

the free press

Volume 39, Issue 21 April 21, 2008
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE



NEED A
NEW BIKE?

PAGE 12

26 Making the list

Sarah Trent

Executive Editor

"Sometimes, you've got to be a provocative SOB," said interim Provost Mark Lapping, as two members of the Free Press pawed through the plans and letters supporting the 26 programs to whom suspension has been threatened.

Plans and evaluations like this should happen on a more regular basis, according to a number of administrators, including Lapping.

He said that the Board of Trustees requires that programs undergo a review every seven years. Those reviews, he said, have not formally been occurring.

In their temporary positions, Lapping and interim President Joe Wood have made bold moves to incite change in the university, primarily in response to the financial crisis that has become more and more apparent over the past year.

The plans they make public – the list of 26 programs, the soon-to-be-announced \$6-7 million in budget cuts and a clearer pic-

ture of which positions will be eliminated – come after much deliberation and planning.

Last fall, Lapping tried to initiate cuts by introducing the idea to reorganize colleges and programs, which would cut administrative costs.

For example, he said, "physics and chemistry are right next to each other. They share an office, administrative assistants, even a coffee pot." He admits that combining these two particular programs might not have saved a lot of money, but says that their reaction to the idea was disheartening.

"God forbid you combine them," he said, paraphrasing the departments' reactions.

Other programs and colleges were asked, similarly, to think about the possibility of joining forces.

Business and the School of Applied Science, Engineering and Technology were asked how they might cooperate, under the assumption that both schools were most concerned with innovation.

See LIST page 6

Uncovering the budget

Administrators, audit declare USM "a mess"

Matt Dodge & Sarah Trent

Editors

The USM budget is a mess.

The administration says so. Faculty and department heads say so. PricewaterhouseCoopers, an independent firm hired to perform an audit on the university, agrees.

At a recent Student Senate meeting, interim Provost Mark Lapping spread his hands out over a row of 2-seat-wide Luther Bonney tables. "Right now, we have a table-and-a-half covered in data," he said. "This place is a mess."

The PricewaterhouseCoopers audit was a \$40,000 job paid for by the Board of Trustees and system chancellor Richard Pattenau, USM's former president. It aimed to give the administration and the public a better look at USM's financial situation and help USM regain financial footing.

Not only looking to demystify the university's finances, PricewaterhouseCoopers

was asked to give recommendations on how USM can improve its budget and financial reporting practices.

The first of the six recommendations listed in the audit calls for USM to identify the full amount of its deficit.

This revealing recommendation sheds light on the ethereal, intangible reporting and budgetary practices that have governed USM finances and left the school without a clear idea of exactly how deep in the red it is.

The audit says that USM had "reportedly little consequences for failing to meet budgets," and that this practice "over time, created an expectation at the departments that other surpluses would be available to make up their deficits."

Treating the budget as a sort of pool, moving money around when and where it needed to be in order to balance the budget, USM was able to get by, despite the difficulties in accounting for the movement.

See BUDGET page 7

4th annual Thinking Matters symposium



STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

History professor Adam Tuchinsky talks to students at the fourth annual Thinking Matters symposium's poster session. Students and faculty use the event to showcase the year's projects.

David O'Donnell

Sports Editor

It started with an annual tradition known as "poster days," where science students would gather to share visual presentations of the year's major projects.

This piqued the interest of some in the history department, who noticed an exchange of work and ideas that is sometimes rare at USM. They thought it might be a good idea to expand the event to encompass the larger humanities and social sciences, and maybe

feature a few oral presentations and panel discussions...

The result was Thinking Matters, which last week sprawled out across the Portland campus for its fourth straight year. Running April 17-18, the symposium enjoyed strong university support – from the glowing welcome by interim President Joe Wood that graces the program guide to permission for all university staff to leave their posts if they wished to attend.

See THINK page 5

Debate over student-professor conflict prompts student-professor conflict

David O'Donnell

Sports Editor

The keynote event that kicked off this year's Thinking Matters symposium saw students sounding off on their interpretations of the term "academic freedom," as it may apply when a conflict arises between students and educators.

They didn't expect to see a real-life demonstration.

The event was run as a panel discussion, overlapping with the conclusion of the Gloria S. Duclos Convocation on Academic Freedom. The panel was moderated by senior history major Daniel Chard, and was

See CONFLICT page 5

Words + Images published without images

Artists upset, editor tries to explain

Jenna Howard

Arts Editor

Art student Marie Follayttar rushed into the office of Words + Images the morning that it was set to debut. She couldn't wait to see her artwork in print.

Sarah Skelding, a poetry editor for the publication, looked at Follayttar and said, apologetically, "didn't you get the e-mail?"

"I could tell it was a hard thing for her to say," Follayttar told the Free Press.

Words + Images is an art and literature magazine that publishes every year. This year, it has no images, no art, for the first time in its 28-year history – and artists like Follayttar, who submitted work and were told it had been accepted, are less than impressed.

As she stood before Skelding, there was nothing Follayttar could do.

The 2008 Words + Images had been published. The books were

in boxes in the office. Without art.

"I am upset and somewhat humiliated. I rejoiced and shared that I was being published," said Follayttar.

Ryan Gato, the publishing editor, said it was a mistake.

Although their constitution calls Words + Images an 'arts journal,' it also gives the publishing director freedom to make decisions. And by 'arts,' this year, the audience will get 'literary.'

Gato said he made a last minute executive decision to exclude all art, although he also said they received the usual amount of art submissions. In the fall, when the group traditionally advertises for submissions, it advertised in two national literary journals, but no ads were put out to encourage art submissions, according to staff.

"This was not intentional," said Gato in a phone interview. He served as the fiction editor for

See WORDS page 14

yourpieceofmaine

A man with short brown hair, wearing a red button-down shirt over a grey t-shirt, is sitting on the floor. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. A medium-sized dog with black, white, and tan fur is sitting in front of him, looking off to the side. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Pets ALLOWED

Try finding that with a rental

Whether it's just more space to put stuff, or the freedom you've been looking for, buying a home in Maine is one of the best decisions you'll ever make.
AND IT JUST GOT EASIER.

ypom + You Tube = \$20,000

Visit www.yourpieceofmaine.com to learn how you can submit a video showing why you love your piece of Maine or why you want a piece of Maine. You could win one of 10 prizes: a grand prize of \$20,000, \$5,000 or one of eight \$1,000 prizes. Simply upload your video (less than 3 minutes!), be fun, be creative... be on time! Deadline June 2, 2008.



yourpieceofmaine
Maine Association of REALTORS®



Its all at www.yourpieceofmaine.com

The economy \$ucks

Part 2 of 3



How economic strife can be good for enrollment.
Kind of.

David O'Donnell
Sports Editor

As if the economy wasn't complicated enough.

Despite what we expected, according to some experts around campus, USM may not have to worry about enrollment being dragged down by an impending recession.

The dreaded "r" word is bound to have undesirable effects on the state, the school and your own personal finances – but an enrollment shortfall for USM is not expected to be one of them, if historical precedent is any indication.

Economic downturns, such as those the U.S. saw in the early '90s and 2001, tend to have a counter-cyclical effect on university enrollment. In other words, they can actually be a boon to getting more students in the door – despite their having less money to pump into education.

Recession trends

The 1991 recession is probably more informative than the most recent one, which preceded – but was worsened by the events of Sept. 11.

While the 2001 recession touched Maine a lot less than other states, according to Charles Colgan, professor of USM's Muskie School of Public Service, the recession 10 years earlier hit the Northeast as hard as any other region in the country.

And it's a prime example of the expected trends: school-wide enrollment had been climbing in the latter half of the 1980s, and then there was a sudden drop-off in part-time students. Simultaneously, the full-time numbers

continued their upward climb, and by slightly greater margins.

Meaning? Students taking courses for enrichment's sake – part-time students who aren't seeking a degree – tend to drop off during recessions, because they often find it's more important to devote time to working and making money, rather than spending on classes that won't help fill their wallets in the short-term.

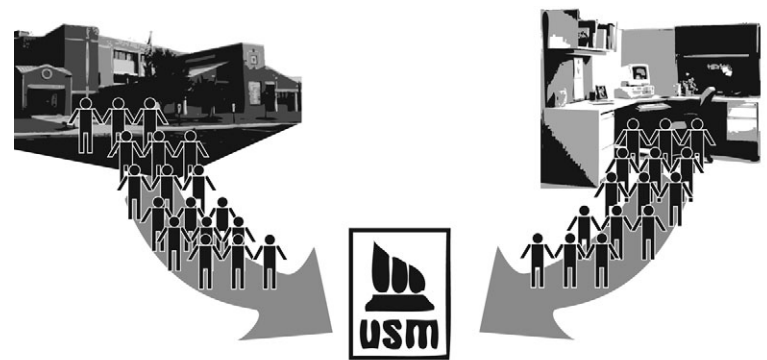
Degree-seeking students, on the other hand, tend to increase: recessions often send people in search of new careers, in part because of lay-offs, so they head back toward universities in search of new options.

USM's current image is tightly linked to its part-time students, who often have careers but attend a class or two to broaden their horizons. When the economy plunges, they're often forced to make quick decisions, especially if they find themselves laid off or facing lower wages and longer hours.

Some add to the trend of increasing full-time enrollment, hoping to strengthen their skills or switch careers. Some seek work and money elsewhere, and put a pause on their schooling.

In the 2001 recession, Maine was one of the least-affected states in the nation. And still, according to Colgan, anxiety over a shrinking economy may have contributed to the significant enrollment spike USM saw in the fall of 2002.

While the recessions of the last two decades stand out as examples because of their sheer scope and magnitude, Colgan is not anticipating that kind of a free-fall for Mainers this time around.



"We'll be flat," he says, "but we're probably not going to see the big negative effect you'll be seeing in places like California. It's not going to be pleasant here, but we'll see a lot worse over there."

But, he adds, "a five percent boost in enrollment wouldn't be entirely unlikely."

According to Scott Steinberg, the director of undergraduate admissions, his department has already seen a five percent increase in applications over this time last year, and 16 percent over two years ago (although administrators warn this data might be skewed by changes in how applications are processed).

Mortgage crisis & student loans

Another area where recession rears its head and complicates things is in the realm of financial assistance. Keith DuBois, director of Financial Aid, has also seen an increase in applications – a 10 percent jump in the number of Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSAs) reaching his office this year versus mid-April 2007.

According to Rosa Redonnett, the vice president of enrollment management, this doesn't just speak to swelling enrollment, but also to the economic situations of existing students.

She suspects a substantial portion of these new FAFSAs come from students who may not have had to worry about the form previously, but that "this year, their liquidity is very different."

But their options for financial assistance have also changed.

Colgan says that the sub-prime mortgage crisis, so intertwined with our lagging economy, has directly affected students' ability to acquire loans. There are three major varieties of loans: those directly from the government, government-subsidized, and private "alternative" loans from financial institutions.

In recent years, there was tremendous growth in this third sector: banks packaged student loans in much the same way that they would a mortgage,

putting the money into securities that are then sold to world debt markets.

But in the face of the sub-prime debacle of recent months, lenders' enthusiasm has dried up.

"Nobody wants to buy them; nobody wants to buy your student loan," says Colgan. "They look at you – no offense – as potentially another sub-prime mess."

This has forced the United States Congress to look at strengthening its involvement in assisting college students. A revised Higher Education Act addressing this will go before the House of Representatives in the next month, and on to the senate by the end of spring.

The state of Maine

It all adds up to a complicated and decidedly unique situation. Now, for instance, the school faces increased competition from SMCC, which only became a full-fledged community college after the last recession.

That could increase the drop in part-time students, says Redonnett.

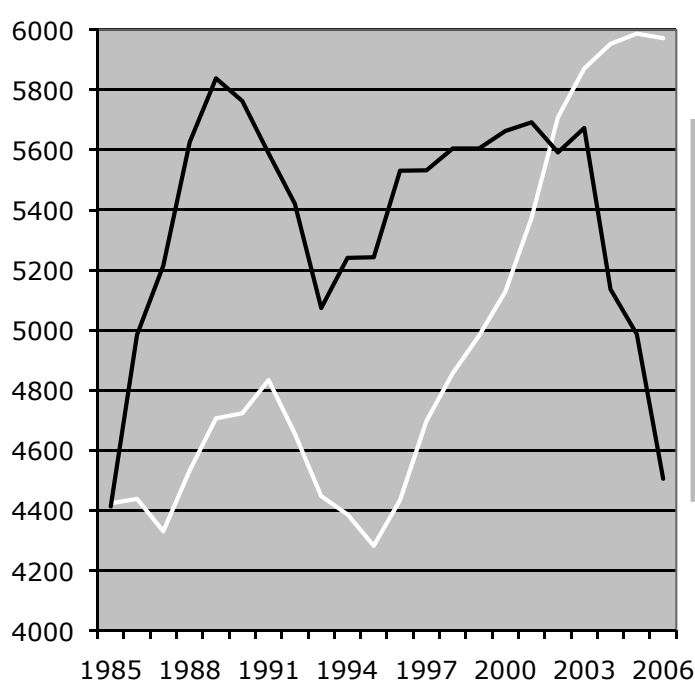
SMCC's much lower tuition makes it a likelier choice for students seeking a part-time education – including those who can no longer afford USM.

Economic woes mean the school will also see less money from the state, which provides about 30 percent of its budget. Though appropriations for next year are not decreasing compared to last, USM's proposed five million dollar increase has been slashed.

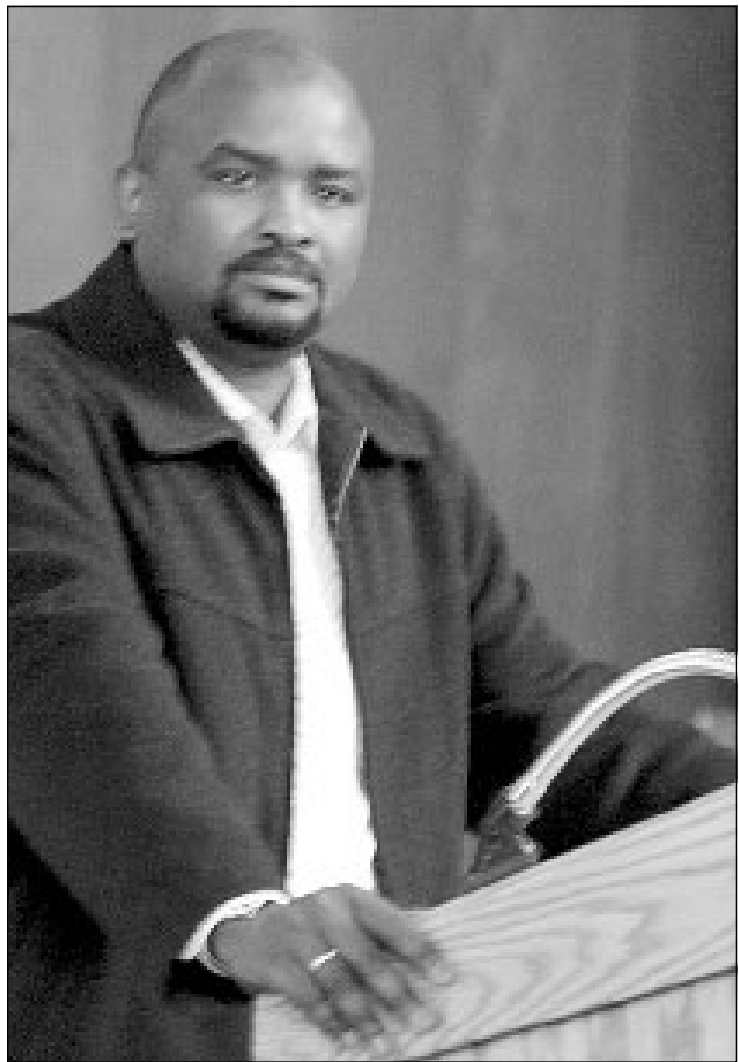
So despite "a few students going from two classes to four classes a semester," says Colgan, not all the news is positive. While an increase in full-time enrollment will help balance a recession's impact on USM, "it's not enough to offset what we're losing."

Next week, part 3 will take a closer look at USM's financial crisis within the context of the national economic slump.

USM - Enrollment by year



Darfur refugee says “enough” isn’t enough



STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

Mansour Ahmed, a refugee from Darfur, speaks at “Darfur: Just the Facts,” an event put on by STAND. Ahmed urged students to take action to end the genocide in Darfur.

Brandon McKenney
Staff Writer

“How many of you know one solid fact about Darfur?” asked Alexandra Petropoulos, a member of STAND (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur). The nearly two-dozen members of the audience in Luther Bonney’s Talbot Lecture Hall remained silent as she continued.

“How many of you know that Darfur is a country in Africa?” A few students cautiously raised their hands.

Darfur is not a country—it’s actually a region in the northeast African country of Sudan—but Petropoulos’ trick question proved her point: the lack of information about the region and the ongoing genocide going on within its borders could be to blame for the lack of action.

Following these questions, Petropoulos began her presentation as part of STAND’s “Darfur: Just the facts” event that took place last Tuesday.

Petropoulos presented facts to the audience about the history of Darfur and the genocide that is taking place.

She then handed the stage off to Mansar Ahmed, a refugee from Darfur who is now living in Portland.

“Six years of genocide, while the international community

stands by,” Ahmed began as the emotion of the topic choked up his voice. Ahmed is one of nearly 90 refugees who fled from the violence-racked country and are now living in Maine.

Some of the refugees have started a group to speak out about the genocide, the Fur Cultural Revival, in recognition of the Fur tribe they belong to.

He went on to explain the history of his country and how and why the genocide began. In the 1980s, he said, the Janjaweed, an Islamic militia responsible for the ongoing genocide, began killing “important people.” This included teachers, missionaries, and sheiks—the leaders of Arab villages.

Ahmed explained that in the 1990s, the level of violence increased as they came in larger numbers to villages and began killing ordinary civilians.

“What else can you do but defend yourself, or else you would be killed,” said Ahmed.

After local militias retaliated against the Sudanese government, the “real genocide” began.

The killing in Darfur has been going on for six years now, has claimed upwards of 400,000 lives and displaced millions of others.

The Janjaweed carry out rape and murder and burn down whole villages, backed mainly by the Sudanese government. The international community, he said, has

remained ineffective in taking strong action to end the violence.

Ahmed and Petropoulos told the audience that the younger generation needs to step up and force the world’s leaders to take strong action. They explained that while the Bush administration has been one of the leaders in calling for action in Darfur, it has amounted to little more than strong words.

“Students are supposed to stand for action,” said Ahmed.

The two speakers urged students to stay informed and pass on what they learn to others. Petropoulos explained that hand-written letters to government leaders are the strongest means of communicating the need for action, along with divesting from Sudanese-linked companies and donating to humanitarian aid efforts.

The presentation wrapped up with a clip from the movie Hotel Rwanda, which is about the 1994 genocide in Rwanda that saw little action from outsiders until between 800,000 and one million people had been killed.

Ahmed explained that so many genocides have happened throughout history, but they continue because action is never taken until it’s too late.

“We’re still saying enough is enough,” he said. “Well, enough is supposed to mean ‘no more.’”

Students lay down their arms, and their bodies Anti-handgun protest hits USM sidewalks

Brandon McKenney
Staff Writer

Twenty students laid down for three minutes on the sidewalks outside Luther Bonney last Wednesday in a silent protest against handgun violence and U.S. gun laws. It happened on Wednesday because that was the one-year anniversary of the Virginia Tech massacre; it lasted three minutes because that’s the amount of time it took the shooter, Seung-Hui Cho, to purchase his handgun.

“Handgun violence is really a prevalent issue at this time,” said senior Lael Bolduc, one of the protest organizers. “It’s time for

students to take a stand one way or another.”

To the protestors and the small crowd, which included local news media, Bolduc explained that it’s important for students to speak out and make their voices known.

“The more you can discuss things, the better they will get,” she said.

The protest was as much a remembrance of the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history as it was against the ease of purchasing firearms: students wore purple and orange ribbons and formed the letters ‘VT’ on the ground with their bodies.

Two protestors stood over the formation holding a banner that read “ProtestEasyGuns.com.”

The protest was a joint effort by a group called Maine Citizens Against Handgun Violence and USM students, many of whom had found out about the protest through a group on Facebook.

The Maine Citizens group staged a similar protest last August in Monument Square.

USM student Erica Robertson found out about the group through an article in the Portland Press Herald, and joined so as to be active on an issue for which she is concerned. “It’s affecting students nationwide,” said Robertson. “If we don’t act, who else is going to?”



STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

Andrea Thompson-McCall, the director of the office of community service and civic engagement, lays down in front of Luther Bonney as part of a silent protest against hand-gun violence.

Forgot to grab your copy of The Free Press?

Let The Free Press find you!
Sign up for our e-mail edition on The Free Press website.
Each new newspaper will be delivered to your e-mail.

<http://www.usmfreepress.org/>



4th Annual Thinking Matters Symposium

From THINK page 1

By all indications, it was still a grassroots-style collaboration between students and faculty.

That's how the symposium started, and how it maintains quality control — there is no jury or competition, only a strong mentor-student relationship guiding the development of each presentation.

"I think there are a lot of students here who are really engaged in their education, and sometimes they don't realize they're not alone in that," says

Adam Tuchinsky, professor of history and one of the founders of the symposium.

"So we try to bring all of the exceptional and creative work that gets done around campus into one place, so we can see just how much is getting done here."

If there is a common thread in projects this time around, it is because mentors tried to encourage more service learning and civic engagement in the projects, which means that students applied themselves to some

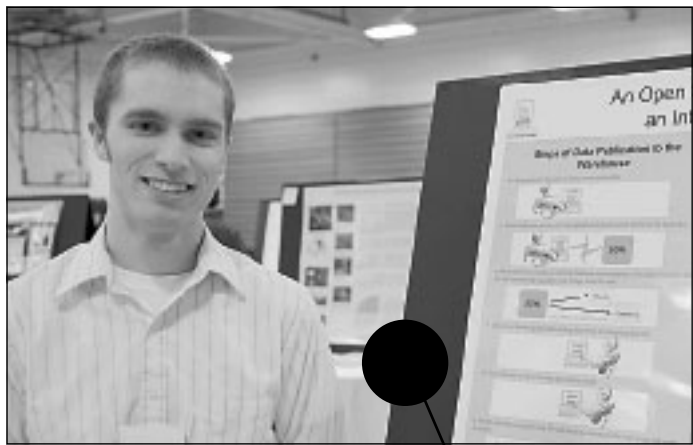
sort of outreach, community-oriented effort.

Undergrads in the recreation and leisure program, for instance, got elementary school students involved in fund-raising to build playgrounds for impoverished children in Haiti.

But despite this year's focus on civic engagement, the symposium is always fairly open-ended. Some presentations are of classroom projects that evolved into extra-credit. Others, especially in the oral portion, are closer to hands-on training for those considering a future in academia.

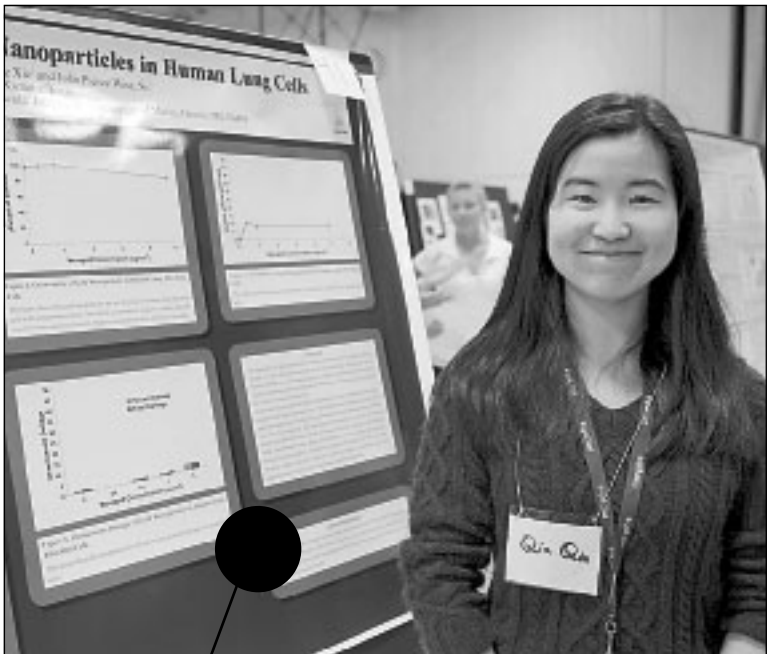
"We try to bring all of the exceptional and creative work that gets done around campus into one place, so we can see just how much is getting done here."

-professor Adam Tuchinsky



Open-source, standards-based software system for internet accessible geospatial data warehouse

Computer Science graduate student Matthew Blanchette and a team of several other computer science graduates are actively developing a system that will eventually be implemented by the Maine Geo-Library Board. It offers a way to manage a database of geospatial information, to which anyone across the state can contribute and access. A key goal of their work is seeing that this kind of data isn't locked behind exclusive, proprietary software — that's why they're writing it themselves, and adhering to open standards.



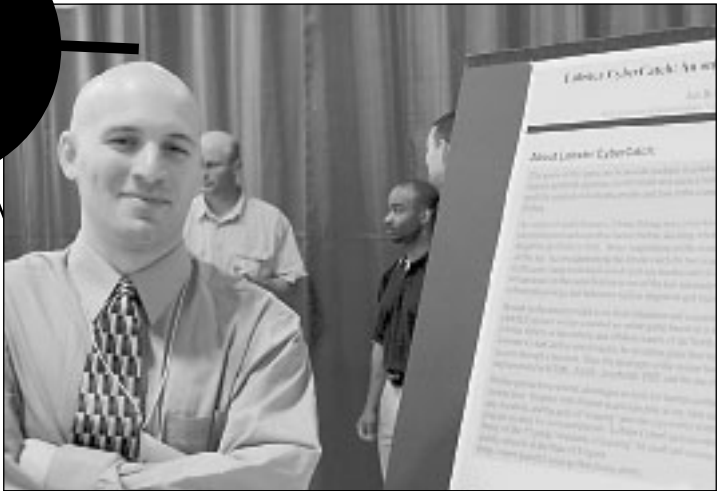
The cytotoxicity and genotoxicity of gold Nanoparticles in human lung cells

Student Qin Qin presents one of the many Thinking Matters projects to come out of USM's Wise Laboratory. As a continuation of some of the lab's work with NASA, Qin and her team took a hard look at the possible health effects of nanoparticles, which have more recently started seeing widespread industrial use. You can breath easy, as their research indicates that gold nanoparticles do not to cause cytotoxicity, chromosome damage or "aneuploidy."



Global Educators '08

In honor of USM's 10th straight year of hosting a Model United Nations conference, this team of political science undergraduates traveled to local high schools, teaching students how to be model delegates themselves. Together, the group has probably mentored more than 100 students at a variety of schools across Maine, some of whom will show off their skills at the Model UN conference this May.



Lobster CyberCatch: an online game for elementary school students

Lookout, Oregon Trail. Ian Robbins and friends have developed a computer game to educate elementary school students in the finer points of collecting and interpreting scientific data. Players must manage a commercial lobster fishery, observing trends and making decisions based on changing environmental conditions. A key aspect is the ability for teachers to log on from another computer, either to help out or simply to monitor a student's progress.

Students, professor conflict at event

From CONFLICT page 1

comprised of two prize-winners in the convocation's essay contest: Aramis Lopez and Adom Harnik (a third winner, Kristen Neilson, was unable to attend). The contest asked undergraduates to respond to the question, "Must the academic freedom of professors be in conflict with the academic freedom of students?"

The first-place, \$500 prize-winning essay belonged to Lopez, a senior classics and philosophy major. His paper stressed that the defining difference between students and professors was a matter of experience — the student being an undeveloped "embryo of intellectual activity."

At one point during the question and answer session, Lopez briefly mentioned a link between the disintegration of analytical, discussion-based learning in both the United States and France. That immediately drew a sharp rebuke from Nancy Erickson, a French professor, as she thumbed through a copy of Le Bon Usage in the back of the room.

"No, I don't think that's true," she said. "I think the curriculum (in France) is oriented towards a firmer rooting in discussion, and questioning ... and an engagement in the material that's just not present in most United States classrooms."

"I mean, look, we're sitting here, and who is talking? Only professors," she added.

That provoked some laughter and much disagreement from others in the audience. Lopez and Erickson then engaged in a lengthy, energetic back-and-forth, mostly on the state of French higher education. There were several sarcastic exchanges. Citing too much information on her side, the professor "withdrew" from the debate several times, only to jump back in.

A student in the audience responded to Erickson's mention of student apathy.

"I think that sometimes students, what they're scared of is that they cannot talk to (a professor) without one or the other being so involved emotionally or culturally, that we can't engage in a dialogue."

Later, with 20 minutes remaining, Erickson and history professor Eileen Eagan got up and left the room. When asked why they had left, the women mentioned that Erickson had a class coming up, but also admitted feeling alienated by the patriarchal tone of the panel.

After the event, organizers and students in the room were a bit taken aback by that characterization, but history professor Adam Tuchinsky pointed out that it was an excellent live-action companion to the winning essays, and an interesting start to the symposium.

Join us for the Gorham Block Party!

When: April 26 from 10am to 2pm

Where: Gorham Village

Come down to the Village and have some fun!

Win door prizes, our walk, feed, meet the local businesses.

Learn what's happening in Gorham.

WOMAN's meeting room, 10am and before will be there from 10am - 2pm.

10am before for the kids, have down outside and more.

Come down and get in on the fun!

Audit reveals need for structure

From BUDGET page 1

When enrollment started dropping, the numbers got harder to fudge.

How USM got here

In a Sept. 2006 report to the Faculty Senate, then-Chief Financial Officer Sam Andrews said that enrollment was down 1.5 percent – when it was only predicted to be a .25 percent decrease. Also mentioned is a \$2 million short-fall, which he said a hiring freeze would help soften.

It didn't make enough of a dent, enrollment continued to decrease and financial practices remained difficult to account for.

Following the Andrews' retirement in February 2007, the breadth of the mess began coming to light.

Since Dick Campbell took over as CFO, USM has been made more and more aware of the depth of its financial hole: the most recently reported numbers put it at \$8.2 million.

In an effort to leave incoming President Selma Botman with a cleaner table to work from, interim President Joe Wood and the university administration is planning to cut nearly \$7 million from next year's budget.

According to Provost Mark Lapping, this will be done primarily through cuts to administrative offices, by cutting full-time staff to part-time hours (while maintaining their fringe benefits), suspension of a small number of programs and through picking "low-hanging fruit" – the non-strategic, temporarily convenient "savings" from retiring faculty and staff who, under the hiring freeze, will not be replaced.

Feeling helpless

The historically "opaque" nature of the USM budget, according to Lorraine Carroll, has been a cause of concern for some faculty at USM.

Carroll, the interim director of the women and gender studies program, realized just how ingrained the poor accountability system was when she stepped into her interim job in January.

"I asked the director and provost to explain the budgeting system to me, and they replied with a shrug, throwing their hands in the air."

This helpless response from administrative higher-ups left Carroll discouraged.

"If a provost is flummoxed about the budget, that translates to everyone at every level."

"The budget has been a problem because it is both deeply inadequate, confusing, and obscure," said Carroll, although she recognized that the PricewaterhouseCoopers report is a step towards understanding it.

Adding that the budget process "is mysterious and infantilizing," Carroll emphasized that some departments were left feeling a little lost.

It also left departments without any sense of which funds they were entitled too, a practice Carroll likened to an Oliver Twist-esque atmosphere in which departments were pleading "please sir, I want some more."

Reacting to the audit

"The more we deal with this now, the better," said CFO Campbell. "If it turns out we need to change our plan as new information emerges, that is fine."

He said USM is in the early stages of having a system implemented in which departments report directly to the CFO.

"We are looking for ways to standardize the reporting practices," said Campbell, a move he hopes will lead to greater accountability within programs.

Campbell sees the audit as a valuable tool that can help dictate budgetary policy and lead to a stronger, better organized financial structure.

"It's like developing a garden, you need to encourage growth in some areas, and prune back in others."

The audit suggests that oversight should be improved in order to identify possible financial problems in the future, calling on the UMaine System to implement an effective governance structure and make improvements where necessary.

The report also advocates an internal audit to "provide objective monitoring of key risk areas throughout the system."

Few administrators admit to knowing how or why USM found itself operating under such confusing budgetary and reporting practices, but the audit – and the university's response to it, makes it clear that the system must change.

Provost Lapping is confident in Campbell's ability to clean things up.

In front of the Student Senate, waving his arms over the table to signify the mess in which USM has found itself, he paused and rested his hands on the wood-veneer desktop. "I believe, with some degree of assurance, that Dick Campbell with have a budget like this," he said, indicating a small, neat stack of papers with his hands. "We'll finally be able to see what a budget looks like."

The audit says

1. The full amount of the deficit must be identified

- Calling for a concrete assessment of USM finances, USM needs to reconcile all the positions in the current budget with personnel who are actually being paid, including their fringe benefits.
- Calls for actual costs of running programs to be established, instead of just relying on what amount was submitted in the budget process.

2. Budgets should more directly reflect the strategic priorities of the institution.

- The executive management team, led by the president, should set academic, strategic, and fiscal goals for FY 2009.
- The budget should also be reviewed by the USM president, Provost, CFO, Vice President, and a budget manager to determine what is required to run the university as it is currently structured.
- Decisions should also be made on how to remedy the operating deficit.
- All capital projects should be assessed to determine their current status against the budget, and a plan should be put forward for any projects that are over-budget or do not have enough funding to complete.

3. Budget and reporting disciplines must be greatly improved.

- A bottom-up baseline operating budget should be compiled by each Vice President and major budget manager that incorporates all known and projected cost increases.
- Guidelines should be established by the president and UMaine System CFO for analysis of proposed and existing programs and initiatives, which specify how to prepare financial projects and report on progress.
- Monthly, actual to budget reporting should be implemented from all departments to the USM CFO.
- Spending controls should be established to ensure that purchases in excess of remaining budget allowances cannot be made without approval from USM CFO.
- The measurement and rewards for budget owners should be tied to their responsibilities for managing their budgets.

4. The finance function at USM should be improved.

- An analysis capability should be created to enable the office of the CFO to prepare or assess these reports.
- The UMaine System, along with institution's CFOs, should develop common standards for financial reporting.

5. Peoplesoft should be fully implemented.

- The implementation of Position Management within Peoplesoft should be completed.

6. Oversight should be improved.

- The UMaine System should evaluate its governance and oversight mechanisms and make improvements where necessary.
- An internal audit function should be re-constituted to provide objective monitoring of key risk areas throughout the system.
- A task force should be established to monitor the recommendations of the PWC audit.
- System-wide discussions with the presidents and CFOs should take place to share ideas and practices addressed in the recommendations and actions that might follow.

Campus Events

Monday April 21

Free Press Budget Meeting – Want to influence what goes into our last issue of the year?/ 92 Bedford Street, Portland Campus/ 5pm-6pm/ For more information email Sarah Trent at sarah.trent@yahoo.com.

Tuesday April 22

Club Volleyball Team, Guys and Girls- weekly meetings on Tuesdays and Sundays/ Hill gym-Costello Sports Complex, Gorham Campus/ 7pm-9pm/ For more information Please email Dani Netland at dnetland@maine.r.com.

Free Press Writing Workshop- Adjunct professor Elisa Boxer will teach a workshop on interviewing skills. All are welcome. /92 Bedford Street, Portland Campus/ 5pm-6pm/ For more information email Sarah Trent at sarah.trent@yahoo.com

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

Animal Rights Activist Team Meeting- Amphitheater/ 7pm-8pm

Thursday April 24

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/ 2:30pm-3:30pm/For more information please contact yoorilawson@hotmail.com.

Maine Pirg Meeting- Weekly meeting/ 7pm-8pm/ Woodbury Campus Center Student Involvement Desk, Portland.

Gorham Events Board Meeting- Weekly meeting to plan events for the Gorham campus/ SIAC(Husky Hut)-Gorham/ 7pm-9pm/ For more information please contact aschwartz@usm.maine.edu.

Lecture, "The Peary Polar Quest: Through a Woman's Lens"- The American and New England Studies Lecture Series continues with this talk by Patricia Erikson. Free and open to the public./ Rooms 423-424, Glickman Family Library, Portland campus/ 7pm-9pm/ For more information please call 780-4920.

Friday April 25

Student Senate Meeting- Weekly meeting/ Room 423/424, Glickman Library, Portland Campus/ 3:30pm-6pm/ Call 228-8501 for more information.



Esther Lee, an organizer of this year's Deaf Film Festival, is shown here signing with another student volunteer at the festival's reception - which attracted more than 90 people from the local deaf community.

Saturday April 26

3rd Annual USM Knap-In- USM Geography-Anthropology Student Assoc. present their 3rd annual event. Flintknappers, or stone-tool-makers, practice their art and exchange ideas and materials. The only one of its' kind in Maine, this event draws participants of ALL AGES and levels of experience and is a great way to bring the community together for a great time. Raffles, contests, vendors and much more/ Bailey Hall, Gorham Campus/ 10am-4pm/ For more information contact Ann at awittmangirl@yahoo.com or call USM 780-5321.

USM Craft Show- Field House, Gorham/ 8am- 5pm.

Black and White Formal- Sponsored by the USM Dance Team, Portland Events Board and the Student Senate Tickets are \$15 for USM students, \$20 for non-students. Tickets are on sale at the Student Involvement & Activities Center in the Woodbury Campus Center from 8-4:30 Monday through Friday./ Verrillo's Banquet Hall - 155 Riverside Street, Portland/ 9pm-12am.

Sunday April 27

"Great Maine Bike Swap"- The Great Maine Bike Swap returns to the gym bringing together people buying and selling used bicycles and gear./ USM Sullivan Gym - Portland Campus/ 10am-2pm/ For more info contact Shoshana Hoose 207-623-4511, shoshana@BikeMaine.org.

USM Craft Show- Field House, Gorham/ 10am- 4pm.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Midway through production on Saturday night, the handful of Free Press staff still awake to copy-edit pages decided that this was our “exposé” issue.

Full of attempts to uncover what’s going on around here – telling why Words + Images published without images, how USM enrollment might actually be aided by a national recession and printing “confidential” email correspondences between administrators – we felt a little bit, well, dirty.

Torn between the slightly giddy feeling of being able to expose things the general USM population never sees and the thought that a few people might not be happy to read about it, I was confronted with a quasi-moral question.

What is the job of the campus newspaper? What is the job of ANY newspaper?

The story on campus intramurals that ran this week in the sports section was assigned to be another sort of “exposé” story – the question we wanted answered was why USM has an office dedicated

to intramural and club sports, and yet so few students are aware of them.

The story failed on all counts. I don’t mean to attack the writer, because he’s one of our star sports reporters, but the story that came out is a one-interview advertisement for an intramurals program whose website hasn’t been updated in years and whose events seem to be known to few, if any, students.

We were open to changing our minds on that topic, had the writer found students to testify on its behalf. But he couldn’t reach any. Because of space, we ran the story as it was.

Regardless of the status of the intramurals program, the story itself serves as an opposite to the stories written about Words + Images, the 26 programs up for suspension and USM enrollment.

Is it our job to be unconditionally supportive of what goes on at USM? Or is it our job to keep what goes on in check?

I’d like to think it’s a careful mix of both.

As an involved student, I know that positive things happen at USM, and I’m eager to talk about them. Thinking Matters, also featured in this issue, is a pretty cool event that happens every year and features a ton of great work done by students and staff working together.

The women’s lacrosse team, whose rookie players are featured in the sports section, just won

their fifth game of the last seven – an accomplishment I can be proud of as a former member of the team, which has been improving over the years despite a lack of incoming players and a series of turnovers in coaching staff.

We like to talk about these great achievements.

But if we don’t also talk about the mistakes, we aren’t serving our purpose as journalists, I think.

Professor Matt Killmeier, who I have now for a media studies course, has complained more than once about the lack of coverage of local government by the Portland media.

Without watchful media, government can get away with nearly anything, he argues.

And he’s right.

By explaining mistakes and failures, I feel that we’re keeping students, faculty and the community informed of what happens beyond the PR notices that make the front of the USM website.

By calling these things out, we’re not trying to damage reputations, we’re not trying to get anyone in trouble, we’re exposing the moments people would rather cover up – therefore encouraging them to have nothing more TO cover up.

Legally, we have access to nearly all the documentation of everything that goes on in this university, including emails between administrators. As a public institution, the public has the right

to know what’s going on within its walls.

I’ll admit that we can’t cover it all, since we’re also trying to pass our classes and make rent, but we try.


I think the university would probably be better off, in the long run, if we were able to do more.

Perhaps a stronger student newspaper would help curb the lack of student involvement on campus by encouraging students to know what’s going on and to ask questions when things smell a little funny.

Yes, I suppose this is our “exposé” issue. Yes, I hope that there will be more like it.

Yes, faculty, administration, students, staff – we’re paying attention.

And while we welcome the chance to write about your accomplishments, please understand that sometimes, it’s better for the university when we cover a little bit more.



Sarah Trent
Executive Editor

CORRECTIONS

In the “Economy Sucks” spread in our last paper (April 14), the photo illustration was uncredited. It was by Katie Wilber, our fantastic production assistant, who deserves much more credit than we usually give her. This was an editor’s error.

The “Economy Sucks” sidebar titled “How are you feeling the economic slump?” was credited to Abbey Cuffrey. We have no one on staff by that name, the interviews were actually by Abigail Cuffey. It was a copy editor’s error.

Another photo illustration by Katie Wilber, for “Summer in the city?” (April 14), we misspelled her name (as Wilbur) and should have given photo credit to Brandon McKenney, our wonderful photographer, photo editor, writer, and all around wonder-boy. This was a production error.

In our April 7 issue, we wrote about “Lorraine’s One Blue Pearl.” Her name should have been spelled Lorraine. It was a writer’s error.

the free press
www.usmfreepress.org

92 BEDFORD STREET - PORTLAND, MAINE 04101
(207) 780-4084 freepress@maine.edu

EXECUTIVE EDITOR	SARAH TRENT
ARTS EDITOR	JENNA HOWARD
NEWS EDITOR	MATT DODGE
SPORTS EDITOR	DAVID O'DONNELL
PRODUCTION EDITOR	JESSICA MEAKIN
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT	KATIE WILBER
PHOTO EDITOR	BRANDON MCKENNEY
WEB EDITOR	BETHANY FLANNERY
AD SALES	JOSHUA GRISET
	BEN SKILLINGS
BUSINESS MANAGER	LUCILLE SIEGLER
ADVISOR	KENNETH H. BRIEF

Editorial & Advertising Policies

The Free Press is a weekly student-run newspaper paid for in part by the Student Activity Fee.

- We have a gender-neutral language policy.
- We reserve the right to edit or refuse all materials submitted or solicited for publication.
- Columns do not reflect the opinions of The Free Press or its staff.
- Guest commentaries are sometimes solicited or accepted from members of the USM community; they may not exceed 750 words.
- One copy of The Free Press is available free of charge. Up to 10 additional copies are available for 25 cents each at the office of The Free Press, 92 Bedford St., Portland, Maine.
- The Free Press reaches an estimated 11,000 students of USM, their friends and families on the Portland and Gorham campuses and in the Portland community. To advertise, contact our Advertising Manager at 207.780.4084 x8.
- We reserve the right to reject advertising. We will not accept discriminatory ads.
- We welcome letters to the editor. They must be submitted electronically, include the author's full name, school year or relationship to USM, phone number for verification and may not exceed 350 words without prior approval from the Executive Editor.
- The deadline for all submissions is Thursday at 4 p.m. preceding the week of publication. Send submissions to freepress@maine.edu.

BREAKING TRADITION

Personal politics

Marie Allen
Columnist

Does it ever get to you?

You know, whatever that “it” may be: the long winter, traffic, the pseudo version of NASCAR that goes on in the parking garage after classes, or even something as simple as the price of gas?

Well, it has gotten to me. My family says I am obviously in a “mood,” and I am not sure if I disagree.

I have a growth in my head. That is my “it.” I would love to tell you that it’s my great American novel, but it isn’t.

I have had cancer before, and at least this isn’t that.

The growth is, as they tell me, very benign, and even expected, given the cancer I had. Still, it’s there, and it shouldn’t be. Every once and a while it gets to me.

Every once and I while, when I see that youthful assumption that life goes on forever, I get angry

when I read about the wasting of life that goes on in this world.

I have voted in many elections, I have felt my vote make a difference more times than I could count.

I get furious when the Sunday Morning talk show hosts want to call the election now.

We live in a country where a great woman gets more press for the fact she cries at a press event (and then gets lambasted for stiffening up, or regaining her composure, as some of us call it) than she does for being the first viable female candidate for president that this country has seen.

I am ready to throw in the towel.

Am I the only one who sees the sexism in that?

I am not a Clinton supporter, by any means, but why is it that women have to cry to seem human?

Perhaps, that is why I have been drawn to my own mortality today. Does my own lack of tears make me less human? Or less of a woman?

Going to school has taught me many things, like how gender is constructed for us socially, and given me an acceptance for who I am.

But where is the out rage amongst my fellow students? How many of you will vote and how many of you won’t?

How many of you will dismiss this chance to make history by saying one vote doesn’t make a difference?

I would ask you to think about what it is you plan to leave behind in this world, when you leave it.

Because the best-laid plans of living to a ripe old age sometimes get laid to the wayside, and a missed opportunity to participate in history doesn’t come that often.

However you vote, don’t miss your chance to make history, to be heard.

Marie Allen is a 44 year old student. She has TK children and lives with her partner in TK.

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

LETTER FROM YOUR STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT



My Fellow Students:

Well, it's been a hell of a year hasn't it? With all of the events and happenings swirling around campus this year, it seems to have ended more quickly than I could have imagined. In a year marked by a new incoming president, budget woes and worries, new buildings, new construction and tough times for those within the student involvement community, I am looking towards graduation while trying to summarize not only the last year but my last four years at USM.

As I look back on my experience here at USM as a whole, it has been the best four years of my life. There is no period in time where I can say that I was happier, that I was more productive, more involved and engaged. I look at my impending graduation and departure from USM like a train headed towards a wall at 150 mph, and there is no time to hit the brakes. There so much more I would like to do here, so many people and things I will be leaving behind, and I will miss it dearly.

I had the honor and privilege to serve as your student body president for the last year, and I cannot thank you enough for giving me that opportunity. My experience in student government is one in which I particularly feel that I have to let go just as soon as I was really getting good at it. I keep wishing that I had gotten involved much sooner, and that I had been able to be a student senator before becoming student body president, or that I had more time with the Model United Nations Organization.

In any event, I hope that I was able to represent you well in every meeting or event I attended this year, and that the path is set for my successor Ben

Taylor to keep representing USM students in the best possible manner. I truly believe he will, and I hope you can support him throughout next year. It is a tough and often thankless job, with longer hours than you may realize, but someone needs to do it, and I'm glad that someone got to be me this year.

While my time at USM has come to an end, that's not the case for many of you who will read this. I cannot encourage you enough, if you are not already, to get involved at USM, and to try and make a difference in the university community. All year we have been bombarded with disheartening news, about a favorite teacher's contract not being renewed, or a possible jump in our tuition rates. What we haven't heard about is students taking proactive measures to try and be a part of solving these issues.

One of the greatest events of the entire school year for me was "Change '08" in February. Students from every facet of the university including Greeks, athletes, residents, commuters and senators came together to discuss and create plans to solve persistent problems at USM. For the first time in my four years at USM, I saw students who usually did not get involved in creating positive change at USM making their opinions and ideas known in order to do some good. I hope that before you leave, you can do the same at next year's "Change 09", by running for student government, joining a student organization, or in any of many other ways.

USM, do not let the time slip by like it did for me. One thing that jumps at me when I think back on four years at USM is that this is an amazing school, despite all of its challenges and shortcomings. We are all collectively responsible for the successes and failures of our school. The way I see it, USM is the commonwealth of its students, staff and faculty. It's easy to point out and criticize what is wrong or what hasn't worked at USM, but what we need to start doing more as students is to try to fix what doesn't work, and to get involved in order to positively impact the entire student experience, and yourselves as well.

Thank you again for allowing me to be your Student Body President, I have enjoyed every minute of it. I wish you all the best in the future.

Sincerely,
AJ Chalifour
Former Student Body President

FROM THE RIGHT

Corporate world is not the enemy

Dustin Gilbert
Columnist

I've noticed that conservatives are the people who are coming up with solutions that are free of government control.

Our greatest and smartest leaders usually do not hold a public office. If they were to run for office they'd be taking a pay-cut. My gut tells me a liberal would call it greed. I call it logic.

Occasionally the people who have a lot of money feel compelled to give back to the country that allowed them to succeed. Mitt Romney is a great example. Steve Forbes as well. Dean Scontras is the latest.

In the past these kinds of people have lost political elections because of their lack of "political experience."

I don't know about you but I would love to have a governor or president who had no previous experience in public office and loads of success in the business world. They obviously would have the ability to create cash flow and balance a budget. After all, that is the reason behind the state's deficit and lack of ability to sufficiently fund its university system.

My point is that the corporate world is not your enemy — as much as Democratic politicians say they are.

Those people are part of a high class society for a reason: intelligence and/or innovation. If they inherited the position or money then it means someone in their family had to be smart.

Don't be jealous, ask them real life questions. These kinds of people are the best educators of all. They can also be found in our business school. All the professors in the business school may not be loaded with cash, but they sure know how others have reached that point.

History, political science, art, science and health graduates are professionals in their own areas. They are not professionals in creating cash flow, balancing a budget, marketing a product or entire geo-

graphical area, or making decisions that affect the business world and our economy.

Some, however, believe they are knowledgeable enough to hold public office and do indeed have a seat in the house, senate, or executive office.

I don't know about you but I can't think of many political science majors who run an entire corporation or profitable organization.

The people most qualified and capable of doing that are businessmen, corporate executives — people who know how to find solutions to problems that will fill a void or gap.

Obviously they have to consult others when in public office and that is where your political science, history, science, art, or health graduates come in.

The leaders, the people with the answers, the few people who know and understand the capitalist system know what works and I guarantee you the common answer is the private sector.

The folks running our private sector truly run this country and have since the colonial era. This country is nothing without capitalism, free markets and its economy.

Those who are so uncertain about our economy are those who know little about how it works. They are the pessimists. You will find that the optimists of our economy are actually in charge of it.

You want answers? You want solutions? You want someone who will provide a working budget that will fund the state's and university's real needs?

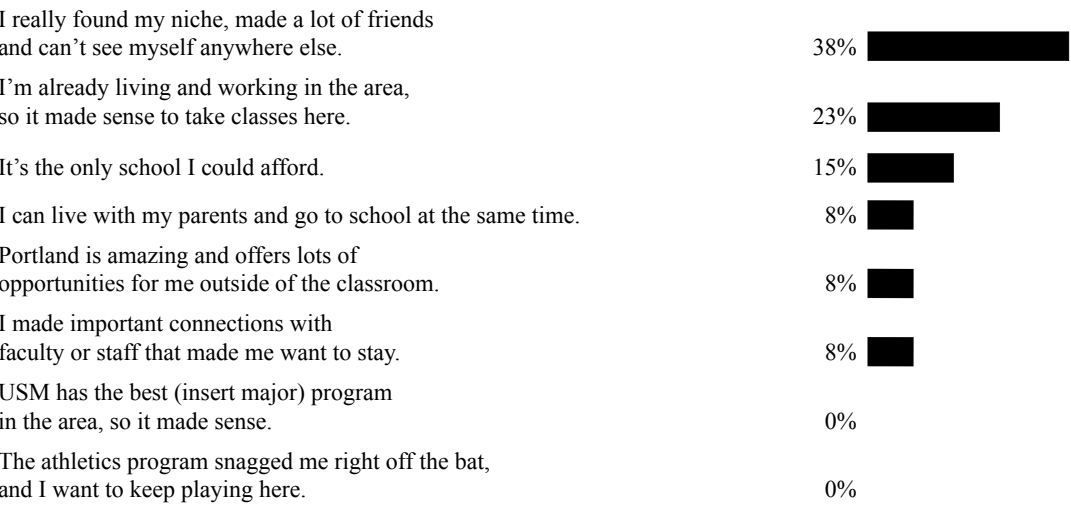
Well, the answer to those questions lies in the answer to the next.

Who would you rather ask for financial advice? Your political science professor or a successful businessman?

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

ONLINE POLL:

What is the key force keeping you at USM?



This Free Press poll is not scientific and reflects the opinions of only those internet users who have chosen to participate. The results cannot be assumed to represent the opinions of internet users in general, nor the public as a whole.

the free press
www.usmfreepress.org

Want a job that pays up to \$200 a week?

We're looking for someone to deliver The Free Press once a week to 33 locations on and near both campuses. Starts in September.

E-mail arash.trent@yahoo.com for info.

DELIVERY



Be the enV of your friends.



Get the enV and see what it can do!

enV™ by LG

\$79⁹⁹

after rebate
LG VX9900: \$129.99 2-yr.
price — \$50 mail-in rebate.
With new 2-yr. activation.

connect in more ways:

txt, pix, video, email & IM

know what's going on:

download new music & video on the go, get the game score and keep an eye on social networking sites

Win a hybrid!

Sign up for service at a participating Verizon Wireless Communications Store and ask how you could win a brand new hybrid car! Your friends — and the planet — will love you!



Switch to America's Most Reliable Wireless Network®

For sweepstakes details and store locations go to vzwcar.com.

Sweepstakes: NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Visit a Verizon Wireless Communications Store (BJ's and Circuit City not included) and activate a new line of service on a calling plan \$39.99 monthly access or higher w/ 2-yr. Agmt, then register online by May 31st to enter. New line of service must be active for at least 30 days to remain eligible. On how to enter for free, see Official Rules at vzwcar.com. Sweepstakes begins on 4/14/08 and ends on 5/31/08. Must be 18 yrs. of age with valid driver's license and legal U.S. resident. Void where prohibited. Limit one entry per person.

Activation fee/line: \$35 (\$25 for secondary Family SharePlan® lines w/ 2-yr. Agmts).

IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Subject to Customer Agmt, Calling Plan, rebate form & credit approval. Up to \$175 early termination fee/line & other charges & \$1.99/MB (incl. Mobile Web ads). Offers and coverage, varying by service, not available everywhere. V CAST Music: per song charges req'd; airtime may apply for music downloads. Rebates take up to 6 weeks. Limited-time offers. While supplies last. Network details and coverage maps at verizonwireless.com. © 2008 Verizon Wireless.

55054

Arts & Entertainment

11 The Free Press | April 21, 2008



From left to right: Joe Mcleod, Dylan Martin, and Stefen Henegar at the Husky Film Festival, protesting the fact that their film, 'Shit Hard' was not selected to be shown at the festival. They were joined by 50 other protestors.

Students protest Husky Film Fest

Organizers refuse to include 'Shit Hard'

Jenna Howard

Arts Editor

More than 50 students protested the Husky Film Festival last week after only one of 10 submissions was not chosen to be shown at the event.

The film not chosen by the selection committee was titled "Shit Hard," and its supporters turned up holding signs and wearing white T-shirts with variations of "Live Free Shit Hard" written on them. Some had duct tape over their mouths.

The filmmakers and many of their peers see their not being chosen as a form of censorship.

The event was put on by the Community of Arts (COA), which is one of the special-interest floors in Robie-Andrews. The committee responsible for choosing films was made up primarily of Robie-Andrews staff, several resident directors, and some grad assistants.

Danielle Descoteaux, a protestor, said that as members of the community and as residents of the floor, "we are protesting our RA's decision, essentially."

In past years, offensive content in the form of graphic violence and language, implied sexual acts, criminal activities, racial and homosexual stereotypes and jokes about mentally handicapped infants have been featured, said protestors.

The rules say that students can submit a film under ten minutes long, and they must follow USM campus conduct codes: for example, no real guns could be shown, as well as no real alcohol consumption by minors.

A week before the festival the films were due in final form, and after review, the committee decided not to show the four minute, twenty-four second film.

Students preparing the film festival were instructed not to comment to the Free Press as to why it was not included.

In the college-humor inspired film, an increasingly absurd father asks his son questions about his first date with a girl named Debbie.

Katie Wilber, a member of the COA and the programming assistant of the group, was not a member of the selection committee because her own film was included, but said that as far as she knows, all the films are usually shown. She knows of only one other film that almost didn't get shown, but she understands why this one was not.

"It was extremely offensive," she said, "It was derogatory toward women. The film showed a father asking his son what sexual activities he had done. I personally found the language and content offensive."

Justin Brown, a COA resident and the director of the film in question, commented on the double standard of the entertainment-focus of Gorham campus.

"The same institution that allows the unrated director's cut of 'Knocked Up' to be shown in the Brooks Student Center isn't letting 'Shit Hard' be shown at the Husky Film Fest," he said.

Although many of the protestors left when the actual festival started, the four students who made "Shit Hard," including Brown, writer-actor Stefan Henegar, Daniel Littlefield, and Joey Lusardi, went inside to take part in the event.

"We didn't want to disrespect the other filmmakers," said Henegar. "The COA floor (our floor) had another film in the show, Dan even acted in it. We didn't intend to disrupt, only to make a point."

The four said that they wanted to send the message that they were disappointed that their film was censored, but that they supported the people whose films were shown.

The event was co-sponsored by the Gorham Events Board and the Community of Arts, who's mission is to create an environment for students to integrate their artistic studies and their residential experiences. It involved a 'red carpet' dress code and a table of student-activity-fee-sponsored food.

An audience of about sixty gathered for the showing. The Viewer's Choice Award went to George Murray for his "Last Prayer of the Mighty Gazelle."

DON'T STAY HOME

SWING AROUND GO FORMAL

APRIL 21

Folk artist Mya Elaine will perform with Seth Yentes and Putnam Smith. Her style has been compared to Ani DiFranco and Fleetwood Mac. FMI check out MyaElaine.com. \$7/ 8 p.m./ One Longfellow Square, State and Congress streets, Portland/ (971) 678-5417

APRIL 22

For some serious swing and a big band experience, the USM Jazz Ensemble presents "Swing into Spring" at the Hannaford Lecture Hall. This performance is directed by Douglas Owens and Larry Williams, and presents selections from the likes of Count Basie, Duke Ellington, and others. Tickets required: \$15/\$10/ 7 p.m./ Abromson Center, Portland campus/ 780-5900

APRIL 23

Camille Bloom will perform at the North Star Cafe, and Denise Dill is opening for her - see Camillebloom.com and Denise-dill.com for more information. \$6 suggested/ 7 p.m./ 225 Congress St Portland/ 699-2994

APRIL 24

Who is Portland's funniest professional? You won't find out yet, but it will be close, because the Comedy Connection's 15th annual contest will hold its 1st place semi-finals tonight. More information at Maine-comedy.com. \$10/ 8 p.m./ 6 Custom House Wharf Portland/ 774-5554

APRIL 25

Lyric Music Theater presents "Aida." A love triangle from ancient times, this version is taken from Verdi's original, but with music by Elton John and lyrics by Tim Rice. This performance runs through May 18. \$20/ 8 p.m./ 176 Sawyer St., South Portland/ 799-1421

APRIL 26

The Black and White Formal will be held at Verrillo's Banquet Hall, and sponsored by the USM Dance Team, Portland Events Board and the Student Senate. Music provided by DJ Tony B of Boston. There will be a \$100 prize for the best dressed. \$15 for USM students, \$20 for others. Tickets on sale at the Student Involvement & Activities Center in the Woodbury Campus Center/ 9 p.m. to midnight/ 155 Riverside Street, Portland/ 780-4090

APRIL 27

Check out the USM baseball team action all afternoon, as the Huskies take on UMass Boston in a doubleheader. Games are free for students/ 12 p.m. to 6 p.m./ USM baseball field, Gorham campus/ 780-5431



PART 1 OF 2

The Bachelor of Fine Arts student show

The “cold critique” of students’ final creations

Jenna Howard
Arts Editor

Jeffrey Lipton stands in front of a crowd of about 40 beside his 22 ceramic pieces as classmates, professors, and local professionals fire questions at him.

They ask about form and function, they tell him his presentation, which sits on pine shelves in the middle of the gallery, is too heavy. The questions continue to be swiftly directed at him but Lipton doesn’t break a sweat.

This man is an art student.

Although most of a public speaking class would shiver at the thought of being put on the spot about their own creations, that is the point of this type of critique.

The 30-minute critique session, a degree requirement, calls for a lot of poise and represents one aspect of the anticipated art career that Lipton and his classmates must master — and it’s no easy task.

The format of the critique this year is modeled after common graduate school practice, the “cold critique,” in which the artist does not

give an opening statement describing or defending his or her work.

Instead, classmates and others act as critics and prod and examine work from their perspective as viewers.

The artists are asked questions about their choice of subject and thought process. It’s not uncommon that more specific “why did you do that?” wonderings are verbalized.

Fifteen graduating art majors are participating in the show, whose name cleverly

implies both process and product: PRODUCE.

The four-plus years of these contemporary artists’ early careers cover the walls of the Gorham Art Gallery, and are evidence of the processes they’ve learned over those years.

Following tradition, this year’s show sends off the art department graduates, and their final critiques are open to the public for the next two Thursdays from 4:30-7 p.m.

For the first round of critiques, a guest panel was also invited to criticize the stu-

dent’s work alongside all the professors in the department.

This panel included Bruce Brown, curator Emeritus of the Center for Maine Contemporary Arts; Meggan L. Gould, a visiting professor of art at Bowdoin, and Sage Lewis, the curatorial coordinator of the Portland Museum of Art.

Next week the Free Press will look into five more of the graduating seniors’ work and critiques.



Ryland Cook incorporated painting and relief sculpture into a wall-installation that took a creepy look into the world of medicine, according to most viewers, although he began by mentioning a viewer who told him how hopeful his images were to her.

While he was probed for his interpretation of portraits taken inside medical institutions, the panel saw stronger, more subtle messages in anonymous factory-like buildings painted with red crosses in two of his four paintings.

Large red industrial cross sculptures loomed over the paintings. Viewers grappled with his mixing media, subject, and style, and Cook defended his notion that “Everybody Hurts” dealt with the impressions and elements important to each variation.



Senior Donald S. Zaluski and his stacks of various-sized still-life paintings, stacked on the floor and leaning unhung against the wall, were first to the chopping block.

Critics voiced the need to move the paintings around, because they covered each other, to reveal every part of the extensive, yearlong study of fruit on fabric.

His studies were hung at eye-level to be pawed through, urging the viewer to look at his process — his main concern, and what he deemed the point of his body of work.



Photographer Mary Jones showcased a wall of 128 close-up photos of traffic signs, organized like wallpaper, adjacent to three large, framed, “portraits” of signs.

Her intention was for the viewer to be disoriented before a moment of recognition, but many of the critics focused on finding the cracks and imperfections, the personality of each sign.

Her studio practice probed into full understanding of the capabilities of her and her camera, something that will come in handy as she pursues a graduate degree in photojournalism at Syracuse next year.



Printmaker Gavin McCannell stood before a dark green wall as a silhouette in his likeness held a pregnant woman, representing his wife. Thousands of tiny printed birds were cut individually and made up the two figures, resulting in the title, Birds of a Feather.

A readable image of the silent joy of pregnancy, intimacy, and affection in the form of the pregnant couple holding each other, and looking forward in the same direction, was disrupted when Sage Lewis of the Portland Museum of Art asked, “does anybody else see this as something we shouldn’t be seeing?” suggesting that the intimate moment was indicative of the closeness involved in the sexuality of creation.

McCannell was asked what he meant to say about the obvious heterosexual message apparent in the happily wedded couple that he first described as universal, and then pointed at the womb as a universal spot as well.

STAFF PHOTOS BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

Not your grandmother's classical music



PHOTO COURTESY OF

Students to present their own compositions in April 25 concert

Jessica Purser

Contributing Writer

Mozart, Haydn, and Beethoven all walk into a room... sounds like the beginning of a bad joke, right? The modern equivalent is happening right now at USM in the Composer's Ensemble, a class offered every semester through the USM School of Music.

Daniel Sonenberg, the ensemble director, conceived the idea for the ensemble when he started teaching at USM four years ago.

Students start the semester with a concert date and no music. Over several months, they work on their own compositions.

Sonenberg prefers if the pieces utilize the entire ensemble and asks composers to write for the instruments available, but there are no strict requirements. Some compositions are long, some are short, others are loud, and still others are hauntingly beautiful.

They are all new, modern, and nothing like any other ensemble performance on campus.

Most symphonic music is written for strings, but the only string instrument in this semester's ensemble is a cello, and it's not used at all in several of the pieces.

Concerto for 'Percussionists,' composed by Tim Burns, involves percussion, as its name implies, but only percussion -- from a regular drum set to a Chinese gong to tiny finger cymbals.

Other compositions utilize horns, traditional wind and brass instruments, piano and electric bass and guitar.

Sarah Montalvo's Study in A Minor and Paul Thomas' Vacation Music are somewhat more traditional than Burns' percussion piece, but even their pieces are notably different from "normal" ensemble music.

Compositions are supposed to be turned in about three weeks before the concert, but there are always stragglers: one student hadn't yet finished writing his on April 2, the "official" due date, and the concert is April 25.

"It can be terrifying," Sonenberg says, "but because the class is a work in progress, the ensemble has generally seen most of what they'll eventually perform (by the due date)."

Sonenberg credits the class for an increased interest in composition at USM.

"I have nine students in my composition class this semester. There weren't that many when I started teaching here," he says.

He also thinks it is incredibly valuable experience for fledgling composers. Since most concerts and universities focus on the classical repertoire, few opportunities are available for new composers to have their music heard, let alone holding their own concert, which can be costly.

The Composer's Ensemble also offers room for learning and mistakes.

"They have immediate feedback. If something doesn't work, they can hear it and fix it," Sonenberg says.

For instance, the composer might think a series of notes on the oboe is perfect for their piece, but it could be impossible for the oboe player to actually play it without becoming a contortionist. The composer would then work with the instrumentalist to figure out how to get the same sound or feeling in a way playable.

Last semester, one student wrote a flute section of low notes that were playable but came out as more of a grumble and were not particularly loud, he said.

The clarinet would have served those specific notes better, and because it was written in a classroom, the composer had the opportunity to change instrumentation.

In its third year now, the ensemble has evolved.

At the start, says student Nick Boland, "it was sort of a group for composers who played instruments. It has grown to include a wide instrumentation in addition to members who exclusively perform or compose."

Boland is a composer and has been part of the ensemble since its inception. He is currently planning on going to graduate school for music composition and says that the ensemble has given him a huge advantage.

"It's the nature of the class to have a pretty unorthodox instrumentation which forced me to write different pieces that I might not have done otherwise," he says. "I think it was important for the schools I applied to to see that I had experience dealing with and writing for specific musicians and that I was taking part in a contemporary music scene."

Marshunda Smith has played with the ensemble for several semesters.

Unlike Boland, Smith is emphatically not a composer. She plays cello, helps with percussion on occasion, and is the assistant conductor.

"(Professor) Robert Lehmann suggested that I join so I could

have practice conducting new works," she says. "I've stayed because it's fun."

Several others have also been part of the ensemble for more than a year, but there are also new students each semester.

Sonenberg thinks it keeps the music and ensemble fresh, and even those like Boland who compose music frequently find it a new challenge since the instrumentation is different each time.

In addition to Burns', Montalvo's and Thomas' compositions, there are at least seven other student-composed works that range from a "funk-driven piece" to a "wild crossover between downtown minimalism and progressive rock," according to Sonenberg.

This is a concert that can't be missed, much like a collaboration between Beethoven, Haydn, and Mozart would have been if that much genius could have been contained in one room 200 years ago.

The Composer's Ensemble gives the rest of us mere mortals a taste.

Go see them play Friday April 25 at 8 p.m. at the concert hall in Corthell Hall.

USM Singers finish Maine tour; prepare for Europe

In May, Chamber Singers begin European romp

Jenna Howard

Arts Editor

They've sung on the Eiffel Tower. They've sung in "the county."

They performed seven concerts in three days over March break, but it was all just practice: the USM Chamber Singers have been touring the state as a warm-up for their European tour.

Next month, they'll sing in Prague, Vienna, Slovakia, Auschwitz and Krakow.

"They don't hesitate to stop and sing where the feeling strikes them," says Dr. Robert Russell, who has been directing the group since he came to USM 29 years ago. "We have six established concerts over the 14-day (European) tour, but we perform much more. We stop and perform in markets and town squares, in churches and yes, even atop monuments."

The Maine tour over vacation began in Augusta, stopped in Ellsworth, and then headed into Aroostook County before swooping back to Bangor and heading home. The 34-member troupe tours this area throughout the school year.

It's a highly selective audition process to get into the cappella group, and it requires a full year commitment to the group.

Russell also directs the USM Chorale, in which about 100 students participate each year. While the Chorale has one major performance each year, the Chamber Singers perform at least a dozen times a semester, according to Russell, and they often tour the region and give concerts for the community.

Jon Coons, in his 10th semester as part of the group, said that the Chamber Singers has been an important part of his path toward becoming a professional opera singer.

"Without a doubt, aside from training me to become a better singer, it has opened me up to a whole world of networking," he said. "In fact, it was through a Chamber Singers contact that I wound up in my current job as a church choir conductor."

As far as the pressures of auditioning, he admits, "it's easier for a guy to get into the group," which is just a matter of the ratio of male to female students.

Jon traveled Europe with the group during his sophomore year at USM. He describes "goosebump moments" when they sang at St. Mark's Basilica in Venice. "There is no way that you could recreate that experience."

Their tour will stop in large venues and small town concert halls, and perform for many different kinds of crowds. They'll sing for worshippers in church services and to heavy applause in the smaller towns, which are usu-



STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

Clockwise from left: Austin Hodges, Alexandra Dietrich, Becca Garthoff, Jesslyn Thomas, Joe Murphy. The students will travel next month to Europe with the USM Chamber Singers

ally thrilled to have a young group from afar perform for them. "The members of the Chamber Singers have really become a family to me," says Coons. "Sometimes we fight, sometimes we are best friends, but at the end of the day, we all know that we're coming together to create music,

in a unique way that we could never do simply by ourselves."

This week, catch their Saturday performance in Corthell Hall. If you miss it, see them next fall when they perform with the Portland Symphony Orchestra.

Artists’ work accepted, not published

From WORDS page 1
the 2007 issue of the publication, and plans to serve again as publishing editor next year.
“We messed up. It was a problem between the publisher and myself. It was a deadline thing – we didn’t have all the rights from submitting artists. It was a last-minute decision I made in order to meet deadlines.”
Gato said that out of the submissions received by the December deadline, the editorial board chose four artists, including one from USM, to be a part of the 2008 edition. All of them were sent an e-mail in March like this one sent to Follayttar.

Dear Ms. Follayttar,
We are pleased to inform you that your black and white photograph Glasses has been selected for the 2008 issue of Words + Images. Please let us know if this piece is still available for publication and also send along a brief biography. Thank you and congratulations!
Sincerely,
Words + Images Staff

Traditionally, the congratulatory letter tells the artist that unless the journal is notified, their initial art submission gives the journal permission to print the work.
Using the above email, and asking for another confirmation, the journal only heard back from two of the artists, Gato said.
Follayttar was told she was the only artist they heard back from.
Follayttar got a second e-mail the next month. She checked in inbox after she had seen the stacks of finished 2008 Words + Images in the campus center office.
“Due to complications between the journal and its publisher, Words and Images will be unable to feature art in this

year’s edition,” it said. “I really do apologize for the confusion. I hope this won’t discourage you from re-submitting, as we all were looking forward to publishing your work.”
It was signed by Gato, who noted in the end of the email, perhaps to console Follayttar, that the Words + Images Staff was highly selective in determining the pieces which would be featured.
Thinking Gato was referring to problems between himself and the printer, we called Penmor, the Lewiston-based printer contracted by Words + Images.
Their representative spoke of a pretty good relationship with Gato, said there had been no such issues on their end and that they were not the publisher, only the printer.
The problem, it seems, lay in the computer publishing program, Adobe InDesign, which only one staff member knew how to use, a serious problem considering the publication’s tight deadline.
But the publication had a year to be competed, a full semester during which submissions could be laid out onto pages. Templates for those pages were not created until the week before the journal was due to the printer, according to staff.
When Penmor received the file -- the final copy of the book -- it did not include any images.
The students involved in publishing the book anticipated being able to include images at the center of the book, but in order to meet their goal of having the journal finished in time to sell at the April 3 reading by novelist Jennifer Egan (an event Words + Images paid several thousand dollars to sponsor), there was not time to enter art.
An interview with Egan is featured in the journal, as well as in-

terviews with film director Todd Field, novelist Richard Rousseau, and the band The National.
“I am invested in USM,” Follayttar said, “but I worried about the other people accepted and contracts not met and whether this made the student activity fee vulnerable to a lawsuit.” The Student Senate, who allocates the student activity fee, funds the production of Words + Images. For the 2007-08 school year, they were given \$13,030 to pay for staff and the creation of the journal.
Gato was also given work study funds over the summer so that he could get started on the journal.
The journal did not fill the position of arts editor this year. It is unknown whether or not they advertised the opening.
It did take on a managing editor, a position that was created by Gato this year, and filled by English major Benjamin Rybeck.
In a final phone interview as the Free Press went on print on Saturday, Gato explained and defended what happened. “We’re undergrads,” he said. “This was a mishandling by me. There’s a yearly turnover in staff, we were all figuring things out as we went along. I take full responsibility for certain failings.”
Gato plans to run the journal next year, but depends on a nomination by his staff and his acceptance by the student body President Ben Taylor, who oversees the heads of all student senate entities.
Taylor agreed in an April Student Senate meeting to investigate the situation with the lack of images in the journal, after it was brought up in the ‘concerns’ section of the meeting.

Positive change

This year’s book was redesigned to be smaller in size, with one half printed upside-down to mark traditional versus experimental halves of the journal.
The Words + Images team used their concept of the dichotomy between experimental and traditional to separate interviews, poetry, and fiction. USM student Steve Gibbin has

ing each submission times the number of staff for review.
Words + Images is set to be released to the USM and local bookstores starting this week.
If you’re interested in helping the journal next year, their office number is 228-8501.

Horoscopes

By the Free Press Staff

Aries
March 21-April 20
Uncharted Territory
In the beginning of the week, the stars push you to do something you’ve never done before. By the 24th, everything will seem larger-than-life overwhelming, but with your passionate ideas, remember to follow through—just don’t over do it. This week, avoid pomp in your wardrobe. There’s a time and a place.

Taurus
April 21-May 20
Keep the peace
Your recent smooth sailing through rough waters during the Full Moon is a good sign, but beware a tilt in your balance. You’re going strong—to keep all your eggs in one basket, keep your eyes on what you’re doing. This week, conquer the balance beam.

Gemini
May 21-June 20
You silly!
You’re feeling and acting kooky, which is going to confuse some people close to you. Avoid misunderstandings by explaining yourself clearly amidst the silliness. This week, pick up a tabloid and see what you can learn.

Cancer
June 21-July 21
No more tangles.
It’s going to become important to untangle emotional knots, lest they take control. Be patient, take time in decision-making and work it out. Even tricky knots can be undone with a little TLC. This week, gather friends for a human knot session.

Leo
July 22-August 21
Lover or a fighter?
Around the beginning of the week you’re at peace in public, but strong feelings are rising inside that might rip right out of you and cause confrontation. You can choose to fight it out or let it pass. This week, caffeine is your friend.

Virgo
August 22- September 21
Chance for a masterpiece
Your originality shines, and you’ve got to act on it or else you’ll be fighting your potential masterpiece. Go for the Mona Lisa. This week, try catching up on hygiene.

Libra
September 22- October 21
Don’t be a doormat!
Your capacity to receive love skyrockets, but beware what you accept—and don’t accept what crumbs tempters offer. Don’t underestimate yourself; know you’re the only one who can truly make yourself happy. Rock on, sister/brother friend. This week, take a looong bath.

Scorpio
October 22- November 21
Va-va-va-voom
You recently lost yourself in passion, or you’re well on your way. There will be the strength of conviction added to your words in the next few days, but that power could be a double-edged sword. Watch out for backlash. This week, make summer plans.

Sagittarius
November 22-December 21
Be a hermit
Taking time away from others to examine your soul will be best now. It helps that it’s a good time for you stamina-wise for reaching goals. Others want you, your attention, your body—but sometimes you just need to say no. For you. This week, keep rhythm through new sounds.

Capricorn
December 22- January 19
Limited relations—hum a different tune
So your partnership patterns have been limited lately, to say the least. But something inventive and original will come along to break you free from those limits. Ride the wave of passion, but wear your seat belt and only take healthy risks. This week, try boxing.

Aquarius
January 20-February 18
Break a Leg
After an impulsive streak, you’ve toned it down and returned to earth. Not everyone gets bad reputations from dancing on things at bars or frat parties—but you could. Keep that in mind the next time you’re tempted to say ‘wooo!’—anywhere. This week, try higher-cut necklines.

Pisces
February 19-March 20
Hey you, keep your eyes up here!
A wandering mind is easy to spot. Keep eye-contact, because so are wandering eyes. You need to take care of business before getting too carried away. This week, go for a picnic.

BRANDON’S BREW REVIEW

Anchor Brewing - Porter

Brandon McKenney
Staff Writer

Porters are an often-misunderstood breed. The average beer drinker probably hasn’t ever had one, if he or she even knows what they are.
There aren’t many brewers in the U.S. still making this father-to-the-stout, but if you want to check one out, look first to Anchor Brewing. Based out of San Francisco, this world-renowned microbrewery offers a classic porter that’s a perfect introduction to the style.
The beer pours a very dark brown -- almost black -- with an average creamy head that fades to

a nice cap. It has a very intriguing scent, a roasty or almost smoky aroma. There also seems to be a hint of coffee or chocolate, which both show up briefly in the taste.
The beer is highly drinkable with a nice mix of slight bitterness from the hops and a creamy blend of coffee and caramel influences to round it off. It’s not watery at all, and gives a complete and fulfilled taste.
I would highly recommend this porter to any beer lover, whether or not you’re familiar with the style. Drop by Downeast Beverage on Commercial Street and pick up a six-pack.

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



STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

USM THEATRE

2007-2008 SHOWS

Directed by Thomas Power
Written by Bryony Lavery

April 18-27
7:30 p.m. April 18, 19, 24, 25, and 26
5 p.m. April 20, 23, and 27

last
EASTER

Russell Hall, USM Gorham campus
\$12; \$8 seniors/USM employees; \$5 students
Reserve your tickets today!
(207) 780-5151, TTY 780-5646
www.usm.maine.edu/theatre



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MAINE

I WANT CLARITY ENLIGHTENMENT AND TO GET FROM HERE TO THERE. LITERALLY.

With Your Navigator from U.S. Cellular®, you get a voice-guided GPS system with a local search function built right into your phone. So you'll always have clarity and direction.

U.S. Cellular is wireless where **you** matter most.™



getusc.com 1-888-BUY-USCC



Digging up the Robie-Andrews ghost

Trying to pin down a 100-year-old legend

Laura Fellows

Intern

Even before I moved into Robie-Andrews Hall last September, I'd heard it was haunted.

Rumors abounded about a pregnant student, jilted by her boyfriend, who supposedly hung herself there in the early 1900s, and whose ghost continues to haunt the building.

Some say her name is Sarah. At that time, the building was part of the all-women's Gorham Normal School.

While I haven't encountered anything ghostly in person (unless you count the old elevator door opening and closing repeatedly, for no apparent reason), I've heard several accounts from students, mostly second-hand, about odd but harmless incidents—things falling off the wall, doors closing and opening on their own, sounds of tapping where it shouldn't be, and cold spots in the building.

Granted, more than a century of use can add a certain 'character' to any building (and its wiring), and most likely the interpretation of these events will depend greatly on the viewer's—or listener's—preconceived ideas of ghosts.

"I think it's pretty legit," says Basil Yu, a student who lived in Andrews last year.

He recounts a time when his roommate listened to a phone message from a friend about an exorcism on TV. Right after the message, their coffee pot suddenly started shaking, and turned around in its spot, so that the handle was facing the opposite direction.

Another student recalled leaving a computer unattended, and returning to see a few random letters typed on the document that was up.

I, however, am no a ghost-hunter—I wanted to take a more historical look, so I dug into the Free Press archives to get some idea of how long this legend has been going on.

As it turns out, I'm far from the first writer to try uncovering it.

In 1978, Peter Davis wrote an article in which he fused several versions of the story into this: a female student in the early 1900s was something of a loner, and very homesick. She would climb up to the Robie-Andrews belfry tower and look out in the direction of her home, calling to her parents.

One night, after long depression and illness, she hung herself from a ceiling beam using her scarf.

Apparently, it turned out that her parents' house had burned down, which is why they did not answer her letters.

Reading this melodramatic story suggests that either the legend has changed much over the years, or it is based on more than one death in the building, considering how different this is from the current rumors.

In another 1970s article, Rodney Labbe wrote his own sensationalized account of the terrors of fourth-floor Andrews and mentioned seeing a box lid rising on its own.

The letters in response to the article were not favorable, and a friend revealed that Labbe had made up parts of the story.

In the early '90s, a Free Press journalist reported sighting and attempting to interview the ghost—but was left with nothing but the sound of her own voice on the tape recorder.

Some articles also brought up the possibility that the whole legend was simply concocted to scare incoming freshmen.

Nevertheless, it has caused USM to be listed on ghost-hunting websites, such as StrangeMaine.blogspot.com and TheShadowlands.net.

It has also helped to inspire student creativity, such as the short film "Triple Digit," which Franklin Kendrick directed for the Husky Film Festival in 2006.

I'm sure any of the local newspapers of the time would have written about this suicide, but the trouble in researching a story as general (and old) as this is that the dates are vague.

On the 'haunted buildings' listings, most accounts say this legend dates back to the 1800's.

That would be a very small window of time, because Robie Hall was only built in 1897.

But the Andrews side of the building (with the uninhabited attic in which the ghost is said to reside) wasn't built until 1916.

Not only is it impossible to know which date to look for, but it's hard to know which newspaper to research first.

Scanning hundred-year-old death records from the Eastern Argus on microfilm had me pretty sea-sick, so I gave up my search.

Covering this much media from such a general time period would take weeks, months, and more than one pair of eyes.

Although I don't believe everything I read, I still have enough faith in newspapers to believe that if something as horrendous as this really did happen in Robie-Andrews, and wasn't deliberately covered up, it surely must be recorded somewhere.

But I'll leave that for the next Free Presser to uncover—it's going to take more than one stressed-out college kid to dig this one up.



STAFF PHOTO BY LAURA FELLOWS

Gorham Normal School, 1908

This isn't Sarah, the rumored 1900's suicide who haunts Robie-Andrews, but it's an interesting, tragic story about a few Gorham Normal School students from the same time period:

Gertrude Lowell, aged 19 years, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dana P. Lowell; Margaret Hawkes daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hawkes, aged 21 years; Harvey Jaques, aged 19 years, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter S. Jacques; and Benjamin Larrabee, aged 29 years, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Larrabee, all of Windham were drowned in Lake Sebago, July 4, 1908.

This sad affair took place near Raymond Cape and was caused by the capsizing of the boat in which they were enjoying an afternoon's pleasure excursion. Their bodies were recovered in a short time and every means possible for their restoration to life was used by Dr. I. D. Harper, whose summer cottage is near the scene of the accident, aided by Dr. Parker of North Windham who was soon on the spot, but in vain the vital spark was extinct.

Just what caused the overturning of the boat is unknown. Mr. Moses, who was in charge, escaped the fate of his companions, but is unable to assign any reason for the accident.

Miss Lowell and Miss Hawkes were graduates of the Gorham Normal School, class of 1908, and the victims were young people of the highest moral character and the catastrophe has cast a feeling of sadness over the entire community.

From the Windham, Maine, Records of Deaths, courtesy of the Windham Historical Society.

RECORD REVIEW

Destroyer: Trouble in Dreams [Merge, 2008]



Tyler Jackson

Staff Writer

Dan Bejar's new Destroyer album, Trouble in Dreams, is his ninth full-length LP. It is his most accessible work to date, but in a way that considers class rather than marketability.

It is a clean, punctual and glassy record, a likely and comfortable

next step from his 2006 masterpiece Destroyer's Rubies.

Bejar is a consistently prolific artist. Between Destroyer albums, he contributes to the New Pornographers and Swan Lake. This may suggest he is, as an artist, infallible (which of course he's not—although sometimes it takes convincing me).

Bejar masters and re-masters the pop form on a yearly basis.

For those not familiar with the music of Destroyer, it is a rock band fronted by the idiosyncratic lyrical/idea-based genius Bejar of Vancouver, BC.

He employs a different lineup on nearly every record, but this one is the best he's compiled.

Like Dylan before him and John Darnielle of the Mountain Goats and Joanna Newsom today, some people can't seem to get past his voice.

It is throaty, wide-eyed and sometimes whispery; he accents odd syllables.

Some people think it's silly, but I've never had an issue with it. In fact, I love it.

Bejar is and always has been a virtuoso lyricist and conjurer of great musical ideas and his voice gives everything a hospitable home.

Each Destroyer record is greatly different than the one before it, but Dreams does occupy the familiar veritable rock textures of modest guitars, piano, organs, synths, drums and voice. But nothing is tasteless, nothing is trite.

Good songwriting is the mission of Destroyer, everything consistently and impressively thought out.

He's not trying to be hip or brilliant, it just sort of happens that way.

The second track, "Dark Leaves Form a Thread," which would be the single if there was one, assures the listener: "Nah, it's cool, you go, I'll stay perfectly at home with this dread. Dark leaves form a thread." It's a contender for chorus of the year.

Admittedly, the polish of Trouble in Dreams puts it slightly behind most of his recent efforts. The songs are tight and signature Bejar, but the album as a whole lacks the immediate wholeness of Destroyer's Rubies and

Streethawk: A Seduction, his two stand out pop accomplishments.

I'll let the lyrics speak for the record's own self-satisfaction and listener-consideration, from the epic and sprawling eight-minute "Shooting Rockets (From The Desk Of Night's Ape)": "You love her. You leave her. You try to achieve a breadth of vision that she has from the start. I got Street Despair carved into my heart... I got Street Despair carved into my heart... My dear, didn't you hear, a chorus is a thing that bears repeating. The problem, as I see it, is girls stay away from that shit!"

Don't rely on Bullmoose to have a wide selection of Destroyer music, but the internet has got it all.

"He's not trying to be hip or brilliant, it just sort of happens that way."

Newsday Crossword

SUITABILITY by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Grinding tooth

6 French cheese

10 Sound of shock

14 Entertain

15 Not difficult

16 Creme-filled cookie

17 One of four in a square

19 Lubricates

20 City roads: Abbr.

21 Lends a hand

22 Cowboy's seat

24 Christmas trees

25 Pulled apart

26 Pub mugs

29 Endlessly

32 Hits, as with hailstones

33 Location

34 Midterm or final

36 Military group

37 Logger's tool

38 WXY, on a phone

39 Words of denial

40 Snow glider

41 Fine sprays

42 Extended, as a subscription

44 Horses with spots

45 Metric weight

46 Pushed the doorbell

47 Women's shoe style

50 Burrowing mammal

51 Sis' sib

54 Cincinnati's state

55 Capitalized name or place

58 Toddler's taboo

59 Roof overhang

60 House

61 Flower part

62 Salon liquids

63 Huron and Erie

DOWN

1 Planet beyond Earth

2 Fail to include

3 Hauls

4 Fireplace residue

5 Keeps possession of

6 Relaxes, as rules

7 Cleaning cloths

8 Oahu or Maui: Abbr.

9 Something unpleasant to look at

10 Nighttime greeting

11 Desertlike

12 Offer at retail

13 Sit for a portrait

18 Puts on TV

23 "___ you sure?"

24 Clothing store area

25 Hauled

26 Created a web

27 Male voice range

28 High-society group

29 Repaired

30 Have life

31 Moved quickly toward

33 Oregon's capital

35 Cluttered condition

40 Traded

41 Quartz, for one

43 Historic time

44 Lacking color

46 Cow catchers

47 Heavy weights

48 Photographed

49 Fork part

50 "Out of my way!"

51 Library loan

52 Not respectful

53 Billfold bills

56 Bit of sunshine

57 Hoopsters' org.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20				21					22	23				
			24					25						
26	27	28						29				30	31	
32						33					34			35
36						37					38			
39						40					41			
	42				43					44				
			45					46						
47	48	49						50				51	52	53
54						55	56				57			
58						59					60			
61						62					63			

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2008 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 4/21/08

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

4/21/08

© 2008 Janric Enterprises Dist. by Creators Syndicate Inc.

UPCOMING GAMES

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

Tuesday, April 22

Baseball vs. BATES	3:30 p.m.
Softball vs. PLYMOUTH STATE (DH)	3:30 p.m.
Men's Lacrosse vs. THOMAS	4 p.m.
Women's Lacrosse @ Plymouth State	4 p.m.

Wednesday, April 23

Baseball vs. THOMAS	3:30 p.m.
Softball vs. ST. JOSEPH'S	3:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 24

Baseball @ Endicott	3:30 p.m.
Softball vs. BRIDGEWATER STATE (DH)	3:30 p.m.
Men's Lacrosse vs. UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND	4 p.m.
Women's Lacrosse @ UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND	4 p.m.

Friday, April 25

Men's Tennis @ Little East Conference Tournament	TBA
--	-----

Saturday, April 26

Men's Outdoor Track @ Little East/N.E. Alliance Meet @ Rhode Island College	11 a.m.
Women's Outdoor Track @ Little East/N.E. Alliance Meet @ Rhode Island College	11 a.m.
Baseball vs. KEENE STATE (DH)	12 p.m.
Men's Lacrosse @ Keene State	1 p.m.
Women's Lacrosse vs. KEENE STATE	1 p.m.
Softball @ Keene State (DH)	1 p.m.
Men's Tennis @ Little East Conference Tournament	TBA

Need advice on our new TIAA/CREF funds?

Consulting on personal financial issues, retirement planning and withdrawal strategies, investment portfolio consultation, development and management.

Fee only financial planning and investments

THE
GOLD
COMPANY



207-650-7884
moneyprof@aol.com
145 Newbury Street,
Portland, ME 04101
Joel I. Gold, Ph. D., CFP®,
Registered Investment Advisor

www.thegoldcompanyfinancialplanning.com

the free press

www.usmfreepress.org

ARTS WRITER

Interested in
Art?

Interested in
Writing?

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

HUSKY HERO

Interview and photo by John Forestell

Thomas Boothby

Year: Junior
Major: Business
Sport: Lacrosse

FP: How long have you been playing lacrosse?

Tom: I started playing in the 7th grade, so probably eight or nine years. I switched from baseball to lacrosse when I was a kid.

FP: What made you want to play lacrosse instead of baseball?

Tom: Well football was my main sport, and I wanted to get faster for football so I tried out lacrosse in the spring; plus my friends wanted me to play.

FP: Did you play any other sports growing up?

Tom: Nope, just football and lacrosse.

FP: Why did you decide to play lacrosse in college?

Tom: Mostly the size factor for football, I thought I wasn't big enough to play past high school. I felt I had become a better lacrosse player too.

FP: What position do you play in lacrosse?

Tom: I'm kind of a miscellaneous player, but I guess I could say I mostly play defense.



FP: I heard you're a transfer student, where did you play before attending USM?

Tom: Springfield College in Massachusetts

FP: What made you want to transfer from Springfield?

Tom: I'm from a relatively small town in Maine, so I guess the biggest reason was because of the location and size of the city.

FP: Is there anything you want USM to know about the "real" Thomas Boothby?

Tom: I'm a pretty laid back guy and I'm easy to talk to. Go SOX.

MIKE ON SPORTS

Even the underdogs

Mike Tardiff

Columnist

I'm twenty-one, but I've still got heroes: my parents, Jim Koch - the founder of Sam Adams, and athletes from Maine who have made it to the pros.

I've always loved seeing people from Maine make an impact at the highest level. I've always held people like former Cy Young nominee Billy Swift of Scarborough and former gold-glover and Winterport native Mike Bordick in the highest regard.

I've spent hours tracking the progress of Mainers like Nik Caner-Medley and Tip Fairchild who are on their own grueling quest towards the top.

Because it's people like these who give people like me hope. It's guys like Bordick and Swift who inspired me to play in my first Little League game and aspire towards the Major Leagues, even though I was from Maine.

Over the years my affection has grown to include people who have played college sports in Maine and gone on to athletic glory.

Mostly hockey players, this list also includes a few football players who have graced the fields in Orono: people like Lofa Tatupu of the Seattle Seahawks, Brandon McGowan of the Bears and, until just a few days ago, Stephen Cooper of the San Diego Chargers.

But since the former UMaine standout tested positive for a banned substance -- ephedra, which he claimed he didn't know was banned though it has been since 2001 -- Cooper has lost my respect and made me take a second look at athletes just like him.

When Cooper was coming out of college he was by no means a lock to be in the NFL, let alone be a starter.

But through apparent hard-work, determination and sheer will he worked his way onto an NFL roster and his player profile became permanently bookmarked on my computer so I could track his stats.

In 2006, when he inked a \$15 million deal that would keep him in a Charger uniform until the 2011 season, it seemed like we'd be seeing him as an NFL starter for a long time: not bad for a kid from Wareham, Massachusetts and the University of Maine.

By no means do I want to run Cooper's name through the mud. He's still an inspiration to anyone who wants to play in the NFL, lead his team in tackles and make big-time money.

But he's not my hero anymore. He's burned me twice and made me even more cynical than I was before. I think that justifies losing idol-status.

While he was at UMaine, Cooper got pulled over on I-95 and 1,000 steroid pills were discovered in his duffel bag. He later claimed he had never taken steroids, but was planning to in preparation for making a run at his lifelong goal of playing in the NFL.

Maybe I should have known right then and there that Cooper wasn't the type of guy I should look up to. But I gave him the benefit of the doubt, like I hope someone would give me.

After his draft-stock plummeted and he was forced to sign as a free-agent, I jumped back on Cooper's bandwagon and became one of his biggest fans.

But after his second offense in six years, I just think of Stephen Cooper as someone who cheated to get to the top, someone who manipulated the system to fatten his wallet, someone who let me and the people who invested their faith in him down.

In an era when the greatest athletes are turning out to be cheaters -- Roger Clemens, Barry Bonds and Marion Jones to name just a few -- it's really too bad that even the humble heroes, the guys living the American Dream, the feel-good stories, are falling subject to the cynicism they have forced unto me.

It's too bad when even the underdog can't be my hero.



Indoor Track

Connolly and Towle earn track and field honors

Freshman Christina Connolly (Boise, Idaho) and coach George Towle were both honored for their efforts during the 2008 indoor track and field season. Connolly, the 2008 New England Alliance pole vault champion and third place performer in the New England Div. III Championships, garnered Rookie Field Athlete of the Year honors, while George Towle was named Coach of the Year after his eighth consecutive LEC/Alliance championship in his 11 years guiding the huskies.

HUSKY HIGHLIGHTS

Softball

Huskies split with Polar Bears
Huskies split with Polar Bears

Junior Anita Dixon (Limington) crushed a two-run home run to power the Huskies to a 6-3 win over Bowdoin College in the second game of a non-conference doubleheader in Brunswick. The Huskies jumped out to an early 5-0 lead in the first game, but Bowdoin was able to surmount the early deficit to win 11-6. In the second game, senior Kristina Grondin (Sanford) scattered eight hits and allowed just two earned runs to move her record on the mound to 7-2. Freshman Stacy Stuard (Belgrade) got things started for the Huskies with a two run single in the first inning and never looked back after Dixon's bomb.

Men's Outdoor Track

Spaulding shines at Holy cross Decathlon

Junior James Spaulding (Lewiston) of the men's outdoor track and field team set a school record at the Holy Cross Decathlon even in Worcester, Mass. Spaulding notched a second place

finish in the 28 competitor event with a score of 6,251 points and broke his own decathlon record by 411 points. With his performance Spaulding provisionally qualifies for the NCAA Championships and only missed automatic qualification by 349 points.

Women's Lacrosse

Laxers win again

The Huskies took an 11-7 win over Castleton State on Saturday. The hot-streak Huskies have tallied five wins in their last seven games, improving their record to 5-7 for the season. Sophomore Jessica Knight (Alfred), freshman Mary Vaughan (Brunswick) and senior Shannon Kynoch (South Burlington, Vt.) each grabbed two goals, while senior goalie Katie Quartuccio (Poughkeepsie, NY) had eight saves.

-Source www.usm.maine.edu/athl

The Great Maine Bike



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

Abigail Cuffey

Staff Writer

For the second year in a row, you can sell back more than just your used books – on Sunday, bring in your bike.

The Great Maine Bike Swap is coming to USM's Sullivan Gym (Portland) on April 27, thanks to PIRG and the Bicycle Coalition of Maine.

Between 8 and 10 a.m., students and community members can wheel their bikes into the gym to fill out forms and put their bikes on the market.

Shoshana Hoose, the committee coordinator for the Bicycle Coalition, suggests getting there early to get in line.

Hoose said that last year, there was a huge collection, including everything from vintage to kids' bikes, mountain bikes and hybrids. There were about 1500 people who went, "and almost everything sold."

It costs \$3 to put a bike up for sale, and there's a 15 percent commission on all proceeds. Don't have a bike to sell? It's free for USM students and kids 12 and under to get in and shop (\$3 for non-students).

All of the money raised goes back to the Coalition to support

the Bicycle Coalition of Maine's education and safety programs.

Last year was the first time the swap was held at USM, though it had a history in other Maine venues. This year, the Swap has expanded up to UMaine, based on popular demand.

The money people make from selling their bikes really "depends on the type and condition of the bike," said Hoose. Often people can expect to receive a good amount of money back.

The event had a great turnout last year, with about 200 bikes available to be sold to new owners.

More than just serving as a bike market, the swap will include workshops for bike repair, a bike decorating station, exhibits, entertainment, refreshments and tables for other non-profit groups.

Once you're happily outfitted with a new vehicle, you can head down to the Earth Day Bike Parade around Back Cove at 1 p.m.

The parade is put on by Green Streets, a local group that encourages "green" transportation for Portland. Registration for the parade starts at 12:30 p.m., immediately following the swap.

"Interest in biking has increased due to the high gas prices," said Hoose. "People want to reduce their carbon footprint. I see a lot

of people biking around Portland, even in the winter."

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine really encourages people to bike, even just for a short distance. "We try to push this from a health and environmental standpoint," said Hoose. "If you can cut down on short drives and bike instead, it makes a difference."

If you, too, are considering ditching your gas-guzzler, the bike swap is a great way to find a new set of wheels and learn how to maintain them, as well as support a few local non-profits.

Volunteers will be available to help price and fit bikes, as well as help not-so-savvy riders choose from the mass of handlebars and pedals. There will also be a testing area to help customers determine which bike is best.

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine puts on many other events, including a BCM Benefit at Flatbread's, the Women's Ride for Heart Health on June 1st, and the Fryeburg Maine and National Bike Rally. For more information about the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, visit www.bikemaine.org or e-mail info@BikeMaine.org.

Paint the streets green

Also participating in the Bike Swap is Green Streets, a group of volunteers "comprised of people who commute through, love, work in, study at, or send children to school in Greater Portland."

Lead organizer Sarah Cushman wants everyone to know about the group, which uses an incentive program to "get folks to communicate and use alternate transportation, such as walking, biking, using buses, trains, ferries, and well as carpooling."

The group, which started in September of last year, has had around 850 participants thus far.

On the last Friday of every month, members of Green Streets wear something green while they commute "green" for something they like to call "Green Streets Day."

During the entire day, green-wearing participants can enjoy free coffee or tea at places like the North Star Café.

There is also a raffle every month, with prizes like free magazine subscriptions and theater tickets offered.

"We really want to encourage folks to sign up online if they are participating; that way we can document it," said Cushman. She adds that the group is slowly growing as more people hear about it. "It's just fun!" she says, "you don't have to be a hardcore biker to bike."

As a certified car mechanic, Cushman knows how efficient riding a bike can be compared to an automobile.

She calls the Earth Day Bike Parade a "fun community day" and encourages people to come (you can even decorate your bike and show it off).

For more information on how to join Green Streets, visit <http://portlandgreenstreets.org/>.

They're looking for volunteer coordinators to help post flyers around businesses and schools.



Social biking

Another local bicycle group in on the Great Maine Bike Swap is Portland Maine Bicycle Commuting, a "group of people who like to ride our bikes for transportation, not just recreation." Founded in 2006, they meet monthly to socialize and discuss topics of interest.

The group also conducts regular monthly seminars in Beginning Commuting and Traffic

Safety. They welcome beginners and veterans alike.

Upcoming events include Danceportation ReEvolution, South Portland Earth Day Cleanup, Portland Earth Day Festival and Green Streets Walk/Ride Day.

For more information on how to join, visit www.bike.meetup.com.



ASTHMA

If you are between the ages of 18 and 75 and have been unable to control your allergic asthma with standard treatments like Advair 500/50 or similar medications, you may be eligible for a clinical research study to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of an investigational drug in combination with your current treatment.

Study medications will be provided and and you will receive reimbursement for your time and travel.

For more information please call 602-7205



11421792

Swap is back

You're not the only one with a helmet clipped to your backpack



Last year's bike swap drew upwards of 1500 people. About 200 bikes were for sale, and nearly every one sold.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GREAT MAINE BIKE SWAP

Anna Korsen

Year: Senior

Major: Sociology

Years biking to school: Two and a half
Kind of bike: Shogun, an "old style road bike" that she bought used at last year's Bike Swap

Do you ride in all seasons?

Not in winter

Pros? I don't own a car, so I miss out on tickets and buying gas. Biking is really fun. It's great exercise.

Cons? Cars don't really respect your right to be on the road, biking up Munjoy Hill can be hard.

Any interesting encounters? I was biking and my boyfriend was skateboarding next to me, he did a trick and flipped the skateboard over, I went flying!



Robert Loudon

Job: Professor of philosophy

Years biking: since the '80s

Kind of bike: Old, second-hand road bike, 10-speed with narrow tires

Time it takes to bike to work: 5-10 minutes, about one mile.

Do you bike in all seasons? Yes, except January-March

Pros? Don't have to hunt for a parking space, can ride around town (within 10-15 miles); I can actually get to places quicker on my bike.

Cons? The snow and ice, worrying about other cars on the road.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

Join the club

The Outing Club at USM will also be helping out at this year's bike swap. If you're looking for a way to connect with other USM students and share your love for the outdoors, they're the only student-run outdoors group on campus.

They're taking an overnight biking trip this weekend before the swap, leaving campus Friday and returning Saturday.

They plan to make the journey up to Sebago Lake, camp out if possible and bike around the lake. Club president Eric Favreau says "anyone can join; you don't have to be a member."

For more information, contact the Outing Club at usm.outing.club@gmail.com.



Jeff Walker

Job: Professor of biology

Years biking: Two years (drove to work prior)

Kind of bike: Multiple, Trek old style hybrid commuter

Time it takes to bike to work: 24 minutes

Do you bike in all seasons? Not during the winter; worried about cars sliding on the roads.

Pros? It's a way of life, fitness program, get to see wildlife.

Cons? None, drivers are generally courteous of bikers, they have to obey traffic laws.

Do you bike anywhere else? Sometimes running errands on the way, it gets harder when you have kids.

Do you own a car? Yes.

Would you recommend biking? Yes, it's a lifestyle commitment change to not be dependent on a car; anyone can bike who has a confident and aggressive personality.



You can take UCU with you!

- 24/7 Online Account Access
- Five Convenient UCU Branches Statewide
- Free Access to over 70 Credit Union ATMs Statewide
- In-Person Account Access at over 2,500 Shared Branching Locations Nationwide

To learn more about the convenience of UCU, log on to www.ucu.maine.edu.



Prepare • Progress • Achieve



www.ucu.maine.edu • 800-695-8628
ORONO • BANGOR • FARMINGTON • PORTLAND



STAFF PHOTO BY JASON JOHNS

Junior Melissa Rivet joins a history of first-year lacrosse players, though she is a seasoned USM athlete. Plagued by a lack of lacrosse in the state, coach Sue Frost finds new players in new places each season.

You can too teach old athletes new tricks

Small program lets seasoned Huskies try a new sport

Mike Tardiff
Staff Writer

Until this year Melissa Rivet and Megan Higginbotham had never played lacrosse.

Now, just four months removed from their introduction to the sport, they're playing in a Division III college program.

That might seem like an anomaly, but it's nothing unusual for Sue Frost's seven-year-old program.

Without any interscholastic high school lacrosse in the northern half of the state and only pockets of interest elsewhere, Frost has continually had to supplement her rosters with athletes who have never before played the game.

Enter Rivet and Higginbotham. Last year, it was Jessie Hobgood, Alicia Croteau and Cristina Hickey, all track transplants. The year before, it was runner Mel Patten and basketball stars Shannon Kynoch and Lindsey Welch.

Thanks to connections with current players and already established athletic abilities, new women are encouraged every year to try their hand at lacrosse.

For Higginbotham, who managed the women's ice hockey team, it was the encouragement of people like hockey player and lacrosse goalie Katie Quartuccio, as well as the support of coach Frost, that enticed her into a sport that her high school didn't offer.

"I went to one practice and they said to keep coming, so I kept coming," says Higginbotham, now a midfielder, with a grin.

Rivet, a defenseman on the field hockey squad, saw lacrosse as a chance to stay active and as something fun she could do with her friends.

She never anticipated that she might be asked to assume a starting role, or that, just

weeks removed from her first organized practice, she'd be in charge of shadowing the key offensive threats of their opponents.

But as anyone who has picked up a new sport knows, where there are triumphs there are hundreds of trials that precede them.

Handed a lacrosse stick at the beginning of preseason, Higginbotham didn't know what to do and often found herself overwhelmed by the practiced skills of her teammates.

"You have Amy McNally and Mary Vaughn doing all kinds of crazy stuff," she says. "If I try what people around me are good at and I'm not, I get frustrated."

Despite Rivet's defensive prowess and remarkable adaptation to the new sport, she, too, has found the nuances of the game to be frustrating at times.

"I always want to ask the ref about the call, but I don't want them to think that I am

being smart, so I just wait until I get off the field," she says. One of the rules she's had to get used to is that when the whistle blows, all players have to stop in place. When she forgets and keeps running, "[the refs] yell at me to hold my position."

The pair's first game experience wasn't exactly a cake-walk either, given that they played against nationally-ranked, perennial power Bowdoin, who gave the Huskies a 19-1 shellacking.

But even in the face of girls who have been playing for the majority of their lives, Rivet has developed a formula that has helped alleviate some of the angst.

"There are times when I was frustrated," she says, "but I just try to look at this as having fun."

Watching second-year player Shannon Kynoch become a key part of the Huskies' 3-1 start in conference play has also helped the duo realize that, while they may be a

little late to the table, their impacts can still help carry the team to new heights.

Lacrosse has also proven to be a vehicle of new and unexpected opportunities for the two rookies.

For Higginbotham, it has meant wearing a skirt for the first time since her senior prom and playing a sport her grandparents didn't know existed.

"When I told my grandparents I was playing lacrosse, they thought I was transferring to Holy Cross," Higginbotham says. "So now whenever I tell them about a game, they ask me if I'm still at Holy Cross,"

At the same time, the game has allowed each of these women an opportunity to enjoy their experiences at USM even more.

"Everyone has been real supportive, like if I drop a pass or get blown by on defense, the girls will tell me not to worry about it and to keep trying," Rivet says.

Ideally, as the program grows, inexperienced players will become a thing of the past, provided that coach Frost and others can help spread the game's popularity in Maine.

When she inherited the program three years ago, the majority of her players were coming to the sport with little experience, just like these two.

But now, with former players coaching at places like Scarborough and Gorham, Frost hopes that more people will pick up a lacrosse stick long before their junior year in college.

In the meantime, however, she continues to tweak her approach to finding – and extracting – untapped potential.



STAFF PHOTO BY JASON JOHNS

Freshman Erica Higginbotham is one of the new recruits for the women's lacrosse team.

Huskies sweep UMass

John Forestell
Staff Writer

The USM women's softball team showed their offensive prowess last week, sweeping UMass Boston 11-3 and 8-2 in their first "real" home doubleheader Tuesday afternoon.

The Huskies, who have been playing their scheduled home games at St. Joseph's and the University of New England's fields because theirs was unplayable, finally got to step on their home grass.

The team has been frustrated always playing on the road, said head coach Bonny Brown-Denico. But they took full advantage of their first game at home and came out firing right from the start.

Senior Kristina Grondin (Sanford) paced the Huskies to an early 8-0 lead in the second inning with a three-run homer over the left-field fence, adding to an already impressive offensive output.

With Beacon pitcher Courtney Houles on the mound, the Huskies managed to scatter 11 hits over five innings, including two hits from freshman Sarah Deroche (Portland) and a triple from freshman Devon Carroll (Plymouth).

"Were a pretty young team," said Denico, "but we're progressing." She explained by saying that though the Huskies know how to hit, their defense has struggled because the team is so young.

Against the Beacons, the women stood behind sophomore hurler Larissa O'Connor (Farmington) as

she pitched her second win of the season by only allowing two runs in three innings off of four hits and a walk.

In the second game of the doubleheader it was much the same for the Huskies—their offense started out strong in the first frame with three runs coming across the plate, including an RBI triple from Grondin.

Grondin also dominated on the mound, striking out five and only allowing five hits and two runs in seven innings.

Grondin, the only senior on the team earned, her sixth win of the season.

"Kristina pitched really well," said Denico.

The Huskies scored two more runs in the fourth to take a 5-0 lead into the fifth.

UMass Boston came back with one in the fifth, but the Huskies countered, scoring three more times in their half of the fifth, securing an 8-1 lead. The Beacons had one more chance to gain momentum in the top of the seventh, but Grondin took out the next two batters, and the score was sealed at 8-2.

Deroche led the second game with two runs batted in, and Grondin led the night, with four hits and five RBI's over the doubleheader.

See the Huskies at home all week – they play doubleheaders against Plymouth, St. Joe's and Bridgewater State on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, respectively. The first game starts at 3:30 each day.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRANDON MCKENNEY

Freshman Sarah Deroche (Portland) tries to bring in the tag too quick and leaves the ball behind as a UMass Boston runner scores at home plate. It didn't happen often -- the Huskies won both games of the night, 11-3 and 8-2.



Freshman Sarah Deroche (Portland) winds up to fire a pitch.



Sophomore Chelsie Eugley (Thomaston) waits at first base for a throw from her pitcher, freshman Sarah Deroche (Portland).

BAYSIDE VILLAGE

PORTLAND'S PREMIER STUDENT HOUSING COMMUNITY

NOW LEASING



BAYSIDEVILLAGEMAINE.COM

1.888.832.4BAY(4229)

132 MARGINAL WAY
PORTLAND, ME

BV

FEATURES

- BOASTING BAY, CITY AND COURTYARD VIEWS
- FULLY FURNISHED APARTMENTS
- UTILITIES INCLUDED
- HIGH SPEED INTERNET AND CABLE INCLUDED
- AIR CONDITIONED
- WIFI/WIRELESS AND VOIP ACCESS
- STUDY LOUNGES AND COURTYARD
- LAUNDRY - AVAILABLE AND ON-SITE
- PARKING* SECURED AND COVERED (*LEASED SPACE)
- BICYCLE PARKING - SECURED AND COVERED
- STUDENT PROGRAMMING
- CONVENIENT TO: USM, SMCC, UNE, MECA, ST JOSEPHS AND ANDOVER COLLEGE

**CALL FOR
LIMITED
OFFER**



This week ...

Mike on sports page 19

Women's softball page 23

The Great Maine Bike Swap page 20

SPORTS

The Free Press | April 21, 2008 24

15 feet up

David O'Donnell

Sports Editor

In the Gorham field house, a handful of men and women are pulling giant carbon-fiber rods out of a large bag.

One takes a starting position, a long pole held in front of him as he squints toward the pile of thick blue mats and takes in his breath.

His face goes taut and his fists white as he sprints forward, plants one end of the pole in a trapezoidal groove in the floor and is launched up, up, over a suspended crossbar. He crashes down, sinking into the mats, and rolls off to join his teammates, who are stretching on the green rubber field house floor.

It's Wednesday night: pole vaulting practice.

One of the more technical and intimidating events in track and field, pole vaulting doubles as a physics lesson in energy conversion – the pole, whose flexibility and length varies according to the athlete's size and skill, is a tool used to turn a short sprint into a high and graceful flight.

The relationship between the athlete and the equipment is about as intimate as it gets.

"It is a rush the first time you feel that pole bend," says senior Adam Haggerty.

Senior Taryn Clark has a different, but equally vivid memory. "The first time I did it, when the pole bent, I went flying straight backwards."

An awesome sight to spectators, plenty of athletes steer clear of the event – it takes guts and a little technique to launch yourself 10-15 feet into the air and not fly backwards onto the runway.

No matter how much they love it today, several on USM's squad describe being dragged into it by friends.

One notable exception is freshman Christina Connolly, who has been vaulting since her Boise, Idaho, school would allow it, at the minimum age of 13.

Originally, it was a way of getting around her mother's reluctance to let her do gymnastics. Today, it's her "absolute favorite" track event.

"It's similar to other events," she says. "People try to psych each other out at competitions. But you really have to get into a certain mindset for pole vaulting."

Last week, she was named LEC Rookie Field Athlete of the Year for her performance in the winter indoor track season – the first-year athlete captured the pole vault title in the New England Alliance and Little East Conference championships with a 3.05 meter jump that was 31 centimeters higher than the second place vault.

She took third in the New England Division III championship and 10th in the Eastern Collegiate Athletics Conference championships, where she had her best vault of the season – 10 feet, 6.75 inches.

A senior on the men's team, Adam Haggerty is a star in his own right: on April 14, he matched the USM record of 15 feet, 3 inches, set by Nick Joy in 2000. Haggerty is currently the state's Division III indoor champion.

"You can tell some people just look like they'd be naturals at it," he says, as he watches Connolly prepare for a vault. "Sometimes people just have a different personality to them, they don't have that fear. The psychological factor in pole vaulting is huge – if you can't get past that, then you're never going to go very high."

Though Haggerty is the highest-flying Husky, another man at practice has been even higher: the USM vaulting coach, Mike Drummey, holds the New England record of 18 feet, 6.5 inches, and just about every member of the team likes to talk about it. The world record is just over 20 feet.

Injuries have taken him out of competition, and so today, Drummey stands next to USM's cross bar, offering feedback as his vaulters bounce off the mat.

April marked the change in season from indoor to outdoor track, and nearly all the athletes here train for both seasons.

Outside, vaulting is essentially the same – with a few factors, like wind and rain, to make things more interesting.

"My biggest is a 16 foot pole," says Haggerty. "And that's basically a sail when it's straight up in the air and you're running down at a full sprint and there's a breeze."

And water in the box – that trapezoidal groove – can make the crucial plant, which determines how their forward momentum is transferred to the bending pole, a lot less reliable.

USM doesn't have an outdoor venue for track and field, or we'd direct you to their next home event. If you're ever in the field house on a Wednesday night, their



Christina Connolly sails over the bar with ease. Unafraid of the daunting sport from her start at age 13, Connolly was recently named Rookie Field Athlete of the Year for her championship performance in the indoor track season.

A Brief History of Pole Vaulting

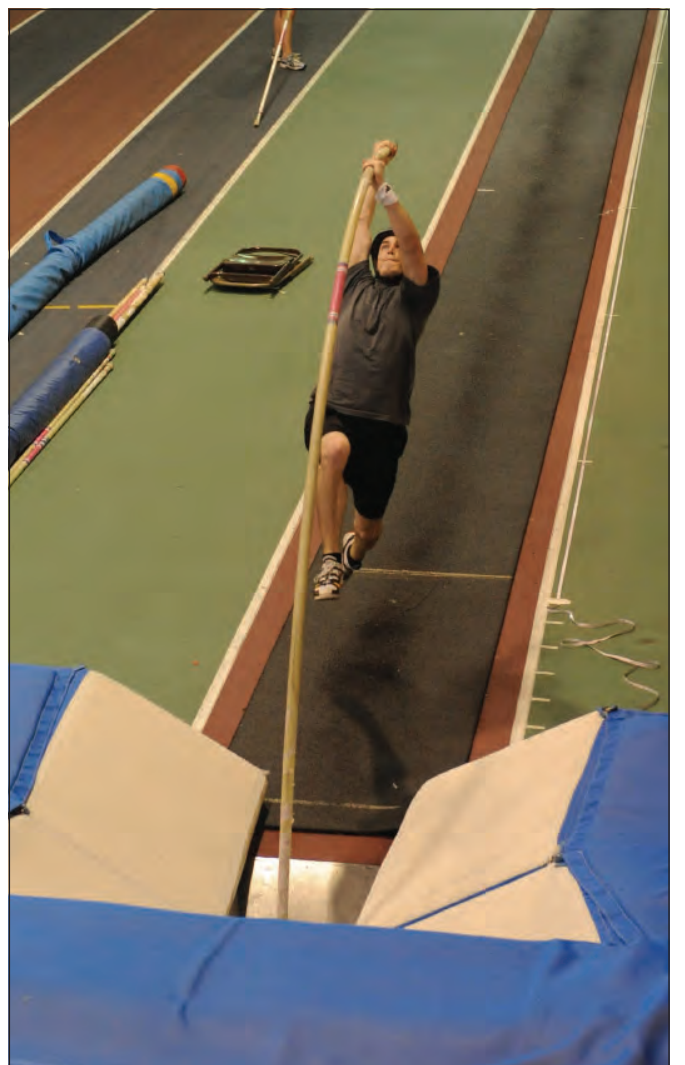
It's all fun and games now, but pole vaulting actually grew out of necessity -- in the middle ages, Europeans used a primitive version to shoot themselves over watery canals.

The idea of aiming for height rather than distance first occurred to German gymnasts in the 18th century, where it became a popular competition.

A much more familiar technique was developed in the United States in the late 1880s. Poles were first made from bamboo, then even stiffer aluminum and steel. Needless to say, the event was altered further and athletes launched higher with the development of flexible fiberglass and carbon fiber.

Aside from being one of the four standard jumping events in track and field, pole vaulting is also the eighth event in the decathlon.

In this modern, standardized version, only fifteen people are known to have cleared six meters (approx. 20 feet). These elites comprise what is known as the 'six meter club.'



Adam Haggerty propels himself upward. He recently tied the USM record, jumping 15 feet, 3 inches.

STAFF PHOTOS BY BRANDON MCKENNEY