

the free press

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE



Local acts
rock Brooks
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Addressing retention

Looking for new solutions to an old problem

Sarah Trent

Executive Editor

In 2004, 862 freshmen enrolled at USM. Now four years later, it can be estimated that only between 80 and 130 of those students will graduate this May.

By May '09, it's likely that only between 215 and 240 of the original 2004 cohort will have graduated.

What happened to the other 600 students? About half of them, roughly 290 students, left USM before they could enter their sophomore year.

One of the greatest challenges facing USM, according to Interim President Joe Wood, is retention — or “persistence,” the more pc term — which is defined as the percentage of full-time first-year regularly admitted degree candidates who finish their freshman year at this university and come back for their second.

According to an October “Moving Forward” letter to the university community, he says that while the national average of retention for our peer institutions is 75 percent, USM's is 68.

And while improving retention has been a concern for more than 20 years, the current climate of financial crisis — which relates in part to decreasing enrollment — has drawn even more attention to the effort.

The new Entry Year Experience (EYE) courses and general education curriculum; the new Office for Early Student Success; and the development of an advising handbook are all recent attempts to stem an old problem.

In 1985, USM's retention rate was closer to 60 percent.

This rate remained steady until 1994, when a series of efforts were made to improve the academic experience of students with a focus on community building, early intervention, and expanded advising.

For the past ten years our retention rate has been hovering around the current 68 percent, meaning each class loses about a third of its students between their freshman and sophomore years.

Last week, Syracuse University's Dr. Vincent Tinto, a nationally renowned expert on issues of retention and student success, was invited to speak at USM in several forums, including at the meeting of the Board of Trustees and for a workshop titled “Creating Conditions for Student Success,” which was televised across the University of Maine System.

One of the major ideas addressed during these presentations was the creation of “learning communities,” which would involve first-year students co-enrolling in a series of courses, meaning that the same group of students would progress together through a sequence of related, interdisciplinary classes.

This is an idea not unlike the recently accepted gen-ed curriculum, which will take effect in September 2009.

In a luncheon held between his presentations, Tinto spoke casually with a handful of representatives across campus, including professors, staff, and several students.

Concerns about how to build community at USM were brought up by the students, who included senior Student Senator Sri Dyhana and junior Senator Katherine Letourneau.

Likewise, the professors present brought up concerns from their end of the situation.

Gary Johnson, professor of history, reminded Tinto and the others present that no matter how much data is gathered by administrative offices, including the Office

See RETENTION page 13

Student Government Elections '08

Choose your future student body president

Matt Dodge

News Editor

For a full listing of
senate candidates
on page 5

Student government elections are here, with a three-way contest for the position of Student Body President. All are young, all have at least a semester of experience on the Student Senate, and all have ideas of the direction this university needs to head. Facing a new university President, a worsening financial situation, decreasing enrollment, the creation of a new core curriculum and the possible suspension of academic programs, next year's student leader will have a lot to think about. Who do you think can handle it best? Check out our voting guide and cast your vote online before Friday. <http://www.usm.maine.edu/studentlife/vote08>



Benjamin Taylor

If there is one thing Ben Taylor brings to the SGA presidential race, it's experience. The sophomore economics major is an active member of the USM Student Senate, and current vice chair of the organization.

Taylor's experience in the student senate has taught him how to help groups achieve their potential; a skill he feels would be useful as president. This familiarity with USM politics will also come in handy, according to Taylor, who says it will let him “work in a system without doubting my actions, with a clear understanding of what the Constitution allows is valuable.”

Taylor cites a lack of student involvement as one of USM's greatest concerns, but he is optimistic. “There's a lot of potential (to build community), especially around Gorham where there are more traditional students.”

Outside of the political world, Taylor enjoys classic movies, with “On the Waterfront” topping his list.



Adam Royer

Adam Royer is used to running in races, but usually ones that are judged in seconds, not votes.

The sophomore cross country and track runner says his confidence lies in his people skills. He cites his experience with legislation and a personable manner as valuable assets he brings to the SGA presidential race.

Concerned about student involvement, Royer thinks that campus activities need to be better funded and more attractive to students.

“Dances, Husky Fest, Speed-Dating; these all help build community through fun events,” he says.

Royer's experience with the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group, an organization that helps troubled youth, has given him insight into how legislation can be written and applied.

Royer was appointed as a “youth member” to the group, where he votes on funding and helps create legislation.



Ben Skillings

Ben Skillings is comfortable leading organizations, and his record of involvement says as much.

The freshman communications major has helped to create and expand groups focusing on social issues from worker education to disability advocacy.

His focus within these groups is to help them reach their goals, a skill he thinks will translate to SGA president. “Typically agencies don't work together as well as they could,” he says.

As part of the New Maine's Workforce Alliance, Skillings has been involved in helping immigrants and refugees learn job skills that will make them valuable members of the Portland community.

Calling USM a “failing” university, Skillings sees potential in the community. “When people are invested in something, they start to care about it.”

On his own time, Skillings enjoys watching the Celtics, and says that meditation helps him keep his life in balance.

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Amnesty International on campus

Recently recognized by the BSO, AI will hold events for Human Rights Week beginning March 31

Mary Jones
Staff Writer

They may be brand new, but they’re ready to go. Amnesty International, USM’s newest student organization, is already busy planning a week-long series of discussions, music and films for Human Rights Week.

Amnesty, which was officially recognized as a group by the Board of Student Organizations (BSO) at their meeting on March 7, seeks to inform and sensitize USM students, faculty, and the public to human rights issues.

“We’re taking on a whole array of campaigns,” said Rob Ellis, a junior political science major and the organization’s events coordinator.

The upcoming events for Human Rights Week, which begins March 31, will cover issues of hunger and homelessness, income inequality, media censorship and the consequences of torture, among others. The events are co-sponsored by PIRG and the College Democrats.

The professors featured throughout the week come from many different disciplines, which is something the organization has worked hard to do.

“These issues touch many different people,” said Ellis, and so they’ve worked to represent as many of them as they can. They’ve also worked hard to get professors involved. After all, says Ellis, “it’s their university.”

All events will be held at the Woodbury Campus Center between 11 a.m. and 9 p.m.

The impetus to bring Amnesty International to USM began with senior political science major Marisa Faietta, now the group’s president.

“It was just something I’ve been thinking about for a long time,” she said. After a conversation with political science professor Lynn Kuzma, the group’s faculty advisor, Faietta began to gather her fellow students and approached the BSO and Student Senate in order to become recognized. Joining the BSO gives them access to funds through the Student Activity Fee, as well as the official endorsement of the university.

The group’s first unofficial meeting took place December 10 on Human Rights Day.

At first the members weren’t sure they wanted to join the BSO, but they decided that the benefits out-weighed the amount of work needed to become official.

Elizabeth Trask, a senior political science major who also heads the College Democrats—another BSO group—said that the access to funding was a large reason to join the BSO, as well as the fact that it would make it easier to work within the university.

Since the first meeting the group has seen an influx of students from all disciplines.

“The only thing negative is that we aren’t really accessible to students on campus,” said Faietta.

To fix that, they’re looking to create a sister group specifically for Gorham students.

The influx has also seen a growing membership of younger students, which should help sustain the group’s status on campus next year.

They also plan to do more work with other USM organizations and The Greater Portland Chapter of Amnesty International.

The group meets every other Thursday at 4:30p.m. in the Woodbury Campus center. For more information, contact Faietta at marisa.faietta@maine.edu.

Human Rights Week

Hosted by USM Amnesty International

All events will take place in the Woodbury Campus Center. Speakers will be at the amphitheater.

Monday, March 31

The day will focus on Maine issues including the current prison system.

Tuesday, April 1

Issues will include global warming and transportation. At 7p.m. a panel discussion will be held on income inequality. The panel will include USM professors Dr. Sandy Wachholz from the criminology department, Dr. Richard Maiman from the political science department, Luisa Deprez from the sociology department and Michael Hillard from the economics department, as well as Justin Costa and Cliff Ginn, candidates for state house and senate seats.

Wednesday, April 2

Today’s events will focus on human rights violations in Burma and Tibet. There will be a short film at noon followed by discussions led by Nickie Sekera and professor Kreg Ettenger from the anthropology department. At 3p.m. Jennifer Wing will hold a question-and-answer session on the Tibetan Village Project Film. Later tonight local bands will perform live. Many of the bands are themselves activists.

Thursday, April 3

Film will be at the center of today’s events, including a documentary on Chinese Orphans. A panel discussion on media censorship will take place at 4pm. Moderated by Zach Heiden from the Maine Civil Liberties Union, the following USM professors will participate: Chris Powell from the Criminology department, Sondra Doe from the School of Social Work, Charlotte Rosenthal of Russian Studies and Daniel Panici from Communications and Media Studies.

Friday, April 4

The consequences of torture will be Friday’s main discussion issue. The day will begin with the films, “Outlawed: Extraordinary Rendition, Torture and Disappearances in ‘The War on Terror,’” “The Torture Question” and “Your Neighbor’s Son.” At noon a discussion on torture, habeus corpus and Guantanamo will be held. The afternoon’s program will feature guest speakers including Nick Kalogerakis from Friends of Ugandan Orphans.

-Mary Jones

College Democrats

In exciting political times, student group becomes forum for debate

David O’Donnell
Staff Writer

On a Monday afternoon, the USM Democrats are gathered around the closest thing they have to a headquarters: a cafeteria table in the Woodbury Campus Center.

It’s where they gather for weekly meetings, almost indistinguishable from any table full of students eating, studying and chatting around them.

That is, until the conversation really heats up -- something that will happen if you mention the name Ralph Nader.

The debate that ensues is typical of the College Dems, even a point of pride. And based on the climate of the current elections process, there will be plenty of it over the next year.

“I think he has every right to run,” says group secretary Jeff Doucette as the group discusses Nader at their table, “and he adds a lot to the dialogue.”

The controversial third-party candidate had just recently announced his fourth presidential bid, drawing sharp criticism from most national Democrats.

At this table, however, the issue is not quite so resolved.

The group’s vice president, Marita Leach, says that though she respects the man, “he knows he doesn’t have a chance, and he cost Al Gore the presidency. There are better ways to get your message out there.”

This kind of disagreement is at the core of the group: as an organization, they cite free and open debate as second in value only to economic equality.

Currently eight members strong, some are self-proclaimed ardent Democrats, such as president senior Elizabeth Trask, who grew up attending party conventions with her parents.

Others, such as junior Rob Ellis, wouldn’t mind seeing an end to party politics altogether. In his view, the Democrats are simply the best vehicle for social change -- at the moment.

It’s the common excitement that unites the group.

They rarely have a meeting that isn’t attended by a representative, like Tom Allen, from a local Democratic campaign, and they’re planning a trip to Denver for

the Democratic National Convention in August.

As their debate continues in the cafeteria, any mention of Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama prompts a series of glances across the table.

They have chosen not to endorse either candidate: in the interest of unity, they will support whoever reaches the convention with the most delegates.

Privately, most seem to prefer Senator Obama, though they speak very fondly of Chelsea Clinton’s recent visit. Just last month, the former first daughter was right here in the campus center, speaking on behalf of her mother’s campaign.

Regardless of opinions on the candidates, they don’t let their disagreements separate them -- as the meeting comes to its official end, members hang out and keep talking casually.

Perhaps, ironically, the points of contention are what keep them together.

The University of Southern Maine and Alternative Spring Break would like to thank C.H. Robinson of Portland, ME for their generous donation to this year's student participants. During spring break this March, 17 students and a staff member will travel to Slidell, LA to work with the local Habitat for Humanity chapter to help rebuild areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

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Your student government

At-large candidates:



5 seats

1. Benjamin Taylor is a sophomore economics major.
Current Activities: USM Student Senate, Vice Chair
Greatest concern: A lack of student involvement. Without enough students involved, there's a lack of quality events being planned. Also, student voice is diminished and not taken seriously.
Plan to address it: I want to work with student groups to create better publicized, quality involvement opportunities. Only with increased involvement in student government and its entities can we bring more quality entertainment and increase student voice, creating a better USM community.

2. Jason T. Toothaker is a senior political science major.
Current Activities: While I'm not currently in any student groups, I've been active in the Political Science Students Association, the USM Student Senate, and Student Legal Services.
Greatest concern: High textbook prices.
Plans to address it: I will examine ways in which other universities have dealt with this issue as a matter of policy.

3. Alex Bresler is a senior chemistry and sociology double major.
Current Activities: Secretary of Student Senate, senate student affairs committee chair, Chemistry Club, chemistry tutor, stockroom and lab assistant, senate public relations committee member, Student Senate representative to the Student Communications Board, senate finance committee member, Board of Student Organization budget committee member, etc, etc.
Greatest concern: There isn't one greatest concern. I imagine that trying to get the most out of the college experience without having to sacrifice too much for it is a pretty high priority for everyone.
Plan to address it: My experience has shown me that whenever USM Student Government tries to tackle a major issue we usually fail miserably. With student involvement being extremely low I would like to concentrate on smaller tasks and maybe try to build up collaboration between different parts of student government and its entities.

4. Paul T. McCarrier (not pictured) is a sophomore social work major.
Current Activities: Black Bird Legal Collective, community organizing.
Greatest concern How our funds are being spent.
Plan to address it: A whole lotta ways.

5. Hamida A. Suja is a junior biology major (soon to be political science major).
Current Activities: Model UN, Latino Hispanic Students Association, and working on re-establishing the Black Students Association
Greatest concern: Mostly financial, reducing tuition, etc. Also, minority representation is very rare, therefore I am hoping to be their voice.
Plan to address it: First, meet with all the leaders and discuss the best way to achieve this goal. After presenting this concern to the student government body, I will work on the possibility of involving higher authorities who have a say and make decisions.

6. Adam Royer is a sophomore whose major is undecided.
Current Activities: Cross Country, Indoor/ Outdoor Track and Field, Phoenix Society, Juvenile Justice Advisory Group
Greatest concern: Tuition increases should not be happening. Removal of the majors. Community between the Portland and Gorham campuses.
Plans to address: Making the right decisions with questions concerning things like the new core curriculum.

Commuter candidates: 8 seats

1. Robert W. Ellis is a junior political science major.
Current Activities: Public relations chair of the Student Senate, Amnesty International, I am also a USM democrat that understands the importance of bi-partisan cooperation.
Greatest concern: My greatest concerns are the opportunities available to you before and after graduation. More weight needs to be placed on building community on the Gorham campus. I also question the use of police at both campuses.
Plans to address it: USM has a significant role in the state economy that needs to be highlighted. Expansion of co-op and internship programs will provide students with hands on learning. We need to grow and emphasize our science and math departments, not shrink them. USM police: reduction in budget while addressing USM gun policy.

2. Maxime Lanman is a senior Hispanic studies major.
Current Activities: None at present
Greatest concern: USM seems unorganized and is very difficult to navigate your way to the answers whether it be needing ten different offices or not even knowing where to start.
Plans to address it: By helping to address issues on both sides. Organizing USM more and also making students more aware of where to start.

3. Alison M. Parker is a sophomore economics and international studies double major.
Current Activities: Amnesty International, PIRG, Honor Students Organization, and student representative on the transportation committee
Greatest concern: Issues that represent student issues such as transportation, campus life/ activities, and food on campus.
Plans to address it: I plan on trying to work to reduce campus food and make transportation and parking better on campus and add lots of new activities to USM.



4. Tim C. Stoklosa is a sophomore political science and art double major.
Current Activities: President of Southern Maine Disability Advocates, Maine Public Interest Research Group participant, Student Senate
Greatest concern: The increasing tuition fees and general affordability of going to school.
Plans to address it: Go to meetings, work with administration, inform people about the Opportunity Maine program. Cut costs on unpopular activities and programs while keeping important ones. Staying informed on the news and current events.

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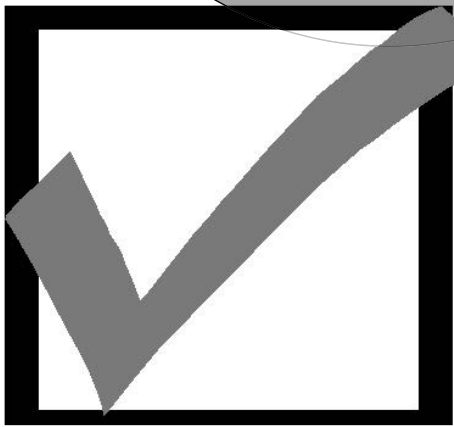
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voting guide

Responses taken from
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Resident candidate: 5 seats

1. Julie F. Brewer is a junior biology and math double major.
Current Activities: Hall council, student leader trainings, sailing club, chemistry club, biology club, STRIVE, New England Science Bowl, Change '08
Greatest concern: I feel the greatest concern to the USM student body is its lack of good communication and awareness of campus proceedings and activities. So many students are isolated and unaware of the wonderful opportunities USM has, such as its theater and music productions. This creates pessimism and sense of disgrace.
Plans to address it: Outreach to all groups and majors, including faculty and staff. Each student at USM should become conscious of the school's resources and events with the help of stronger publicity, to try and take advantage of all that USM has to offer.

2. John P. Finison is a freshman English major.
Current Activities: English Students Association, Student Senate, Gorham Events Board
Greatest concern: Given the current budget problems the university is having, and the seeming lack of activities on campus I see the greatest concern to students is making the administration aware of their needs.
Plans to address it: To address this issue I am reaching out to you, the USM students, to become more involved. More than ever before it is the students, not the state who are providing the funding for USM. As a senator I will work to get more events and activities brought to campus and that the administration is aware of student concerns.

3. Christopher I. Hopkins is a senior business administration major.
Current Activities: Men's cross country, indoor and outdoor track for five years, captain of all three seasons for one year, Student Athletic Advisory Committee for 3 years
Greatest concern: A feeling of community among students and unity among student organizations.
Plans to address it: I would encourage communication among organizations (skills learned from my track experiences). Together we could work on identifying the needs and wants of every organization and find solutions that unite organizations. When organizations are united and working together a feeling of community can grow on campus among students. Communication is the first step in understanding each other and once we understand each other we can come together.

4. Katherine E. Letourneau is a junior biology and biochemistry major.
Current Activities: Assistant Resident Director of Anderson-Woodward Hall, Student Senate treasurer, chair of senate finance committee, Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Organization chair member, Residence Hall Association, 2007Conference on Student Government Associations attendee
Greatest concern: I feel the greatest concern facing the USM student body is the quality of campus life and student involvement for both resident and commuter students.
Plans to address it: I plan to listen to students concerns and ideas around campus life and involvement opportunities. I will work to increase involvement on campus by organizing more events and advertising more.

5. Alex B. Stevens is a senior economics and political science double major.
Current Activities: Active peer advisor in the political science department, president of the Political Science Student Association
Greatest concern: Student retention
Plans to address it: Greater emphasis on student involvement and school spirit. A focus on plans and events that will carry a greater appeal to students. We can do better.

5. Joseph A. Cerny is a senior economics major.
Current Activities: Americorps service leader, developing a mentoring program in Gorham, communication and collaboration committee that arose from Change '08, organizing with S.T.A.N.D. to produce events on campus
Greatest concern: Student involvement, USM's community relations, identification, image, etc. USM marketing thinks it doesn't have to advertise locally because Portland and Gorham already know about USM.
Plans to address it: With my involvement in the Gorham community, mentoring and the collaboration committee, I am already addressing these issues.

6. Jessica E. Chahanovich is a senior criminology major.
Current Activities: Alpha Xi Delta, vice president of the Greek Women's Council, secretary of the College Republicans, Change '08
Greatest concern: I'm really concerned with student involvement on campus and want more people to be proud of USM.
Plans to address it: I want to work in a committee to advertise events better, and to create more events on campus that are more appealing to students.

7. Molly E. Dolby (not pictured) is a sophomore economics major.
Current Activities: Resident Assistant, member of the president's council on diversity
Greatest concern: The changing dynamics of the university as a result of the budget deficit and leadership changes.
Plans to address it: I plan on becoming more involved and showing the administration what the voice of the student's is.

8. Katie M. Dunn is a junior economics major.
Current Activities: none listed.
Greatest concern: Responsiveness of student government and USM administration to student needs.
Plans to address it: Increasing access to student representatives, more transparency of decision-making processes of the administration.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

“If I can’t do it, someone can”



A handful of guys are climbing at the Maine Rock Gym — one is on the wall and six are watching from the picnic table in the middle of the room. The climber falls, steps back on the thick blue mats and looks up, slowly walking his hands through the moves in midair.

“Go for that one,” says one of the guys at the table, pointing toward a hold farther out to the left. “And look for the high foot.”

The climber puts each hand into his chalk bag, rolls his wrists in a stretch and gets back on the wall.

In climbing it’s hard to make it through a route without the advice of someone who’s done it before, or by collaborating with the other climbers who are stuck in the same spot.

The same, I’m discovering, is true just about everywhere else.

Last weekend, I went with eight of my Free Press staff to New

York City for a college journalism conference.

There we were, in the midst of writers from the Times and ESPN, photographers from AP and editors from USA Today, as well as students from Missouri, Kentucky and the Carolinas who work on their school’s paper or website.

And like the best classes I’ve had at USM, the best workshops were the ones in which we interacted — where we weren’t just talked at, but were told to interview our neighbor or discuss the troubles each of our publications is facing.

I talked with the managing editor of the University of Washington’s The Daily about how to retain volunteer staff; I made friends with a sports feature writer from ESPN’s magazine, who I’ll be emailing for more advice as soon as this paper goes to print.

In working on a collaborative project like this paper, it’s the first lesson to learn: if I can’t do it, somebody can; if I don’t know how, somebody does; and that people, in general, are happy to share what they know and know how to do.

More than 30 people make this paper happen each week, from our section editors to their writers and photographers; our webmaster to our graphic designers; Josh

who sells ads, Lucille who manages the books and even Dustin, whose new column draws more conversation around campus and letters to the editor than I’ve seen all year.

USM and its students, faculty and staff need to get better at collaborating.

In an ideal world, classrooms would be focal points for conversation — thoughts from Bill Gavin’s “Death and Dying” (PHI 291) would pop up in a nursing course; a fiction workshop would consist more of ideas for how to keep going than criticism on what you’ve already done right or wrong.

Outside the classroom, the Student Athlete Advisory Council could sponsor intramural leagues on the Portland campus; local businesses who can’t afford to put their names on buildings could put their names on classrooms, and help fix rooms like Luther Bonney’s 327.

Ideally, the entire community, rather than just a handful of offices, would throw around ideas on how to recruit and retain students, how to build an endowment and how to plan interesting events on each campus — because if those offices can’t do it, surely some of us can; if they don’t know how, some of us do; and there are plenty

of people who would be willing to help, if only they were asked.

By himself, that climber would probably finish the route. It would take a while, and he’d wear himself out doing it, but he could probably do it.

By myself, I could...nope, you know what, by myself I could never put out this paper.

Sarah Trent
Executive Editor

CORRECTIONS

In last week’s story, “A day in the life of WMPG,” we mistyped the call letters a few times in the story. These were an editing error.

It also said that David Bunker hosts “Democracy Now!” but it is actually a nationally-syndicated news show hosted by journalist Amy Goodman. Bunker added it to WMPG’s daily schedule a few years ago.

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Some food for thought: In response to “Open your mind and read”

Laura Ashworth
Contributing Columnist

I’m a registered Democrat. How does that sit with you? I took the time to sit down and read Dennis Gilbert’s column (March 3, “From the right”). Will you do the same for me?

To infer that people in poverty need to be “taught” how to get out of it implies that poor people are inferior to you.

How will you teach someone to get out of a situation in which the free market dictates that they make \$7.00 an hour in a city where the living wage is \$16.25 an hour, childcare costs \$200 a week, higher education costs \$6,000 a year and private health insurance costs \$8933 per year?

Like Gilbert, I believe in a market economy, but I do not believe the market should dictate whether a person eats or has a bed to sleep in. One out of every eight children in this country goes to sleep hungry every night: the highest rate in the industrialized world.

In 2004, 37 million people, including 13 million children, lived below the poverty line of \$15,219 for a family of three.

Like Gilbert, I believe that America is successful in many aspects. True, the U.S. has the highest gross income in the world. But 80 percent of America’s wealth is tied up in 20 percent of the popu-

lation. Children from low-income families only have a one percent chance of reaching the top five percent of the income bracket. Our income mobility is lower than France, Germany, Sweden, Canada, Finland, Norway and Denmark.

Unlike Gilbert, I am pro-choice. If a woman does not believe in abortion, then she doesn’t have to have one. But she should be given the choice.

I believe the world is far too complex to break down into good and evil. Despite Muslim terrorists, the Muslim religion itself is not evil. Christians have brutally tortured prisoners against U.S. and International Law, but the Christian religion is not evil either.

Unlike Gilbert, I believe that if you question authority, but never disobey it, no changes will ever be made.

Like Gilbert, I believe in the right to bear arms and protecting the Second Amendment. I also believe in the Declaration of Independence, which guarantees every American citizen the right to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” I do not believe every American citizen is given that right equally.

Unlike Gilbert, I believe in the welfare system. Anyone attending a public school is a beneficiary of it. You, at USM, are a beneficiary of it. Even if you don’t get financial aid, the state funds about 30 percent of USM’s budget.

I believe that Social Security is not a failure, it has drastically cut poverty amongst seniors in this country.

Like Gilbert, I believe this country is great, but that it can be better. And its future does lie in the Facebook/Myspace Generation.

Unlike Gilbert, I believe that people can be good friends no matter what their political views are.

I agree that Comedy Central is not a good source of daily news, but it is a good place to put a humorous twist on situations presented in the media. I also believe that any news received from CNN or other national news organizations should be taken with a grain of salt.

I believe that George Bush should have gotten permission from the UN before entering Iraq—he broke international law to do so. Iraq had not attacked any other nation for twelve years. It lacked the capacity to lodge an imminent attack on any country. Its military capability had been severely weakened by the Gulf War and years of harsh inspections.

If we are going to have a military presence in Iraq, we also need to have a significant military presence in Darfur where mass genocide has been occurring for years.

But that’s just food for thought.

Laura Ashworth is a junior at USM.

Letters to the Editor

The library is worth funding

Dear Dr. Wood, Dr. Lapping, and the whole USM community:

As you examine ways to cut the budget, please also look for valuable resources to sustain.

One of these resources is the library.

Librarians on all three campuses regularly collaborate with each other and with subject faculty to foster information literacy. The Association of College & Research Libraries states that information literacy “equips (students) with the critical skills necessary to become independent lifelong learners.”

Is that not the very goal of a university?

Cuts to library budgets would hamper the staff in carrying out this important work. Furthermore, the library has already been proactive in examining its practices. It has begun to implement service recommendations from the LibQUAL+™ survey, for example.

The library—like the university itself—is an investment. It needs adequate funding in order to offer the best return on the investment. Please consider alternatives to cuts.

Please support the library that supports this university.

Thank you very much!

Maureen Perry
LAC Reference Librarian

Vote for me

Hello USM Students, my name is Ben Skillings and I am running for Student Body President.

First, I would like to commend our outgoing President AJ Chalifour for his dedication to the USM Student Body, and also thank him for setting a great example for student lead-

ers. AJ stood out as a real leader because of his ability to foster relationships between administrators, faculty, and members of student government.

If elected, I will ensure that the USM structure allows for students to participate in the decision making process of the administration. If I am president, the USM Student Senate will contribute more to USM's operations by actively participating in university committees and have input on the management of different university offices- and reporting back to me and the Senate. This opportunity to build upon the relationship between USM students and faculty has been there for a very long time, yet it goes un-tapped.

There was a collective epiphany at Change '08 when a listening panel of USM faculty and key administrators heard concerns from students. We agreed that we want the same things and realized we are equally invested in doing the work needed. We also agreed that students, faculty and administrators are equally valuable to the success of USM.

While it bothers me some that we needed to have a day-long conference to come to those conclusions, it provides an element I believe will be essential to our future. The shared belief or “common myth” of the absolute need to work together (or USM will fail) and will allow us to interact in a much more meaningful way.

As Student Body President:

1. I won't give students more power- I will make they know that they already have it.
2. I will advocate for increased enrollment and retention at USM.
3. I will ensure that the Student Senate and BSO function closer to their potential.
4. Unlike years past, Division III football to USM will become a serious conversation.

Sincerely,

Ben Skillings
skillings.benjamin@gmail.com

FROM THE RIGHT

What would Reagan do?

Dustin Gilbert

Columnist

USM's budget shortfalls are no secret. Maine's budget deficit of nearly \$200 million isn't either.

As a result of these shortfalls, the students, Mainers, and taxpayers alike suffer.

The Maine economy suffers as people tighten their spending. Twenty-six academic programs are suffering. University officials and committee members are under pressure to find solutions.

The administration and the governor can try to please everyone a little or please a few a lot.

What should they do?

Well don't cry, don't lose sleep, and God forbid don't take it out on others.

Just ask: “What would Reagan do?”

Ronald Reagan was this country's last president with true conservative values and ideals. He was said to be a man with great charisma and personality. I hear radio hosts quote him and refer to him often. Why not do it here?

The relevant quote: “They say we offer simple answers to complex problems. Well, perhaps there is a simple answer—not an easy answer—but simple.”

To get the answer to our USM and Maine budget problems, I'm going to use this quote. But first let's examine it.

I believe Reagan is referring to people who disagree with himself and his political peers when he says ‘they.’

‘Simple answers to complex problems,’ now that's something that's quite interesting.

Regardless of the situation, there are always an easy solution, a hard solution, the most complicated solution, and the most simple solution.

Taking the easy way out leads to future problems that are usually worse.

The tough solution usually ticks people off when the media exposes the victims and everyone who lost on the deal. One hundred winners for every one loser is a great deal, but the liberal media makes it sound like a tragedy.

The most complicated solution needs everyone to be in complete understanding and agreement of it, and that rarely happens with any decision.

That last is the simple decision.

The one that is logical, would work and show success over time, but may not be the most intricate, exciting, or instantly rewarding.

It's not an easy decision because it may be too simple.

It's like the math equation that looks real difficult and complicated, yet only takes a few Algebraic calculations before you have the answer. It's the correct answer, but doesn't feel correct because it was too simple. That's the type of simple I believe Reagan is talking about here.

So what's the simple, not so easy answer to this complex budget problem here at USM and in Maine?

Cut spending, or eliminate wasteful spending. Find ways to capitalize on USM and Maine's attributes and make money.

Attract business to the state by eliminating taxes that drive them away.

Pass laws that allow the movie industry to get the same tax breaks as they do in Western states, most notably in California and Louisiana.

Sell billboard advertising along I-95 on state land and make some advertising money as well as promote Maine's coastal and mountain businesses and regions — and state universities.

Open a casino!

(Vote Republican).

These are solutions to Maine's problems, but who do you think funds USM?

But I forgot, we live in Maine, where everyone votes Democrat.

We must always pay near the highest in the nation taxes; we can't jeopardize the beautiful landscape along I-95; we can't make it easier on businesses because we need that tax money to plow snow and buy salt.

We can't have casinos, they bring the mafia (and we never thought about the movie thing, but who wants Maine's scenery and natural beauty being put on a worldwide stage? It'd just bring more tourists!)

We can't cut those 26 USM programs, we'll just have to make the students buck up and pay more tuition.

Well, in a liberal's world, it is correct. In my world it's backwards thinking.

What's backwards is putting the land before the people that live on it.

What's backwards is not having the guts to say ‘no’ or ‘you've got to go’ to social programs that allow people to take advantage of the system and live off taxpayer dollars.

What's backwards is not taking risks because of possible problems with the solution. What's backwards is not trusting free market solutions and capitalism. Yeah, that's what this country used to gain its current status and condition in this world.

It's as simple as this: if you need money, produce cash flow by opening new doors for it to flow into.

Prioritize spending and cut the programs at the bottom of the list, especially the ones that need money and give none back.

It will hurt feelings at first, but in time I believe those hurt by it will gain the will to find a free market solution (ie...opening up their own business).

And lastly, the most simple solution of them all, vote Republican if you wish for change in Maine.

It is not hard to see that our state has suffered as a result of being a blue state. Mainers are basking in their sorrows with the blues and will be until that old wheel rolls around to the conservative side again.

Until then, don't complain about taxes, tuition hikes, budget deficits, pressure on private business, or programs on the chopping block. This state got exactly what it voted for.

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

11,000 people are waiting
to see your work

The Free Press is accepting
applications for
Executive Editor for the
fall 2009 semester.

Responsibilities include managing a staff, editing stories, running meetings, and more. Send inquiries and resumes to the Free Press office 92 Bedford Street, Portland or electronically at freepress@maine.edu.

You could be our next
Executive Editor

Introducing...

Interview and photos by Laura Fellows

Jenn Ottens

Major: Psychology
Year: Freshman

Do you have a favorite class at the moment?

Yes I do — my psychology class (Intro to Psych) with Kenneth Gardiner. It's a little bit long and a little bit tedious, but it's psych, and as cliché as it sounds, it's my major, so I love it.

Who or what influenced you the most in your choice of major?

Honestly, my ex-boyfriend. I wasn't really sure what I was doing as a major, and two years back we were all talking about picking colleges, and he said "you know what, you talk to people all the time and fix their problems, maybe you'd make a good therapist of some kind." So I started looking into psychology, started learning a little more about it and decided that I absolutely loved it.

What do you think of USM's decision to make election day a school holiday?

I like it, another day off. I also think it would encourage people to vote because they won't be in classes. They don't have an excuse if they're a registered voter not to cast their vote.

Are you doing anything for St. Patrick's Day?

Not really. I'm going to class. I'm going to my soc class and then I'm going to art, and that will be about it - that will be my wonderful holiday, as bad as that sounds.



Your weekly horoscopes

Written by the Free Press staff

Pisces

February 19-March 20

Time to switch to light beer. Your mellow demeanor and the upcoming vacation could have you lying low—too much time on the couch paired with March Madness and catching up on Lost could result in a few extra pounds. This week, try blogging your hopes.

Aries

March 21-April 20

Now is the time for that new tattoo or haircut you've been thinking of. Just don't get 'Spring Break '08' or 'Cancun Forever' in permanent ink. Please. This week, call a long-lost friend.

Taurus

April 21-May 20

Your self-admitted failings are still failings. Either fix it, or find a positive spin. This week, lunch is on you.

Gemini

May 21-June 20

Be wary of pranksters. Someone could try your patience while trying to make you laugh. This week, try a new way of relaxing.

Cancer

June 21-July 21

Remember, the mess across the street could be at your doorstep in a matter of minutes. You can't deny you care, why put off acting on it? This week, get nostalgic!

Leo

July 22-August 21

Getting sentimental is something that happens to the best of us. There's no better day than today to act on your feelings: break down and rent the Notebook. But you didn't hear that from us. This week, go to a lecture on campus.

Virgo

August 22-September 21

It's no secret that you demand perfection. You're a ray of sunshine, but remember — melanoma is a serious condition. This week, not too much Facebook stalking.

Libra

September 22-October 21

Over-confidence could trip you up. Literally — watch your step! Avoid stilettos (and women in them). This week, study on the 6th floor of Glickman.

Scorpio

October 22-November 21

Your home will resemble an amusement park without safety regulations for a few days, but it won't knock you off your rocker. Nobody's going to get hurt, so sit back and turn your bathtub into a log flume ride. This week, try a new coffee shop.

Sagittarius

November 22-December 20

Nobody can nail you down, but this week, you're going to feel a little off your game. Establish boundaries, and rotate your tires. This week, trade back massages with a friend (or pay for a pro).

Capricorn

December 21-January 19

Listen to your inner sea-goat. Embrace socially-shunned facial hair styles and controversial political views. This week, use a money clip, they're kinda handy.

Aquarius

January 20-February 18

The world is going to feel a little crowded. Be sure to keep an eye on the people around you and don't underestimate your own importance. This week, hang-dry your clothes.



Arts & Entertainment

9 The Free Press | March 17 2008

DON'T
STAY HOME

SWIM OR SWING



PHOTO COURTESY OF USM THEATER DEPARTMENT

Slaney Rose Jordan (right) and Erol Ileri (left) star in the Tony Award-winning musical comedy “City of Angels.” This story of a writer’s struggle in the Hollywood rat race will be running through March 23 at Gorham’s Russell Hall.

We Built This “City of Angels”

The USM Theater department approaches a difficult work

Alex Merrill
Staff Writer

Archetypes are tricky. To employ them in a work of fiction is to walk the razor-thin line that separates revelation from cliché.

Musical comedy, however, is a genre renowned for its schmaltzy, self-conscious glibness: it prefers to leap off the tightrope altogether, to waltz and wallow on the cliché side.

Witness “City of Angels,” the 1989 musical now playing now at USM. It’s one of the most self-referential farces you’ll ever have the pleasure of witnessing; it’s simultaneously a fawning love letter and a jeering missive, aimed squarely at both Hollywood and the creative process in general.

“City of Angels” seems like a musical romp to the audience, but it is a difficult text to navigate for its cast and crew.

The first task is in evoking a bygone era.

“The biggest challenge was getting the actors to embody that expressive, 1940s theatrical style,” said the show’s director, USM theater faculty member Wil Kilroy.

“The actors were definitely inclined to modernize and naturalize their performances, reference modern acting techniques and actors. We watched a lot of films from that era, to get that specific style of diction and the physicality down. I think that Erol (Ileri, a freshman) did a really nice job of nailing down that Humphrey Bogart style of acting, kind of stoic and tragic at the same time, lots of swagger.”

But with “City of Angels,” capturing the stylized voice and movements of 1940’s era femme fatales and hardboiled gumshoes is just half the battle.

The show contains a meta-text that runs parallel to the play itself: the story of Stine, a writer in late 1940s Hollywood who has been charged with the task of adapting one of his detective novels for the screen.

See ANGELS page 10

MARCH 17

If you’re feeling especially brave and/or crazy this St. Patrick’s Day, and would like to take a 5:30 a.m. swim to wake yourself up, head down to the East End Beach in Portland for the St. Paddy’s Day Plunge. All proceeds will benefit the Children’s Burn Unit and Portland Firefighters. If hypothermia isn’t your thing, you can still hear live Irish music all day at the Ri-Ra Irish Pub, 8 a.m. to 1 a.m./ 72 Commercial St., Portland/ 761-4446

MARCH 18

Head down to the Gorham Grind for their weekly Spoken Word Night. Have some great coffee, listen to others, or sign up to read something of your own. Students get 10% off on drinks during all events. 6 to 8 p.m./ 18 South Street, Gorham/ 839-3003

MARCH 19

The Somali Narrative Project is a reader’s theater that presents different aspects of Somali life as experienced in both Maine and Somalia. Come learn about different facets of Somali culture such as poetry, songs, memoirs, and oral histories. Free and open to the public/ 7 to 8:30 p.m./ University Special Events Room, Glickman Library, Portland/ 780-4270

MARCH 20

Interested in learning a little more about regional culture? The next topic in the American & New England Studies Lecture Series will be presented by Blake Harrison. The title of this talk is “The View from Vermont: Tourism and the Making of an American Rural Landscape.” Free and open to the public/ 7 to 9 p.m./ University Events Room, Glickman Library, Portland/ 780-4920

MARCH 21

No matter what your skill level, you can come swing dancing at the North Deering Grange Hall tonight. You don’t even need to bring your partner, unless you want to. \$8/ Lesson 8 p.m., dancing 9 to midnight/ 1408 Washington Ave, Portland/ fmi: swingnut@maine.rr.com

MARCH 22

The seventh annual Maine Short Play Festival by Acorn Productions will be held at the St. Lawrence Arts and Community Center, performing 12 new plays by local playwrights, shown on a rotating basis. The plays will span two performances on Saturday night - come for one, or both. \$10/\$12/ 5 p.m. and 8 p.m./ 76 Congress St., Portland/ 775-5568

MARCH 23

The Portland Players present “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest,” directed by Barbara Buck. This is a story of crime, insanity, and injustice, and will certainly provide ample food for thought after Easter Dinner. \$15 for students with ID/ 2 p.m./ 420 Cottage Road, South Portland/ 799-7337

USM THEATER



Film noir characters invade the life of a Hollywood writer in “City of Angels.” USM Theater students Cate Goetschius and Slaney Rose Jordan channel the golden age of film in this play.

Angels at USM

From ANGELS page 9

With the exception of Ileri and (sophomore) Roger Marcotte, who plays the author Stine, all the actors had to create “real world” characters in addition to the larger-than-life silver screen personas of the meta-text.

Making sure that the line between the two realities was just distinct enough was also tricky.

“Everyone had particular ways of making the distinction between their characters clear,” Kilroy said. “They tried out lots of different ideas, stuff with their voices, their bodies.”

(Senior) Cate Goetschius, who plays two secretaries, Oolie and Donna, used her voice to make the difference evident.

“Oolie, the secretary in the screenplay, has a little twang. Just a tiny difference in inflection, to subtly suggest the difference is there,” Kilroy explained.

(Senior) Slaney Jordan, who portrays Stein’s long suffering wife Bobbi and Gabby, Stone’s lounge singer/prostitute paramour, offered further insight.

“I made a point of changing characteristics between (Bobbi and Gabby), how they expressed themselves physically. You have to know what to emphasize for the benefit of the audience, how to phrase things, since there are so many funny little reveals in the dialogue. There was a lot of layering involved; you put all of these character traits

together, and then you refine them so they read the right way.”

Synthesizing these nuances is clearly an arduous task.

“This role didn’t fully come together until this past week,” Jordan said, with professional candor. “Every part is different, this one clicked for me a little bit late.”

The Tony Award winning 1989 musical is playing now through March 23 at USM Russell Hall Theater. For more information, see <http://www.usm.maine.edu/theater>.

THE REVIEW

Not theater purgatory

In the program for “City of Angels,” director Wil Kilroy says it best: “I’ve wanted to bring the show to USM, knowing what a challenge it would be. Our cast and crew have dedicated themselves and their creativity to making the story come alive for you.”

The production is clearly a labor of love.

There wasn’t a single member of the cast who seemed less than 100 percent dedicated during either the dress rehearsal I saw on Thursday or the opening night performance in front of a full house the following night.

That said, “City of Angels” is a huge undertaking; it stretches the resources of a college cast, possibly well beyond their limit.

The production’s sincerity makes it worth watching. Slaney Jordan is compelling as Stein’s damaged wife, Gabby. Imbuing her character with a throaty indignation, she seems poised for a role in “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf.”

Likewise, Matthew Withee is pitch-perfect as the mustachioed, fascistic director/producer Buddy Fidler.

He emanates an effortless, sleazy charm in a role that could easily be reduced to ham-fisted caricature.

Roger Marcotte plays Stein as a perpetually bemused workaholic, which works well enough, but doesn’t quite account for the fact that his character is, like his detective alter ego, something of a womanizer: he doesn’t seem to have it in him.

Similarly, there is a degree of raw sexuality missing from Erol Ileri’s portrayal of Detective Stone.

Though he looks the part, he gets caught up in the physicality of his role and sacrifices a degree of charisma in the process.

Greer Vashon is incredibly natural and sympathetic in her “real life” role as Carla Haywood.

Her scene with Marcotte in Buddy Fidler’s office features the best onstage chemistry in the whole play; the audience really believes that despite her status as a bed-hopping, opportunistic starlet, she has read and enjoyed Stein’s books.

However, this natural likeability may cause her to fall a bit flat as Alaura Kingsley, Haywood’s black widow alter-

ego: she lacks the teeth to chew the necessary amount of scenery.

The supporting cast is adequate, though a few members occasionally fall prey to the temptation to mug a little bit.

The only real problem with the production seems to be an (almost) across the board struggle with projection. The cast members have good voices, but Withee was the only one whom I didn’t catch swallowing at least one line.

The acoustics in the theater are difficult, and the band is located immediately backstage, so the actors are at a disadvantage in this regard. They seem conscious of it, which may add to the difficulty.

All things considered, “City of Angels” is a dangerous text. The complexity of the story notwithstanding, many of these actors are playing characters that fall well outside of their everyday frame of reference: many are playing far above their age bracket, possibly even against type.

The play successfully challenges everyone involved, and entertains the audience in the process. It is exactly the kind of work that a college drama program should be engaged in.



“City of Angels” plays in Russell Hall until March 23.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF USM THEATER DEPARTMENT



Rainy Saturday rock 'n roll

*Dominic and the Lucid, the Leftovers
and the Jeff Beam Band play USM*

Stefanie Dvorak

Staff Writer

An excited and slightly damp crowd came out to see a rock show in Gorham's Brooks Student Center last week. Organized by sophomore Jeff Beam, the show featured his own band and local acts The Leftovers and Dominic and the Lucid.

The first band to take the stage was Dominic and the Lucid. The band's singer, Dominic Lavoie, won the title of Best Male Vocalist in the Portland Phoenix's Best Music Poll in 2007, and is up for the title again this year.

Along with drummer Chuck Gagne and bassist Nate Cyr, the band was also named one of 10 Maine bands to watch by the Portland Press Herald.

In the past the band has shared the stage with Blind Melon and The Rustic Overtones. Their 2006 full-length album, *Waging the Wage*, made the top ten list for all music sold at Bull Moose locations.

With a hefty set of credentials, it's nice to see a band like this play a free show here at USM.

During their set, they played songs from *Waging the Wage*, which was available to buy during the show.

Profits made from the sales were even going to a good cause: the band informed the crowd that their van had finally seen its tragic demise.

Having Dominic and the Lucid open the show was a good choice: their psychedelic and soulful songs set the mood for the rest of the night.

Their music is a successful marriage of modern and classic rock influences, from Led Zeppelin to Thom Yorke. As a Jeff Buckley fan, I especially enjoyed Lavoie's falsetto.

Lavoie says that their second record should be out in May, "and of course we'll do a CD release!" Until then, they're playing shows all over Southern Maine, New Hampshire and Boston.

Show organizer Jeff Beam and his band played next.

He jokingly referred to them as Jeff Beam and the Daylight Savings and reminded the crowd to change their clocks.

His influences include The Beatles, Elvis Costello, Spencer

Albee, Foo Fighters, early Eric Clapton, Queens of the Stone Age, and Ben Folds.

An Elliott Smith influence is evident in "Annabelle," a song very obviously inspired by Smith.

During his set, Beam and his band played songs from *Mind the Gap*, as well as an upbeat and entertaining cover of the Jackson 5's "I Want You Back."

The set ended with the song "Nameless Wonder," originally performed by Specter, his former project, and had the crowd chanting "one more song" until Beam told them there wouldn't be enough time for the Leftovers if he did.

A great energy filled the room. The show obviously brought out all the bands' loyal fans and friends who frequently and jokingly requested covers by Slayer and Wu-Tang Clan.

Beam said that his future plans include "concentrating on teaching new songs to my marvelous band and just beefing up our live set."

There is also talk of a few shows coming up in Boston, including some with Specter.

Last to perform were the Leftovers, another Portland act.

Fans moved all the chairs out of the way to make room for moshing and dancing. The band played a string of great catchy songs from their latest record, "On the Move."

A legion of young fans danced until they sweat and even took over the microphone at one point. The guys all had a blast on stage and so did everyone on the floor.

The band, which recently toured Europe, has plans to tour the U.S. in May and play at the Insubordination Festival in June alongside other pop-punk acts including the Crumbs and the Queens.

They also hope to record a new album this summer. There have also been "talks of taking the next semester off and going to Europe again," says Matt Anderson, guitarist for the band.

The weather caught wind of the Leftover's final song, and the rain stopped just in time for students to head back to their dorms and cars, though they're hoping more shows like this will find their way back to the Brooks Student Center.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JEFF FERLAND

Nate Cyr, bass in hand and hat on head, is part of the three piece local favorite Dominic and the Lucid. The performance brought life to USM's student center. USM students move to the music during The Leftovers performance (shown upper left). Chairs were moved out of the way to make space for dancing and moshing.



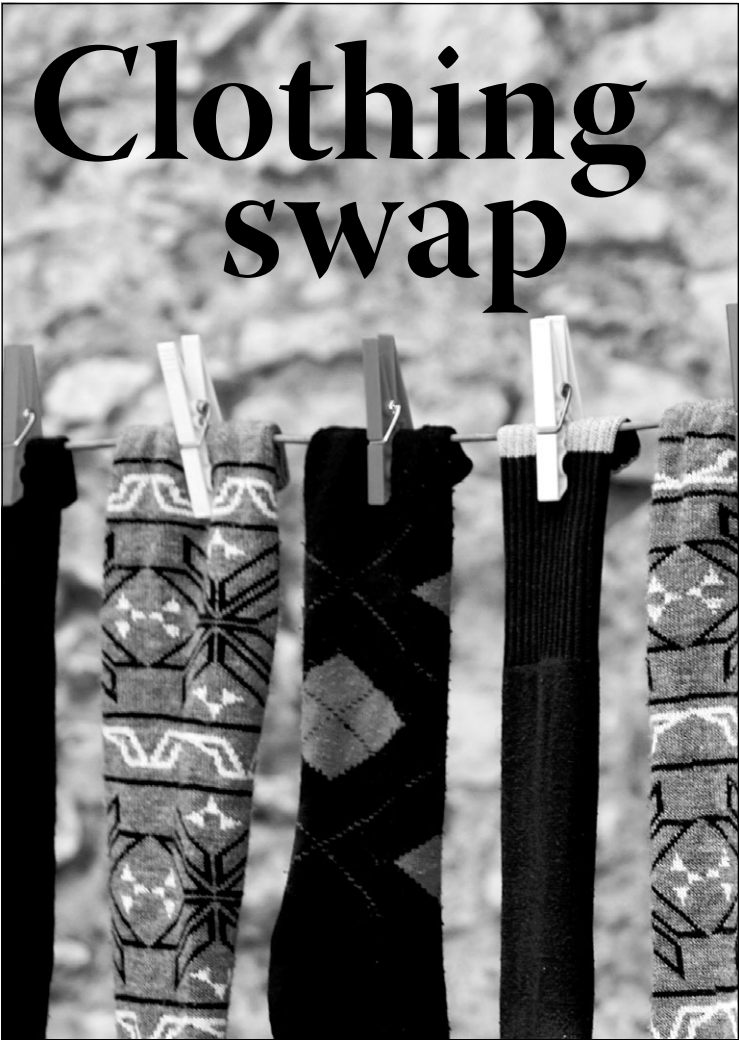


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news music public affairs



Clothing swap

Between friends, trade rags for riches

Jenna Howard
A&E Editor

Vogue and Bazaar may be breathing hopes of spring fashion to style-enthusiasts across the country, but for the still snow-covered USM, sundresses and high-waist shorts may be some time coming.

For the fashion-forward who may be fashion-depressed as they wait out the winter and don their ‘warm puffy coat’ for the 234th day in a row, a quick fix has crossed into main-stream social circles.

The development is simple in nature, and fitting for this in-between season that leaves people feeling like their clothing collection is as dreary as the weather.

Clothing swaps, as they are rightfully called, allow owners to trade the clothes they’re sick of for the next person’s rags, which in turn, become riches.

I attended one last week over lunch and wine, whose word-of-mouth invitations spread through crowds of local ladies (and gentlemen!) and attracted several swappers, each of whom carried a large bag of old clothes, accessories, and jewels.

Swap-goers also brought with them some sampling of potluck delight.

By the time attendance reached capacity at five, our table was flowing with oysters, chocolate-covered almonds, eggplant dip for baked bread, dried papaya, and prosciutto, and the furniture was covered with clothes.

The hostess had emptied our booty onto furniture so that nobody could tell who belonged to what bags.

“Less pressure,” she said.

The 34 year-old host splits her time between Stockholm, Sweden, and Portland, where her husband teaches criminology at USM.

To keep the anticipation (as well as the confidentiality), the pile was covered with blankets.

Following lunch, ladies (no males turned up after all) crowded around the mound, lifting the cover to reveal the prize.

Avoiding politeness, the pile was sifted through, swappers recommending each other choose this or that.

“I see you wearing this,” I’d say (because I had worn it, and was giving it away).

Surprisingly, I scooped up several pieces, an old cardigan, a basic black wrap-around sweater and a topless hat from 1990, which I’ll be able to wear a pony-tail on top of.

Some set aside piles to take to their friends or places of work.

What doesn’t go at clothing swaps is usually rounded up and donated to Goodwill, but in this case, will be donated to a USM student who is gathering clothing to send to a displaced Kenyan friend and his family.

Good for cleaning out your closet and then stocking it with delights as well as giving something to the community — both of which you’ve been meaning to do anyway — clothing swaps are an easy way to bring friends together and to update your wardrobe.



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COURTESY OF THE
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A car of one's own Feb. 13- 4:48 p.m. Welfare check: Checking on occupant of vehicle. Subject was writing a term paper, all set.

The phantom car of G-16 Feb. 24 – 11:55 p.m. Suspicious Incident: Vehicle flashing headlights in what appeared to be SOS pattern. Officer checked area and vehicles, no one around.

Towers-ing Inferno Feb. 27 – 11:39 p.m. Fire alarm in Dickey Hall. Bulletin board set on fire, Gorham Fire Dept. responds, State Fire Marshal's Office notified.

The next Air Bud? Feb. 29 – 10:04 p.m. Dog seen running around Ice Arena. Owner contacted to pick up dog, (AHL contract offered to canine).

Tricycle drive-by Mar. 4 – 3:35 p.m. Criminal mischief: BB gun holes found in first floor window of Abromson Community Center, report taken.

Watch out, he has some guns Mar. 5 – 1:13 p.m. Keeping the Peace: three visitors to the Sullivan Gym refused to pay the fee to the front desk worker, subjects left at officer's request.

Guitar-io Lothario Part I Mar. 6 – 4:59 p.m. Suspicious person: report of strange man with guitar walking up to females in the multicultural center, asking inappropriate questions. Officers were not able to make contact.

Guitar-io Lothario Part II Mar. 7 – 4:45 p.m. Report of a strange man milling around the sixth floor of Glickman Library, instrument in tow. Man seen exiting women's bathroom, issued criminal trespass papers for all USM property.

Guitar-io Lothario Part III Mar. 7 – 5:02 p.m. Wandering troubadour identified as Erik Tillotson. Campus safety alert issued, notices posted, campus without tunes.

Why is she running? Mar. 7 – 1:39 a.m. Disorderly conduct: Male subject seen chasing female, urinating in public. Issued a verbal warning, (presumably spent night alone).

The USM 500 Mar. 10 - 2:36 p.m. Vehicle stopped on Campus Ave. Summons was issued for speed 15-20 mph over the speed limit

Breaking the seal Mar. 13 – 10:18 p.m. Indecent conduct: Two women seen urinating at the side of Dickey Hall. Verbal warning to use the proper facilities was given.

Monday March 17

Student Government Elections- Vote USM! Decide who will represent you on the Student Senate and as Student Body President./ Vote online: www.usm.maine.edu/studentlife/vote08/ All week/ For more information, stop by the Involvement and Activities Center in Woodbury Campus Center.

Free Press Budget Meeting- If you're interested in writing or doing photos, this is the meeting to come to. Every Monday, section editors assign stories and art for the next two papers, and discuss ideas for stories we should be doing but aren't!/ 92 Bedford Street, Portland Campus/ 5-6 p.m./ For more information email Sarah Trent at sarah.trent@yahoo.com.

Student Nursing Association of Portland and Lewiston (SNAPL) T-Shirt Sale- SNAPL is selling t-shirts to raise funds for our efforts in the community. Proceeds are also going towards our student leaders attending a National Convention. Order forms available on the SNAPL Bulletin Board (outside the LRC) fill one out today or drop it in the box or contact and officer or selling member today/ Going on all week!/ For more information contact Megan Taylor at megan.l.taylor@maine.edu.

Tuesday March 18

Free Press Writing Workshop- Matt Wickenheiser from the Press Herald is coming to the FP to lead a workshop on editing. All are welcome, you don't have to write for us to attend!/ 212 Abromson, Portland Campus/ 5-6 p.m./ For more information email Sarah Trent at sarah.trent@yahoo.com.

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./ Lewiston-Auburn Campus/ For more information please contact Daniel Philbrick 207-753-6575 or email philbric@usm.maine.edu.

Safe Zone Project Session- Join us to learn more about the LGBTQ community at USM, gain support for being a safe and supportive ally/ Presidential Dining Room, Brooks Student Center, Gorham/ 10-11:30 a.m./ RSVP required by 3/14 - email sparker-holmes@usm.maine.edu or call 780-5767 for more information.

Model United Nations Organization Weekly Meeting- If you like global affairs and confer-

Campus Events

Out with the old, in with the new



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH REECE

Michael Moore, former chair of the USM art department, showed his drawings at the USM Area Gallery until last month, when USM students took over with the annual Student Juried Show. His pen and ink drawings, he said during his talk at USM, are meant to show the creative process of the drawing itself.

Moore is currently chair of the Post-Baccalaureate Program, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia.

ence planning, please join us!/ 5-5:30 p.m./ 217 Abromson Community Education Center, Portland campus/ For more information please email jelena.sarenac@maine.edu.

Wednesday March 19

Take 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@usm.maine.edu or call Pat Finn at 780-4284.

American Sign Language (ASL) Club Meeting- Join us for fun ASL activities and meet other USM students and deaf community members/ Amphitheater, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland campus/ 3-5 p.m./ Contact Esther Lee at elee@usm.maine.edu for more information.

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

Pagan Students Association- Come join or us see what we're all about./ 7:30-8:30 p.m./ Boiler Room, Woodbury Campus Center/ For more info, email usmpsaa@yahoo.com, or see <http://student-groups.usm.maine.edu/pagan>.

Thursday March 20

Student Government Elections- Today is your last chance to Vote USM! Decide who will represent you on the Student Senate and as Student

Body President./ Vote online: www.usm.maine.edu/studentlife/vote08/ All week/ For more information, stop by the Involvement and Activities Center in Woodbury Campus Center.

American & New England Studies Lecture Series- Blake Harrison from Southern Connecticut State University will speak on "The View from Vermont: Tourism and the Making of an American Rural Landscape. Free and open to the public./ Glickman Library University Events Room/ 7-9 p.m./ For more information please call 780-4920

Entrepreneur Workshop - "10 Branding Secrets of Successful Entrepreneurs"- March's MCED Lunch & Learn Workshop will be with David Vazdauskas of "Victory Branding". Free and open to the public/ Room 216, Abromson Center, Portland Campus/ 12-2 p.m./ To pre-register, call 228-8524 or email workshops@mcled.biz, <http://www.mced.biz>.

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 yoirilawson@hotmail.com.

Maine PIRG Meeting- Weekly meeting/ 8-9 p.m./ Woodbury Campus Center Student Involvement Desk, Portland.

Friday March 21

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.

"How do you get a money-worried campus to be self-reflective?" -Susan Campbell

Retention solutions complicated by finances

From RETENTION page 1

of Academic Assessment and the newly formed Office of Early Student Success, professors don't always know what to do with the information — if they've even been provided with it.

This came in reaction to Tinto's suggestion that USM needed more and better methods for collecting data that can inform where things are going both wrong and right, which will help bring more agreement across campus as to what shape solutions might take.

Susan Campbell, executive director of Advising and Academic Resources, had another concern.

"How do you get a money-worried campus to be self-reflective?" she asked, wondering how the university community can even begin to address internal issues while facing an \$8.2 million-and-growing financial crisis.

Tinto's response was not very heartening. "You can't," he said, "these are important questions, but a bad time."

Susan McWilliams, assistant provost of undergraduate education and a member of

the gen-ed curriculum planning committee, seemed not necessarily to agree.

"In this convulsive period of change," she said, carefully, "we're in a great place to convulse some more."

In addressing issues of student success — which the university hopes will lead to increased retention — McWilliams thinks that there isn't an institutional consensus as to what success is, which means there are conflicting definitions of what can be done to address it.

"How does a community," she said, choosing her words slowly, "come to an ethos?"

Though the room was full of tension as the group listened to Tinto speak on USM's current concerns and convulsions, but everyone had something to ask, something to say.

Their regard for him is not surprising — recent efforts to improve student success and retention, including the creation of the Office of Early Student Success, are modeled after Tinto's own recommendations and research.

These efforts and his research try to address the primary reasons that approximately 600 of USM's original 2004 cohort won't graduate — and why 290 left before 2005.

According to his research, reasons nationwide include: difficulty with transitioning from high school or another institution, having narrow or unclear goals, increasing debt or insufficient finances, family and interpersonal concerns, a perceived lack of "fit" and students' loneliness and isolation.

While efforts so far have been successful, bringing USM's retention rate up eight percentage points since its first efforts in '94, there is still work to be done.

According to his "Moving Forward" letter, Joe Wood has made addressing retention a priority.

"Without a higher retention rate," he says, "we will continue to lose tuition revenues and face increased recruitment costs because of time and effort needed to replace those students who leave prior to graduation."

But, as Tinto and others brought to the table, with a lack of campus-wide agreement as to what might be done, with tuition revenue decreasing every semester, and amidst a time of convulsive change — including university-wide cuts of programs, positions, and dollars — the solutions aren't going to come easily.

UPCOMING GAMES

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

Wednesday, March 19

Men's Lacrosse @ Bates

Thursday, March 20

Men's Tennis vs. BATES

Women's Lacrosse @ Colby

Softball vs. Albright @ Ft. Myers, FL

Softball vs. Roger Williams @ Ft. Myers, FL

Baseball vs. William Paterson @ Chandler, AZ

4 p.m.

3:30 p.m.

4 p.m.

9 a.m.

1 p.m.

10 a.m.

Friday, March 21

Softball vs. St. Lawrence @ Ft. Myers, FL

Softball vs. Wisonsin-Superior @ Ft. Myers, FL

Baseball vs. Suffolk @ Chandler, AZ

Men's Lacrosse @ Curry

Saturday, March 22

Softball vs. SUNY-Fredonia @ Ft. Myers, FL

Softball vs. Middlebury @ Ft. Myers, FL

Men's Outdoor Track @ Northeastern Invitational tba

Baseball vs. St. Johns (Minn.) @ Chandler, AZ

9 a.m.

11 a.m.

12 p.m.

3 p.m.

9 a.m.

11 a.m.

12 p.m.

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Info Desk and Admin. Office staff needed Woodbury Campus Center, Portland \$8.50/hour. Contact Cathy Wright 228-8200. Must have Federal workstudy funds.

Info Desk and Fitness Center staff needed at the Sullivan Recreation & Fitness Complex, Portland. \$9.25 hour. Apply in person. Must have Federal work study funds.

Human Resources - Gorham hours available 8-4:30, M-F Must be willing to answer phones, be reliable, confidential, and able to work with different supervisors. Excellent pay, flexible work hours contact Kerry at 228-8304

Women & Gender Studies is hiring work study students! Great work experience in a fun, feminist atmosphere. Call Lauren Webster at 780-4862 or drop by 94 Bedford Street.


USM Child and Family Center has work study openings. If you have an interest in working with children, we would appreciate your help. Flexible hours to accommodate your schedule. Please contact Jen Hebert at 780-4300

The SGA Business Office is looking for a few good staff members! Great experience, flexible hours, fun office! Please contact Drew or Carolyn 228-8503 for more info

Work-Study Job \$7.75/hr. Entry-level. Training provided. Tues & Thurs 8:30-10:30 a.m. Exercise, Health, & Sport Sciences Field House, Gorham 780-5782 therault@usm.maine.edu

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HUSKY HERO

Interview by John Forestell

Doug Mercer

Year: Junior
Major: Nursing
Sport: Men's Track



FP: Why is that?
Doug: Not really sure, it started my senior year in high school and I had success with the longer sprinting events and just went with it.

FP: Did you play any other sports in high school?
Doug: I played soccer freshman and sophomore year, and then switched to cross country junior and senior year.

FP: What made you want to focus on running?
Doug: I always had success with running. I knew I would have a better chance running in college than I would in soccer or another sport.

FP: Are there any people that you look up to in the track and field world?
Doug: Definitely some of the world class sprinters. Jeremy Wariner, Michael Johnson. But more so with college runners and athletes. They have no contracts, no million dollar endorsements; they just love what they do.

FP: What is it that you love about running?
Doug: The purity of the competition, I ran at UNH which is a Division I school and we're D III here, but with running it doesn't matter because it's all based on time. You can't quite compare D III and D I in other sports, but with running its all an equal playing field, it's the time you run.

FP: Why did you drop down from D I to D III?
Doug: I wanted to come to USM so I could do Nursing.

FP: What are some of the things you do to prepare yourself for a big meet?
Doug: Listen to music, and just try to focus on what I want to do, and how I want to race.

FP: Is there anything you want USM to know about what you do?
Doug: Just that the team works incredibly hard, they're a great bunch of guys, and I'm glad I run with them seven days a week

Newsday Crossword

PAT'S DAY by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Hot spring
 - 4 Exchange
 - 8 Scatter about
 - 13 Phone letters near 0
 - 14 Install asphalt
 - 15 Go away
 - 16 Short skirt
 - 17 Frankenstein's assistant
 - 18 Behaved
 - 19 Rural hotels
 - 20 PATernity-leave recipients
 - 22 Starts getting molars
 - 24 Female sheep
 - 25 Horse's meal morsel
 - 26 DVD player ancestor
 - 27 Ace, king, or jack
 - 31 Veranda
 - 34 Feel sorry for
 - 35 Margarine
 - 36 Carmen or Tosca
 - 37 Farm implement
 - 38 Amherst school, for short
 - 39 Baby's first word, maybe
 - 40 Make a pleat
 - 41 Malice
 - 42 Pigeonhole
 - 43 One ___ time (singly)
 - 44 Actor Gibson
 - 45 Life story, for short
 - 46 Most simple
 - 50 PATchwork of stuff
 - 55 Office note

- 56 Have a crush on
 - 57 Car
 - 58 Ireland nickname
 - 59 Apartment-for-rent sign
 - 60 "It's cold!"
 - 61 River through Egypt
 - 62 Steps on the brake
 - 63 Utters
 - 64 Golf platform
- DOWN
- 1 Backbone
 - 2 Pasta like ziti
 - 3 PATrician
 - 4 Small piano
 - 5 Weekly earnings
 - 6 State solemnly

- 7 Got better and better at
- 8 Candidate list
- 9 Computer repairer, for short
- 10 Evaluate
- 11 At any time
- 12 Ties the knot
- 13 Leave out
- 21 Out of whack
- 23 Laugh sounds
- 26 Stringed instrument
- 27 PAT on the back
- 28 Jai ___
- 29 Take a break
- 30 Medicine amount
- 31 Pea holders
- 32 Milky gem
- 33 Make over

- 34 Picture-developing places
- 38 Takes advantage of
- 40 Come up short
- 44 City officials
- 45 Red vegetables
- 46 Contest submission
- 47 Weird
- 48 Express happiness
- 49 Muscle quality
- 50 Gym surfaces
- 51 Admired one
- 52 One-person performance
- 53 Work group
- 54 Radiant glow

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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

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

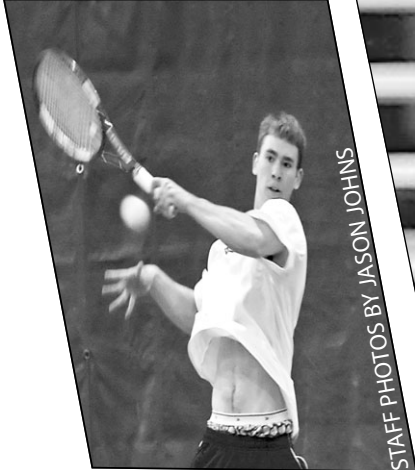
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SPORTS EDITOR

Getting spring fevered



STAFF PHOTOS BY JASON JOHNS



Season previews

From PREVIEWS page 20

have tougher tasks ahead,” says senior co-captain Chris Shorr (Portland). One of those tough tasks will come when Southern Maine travels to Bates College on Wednesday.

With solid contributors like senior Matt Soule (Denmark) and juniors Lee Gauthier (Berwick) and Preson Gilbert (Saco), the team is hoping to improve on last year's 2-11.

Head Coach Malcom Chase believes his team is ready to step up to the next level as he continues to build the program.

This year they have 12 returning players and seven freshman on a roster of 22.

“We’re playing better as a team, and that’s the main goal. If we do the little things we’ll be competitive in our conference,” said Chase following last week’s season opener.

Chase’s optimism is shared by his team. Senior co-captain Robb Dorr (Evanston, IL) said that “it kind of sucks being a senior now, we’re really at the turning point of the program.”

- **Brandon McKenney**

Softball After a 2007 in which they went 19-22 — their first losing season since 1996 — the University of Southern Maine softball team is looking to improve on a season that lacked a winning streak of more than three games.

The Huskies have eight returning players from last year’s squad, and have added seven new faces on the diamond and in the dugout.

Lone senior Kristina Grondin (Sanford) has proven to be an ace on the mound—she led 15 of the team’s wins last season. She will spearhead a pitching core of young players looking to gain some consistency. Juniors Anita Dixon (Limington) and Meghan Ford (Mechanic Falls), who are tri-captains with

Grondin, will lead the team to Florida this weekend, and toward their first home game on March 29 versus conference rival Rhode Island College.

- **John Forestell**

Men’s Tennis After a championship season in ‘07, men’s tennis can hardly afford to revel in their success.

Last season, the team earned the title of LEC regular season and tournament champions as well as a first-ever win in the NCAA tournament.

But with only three returning players, the team can’t rest on their laurels. Last season’s standout Craig Spann and dynamic brother-duo Chris and Justin Chaffee graduated, and have left the team with some holes to fill.

Despite the losses, coach Phil Cole has recruited several new players, and can rely on junior Derek Stevenson (Raymond) and sophomore Joshua Warren (Hermon) to be strong players for the Huskies. The two men are coming off last season with an identical .846 winning percent, an impressive feat they must hope to repeat if the team wants the same taste of success.

The team kicks off this season in a non-conference match in Gorham versus Bates on March 20.

- **Matt Dodge**

USM TRACK STAR



STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY



PHOTO BY JASON JOHNS

**Emily Artesani
on the 400:
"It's a lot of
strategy ...
you have to be
efficient."**

Artesani's hard work pays off in class and on the track

Michael Tardiff

Staff Writer

Emily Artesani knows something about efficiency. Whether it's in the classroom or running the ever-grueling 400 meters, she is adept at managing her energy and coming out on top.

A sophomore psychology major in the university's honors program, Artesani recently broke one of the university's longest standing track records in the 400 meter event.

But what is it that makes the Orono native and standout student athlete tick?

Time management and discipline have become her credo.

Having broken the record in arguably the most physically trying track and field event — a full lap done at a sprint — Artesani uses pacing and smarts to outlast her competition.

"It's a lot of strategy," Artesani said. "For the first 50 meters it's a sprint and then you just try to

coast without losing much speed until the last 100 meters and then it's basically an all-out sprint. You have to be efficient."

This same efficiency has allowed her to retain a strong academic standing while balancing an intense on- and off-season training regimen that includes weight-lifting and running with her relay-mates seniors Hattie Landry (Acton) and Christa Hutchinson (Gorham) and sophomore Sarah Hale (Naples), who she credits heavily for her recent success.

Whether she's lifting weights in the Costello Sports Complex, over-training by running the 600 meters, or studying in hotels or on the bus to away meets, Artesani makes the most of her time amidst a busy life.

Breaking the 400 meter's 17-year-old record at the NYU Fastrack Invitational in New York City with a time of 59.64 seconds, Artesani became only the second woman in USM his-

tory to break the one-minute barrier in an indoor event.

Artesani remains humble, shying away from some of the much-deserved attention.

"I've definitely had some really good coaching from both our head coach and our strength coach," she says, trying to pass along some of the credit. "They've really helped me in mapping out the season with strategy and training."

When asked if she would mind being profiled, she said that she was featured in last week's Free Press (Husky Hero), and that she didn't want sound like she was bragging.

But bragging she's not, and setting herself up for continued success in the field-house and in the lecture hall she certainly is.

Look for Artesani to be a key component to the women's outdoor track and field team, which starts its season over break at two meets in Florida.

MIKE ON SPORTS

New grant programs will test USM's recruiting resiliency

Michael Tardiff

Columnist

Winning in college sports is hard enough, but things are about to get even more difficult for coaches and players at USM.

While I was in New York City this past week at a journalism convention, Columbia University revealed their plan to do away with student loans.

Columbia isn't the first college in country to use their large endowment for this purpose: they are the latest in a growing nationwide trend.

Programs like the one introduced at Columbia take a look at the parents' annual contribution and require the student to pony up whatever the FAFSA deems practical.

The rest is then supplemented, not with loans, but with grant money sliced from the school's endowment.

But Columbia is Ivy League and Division I — how does this impact USM?

Well, truth is, it's not just Columbia. It's also Bowdoin and Colby, our Division III foes, who are making college more affordable to those who aren't in the top tax bracket.

And it's not just the Bank of America and sleazy student loan corporations who are going to take a hit — places like USM, who are constantly trying to lure prospective students and student-athletes to their campuses, are going to be affected as well.

Think about it for a second: if a coach recruits an athlete at place like Bowdoin or Colby and the cost is going to be even remotely comparable to USM (supposing that he or she also has adequate grades and test-scores), is there really any question where that athlete is heading in the fall?

Probably not.

Don't get me wrong, I love USM as much as the next person, but I wouldn't want to be the assistant coach trying to make the sales pitch to a star athlete with a solid academic footing and desirable skills on the playing field.

On a brighter note, not all schools have billion dollar endowments.

And lucky for USM, schools in the Little East Conference fit into that category.

But the fact of the matter is that succeeding at the national level is bound to become more difficult. And having some of the best Division III teams in Maine could become a thing of the past if USM doesn't find a way to compete with these new and attractive policies.

But not everyone can get into a school like Colby or Columbia, right?

Right.

And this raises another precarious situation that USM coaches and administrators will have to deal with.

A recent New York Times investigation adds new depth to the discussion: according to the report, Harvard has been accepting students with less-than-Ivy League credentials.

And while more of the country's best students are getting into the schools eliminating loans (Harvard, Princeton, Swarthmore and Amherst among them), it is also true that there are plenty of students who still cannot get into USM.

These students, sometimes great athletes, are funneled to schools with lower admission standards like Husson or Thomas.

This leaves USM somewhere in the middle — not overly attractive to student-athletes with strong academic backgrounds; sometimes unattainable for those who aren't UMaine system material.

Ultimately, this means that things are going to get harder for USM sports and that coaches are going to have to adapt to new challenges by marketing the school to a new demographic of students.

Whether this means admitting more students on a conditional basis or trying to conjure up some sort of endowment, I am not sure, but the heretofore-remarkable recruiting trends at USM might have rough seas ahead.

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USM 2008 spring sports preview

It's getting greener every day, and spring sports are about to come into full-bloom. Check in on your favorite team and see how they are preparing for the season.

Baseball Under the snow on the USM baseball field there is dirt and there is grass. And the Huskies are ready for it.

On March 20, the University of Southern Maine Huskies baseball team will run onto a field without snow, facing William Paterson in sunny and warm Chandler, Arizona. Coach Ed Flaherty, in his 23rd season at the helm, is optimistic about the start of this 2008 season.

"I feel very good about this team," Flaherty says. "It is a bit young as there are only two seniors and a handful of juniors. I feel offensively we will be extremely potent, have decent team speed and good power."

The two seniors, Eddie Skeffington (Everett, MA) and Adam Ross (Rockland) will be called upon to provide the leadership in the dugout—both have been named captains.

Skeffington, a constant threat in the batter's box, will look to lead the offense this year and improve on his 2007 season, when he was fourth on the team in with 27 RBI and four home runs.

Ross will help lead a staff of young pitchers.

Junior Colin Henry (Penobscot) will need to provide a spark in the line-up as well on the mound, and sophomore Josh Mackey (Danvers, MA), who had 25 runs and 22 RBI, will need to have another good season at the plate.

But more than individual players, Flaherty believes that team unity will help these Huskies in their quest for a conference championship.

"We need contributions from all our players," he said. "There is no pressure on any one, two, or three players on this team. We have a group of all good players, and feel if they all can contribute to the best of their abilities; we will have a chance to be good by the end of the year."

Still, Flaherty is nervous about pitching. "Our major question mark will be the progress of our pitching staff, [but] I have been very pleased with the depth we have."

The Huskies will play their first home game on April 1 against in-state rival Bowdoin College.

- John Forestell

Women's Lacrosse The women's lacrosse team opened their season with a 1-19 fall at the hands of the nationally-ranked Bowdoin Polar Bears, but for head coach Sue Frost, it's all part of the plan.

Notorious for scheduling difficult early-season match-ups, Frost hopes to give the team a taste of the level to which she wants to bring the program.

It just might be working too: the team has shown incredible improvement over the last few seasons, setting nine team records in the '07 season, including most games won and most points scored per game and per season.

Returning senior goalie Katie Quartuccio (Poughkeepsie, NY) will be huge for the Huskies, last year she set records for saves and save percentage in a season; this year she'll lead the team as tri-captain alongside senior Amy McNally (East Waterboro) and junior Georgia Hurd (Bath).

The team finished last season hovering just below the .500 mark, with a 7-9-0 record after the post-season.

There are eight returning players and seven freshmen on a team that has had trouble keeping and recruiting players in past years — a testament to the growth of the program and to the efforts of Sue Frost, who, in her third season at USM, followed several years of turnover in coaching staff.

After graduating two year points-leader Virginia Flood and several other strong players and leaders, the team will look to sophomore Jessica Knight (Alfred, ME) and junior Caitlin Albert (Scarborough, ME) for their offensive edge.

See the Huskies at home on April 5 for what will be a good match against conference rival Western Connecticut.

- Matt Dodge

Men's Lacrosse After opening their season with a 15-4 stomping of St. Josephs College, Southern Maine's Men's Lacrosse team is looking ahead towards a much tougher schedule.

"We usually only win five games tops, and while this game was pretty easy we'll

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PHOTO BY JASON JOHNS

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-Baseball Coach
Ed Flaherty



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