Frustrations are running high over Bayside Village, the independently-owned student housing complex on Marginal Way in Portland.

Tensions between residents, management and the city erupted late last week, after the Portland police department mandated drastic changes to the building’s community guidelines.

At first, Bayside’s management complied, and a notice was posted across the building with 11 new restrictions concerning guest policy and the consumption of alcohol, set to go into effect on October 31st (a day later).

But just as abruptly as they were announced, the new guidelines were dropped entirely, as Halloween night approached.

Responding to outrage from residents, a building-wide meeting was held last Friday afternoon in Bayside’s closed courtyard. There, owner Joseph Cloutier - founder and president of Realty Resources LLC - told a crowd of approximately 40 residents that he intended to challenge the mandates from police and preserve their independence.

“If we could go back in time, it probably would have been better to fight it and never put them out,” said staff trainer and consultant Lori Lavoie, referring to the guideline changes.

“We heard the residents concerns.”

Lavoie took over as Bayside’s interim property manager after Scott Ranger was dismissed just one month in, following a rash of police visits over noise complaints and underage drinking - 17 in the first 30 days.

“It was a mess,” she recalls. “There were a ton of non-residents all the time, people were skateboarding down the hallways. That doesn’t happen anymore.”

See BAYSIDE on page 5

David O’Donnell
News Editor

Muskie contracts face reviews
State to examine “no-bid” deals

Taryn Yudaken
Staff Writer

USM’s Muskie School of Public Service is one of the primary recipients of “no bid” contracts awarded by state agencies, agreements that are coming under extensive review in the coming months.

The contracts are cooperative agreement with agencies, such as the Department of Health and Human Services. Under the agreements, the Muskie School conducts research and training for state institutions, mostly in the realm of public services.

Students at the Muskie have been working in health and medical programs, child welfare, social services and more.

The contracts are expected to be reviewed by the state in the coming months, with the aim of ensuring transparency and accountability.

See REVIEWS on page 5
Fed Up With Taxes?

VOTE YES ON 1.

Don’t Get Confused on November 4th. To REJECT a new tax on some of your favorite beverages – including flavored water, juice drinks, soda, beer and wine – Vote YES! on Question 1. Now is not the time for politicians in Augusta to be adding a new tax. We’re already paying some of the highest taxes in the country.

Remember, YES! on 1 to REJECT the new tax.
An estimated 20 percent of Americans live with a disability of some kind, yet the disabled make up just five percent of the workforce in science and engineering. It’s a gap the National Science Foundation would like to narrow.

And they’ve enlisted the help of USM.

A new $1.3 million grant awarded to the University aims to increase the diversity of Maine students receiving degrees in what is known as the STEM fields - science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The grant extends a project that USM has been involved in since 2003. Christine Maher, Professor and Chair of the Biology Department, describes her unique experience as a faculty mentor to a student researcher with a disability who received two fellowships funded by the first such grant a few years ago. This specific student was able to design and carry out two independent research projects over two summers, and is writing up the results of the second for publication in a scientific journal.

Maher is confident that the new round of funding will be just as beneficial to students.

“The grant will continue to provide opportunities for USM undergraduates in STEM fields to carry out independent research projects and learn what a great experience that can be,” Maher says.

She also points out that such projects often lead to students continuing on to Graduate School and STEM-based careers.

“My student researcher is now in a Ph.D. program at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst,” Maher adds.

The money will also be used to ratchet up local high school outreach programs, which seek to generate interest in science-related majors as students look ahead to college - especially among those with disabilities, who often have doubts about their capabilities. USM Professor Stephanie Langley-Turnbaugh, Chair of the Department of Environmental Science, is the Principle Investigator of the grant project. She originally got involved after working with high school students with disabilities at a NASA-funded summer camp at USM.

“I realized that students with disabilities were not being well served in high school science classes, and were not being encouraged to pursue science majors in college. I wanted to work toward change,” she says.

The idea is not just encouraging involvement among a seemingly neglected demographic, but putting USM at the center of the effort.

“We would like USM to become the ‘go to’ school for Maine students with disabilities interested in STEM,” Langley-Turnbaugh says.

One of the biggest roadblocks for students and educators alike tends to be reluctance to seek out support and assistance. Maher and Langley-Turnbaugh urge any student with a disability majoring in a STEM field here at USM to disclose their condition to the Office of Support for Students with Disabilities, if they haven’t already.

“Many times people may be afraid to tell someone, or even be ashamed, but they shouldn’t be," Maher says. “We have some terrific opportunities for these students, and we want them to succeed here, but first, we need to know who they are.”

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✓ Sponsored legislation to provide a refundable tax credit for property taxes paid by Maine residents

Phil Bartlett’s candidacy has been endorsed by:
Equality Maine • Maine AFL-CIO • Maine Council of Senior Citizens • Maine Credit Union League • Maine Education Association • Maine League of Conservation Voters • MPA Campaign Vote • Planned Parenthood • Sierra Club • Sportsman’s Alliance of Maine
WeVote brings some life to the parties
Politics forum takes aim at two-party rule, corporate influence

Matt Dodge
Executive Editor

Thursday’s “Life of the Party” political forum was formulated as a break from the candidate-driven, partisan forums broadcast over the last year, where answers and platforms are so routine and regimented, a voter could slip into election-induced déjà vu. As soon as the slam-poetry styling of the Freedom Choir began to echo their rendition of “The Times They Are A-Changin’” from the back of the Woodbury Campus Center’s amphitheater, it was clear this was not going to be another starchy, dry discussion panel.

Organized by WeVote, the political panel was conceived as an attempt to bring people from across the political spectrum into a forum where they could discuss their party platforms, and share their party would tackle today’s most pressing issues. Red, Blue, and Green were all represented on the panel, as well as an Anarchist/radical rep, and Herb Hoffman, speaking for the Independents (neither of whom have an organized party).

The atmosphere on the panel was one of open and frank discussion. With only one candidate represented, in Hoffman, the talk meandered from the usual party-line rhetoric of candidates desperately seeking votes.

“I was encouraged,” I heard a lot of independent thought, and logical reasoning outside of the usual party platforms,” said Eric Monty, USM junior.

The discussion took on a tone of honesty in the early goings when Democratic party representative Rachel Talbot Ross made clear her reservations about rehashing the democratic platform. “Sorry to disrupt the program,” Ross said “but I’m not here to represent the Democratic Party.”

She added that the party’s official platform is 50 pages long, and having not memorized it, she only felt comfortable in sharing her own perspective on the issue.

This break from protocol by Talbot Ross quickly spread across the panel, with Republican Scott Kaufmann and Green Bruce Gagnon both taking similar stances; they would speak their minds, but not stick to formal party rhetoric. While this might not have been what WeVote imagined when organizing the forum, many found the atmosphere of honesty to be a welcomed break. “I didn’t go where was intended, but I was glad for it,” said Monty.

Speakers shared what issues are most central to their own party, giving the audience a chance to see past the red and blue, and learn what some of the nation’s smaller parties think, a perspective that they feel earns little attention in the current two-party dominated system.

Bruce Gagnon, Green Party rep, saw corporate domination of the nation’s two biggest political parties as an overarching problem, one that he feels might explain the bi-partisan rescue of Wall St. last month. “There will be no alleviation of these problems until we break the back of this system,” Gagnon said.

“This is not an election at all,” said Gagnon, “it’s 21st century corporate dominated feudalism.”

Anarchist rep Danny Muller shared this distaste for corporate influence in politics. Referencing Barack Obama’s half-hour, multi-channel prime time commercial (which cost an estimated $4 million) Muller shamed his frustration with electoral political parties taking donations to pay for such ads.

“Money gets pumped back into his campaign, but I don’t think he will be able to change the system,” Muller said.

Talbot Ross, who was Maine’s first African American delegate to the Democratic National Convention back in 1976, quickly got the impression that the DNC was “bought and paid for by a couple folks,” and shared her disillusionment that parts of the democratic and republican party are “racist, sexist, and class-driven, just like everything.”

When discussion shifted to talk of our current two-party system, party lines were further blurred as the panelists spoke out against two-party domination of government. Hoffman, whose independent candidacy was reduced to write-in status in Maine’s Senate race, knows first hand the frustration of smaller political parties. He was knocked off the ballot after an aggressive legal challenge from the Maine Democratic party; he repeatedly referred to America’s government as operating under a “one-party system.”

Many of the speakers challenged the audience, and American public, to not end their political involvement after Nov. 4. “Change is good, but on January 21 (after the next president in inaugurated), what are those who voted for change going to do?” said Talbot Ross.

Muller agreed, “if you are going to vote, you must be involved in the political process,” adding “you can’t check the box then be uninvolved for four years.”

“They did a great job of telling people you can’t wait around for change to happen,” said Cassie Shultz, a junior and a member of Maine PIRG. Shultz challenges students affect change beyond the ballot box, “it’s needed to start with their involvement, wherever they are, their family, school, community, just being a citizen in this country should require everyone to do that,” she said.

Gagnon suggested public hearings for citizens to make demands of the new president so that “we the people can speak out and make demands.” He later challenged USM to become part of this process.

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Cabe Demaine, a staff support person for WeVote, was impressed not only with the frankness of the panel, but also with the organization of WeVote, who conceived the idea for a party panel earlier in the year, and got right to work making it a reality. “It was awe-inspiring mobilization on the part of WeVote.” Demaine also thought the format of the discussion made for a more productive event. “I think if it had been more formalized like a candidate forum, it would have been in attack mode,” she said.

Panelists gathered at Woodbury Campus Center for ‘Life of the Party’ discussion forum, hosted by WeVote last Thursday evening.

Voting FAQ

Where do I vote?
The state of Maine created a handy online form for locating your polling place, but didn’t bother with an easy-to-remember web address. So we’ve created a safe, short URL for you: http://tinyurl.com/mainevote

How much time will it take?
Depends. Maine has been holding in-person absentee voting for several weeks now, which is sure to have cut into some of the po-tential congestion. But let’s face it: even if voting isn’t relegated to a single day, neither are taxes, but plenty of us wait until the last minute. And the last minute is roughly between 4 and 9 p.m. TIP: square your voter registration before election day, so you don’t have to wait in two lines.

Don’t I have class that day?
No! It’s “Democracy Day”.

I showed up at the polls, but was told I couldn’t vote. Is that true?
No. The Help America Vote Act of 2002 ensures that, even if there are questions regarding your eligibility or registration, a polling place must offer you a provisional ballot, which can be counted after any questions are resolved. In most cases, somebody will work with you to sort out any issues and get you a proper ballot; if not, vote provisional, and don’t accept no for an answer.

What can I do if I experience any problems at my polling place?
Call 1-866-OUR-VOTE for immediate assistance.
Lavoie immediately began processing evictions against five residents who said they were the primary source of trouble. The eviction process, however, gave those residents 30 days to leave, and occasionally, competing organizations can bid on the project — in the “no bid” contracts in this instance, it was the Free Press.

For much of October, law enforcement was visiting the complex regularly on weekend nights, patrolling the hallways and checking on excessive noise. Last week, as police made their case for changing the community rules, it became clear that the department was counting those “walkthroughs” as disturbances, Lavoie says.

The Portland police department would not return repeated calls for comment. “They’re reprimanding the wrong people,” said Brooke Hayne, a Bayside resident and sophomore psychology major at USM. Despite the reversal of the guideline changes, she says the initial scare made it clear that the terms of their lease could be altered at any time. “We didn’t sign up for a dorm, we signed up for an apartment,” she added. “Had we known we were going to be treated like this, we could have gone elsewhere.”

Hayne says that she and others are looking into legal action. Bayside’s management says they have not received any threats of litigation, but would “work to address concerns” of residents who felt they should be released from their contract.

A group of anonymous residents — including at least one member of Bayside’s community assisting staff — delivered a two-page document to building management and the Free Press. Written in the style of a news article, it quotes residents referring to the complex as “Bayside Village Student Jail”, and expresses clear, it quotes residents referring to their contract.

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Teaching and preaching

Maybe they think it’s appropriate, maybe they don’t see us as a captive audience, or maybe George Bush is the funniest man alive, but USM professors espousing their political views in the classroom is a practice that divides our community along political fault lines, and often shifts focus away from the subject at hand.

This practice is forgivable within some departments. I’m not advocating the suppression of free speech within the class. I just ask the fine faculty of USM to recognize that you only have our attention, and a face-to-face chance to educate us, for three hours every week.

If you think it’s appropriate to use this time to share your own political views, tell a corny joke, or otherwise induce a mumbled, half-hearted grumble of laughter, go ahead. Just please remember, we are paying to be in your class. USM students with families or working that full time job would agree; time is money.

The world can be politically correct to a fault sometimes, but outside of political science classes, excessive Bush-bashing can get out of hand, and no zinger or clever jab at W is worth making a student feel ostracized for their political belief.

And I’m just not talking about passing comments, which eat up about as much class time as that one obligatory cell phone buzzing in someone’s bag. It’s when professors, perhaps powerless against the appeal of showing their favorite YouTube video on a big screen, take up our class time, sharing candidate propaganda to a forcibly-captive audience of students being graded for their paying attention.

It’s pretty easy to get a feel for the political climate on campus this fall. Just look for the “Susan McCain Collins” scrawled in chalk in front of Woodbury. Notice the Obama buttons fashioned to backpacks and purses, try to find any McCain paraphernalia among the crowd. It’s a liberal campus, but it doesn’t have to be an intolerant one.

It’s especially hard for a newspaper editor trying to find a conservative voice to balance out the Free Press’s perspectives section. Columnist Dustin Gilbert stirred up a lot of controversy last semester with his “From the Right” feature, and this paper rarely receives so much reaction to anything it prints.

Walking around campus, hearing whispers of “Gilbert” and “Free Press” on the tongues of USM students was gratifying as a writer, but I soon realized that while the readership ate up this weekly peek at the right, their comments or letters to the editor were rarely anything more than a personal attack on Gilbert.

I think professors have played a part in creating this atmosphere of intolerance. In two years at USM, I have not heard one conservative view shared in a classroom setting, and I can’t believe there are so few conservatives on campus.

What’s more likely is that those who lean to the right feel uncomfortable outing themselves in public. USM needs to remember that the basic tolerance we give to every strata of our community should not be dismissed when politics come into play.

I have enough confidence in the decency of the average student to think that they wouldn’t stand by while another minority group is attacked, but all pretense of civility is thrown out when politics comes into the equation, and this is no how we build respect on campus.

Thank you for reading,

Matt Dodge
The Venus Project
Proposing a new society

Taryn Yudaken
Staff Writer

For many of us today, the world is becoming increasingly unfavorable. With a crumbling economy, global poverty, a collective ignorance about the environment, the most powerful country in the world has become the most indebted and wasteful country in the world. There is a global poverty-preventable state of fear. Our lives are essentially controlled by money, Wars, social classes, money, pollution and big industries are all abundant for a worldwide resource-based economy. We could easily produce all of the necessities of life and provide a high standard of living for all.

One of the most significant movements that the world may ever see is developing right now. It is a project that has the ability to alter every aspect of our existence; an organization with enormous potential to eliminate almost everything negative in our world. It’s a technological revolution that the media-sponsoring industries do not want to know about. Basically, it would cause the human mind and consciousness to evolve. It’s called The Venus Project, and it can change our lives.

The Venus Project, based in Venus, Florida, proposes a society with a resource-based economy. Instead of painfully clawing towards unobtainable change, The Venus Project requires rebuilding our world so that we can actually achieve that change. The idealistic society that we collectively assume is possible, actually is possible. The change is possible through the use of technology and the fact that the Earth has enough natural resources to sustain every single human in the world. Current technology and resources that are only hidden because they would abolish the need for a monetary system. Capitalism keeps the rich power-holders in control. They don’t want the world to know that we actually have the capabilities to live a life that revolves around the quality of life, instead of the competition for profit.

Jacque Fresco, the director and founder of The Venus Project, states: “All limitations imposed upon us by the present-day monetary system could be surpassed by adopting a global control of the leadership for a worldwide resource-based economy. We could easily produce all of the necessities of life and provide a high standard of living for all.”

Some people might accuse The Venus Project of being rooted in communist ideals, but there are very clear differences in these two societal ideas. “Communism is a completely non-profit organization, polices, prisons, social stratification is and managed by appointed leaders”, says Roxanne Meadows, Fresco’s partner. “Police, prisons and the military would no longer be necessary, banks, services, healthcare, and education are available to all people.”

I believe that a resource-based economy would be the answer to most of our planet’s problems. It is intelligent and high-functioning in its evolution. The path our society is on left uncountable damages on the Earth and its people. Wars, social classes, money, pollution and big industries are all different kinds of factors that have played their part in leaving behind a human legacy of filth, corruption and wastefulness across the globe. We hope to leave behind a society that cares about you because you care about it.

The Venus Project is brilliant, but it is concealed by mainstream media (which is where most people get new information from). There are two excellent movies created by Zeitgeist—a completely nonprofit organization created to enlighten our deceptive society. Discover their breakthroughs at www.zeitgeistmovie.com. These two movies are very insightful, and I highly recommend them. If you have any desire to learn more about the world you live in, these films should be incredibly helpful. As a student for The Venus Project, it is a valuable solution worth examining.

To learn more about The Zeitgeist Movement, go to www.zeitgeistmovie.com.

To learn more about The Venus Project, go to www.thefreeproject.com.
Campus Events

Monday, November 3rd

Step Aerobics
Stepping, toning, and stretching... all choreographed to music.

6:15-7:15 a.m. /$10 for semester/ http://usm.maine.edu/sullivancomplex/ 780-4939.

Tuesday, November 4th

Election Day
Get out and vote!

Wednesday, November 5th

Civic Leadership Series Workshop
The Civic Leadership Series offers USM students skills for effective leadership and a deeper understanding of the role of a citizen leader at USM and in Southern Maine.

7:00-8:30 pm / Husky Hut, Brooks Student Center, Gorham campus

For today’s topic and more information see www.usm.maine.edu/studentlife/communityservice/leader-ship.html.

Thursday, November 6th

Dying to Get High: marijuana as medicine-
Author Reading and Book Signing
Dr. Wendy Chapkis Professor of Sociology and Women and Gender Studies at the University of Southern Maine will be reading from her new book Dying to Get High: marijuana as medicine. Medicinal marijuana is a politically charged topic in this country. Despite overwhelming public support (12 states, including Maine, have passed pro medical marijuana laws) and ever growing scientific evidence of the therapeutic effects of marijuana, it remains illegal under U.S. federal law.

7:00-8:00 pm / Longfellow Books, 1 Monument Way, Downtown Portland

For more information on the book reading contact: Longfellow Books (207) 772 4045

Friday, November 7th

FaithWorks Interfaith Service Project
Help host a dance party and social event with STRIVE, a great agency providing services to teens and young adults with development disabilities.

7:00-9:00 pm / TBA

For more information or to sign up: interfaith@usm.maine.edu or 228-8093.

Monday, November 3rd

Learn Openness
Dharmachari Nagabodhi, a practicing Buddhist since 1968, run a number of Buddhist centers in Britain, has written on a range of Buddhist topics speaks tonight in Portland. He travels widely, teaching Buddhism, meditation and mindfulness. Free / 7 p.m. / Nagaloka Buddhist Center / 81 Oak Street / Portland

Tuesday, November 4th

Vote or Die a miserable, slow, painful death!
Only use this day off to party after you vote!

Wednesday, November 5th

Go Green or Go Home!
The Department of Environmental Science Environmental Science & Policy Seminar Series Presents: “Energy in the 21st Century: A Reality Check.” Presentation by Dr. Daniel Martinez (DES)/ Free / 12:15-1:00 p.m. / 205 Bailey Hall

Thursday, November 6th

Yee-ha ay ay ay!
Dust off that old Chiquita banana hat and mosey down on to Sullivan complex where you can learn to Latin line dance. It’s a lot sexier than regular line dancing. $10 / 12:15 – 1:00 p.m. / Multi-purpose room, Sullivan Sports Complex, Portland campus / 780-4939

Friday, November 7th

Walk it out!
What does the first Friday of every month signify? The Art Walk! Kick off your month with some culture and stroll around Congress St. and beyond in downtown Portland admiring the plethora of art studios while sipping on some wine. Free / All ages / 5-8 p.m. / visit first-fridayartwalk.com for maps and more

Saturday, November 8th

What’s an LP?
WMPG’s 13th annual record and CD sale is going to be grand – nearly 500 people showed up last year. The sale includes records, CD’s, tapes, books, and magazines. Let music save your life! $2 admissions / 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. / Sullivan Gym/ Portland Campus/ Contact Jim Rand for donation info and all other inquiries at 780-4424

Saturday, November 8th

The Undisputed Truth!
Throw ya hands in the air as Brother Ali lays down some pigment free raps with his boys BK One and Tobi Wragg. Fans of Atmosphere and MF Doom should not miss this! $13 / 9 p.m./ 121 Center St., Portland / 772-8274

Sunday, November 9th

Inner Peace!
Start the week off in a peaceful state of being. Join others in meditation at the Odiyana Meditation Center, and increase your happiness with a positive, compassionate mind. $10 / 10:00 – 11:15 a.m. / Odiyana Meditation Center, 368 Cumberland Avenue Portland / 765-4869

Have You Had a Spiritual Experience?
A sense that you have lived before? An out-of-body experience? A dream with a departed loved one? An inner light or inner sound?

Come learn about the reality of these experiences and how they can have a positive impact on your everyday life and spirituality. Learn new and advanced ways to explore your inner worlds. People of all faiths are welcome.

Nov 9, 2-3:30 pm, Luther Bonney Hall, Room 523, USM campus, Bedford St.

Admission is free. Attendees will receive a free audio CD of spiritual exercises. Presented by Eckankar, Religion of the Light and Sound of God www.eckiname.org 1 800 992-7276

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http://www.usmfreepress.org/
**Cast**

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<td>Jafar Berensteiner</td>
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**Jenna Howard**

*Arts & Entertainment Editor*

You may not have heard, but there is a musical theatre major at USM, and it is producing spectacular work. The community was privy to this work over the weekend as fourteen student vocalists took to the Corbett Concert Hall stage. They transformed it into the mind of Gordon Schwinn—a restaurant, a sidewalk, an apartment, a sailboat, and a hospital room: all without technical scenery other than the actors themselves, a few props, and pianos. The production was different from many musicals in that it was one hour and 40 minutes of straight singing, without interruption, without more than a short dialogue between songs.

To learn this much music in only seven weeks might sound challenging, but, as director and music director Ed Reichert explains, "It is the music is that the students are so crazy about. It's rhythmic, it's infectious, it gets under your skin.

He chose the piece based on the student's interest in the music of William Finn, the play's composer. "They have been singing a lot of his music for the last few years, and they've really been turned on by the music of this man. I thought that I had a good combination of students in the program that could take on some of these roles, and it was chosen."

"A New Brain" wasn't the production originally planned, however. "Assassins" by Stephen Sondheim was the choice, but at the last minute, the chair of the school of music turned it down in light of the election.

For lead Joseph Valliere, a junior, this choice was welcome. He has admired the work of William Finn for years. "When I first heard this music, it made me laugh, it made me cry—literally. I fell in love with the main character. He's so determined, yet so vulnerable, he doesn't want to give up, but you see him start to. Every song is great, there are beautiful ballads, and quirky songs, I dare say it might be my favorite (musical) as far as the music goes."

The role is Valliere’s dream, and something that he probably wouldn’t have been able to play until later in life because of his age, as the part being written for an older man.

Because he is working with a young cast, which he is thankful for, he could be cast in the role. "I couldn't waste this opportunity, I put my hands in every aspect of this performance that I could. I would invite parts of the cast to rehearse with me outside of rehearsals, and always offer to be there an hour before to work with anyone who wanted to go over something. Basically, I wanted this show more than anything."

A few days before opening night the cast is buzzing with energy, mostly costumed, laughing between takes while making small changes of choreography to enhance the scenes. The feeling on stage is of a tight-knit group of friends, very comfortable with one another and obviously enjoying every minute.

Director Reichert explains, "We have an awful lot of limitations to producing a musical in this setting (Corthell Concert Hall) but I've found that these limitations can be assets. You can get into big sets, cumbersome props, and instead, here you're left with the students making the piece come alive".

Corthell's Concert Hall was certainly alive as an impressed audience met the students with praise and applause this weekend for three performances including a Sunday matinee.

See the USM school of music website for information about upcoming events at http://www.usm.maine.edu/music/.

Epicurean Epics
Caleigh and the chicken

Just last week I heard on the radio that during Whole Foods Fall Madness Sale whole chickens were going for .99/lb. accompanied by .39/lb. butternut squash (sale ends November 4th, but the store is open until 10 p.m.). I heard value either way, as you can get a lot of mileage out of a chicken.

That ad brought to mind the wholesome, plump roaster of a year ago, when branches were dropping their golden leaves, and the air held that crisp nip. This chicken was about an eight pounder, its cavity stuffed with quarters of an apple, onion, and lemon, plenty of garlic cloves, and fresh picked sprigs of thyme and rosemary. She was clear-eyed, vigilant for the Miss Aromatic Bird of the Year award. She was a beauty, too, embellished with herbs between her skin and breast, like pressed flowers. After a coat of olive oil, her patina was perfect, skin crisping to a honey brown.

As I prepared a medley of vegetables to roast, the dogs were resting in the sun porch off the kitchen lazing in the fall warmth. Deciding to eat dinner out there, I relocated the potential beggars to the kitchen, set the table, and then carved a few slices from each side of the bird. I made a platter of chicken slices, beets, potatoes, carrots, and asparagus spears, set it in the sun porch and closed the door on Caleigh and Reilly.

Our meal was tasty, satisfying, and relaxing. I was thinking about the chicken salad I would make for our lunches over the next couple of days. The chicken cubes would be mixed with cubes of apples, walnuts, tiny rings of green onion and tossed with a bit of mayonnaise and doused with Bell’s Seasoning. Peter went into the kitchen to slice a little more chicken.

He called out asking where it was. “It’s right on the cutting board on the island.” wondering how he could miss it. “There’s no chicken here.” I pushed my chair back to see for myself as just Peter was opening the oven door in search of it. I looked at the cutting board which held a juicy puddle. The dogs were gone and there was a big smear of grease with a stray herb or two on the floor. Believe it or not, there was not a single trace left from that chicken.

Now Caleigh is an Anatolian Shepherd, pure white, and five feet long from curly tail to nose. She was fired from Pineland Farms in New Gloucester, where, when she wasn’t busy escaping, her job was to guard the sheep. As a working dog, she was trained to kill predators, which she thought included chickens, which were kept in the adjacent barn. This pastoral setting was occasionally marred by Caleigh’s overzealous guarding, as she would attack not only foxes or coyotes, but any errant chicken that chanced to wander into her territory. Reilly, however, was just a mellow, old yellow lab who enjoyed the feast that was wrought by our “counter cruiser”.

Enjoy a chicken this fall, guard it with your life if you want leftovers. Here’s the recipe for the chicken salad, which has many variations.

**Chicken Salad**

- Chicken - I dice half of it and pulse
- Scallion, cut into thin rings
- Bell’s Seasoning to taste
- Mayonnaise to taste
- Apple, skin on, diced
- Bell pepper, diced
- Walnuts

Toss all ingredients together and serve with a dark leafy lettuce between a hearty bread.
Sexualized schizo-pop: Confounding ear candy from Of Montreal

Dylan Martin
Contributing Writer

Not even the previous album, *Hissing Fauna, Are You The Destroyer?* could have prepared us for the newly released trashy-pop junk-fest better known as *Skeletal Lamping*. Beyond *Of Montreal’s* usual tendency to evolve their genre, album-to-album, leadman Kevin Barnes pushes the envelope with hyper-sexuality, hyperactivity, and a very short attention span. Many songs are structured in 30 to 60 second vignettes with radically different melodies and almost seamless transitions. The album’s opener, “Nonpareil of Favor”, warms up the listener with two mini-songs followed by a 3-minute noise section.

As if the long noise break wasn’t enough, the following song, “Wicked Wisdom”, serves as an oddball challenge, with a total of 6 songs stretched across 5 minutes; however, the quick spray of melodies soon make sense. Other songs on the album follow the similarly confusing format including “Triphallic To Puncture”,”Women’s Studies Victims”, and “Plastis Wafer”.

There are some songs that follow more traditional structures such as “For Our Elegant Caste”, a dance song utilizing a mix of funk, African drum, and quick-pop. “Id Engager” is an utterly flamboyant disco with Barnes singing out during the chorus, “can’t help it if it’s true/don’t want to be your man/just want to play with you”. These lyrics epitomize the sexual ambiguity expressed through the entire album. At the beginning of “St. Exquisite’s Confessions”, Barnes starts out with shocking cries of the fictional she-male, Georgie Fruit. The entire album follows the sexually confused life of Georgie and plays out like an erotic musical.

To anyone familiar with *Of Montreal’s* live shows, they know of Kevin Barnes’ fondness for David Bowie through his garb and theatrics. *Skeletal Lamping* could be declared as a crazy, funk-up extension of Bowie’s “Ziggy Stardust.” There are many Bowie-isms to be found in songs such as the melancholic “Touched Something’s Hollow” and the moody “And I’ve Seen a Bloody Shadow.” The follow-up to *Hissing Fauna* is a bit of a paradox in the beginning, but after some contemplation and careful listening, the entire piece begins to make more sense. For fans that have been faithfully following the band’s incredible transformation over the past 10 years, this should be seen as their most ambitious work yet and a much-needed evolution of pop music.

Andrew Rice
Staff Writer

This week I had the pleasure of talking with the guitarist of the popular college rock band O.A.R. (Of A Revolution). The band recently released their sixth studio album, “All Sides,” in July and it debuted at #13 on the Billboard Charts. If that’s not an eye opener, then consider them playing sold-out shows at Madison Square Garden and opening for the Dave Matthews Band as solid evidence of their recent dominance. As of late, they have partnered with Reverb, an environmental-savvy concert touring group, for the third time, and are heading out on the Campus Consciousness Tour on November 1st. The tour, which is making many stops at universities all over the country, will stop at UMaine on November 17th, and could speak for the lot when he says they’re excited for a return trip to the great Northeast.

**Free Press**: Heard you guys are making your way up to our neck of the woods again pretty soon?

**Richard**: We are! On the 17th I believe.

**FP**: Cool. What do you think of good old Maine?

**R**: Maine’s great. I think the whole northeast in general is a pretty cool place to be touring. You know, we tour depending on the season and depending on what part of the country, but we always look forward to tour the northeast…we’re pretty excited.

**FP**: Good thing it’s not the middle of the winter just yet.

**R**: Haha, yea, it could definitely be much colder.

**FP**: So where are you guys right now?

**R**: We’re actually all at home, in all our designated cities. We all live in different areas so we’ll be meeting up for the first show on November 1st in Madison, Wisconsin.

**FP**: Halloween in Madison is quite the experience.

**R**: Yeah, I remember when we were at Ohio State, everyone went to Madison just to party there for Halloween, it’s pretty crazy.

**FP**: So the tour is called the Campus Consciousness Tour. What is it all about?

**R**: It’s basically an attempt to turn a tour “green” by using things like bio-diesel, recycling, and trying to reduce our carbon footprint while we tour. When bands go on tour, there’s usually a lot of wasteful things that could be prevented, and we’re trying to help spearhead that, along with Reverb, to make people aware of what we’re doing and what they could be doing to help the environment.

**FP**: That’s awesome. Do your buses run on bio-diesel?

**R**: Well, the thing about bio-diesel is that it’s not heavily available, so you can’t always use bio-diesel and you can’t always control where you can fill up. But, what we’re working on now is making sure that some buses can run on a mixture of bio-diesel and regular fuel.

**FP**: You guys just got added to the MTV Concert for the Vets. How did it feel to be in the midst of such a large group of celebrities?

**R**: It was definitely interesting to see the show with all those characters running around. You know, we’re not usually associated with a lot of the mainstream bands that are pretty much brand names, but it was all for the cause and the whole experience was completely positive.

**FP**: Well, it was a good cause...

**R**: Yes. Bringing awareness to how hard it is for our troops when they come home, you know, making sure that veterans, when they come home, can get the best health care they could possibly get, whether they can afford it or not. That shouldn’t be a problem, and the whole event was very supportive.

**FP**: Well, keep up the good work...

**R**: Thank you, look forward to being in Madison again.

O.A.R. will be at the UMaine Feildhouse on Nov. 17. Tickets are $20 for all college students in Maine and $30 for general public and are available at uamainet, com and Bull Moose Music.
back east to Portland to work a degree in physics and moved in Wesleyan. He graduated with ing in public school, Cat enrolled around who shared his interests chines. There wasn’t anyone else to lose a few fingers in the ma- place where workers are liable a place where workers are liableing producer of tennis ball felt; a place where workers are liable to lose a few fingers in the ma- machines. There wasn’t anyone else around who shared his interests of fantasy and science fiction. After years of incessant bully- ing in public school, Cat enrolled in Wesleyan. He graduated with a degree in physics and moved back east to Portland to work for Visa as a Java programming- contractor in what he calls “the bowels” of the company; a Dilbertesque job in a cubicle. It was the cubicle that drove him to dance. June 29, 2004 marked the birth of the name Cat Dancer with his first post on the internet blog site LiveJournal. He needed to come up with a screen name and chose Cat Dancer in reference to the toy people used to play with kittens and cats. He was looking for scene. He decided he would just take it outside. Cat Dancer remembers being nervous at first, wondering if he would be arrested for disorderly conduct, mugged, or have his boom box stolen. He went out and bought the cheapest boom box he could find and set up at Monument Square in Portland without a costume. Cars stopped, people marveled, homeless men complimented him. Everyone was astounded to see people dancing outside,” he said. Eventually, he donned the costume he had worn as a dis- guise at the Arisia science fic- tion convention in Cambridge, Massachusetts, before the dance existed: a black spandex unitard, a massive, transparent cherry red cape which resembles the fiction- al frill of a Dilophosaurus and a black and red feathered Mardi Gras masquerade mask. The Cat Dance is a wild, flaring, seemingly interpretive dis- play of symmetrical reaching and grabbing and sleek movements. It is suave, twirling, a waltz with one’s self, and indeed, catharsis. The improvisational, one-of-a-kind routine is accompanied by new age, pop, dance and video game music. It is an unabashed presentation of self expression reminiscent of a Chinese ribbon dance. Combining his online handle, new dance and flashy costume, the fully-realized Cat Dancer was born. When discussing the inspiration and ideas behind this entity, he talks about the work of American cartoonist and theorist Scott McCloud. He says that the less realistic and more cartooney a protagonist is, the more people are able to identify with the char- acter. “You could draw a Cat Dancer figure very quickly, like you could draw a cartoon character quickly. So if you wanted to draw a natural person, that would take longer, because then you would need to actually draw their features and so on,” he says. He discusses the old French cartoon The Adventures of Tintin: “Tintin, the character, was drawn in a very cartoonish way, you know, just like a circle for a head and a couple of wiggles for the ruffle of his hair, sort of like a Peanuts cartoon,” he said. “The background was drawn very re- alistically, almost like a photo- graph; photorealism. And Scott McCloud points out that this combination makes it especially easy for people to identify them- selves as being in the story.” So here is the story: a thirty- something trapped and troubled computer programmer breaks out of the cubicle, into guise, and onto the streets. A cartoon among ordinary life, he dances his feel- ings away with streamers and loud songs in front of passersby and those who stop to watch. But Cat Dancer does not consider himself a performer. “People ask me, ‘When are you going to dance again?’ But I dance just for fun, when I feel like it,” he says. Upon first the words “ex- centric” and “oddity” come to mind. The sight of him danc- ing and prancing to loud music in the the superheroesque outfit evokes the madness of a big city; he wouldn’t be the least bit out of place there. He has danced in Central Park, but Tommy’s Park, in the Old Port is where he could be found most often. He would Cat Dance for hours on end, to praise and insults. See Cat on page 13

Brandon McKenney / Photo Editor

Tyler Jackson
Staff Writer

Thirty years ago, the man who calls himself Cat Dancer was a young, self-described introvert enthralled with computers and math, walking quietly through his family’s five acres of woods in North Monmouth, Maine. He rode his bike through the town’s empty streets past the smoky, brick expanse of Tex-Tech Industries—the world’s lead-
Movie review
Choke: dark humor at its heartiest

Kaitlyn Creney
Contributing Writer

Without a doubt our culture is fascinated by addictions. Choke focuses on a few unpleasant addictions but connects the viewer to the movie in an addictive way. The film illustrates that everyone has at least one habitual flaw. Sam Rockwell (“Confessions of a Dangerous Mind”) plays the protagonist, Victor, an eighteenth century colonial tour guide by day and gruesome jumble of troubles by night. Compulsive liar, sex addict and varied scam artist may make him a bad person but Rockwell plays him with a boyish charm so that no one can cast him off for these faults permanently.

It’s a delight to see Rockwell go to his Sex Addicts Anonymous meetings just to have casual sex, or to see him artfully choke on pieces of food to collect money or evoke sympathy from strangers. Even his constant lying is so ridiculously funny the audience must love the villain.

All of his issues draw back to his mother, cinema great Angelica Houston, and her less-than-stellar-parenting. We see this through a series of flashbacks where she teaches Victor the art of scamming, while she lies in a mental hospital. Houston’s dementia leaves her unable to recognize her son, heartbreaking to both Victor and the viewer.

Victor’s best friend and fellow sexual deviant, Denny, is played by Brad William Henke. We see his transformation from pervert into a “normal” member of society after he completes Sex Addicts Anonymous therapy and, naturally, falls in love with a stripper named Cherry Daiquiri. Kelly MacDonald (No Country for Old Men) plays a doctor who takes care of Victor’s incompetent mother. Obviously Victor persuades her to the point that a restraining order may have to be involved.

It is without a doubt that Choke is a guilty pleasure; it’s a clever, quirky and twisted satirical dark comedy. It is meant to shock, and you will delight in the humor. Especially if you enjoyed Fight Club, Choke will fit in with your taste.

From Cat on page 12
His website, features questions and answers, three “How To” pages [How to Be Cat Dancer, How to Dance the Cat Dance, How to Give Great Hugs], advice, insults, praise, and a page of writings which are separated into five categories: Ecstatic, Humorous, Dramatic, Scary and Sensual. Each of essay and poem reveals something about Cat Dancer that makes the character—not the performance—more understandable, more human.

Cat Dancer has entertained people at anime and science fiction conventions for the past four years. PortCon is an annual convention which takes place at the Sheridan Hotel in downtown Portland. At the 2008 convention, he made a presentation entitled “Creating Cat Dancer” which involved demonstrations, and eventually, audience participation.

“He has a very free-flowing, spontaneous dance. It’s very modern, very lyrical,” said Jenna Olijar, a friend of Cat Dancer who lives in Brunswick. She works at PortCon and minored in dance at the University of Southern Maine.

Olijar met Cat Dancer five years ago on LiveJournal through a mutual friend. They communicated online for a time until one day, after Jenna posted that she was moving and needed help, Cat Dancer showed up at her apartment. She had never seen a picture of him or any of his Cat Dancing videos.

“My first impression was he was very graceful,” she said. “The very first thing he moved was my rug and I remembered he made a dance out of it. He rolled it up and danced it around the room and down the stairs and into his car.”

On his blog, Cat Dancer talked about being on the road: “The driving itself is fairly tedious. I do get some books on tape and that’s a big help. I find myself driving lots of hours during the day. I’m eager to get to my next destination, whatever that may be.”

He is still learning about the life on the road. “Now I can go wherever I want,” he says, “Well, I’m not sure I’ve really figured out yet where exactly I want to go.”

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John Quincy Adams was elected the 6th President of the United States despite losing both the popular and electoral vote. No one won the majority, so the election went to the House of Representatives, where John Quincy Adams had more friends than his competition.

For more random facts go to: mentalfloss.com/amazingfactgenerator

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Portland native to head LAX team
Reid named women’s lacrosse coach

Mike Tardiff  
Sports Editor

The University named Lauren Reid, a Portland native and Deering High School graduate, the new women’s lacrosse coach last week.

Reid becomes the fifth coach in the program’s history and replaces Sue Frost who was at the helm for three years. Frost has accepted the women’s lacrosse job at University of New England.

In Reid the Huskies get a coach who was a four-year letter winner and high school All-American while at Deering and someone who played for the University of Maryland Terrapins, who advanced to the NCAA Div. I Semifinals in 2003. Reid also spent time at the University of Massachusetts, where she played three seasons and completed her undergraduate degree.

I fully expect that [Reid] will bring our women’s lacrosse program to a new level of performance,” said Al Bean, Director of Athletics, in a press release. “She earned high school All-American honors at Deering and played at the very highest level of intercollegiate lacrosse competition at Maryland and UMass” Reid’s prior experience has been at the high school level, serving as the junior varsity coach and varsity assistant at Deering High School in 2008. Reid also held a varsity post at Belchertown (MA) High School.

“I am extremely excited about being a part of USM Athletics and look forward to building a consistently strong women’s lacrosse program here. I hope to install a whole new level of play with our athletes that sets an aggressive tone for many seasons to come,” Reid said in the release.

Reid will have a solid base to build from. Last year’s team posted an 8-9 overall record but turned up the heat in conference play earning a 5-1 mark. The Huskies advanced to the Little East Championship where they lost to Western Connecticut 17-10. Reid will inherit a team that returns 11 players including four of the teams top five scorers.
Get out!

What to do when in limbo

by Brandon McKenney

It’s that time of year again. Fall has all but passed us by, the leaves are dying and the weather is getting colder every minute. On the other hand, it’s not quite winter yet either. The ground is still bare so there won’t be any hitting of the slopes any time soon. With the brisk air and the apparent void in outdoor activities, it’s this time of year that people tend to stay inside the most. Well I’m here to provide you with just a few of the many things to do outside that you might not have thought of yet. So shake that laziness off, grab a coat, and don’t let the door hit you on your way out to enjoy this beautiful world.

• Those mountains aren’t going anywhere. Contrary to popular belief, this is actually a great time to go hiking. No it’s not going to be the great weather you’ll find in the summer, but the trails will be just about empty. If you dress in layers, this time of year is a great chance to explore some of the wonderful trails in Maine (think Acadia or Katahdin) or venture over to the Whites in New Hampshire. If hiking the larger peaks isn’t your cup of tea, there’s smaller options around that provide a great experience as well. Try out Burnt Meadow Mountain in Brownfield if you’re looking for a relatively short hike with multiple peaks and a great view.

• It looks like a great beach day! Like the mountains, the beach is another large part of Maine that starts to become ignored and abandoned when the weather turns cold. While you won’t be able to lay out and get that bronze tan like you would in July, Maine has more coastline than the entire state of California, and it should not be left alone. This time of year is perfect for watching a brisk sunrise, looking for shells, or even going surfing. As the water and air get colder, the tourists retreat to Canada and the munchkins go back to school, and the beach becomes your playground. Even if it’s just for a nice long walk from Pine Point to Old Orchard’s pier, it’s worth the short drive to the coast.

• Who needs Planet fitness anyway? While it may be tempting to spend the colder months in a nice gym running on a treadmill or pumping iron, the outdoors is the original gym and it’s free admission year round. For that upper body workout you’ve been looking for, take an axe to some wood and get ready to stoke that fireplace. Work on those legs on a run before it gets snowy outside.

• Anything summer can do, winter can do better. Okay, so this might not be true, but that’s no reason to become depressed as the cold chill hits. Take it in stride and realize there’s still plenty to do outside, especially before the snow hits the ground. Basically anything you were doing outside this summer is still game for at least another month or two, so take advantage. Personally I’m partial to longboarding, biking, hiking, and just generally exploring this great state of ours.

So there you have it. While not a comprehensive list by any stretch, hopefully my ideas have at least given you the motivation to let your imagination run wild. Seriously. Get outside and enjoy what this time of year still has to offer. And don’t worry, I’ll be back in the middle of winter to get you off your butt again then too.
Men's XC 1-2 punch

Junior Tyler Jasud (Rumford) continued his dominance of the Little East Conference where he captured the individual title at the LEC Conference Championship on Nov. 1. Jasud was followed in the effort by freshman Alex Gomes (Peabody, MA) who placed second. The Huskies finished second as a team, 12 points behind nationally ranked Keene State University.

Women's XC third in conference

The USM women's cross country team had a stellar third-place finish at the Little East/Alliance Conference championship on Nov. 1. The effort was led by senior Gabby Cyr (Fort Kent) who placed third overall in the event. Cyr's finish was the best by a Husky since Sara Marzouk took second place in 2005. Following Cyr were sophomore Carly Dion (Biddeford), who finished 11th. Just steps behind Dion, junior captain Sarah Myrick turned in a 12th place effort. The Huskies finished behind winner Keene State and event host Westfield State.

Field Hockey claims playoff berth, wins

The USM field hockey team claimed a 2-1 victory against Fitchburg State to claim the fifth seed in the Little East Conference and advanced to the playoffs. The Huskies got goals from junior India Lowe (Gloucester, MA) and Catilin Albert (Scarborough) to fend off their conference foes. Lowe assisted on Albert's goal. Junior goalkeeper Allison Hill (Cape Elizabeth) turned away three shots to help lift the Huskies past the Falcons. The Huskies end the regular season with a 9-10 record overall and a 6-5 mark in the conference.

Scoreboard (10/28 - 11/1)

Men's Soccer

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Women's Soccer

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Field Hockey

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**Huskies win first LEC title**

**Matt Dodge**

Executive Editor

Greg Cox (Brookline MA) knew what had to be done in his last regular season game as a Husky.

And with 15 minutes left on the clock he got it done.

The senior captain took a solid pass across the middle from senior Sinisa Bajic (Belgrade, Serbia) and slotted a shot home under the diving Rhode Island College goalkeeper to give the Huskies a 1-0 win over the Anchormen and the school's first-ever LEC regular season crown.

"The fact that was Sinisa to Greg meant a lot," senior Ben Sagle (Scarborough) said. "They're seniors and they been our most offensive productive players."

In a game where RIC came out very pressy with hard tackles and three yellow cards in the first half - an effort to slow down the Husky offense - USM used solid ball control and defense to down the previously unbeaten RIC squad. "It wasn't a cheap game. It was what you expect in a conference game," Slagle said.

While Goal-scoring opportunities came at a premium, the Huskies were able to limit RIC's chances while capitalizing on theirs.

After the first half the tone for attacking had been set. USM looked to a structured attack a deliberate pace to control the action, while RIC tried to dump the ball to it's speedy forwards in hopes of a breakthrough.

Shortly into the second half, a cross from the left by Slagle looked promising but ended up in the side netting after a blistering run up the side from the forward.

Several minutes later RIC began to ramp up its offense and challenged the USM defense in consecutive attack, culminating in a slalom run down the middle from Adam Phibbin and a curling kick saved by a diving David Kreps (Agawam, MA), who earned the shutout in net.

The Anchormen had their chances, but could capitalize.

A direct free kick almost resulted in a goal for RIC when Kreps dropped the ball after a save, and an ambitious RIC attacker knocked it free.

The effort was saved off the line by sophomore Nick Johnson (South Portland) to keep the game even, and soon after the Huskies went ahead with the Bajic to Cox connection.

And then the Huskies went into lockdown mode to secure the win. The played a relatively cautious final 15 minutes, trying to prevent any late-game heroics by RIC.

But the Anchormen made one final push when Ben Coco got free with four minutes remaining in the game. Luckily, the Husky defense was able to track him down to finally sink the Anchormen and secure their fate as the number one team in the conference, which affords them the luxury of hosting both potential playoff games. "Up to this point we've done everything we can to put ourselves in position to achieve our ultimate goal of making the NCAA tournament," Slagle said.

The Huskies finish their regular season with a 12-7-1 record overall and an impressive 6-1 mark in the Little East. The Anchormen, who will enter the Little East Conference tournament as the second seed, finish their 2008 campaign at 10-5-4 overall and 5-1-1 in conference.

The Huskies were out-shot by RIC 9 to 4 in the contest. USM will play host to the winner of Western Connecticut and Plymouth State on Wednesday, Nov. 5 in Gorham in the semifinals of the LEC tournament. "Whoever we play we know it's going to be a tough game," Slagle added.

**SAAC gives back**

**Sarah Violette**

Staff Writer

Ghostly goblins, creepy skeletons, and spooky jack-o'-lanterns all helped to kick off the scare of the night at the 14th annual Halloween Party hosted by the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee in Gorham on Thursday night.

On a night where innovative costumes and free candy provided a great opportunity for USM to give back to the community, dozens of families came out to enjoy the various activities put on by many of our Husky athletes. With different teams coming out to help decorate and coordinate the party, "it's a chance for the kids to meet athletes and be involved with them while their off the playing field," said Meredith Bickford, the assistant athletic director here at USM. "We try to get donations from the community and surrounding businesses, but it's really just a way for the Rec. department and the Athletic department to give back to the community," she explained.

Having the night equipped with a haunted locker-room, giant inflatable slides, ghostly musical chairs, ponies, and even a mummy wrap, children were certainly able to enjoy the festivities of the evening. Five year old Mathew Finney from Gorham, who was dressed as the famous Spiderman, was accompanied by his mother and father, Kim and Mike Finney. "It's a lot of fun and the kid's love it," said Kim, "it's our 5th year now and Mathew loves it when the college kids wrap him up like a mummy," she explained. "He's pretty excited about the bouncy house too," Mike added.

Although the athletes weren't able to enjoy the bouncy house as much as Mathew, the feeling of gratitude they received from the community’s supporters was enough. "It's great to help out, especially since a lot of people support all of our sporting events. It's the least we can do to return the favor," said Kristen Arsenault, a sophomore basketball player who helped the children enjoy their pony ride for the night.

As candy was handed out to contest and game winners, free pop corn, brownies, doughnuts, and beverages were also available to cure any stomach grumblings or dry throats that needed a little more than just candy. The amazing costume displays were also fun to marvel at, especially the baby girl dressed as the fish from Disney’s “Finding Nemo,” who spent most of the night crawling on the floor, searching for a little water to exercise her little fins.

After all was said and done, the athletes spent the remainder of the night cleaning up and, for underclassmen, already looking forward to next year's festivities. "It was definitely a fun night," says Mary Vaughan, a sophomore hockey player. "Our haunted house was the best. Hopefully we can continue to scare all the little kids next year."