 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 recommended 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 amazing ideas and really good work that came out of that day," said O'Connor, "and we're working now with the groups to help continue 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 everybody do something and take charge."

Man removed, banned from campus

From SAFETY page 1

When asked to leave by executive 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 start a conversation and then slowly made his way out of the room.

He was later spotted on the seventh floor of Glickman, and then again in the campus center where the campus police got involved.

The Portland Police Department was called, but he was not arrested. The department dealt with him again later that night—in the Old Port and Monument Square on Friday evening, a member of the police department described him as being "a problem all night."

He was spoken to by police for acting "aggressive(ly) toward women." They said the abuse was only verbal.

The police did not arrest Tillotson, although one officer said they are very familiar with his history.

USM Police would not comment on specific details of the incident, citing it as a police matter. In the e-mail alert, it was stated that Tillotson was served criminal trespass papers, banning him from the USM campus.

In November 2004, he was arrested on the Bowdoin College campus after a police investigation in which he was suspected of using "unknown debilitating substances," on female students,

according to The Bowdoin Orient. He was convicted of invasion of privacy in 2005 in connection with the incident at Bowdoin.

Similar strange behavior has been observed in the Portland area.

Stephanie Atwood, of the Portland Downtown District, remembers some incidents with Tillotson while she was working at a kiosk in Tommy's Park.

Atwood says Tillotson would come to the park during the summer and start unprovoked arguments with park-goers. "He would yell at anything and everything," she said. "He was always trying to get into a fight over the most ridiculous things."

Atwood says that Tillotson appeared normal aside from his strange behavior, but that attempts from people in the park to calm him down, "just didn't seem to register. He would just start directing his anger at them."

The USM community has been advised to contact USM Police if Tillotson is seen on campus. The campus safety alert e-mail reminds students that Tillotson is also suspected of using "date-rape" drugs, that students should always closely monitor their drinks and not accept drinks from strangers.

The USM Police Department can be reached at 780-5211 or by dialing 9-1-1 from most campus phone-lines. They are located in the Sullivan Gym and the Portland Hall garage in Portland and in Upton Hastings Hall in Gorham.

Botman recommended for USM prez position

From PREZ page 1

"She was high on my list," said Dexter. Noting that she owns a house on Peaks Island and that her daughter went to Bates, he thought that the investment she already has in this state and making it better was one of the reasons she stood out.

"She has a personal stake being in Maine," he said, "and that will serve USM well."

Senior Marie Follayttar agreed that Botman's diverse experience and connection to Maine will be good for USM. Follayttar referenced Botman's experience in issues of academic freedom, student rights and activism and funding issues. "Some of that will be welcome in this environment," she said.

But more than that, Follayttar is excited that USM's next leader is going to be a woman.

"Now four of seven UMaine System presidents will be women. Since something like 60 percent

of UMS are women, it's nice to see an accurate reflection."

Botman holds a master's degree in Middle Eastern studies and a doctoral degree in history and Middle Eastern studies, both from Harvard University. She earned her bachelor's from Brandeis, and has a master's of philosophy from Oxford University.

In addition to her work at CUNY, she has also held senior administrative and faculty positions in the University of Massachusetts system and at Holy Cross College.

One of the few questions people have about her ability to lead USM relates to the size of the schools she has overseen. CUNY has 230,000 students and a budget of more than \$60 million. Some fear that it will be difficult for her to get used to our 10,400 students and ever-shrinking budget.

If the BOT approves Pattenau's recommendation, Botman will begin as USM's

president on July 1 and will receive an annual salary of \$203,000. She will replace interim President Joe Wood, who took over last July when former President Pattenau was named chancellor.

In the press release from Pattenau last week, Botman says that she is excited to work with USM's "superb faculty and staff and the wonderful students."

"The University of Southern Maine is poised for greatness," she said, "and I am tremendously excited by the prospect of working with the community toward realizing that future."

The Board of Trustees meets Monday at USM's Portland Campus. The meeting is at 3 p.m. on the 7th floor of the Glickman Library. It is open to the public and will cover everything discussed in committee meetings throughout the day, including the presidential appointment.

Be prepared

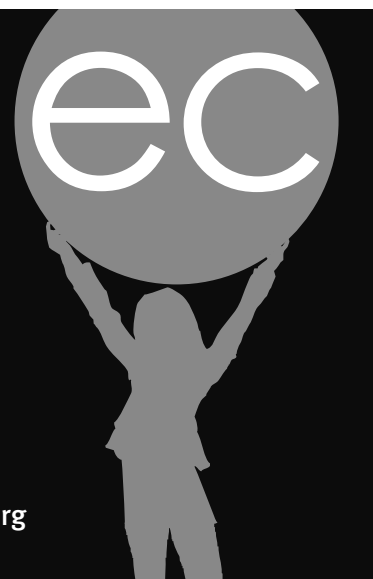
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Sports

Seasons end, but athletes recognized



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 of Husky hockey.



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 Dawn Ross (Gray), and after exchanging several baskets led 65-41 with just under seven minutes to play.

Kent took the bench and took her time letting coach Gary Fifield that she was ready to get back on the floor.

“I was relaxed,” she said. “We were up 15 points, I wasn’t in a hurry to get back in the game.”

And then the Judges, led by senior Jaime Capra, began their comeback. Brandeis scored 12 unanswered points, including seven by Capra, which brought them within two points of the Huskies with a little more than three minutes on the clock.

Men’s Basketball

Seniors Drew Coppenrath (Barnet, VT) and Jamaal Caterina (Portland) were named to the Little East Conference (LEC) all-conference team. Caterina earned a spot on the first team, and Coppenrath on the second and also the all-defensive squad. Caterina averaged 18 points and 9 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 and 59 assists.

Freshman Paul Conter (Woodbridge, Ontario) was named to this year’s ECAC all-rookie team.

Conter contributed 9 goals and eleven assists this season.

Wrestling

Junior co-captain Steve Valastro (Montgomery, NY) was honored with a spot on the Pilgrim Wrestling League all-star first team for the second consecutive season.

Valastro finished the season with an 18-5 record. Also receiving Pilgrim League honors were sophomore Mike Morin (Fryeburg), and senior co-captain Shane Stephenson (West Salem, OH). Morin was named to the league’s honorable mention all-star team, while Stephenson was named to the scholar-athlete all-star team.

Both Stephenson and Morin put in solid seasons, finishing 13-12 and 30-8 respectively. Morin was also the only USM wrestler to advance to the NCAA Championships.

Women’s Basketball

Junior Stacey Kent (Northwood, NH) was named 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 5.9 rebounds per game.

Also recognized by the MWBCA were sophomores Nicole Paradis (Skowhegan), Becky Dixon (Pittston), and freshman Kaylie DeMillo (Jay). Paradis 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



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

Above, Mike Morin wrestles and wins, the NEWA championship match. Below, Nicole Paradis takes the ball down the court. She was named to the MWBCA second-team all state.



MIKE ON SPORTS

For the sake of our stars

MICHAEL TARDIFF

COLUMNIST

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-Dartmouth: innocent enough. But as I took my seat in the relatively quiet gym during the final seconds of the Keene State/Rhode Island College game, the atmosphere began to change.

Student fans started pouring into the gym and before long I was surrounded by super-fans of all sorts. Some toted homemade megaphones, others carried the distinct smell of booze, but all of them were there with one prerogative: to root for their beloved Corsairs – loud and hard. When the Corsairs finally came bursting out of their locker room and rap music blared over the speakers at what seemed like three

trillion decibels and the railings on the bleachers rattled with excitement, 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 mothers to cover their 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 wearing Dartmouth blue and white – was something that this school is sorely missing.

I may have been on the wrong side of the tracks, but somehow, some way, that side of the tracks didn’t look 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-tradi-

tional students who work full-time and can’t be bothered by 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 apathy. 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.

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 apathetic fan-base. And while 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 patted on the back by adoring co-eds.

Rather, all of the jump shots and wristers, dumbbells and discuses are an effort by these athletes to put their teams on top. The least we can do is try to reward their efforts by, if not getting us exactly where UMass Dartmouth is, at least getting us on the right track.

“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.”

Men's track breaks records, will send Wheeler to nationals

MATT DODGE

NEWS EDITOR

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 meet 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.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRANDON MCKENNEY



The men's track team has had a spectacular season, culminating in a best-ever fifth place finish in the ECAC Division III championships held this past weekend.

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STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

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.

14 min. of fame

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 (Fryeburg) 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.

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.

Toppled 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

See BBALL page 18



STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

Senior Angela Santa Fe takes the fall down the court in a mideason game, followed by senior Josalee Danieli. The pair played crucial roles on this year’s squad, Santa Fe had 20 points in their season-ending match versus Brandeis this past weekend.

Students getting ready for bracket-mania despite no D-I program

March Madness is just around the bend

MICHAEL TARDIFF

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.

Junior 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, as a number 14 seed managed to upset third-ranked national powerhouse Syracuse and their legendary coach Jim Boeheim in one of the great upsets in March Madness history.

Earlier this year, Coppenrath told The Free Press that it was watching his brother playing in those conditions that inspired him to make a return to the hardwood following a hiatus after high school.

Junior Matty Reid experienced a little March Madness of his own as an assistant coach for Cape Elizabeth High School, who played in this year’s Class B state championship game. He agrees with Smith about the upsets and isn’t sure who he’d pick to win at this point.

“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.