

the free press

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

Botman announces

BIG cuts

"Sobering adjustment" planned, state shortfall cited

David O'Donnell
News Editor

Bracing faculty and staff for a "sobering adjustment" in the face of troubled economic times, University president Selma Botman has announced that she will hold meetings at all three campuses on Monday, November 24, where she plans to announce

immediate and "significant" cuts to the school's operating budget.

In an e-mail sent to colleagues late Thursday evening, Botman said that state budget shortfalls - projected at \$500 million - could account for a loss of up to \$3.2 million in appropriations to the University.

"I wish that there were an alternative to the message that I must deliver, but circumstances leave

me no choice," the e-mail read. "Universities are, by definition, highly labor-intensive enterprises, and personnel costs account for 80% of our operating budget."

The hourlong meetings will be held at 9 a.m. in Hastings Formal Lounge in Gorham, 12 p.m. in Room 170 of Lewiston-Auburn College, and at 3 p.m. in Hannaford Lecture Hall at Portland.

The Free Press will post information as soon as it becomes available at usmfreepress.org, on Monday and throughout the week.



RANDY HAZELTON / PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Credit cards on campus

Lenders have been targeting students for years - now, it's PIRG's turn

Three prayers for peace



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

From left to right: Enas Muthaffar, Julia Chaitin, Lucy Talgeih speak at "Middle Eastern Women for Change" last week at Talbot lecture hall.

Full story on page 5

David O'Donnell
News Editor

It began with the battle over your wallet: banks and their surrogates popping up on college campuses, at events like our own HuskieFest, vying to get their plastic into students' hands.

Tactics ranged from low, low introductory rates (asterisks included) to handing out clothing and even iPods in exchange for completed credit card applications.

Now, it's the battle over the battle, with consumer advocates labeling such practices as "predatory", and urging new behavior from both card issuers and consumers. The fight to reign in this lucrative market was the subject of hearings on Capitol Hill over the summer.

This winter, it's making its way to USM.

The Maine chapter of Public Interest Policy Research Group - or PIRG - is currently train-

ing student volunteers and interns to help spread its national "Truth About Credit" campaign across the Portland and Gorham campuses. The group has been aggressively pushing the issue nationally since March, when it issued the results of a 1,500-student survey that spanned 40 colleges in 14 states.

Among the revelations? Two-thirds had at least one credit card; fifty percent used them on a daily basis. And 25 percent said they had used credit cards to pay a portion of their tuition.

"The biggest focus right now is those 18 or 19 year olds," says Josh Rennie, a student intern at Maine PIRG who is heading up the campaign. "A lot of them don't really know what they're signing up for."

Another stat gleaned from the study was that 86% of those surveyed felt that the Government needed to regulate the marketing of cards to students - a number, PIRG says, that implies enough

young people have come away feeling burned.

Offering powerful dissent is the American Bankers Association, which also testified before Congress at the June hearing. First and foremost, the group takes issue with the notion that a certain segment of adults needs protection from simple marketing.

"A lot of students are 21 years of age or over have part-time jobs," says ABA Spokesman Peter Garuccio. "Even when you are talking about 18 yr old college students, you're talking about people who have the right to vote, join the military, and get married."

"Entering into a contractual obligation for a credit card is something we should avail to them," he adds, also pointing out that cards are an early entry point to the kind of credit history needed

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Campus Events

Week of November 17th

Monday, November 17th

Model United Nations Organization Meeting

Any student interested in world affairs, travel, leadership, education and great times is welcome

23 Glickman Library, Portland campus/
7-8:00p.m.

For more information email Jelena Sarenac at
jelena.sarenac@maine.edu

Tuesday, November 18th

Job Fair

This job fair is designed to assist undergraduate students in finding jobs.

Lewiston Campus - Room 170/ 3:30-7:00p.m.

For more information Please contact Lisa Sweet
in the Relationship Building.

Wednesday, November 19th

3 on 3 Basketball League

Main Gym, Sullivan Complex, Portland Campus/
6:15-8:30p.m.

For league fees and registration deadlines or for
more information, check out our website at <http://usm.maine.edu/sullivancomplex/> or contact the
Sullivan Complex at 780-4939.

Thursday, November 20th

Computer Tutoring: Microsoft Excel

Learn how to use Microsoft Excel. December 4th PowerPoint and 11th Access or Flyers. This is a great way to widen your skills on the computer!

Lewiston - Room 116 / 11:45a.m.-12:30p.m.

Friday, November 21th

USM Student Senate Meeting

Weekly meeting of the USM student senate.

423 Glickman Library, Portland / 3:30-6:30p.m.

For more information please call 228-8503.

Monday, November 17th

It's O.A.R not OAR!
UMaine hosts O.A.R (Of A Revolution) and they won't be playing a crazy game of poker. I mean, they won't literally be playing a crazy game of poker, but they'll probably play the song. This show promises to be wicked chill. \$30/ 7:30 p.m./ University of Maine Field House/ Purchase tickets at Bull Moose

Come see one of the greatest, if not the greatest Bruin of all time, Ray Borque, tear up the ice with other former greats. \$15-25/ 7:00 p.m./ Cumberland County Civic Center/ theciviccenter.com

Friday, November 21st

This ain't your daddy's drag racing!
Ever want to dress up as a woman? What about a man? Take your role-playing onto the catwalk for USM's 9th annual Royal Majesty Drag! \$100 dollar cash prize for the best drag king and queen. \$5 for students, \$8 for everyone else/ 8 p.m. - 11 p.m./ Holiday Inn by the Bay/ 88 Spring St., Portland/ call 780-5767 or email usmdragshow@gmail.com for more info

Saturday, November 22nd

1000 and counting!
Be a part of Portland history and celebrate The Space Gallery's 1000th event! Family fun time during the day, including the biggest game of Twister you've ever seen, then a Bring Your Bling dance party at night. Free/ 4 - 7 p.m. (family event), 9 p.m./ 18+/ Space/ 538 Congress St., Portland/ 828-5600

Sunday, November 23rd

Toy guns good, real guns bad!
LA's Shiny Toy Guns bring their infectious brand of indie, rock electronica to The Station. Pick up their new album "Season of Poison" and get ready to dance! \$18/ 7:30 p.m./ The Station/ 272 St. John's St., Portland/ 773-3466

Tuesday, November 18th

Theatre of Theater?
USM's Theatre Department performs "The Man Who Came to Dinner" by Moss Hart & George S. Kaufman, directed by Thomas Power. A holiday, heartwarming play that is sure to please everyone. \$14 general admission, \$10 seniors/USM faculty/staff/alumni, \$7 students/ 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m./ Russell Hall, Gorham Campus/ 780-5151 or visit usm.maine.edu/theater for all upcoming shows and times

Wednesday, November 19th

A carnival without the carnies!
Empire Dine and Dance plays fair ground to its monthly carnival of arts series. Get cultured with some of Portland's best and brightest poets, filmmakers, musicians, and more./ 21+ (unless you're a performer)/ Free!/ 9 p.m./ Empire Dine and Dance/ 575 Congress St., Portland/ 879-8988

Thursday, November 20th

What the hell's a bruin anyways?
The Boston Bruins Alumni Team faces off against the Maine Mariners AllStar team in benefit of the Huskies Youth Hockey Association.

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From **DEBT** on page 1

to obtain auto and home loans later in life.

Joel Gold is a professor of economics at USM, and he concurs with that central industry line.

"When I think of predatory, I think of something really evil," he says. "Fact is, when you're 18, at least in most states, you're not a minor anymore. You make your own decisions."

However, Gold points out, it is generally accepted that college students 21 or younger are less emotionally mature. It's no accident that banks put so much marketing muscle into such clusters of new consumers.

And a lack of oversight has played no small role.

"There has been a lot of practice where credit card companies and banks give students credit card after credit card - without any coordinated effort," he says. "Student could have 10, 20 credit cards and debts on each one."

A study by student loan firm Nellie Mae in 2004 found that, of the 76 percent of undergraduates who had credit cards, the average debt racked up was approximately \$2,169.

Rennie admits that the problem sometimes rests with the young cardholders, who may not take time to read all the "fine print" of their contracts. But PIRG feels that unmanageable credit card debt effects stu-

dents disproportionately enough to warrant stricter rules - like a ban on offering gifts for applications, or the sponsorship of student groups in exchange for contact lists.

Another measure would constrict the banks' ability to change interest rates and terms of contracts, which can be adjusted by the card issuer based on a cardholder's failure to pay bills - even those unrelated to the credit card.

"You always hear the horror stories of people getting charged for things they didn't realize existed," Rennie says.

But ultimately, the group feels that the most important step they can take is informing young people about the risks, before they trade their signature for a Sigg bottle. This semester, Maine PIRG is teaming up with USM's Office of Early Student success to hold Question and Answer forums. Based on those sessions, the group hopes to publish a personal finance guide aimed at local students.

It is also soliciting stories from some of those who have mounted significant debt already, so that their experiences can be recorded and shared.

Question of the week

Are you worried about your credit rating?

What kind of things do you use your credit cards for?



Jennifer Haley

I use my credit card if I need anything or I'm short on cash. I've bought food, clothes, gifts... and I always pay it back on time. I'm not worried about my credit rating because they give you grades, and mine's an A!



Daniel Kelloway

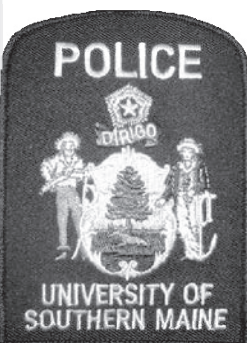
I'm not worried because I know I have a good credit rating. I use my card for things I need to live, like groceries, and I pay it on time every month.



Nora Postolache

My credit rating is good. I have two universal credit cards and three store credit cards. The store ones I only use in the stores they apply to, even though I could use them to pay for anything, anywhere. I usually don't use my cards if I have my monthly payments due date coming up.

Compiled by Taryn Yudaken



POLICE LOG

Oh no, we're stuck!

Nov 8, 6:18 a.m. -

911 call from the Wood Hall elevator, loud high pitched squeals were heard. But there was no emergency. Someone had pressed all the buttons and the door was off the track, soon the door was put back and all was cleared.

Busted!

Nov 9, 2:28 a.m. -

Officer gave out summons to two people for possession by consumption on College Ave. Gorham rescue requested for a female juvenile. Parents were notified for transportation.

You need to fix your smelly car.

Nov 10, 1:45 a.m. -

Vehicle Stop on University Way Ext, a verbal warning was given

for excessive road noise and exhaust.

Someone was in a hurry.

Nov 11, 11:03 a.m. -

There was a report that the entry gate at the Portland parking garage had been snapped in half, and the vehicle had left the scene.

Now where did that truck go?

Nov 11 1:53 p.m. -

There was a noise complaint of a pick up truck squealing it's tires and driving at high rate speed in the Portland parking garage. it was described as a green GMC or Chevy. Officer checked the area But could not find the description.

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Strength through peace

Three women, three perspectives, and a shared goal



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

Danica Koenig
Staff Writer

"Until when do we have to see this bloodshed?"

The question was posed by Lucy Talgieh, a Palestinian Christian. She emigrated to Israel from the United States 26 years ago, and works as project director for the Wi-am Center for Conflict Resolution in Bethlehem.

"We need to change the stereotypes, that's the most important thing," She said. "Palestinians want peace."

Last Thursday night at Talbot auditorium, Talgieh was one-third of "Middle Eastern Women for Change: Three Voices, Three Religions, One Vision."

The discussion, organized by Partners for Peace, is part of the Fifteenth National Jerusalem Women Speak Tour. Abraham Peck, Director of USM's Academic Council for Jewish, Christian and Islamic Studies, offered his own brief introduction in three languages: Hebrew, Arabic, and English.

In his welcome, Peck characterized the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as "one of the most burning political, religious, and geographic issues in our world." Partners for Peace was founded in the early 1990s, with the mission of trying to find a peaceful solutions by way of a vibrant Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. This traveling discussion - now in its fifteenth tour and tenth year - always includes three women of unique faiths.

Joining Talgieh in the current line-up is Enas Muthaffar, a Palestinian Muslim filmmaker from Jerusalem, and Julia Chaitin, an Israeli Jewish educator from the Negev in Israel.

During the evening, each woman got a chance to take the microphone and tell their personal story of living in their war-torn region.

Muthaffar spoke about the question of identity and her own conflicting identity in being a Palestinian Muslim living in Israel - how she is a resident there but never a citizen. She described a recent experience at the airport in Amsterdam, where a customs official did not know what nationality to write on her form due to all the different identification cards she carries on her.

Talgieh moved the crowd with the story of her transformation from an unabashed believer in

revenge and violence, to a peace activist who trains and advocates for nonviolent conflict resolution.

Witnessing the deaths of family members, including her father and cousin, had hardened her with anger and a strong desire to retaliate; gradually, she gravitated toward academia, eventually studying peaceful resolution at a university and volunteering at a multi-cultural center.

Both Lucy and Enas recall their experiences living in Palestine under an Israeli occupation, and the horrors and travesties that become routine there.

Despite all the women shared, as a Jewish Israeli, Chaitan's perspective stood alone. Her story focused on the Israeli forces - and impact of their ubiquity, everyday presence. Chaitan described herself and her husband as ardent pacifists - extremely pro-peace, and anti-military - until they moved to Israel. The military in Israel, which every man and woman is required to serve in when they turn eighteen, is a part of daily life. Chaitan discussed the conflict this provoked in her own psyche, one that continues to this day.

"I often feel very torn over this identity of being patriotic," Chaitan says. "I love my country and want it to be healthy, but these last years of occupation have destroyed us."

"I don't want to be free if my freedom is dependent on locking up another person," she adds.

The desire for equality and tolerance was one of the threads shared by all three women's remarks. They each had thoughts, and regrets, about the difficult road to peace.

"People feel the need to be either pro-Palestinian or pro-Israel. I would love people to see Israelis and Palestinians as people," Chaitan says.

University president Selma Botman, who offered her own opening remarks, was pleased by the open nature of the panel and the Maine crowd.

"The turnout tonight demonstrates a tolerance and openness to issues of social justice," Botman says.

Talgieh also mentioned being encouraged by such crowds, albeit more tentatively.

"I am not usually that optimistic," she said. "But still I have hope. Let's pray that peace will come one day."

Costly calories

Eating organic is appealing but often too pricy for students

Michael Tardiff
Sports Editor

For Aubin Thomas, grocery shopping isn't about picking foods that look tasty. It's about picking foods that won't make her sick. But even more than that, it's about picking foods that won't break the bank.

"I have a lot of dietary restrictions," she says. "So when I feel I can afford to, I shop at Whole Foods, but for the most part I shop at Hannaford and just choose what I buy carefully."

Thomas isn't alone. Plenty of college students, if they could afford to, would shop at Whole Foods Market or similar stores. But with fixed incomes and other expenses, students throughout the area are forced to shop at conventional grocery stores like Hannaford or Shaw's.

Thomas, a vegetarian, also has an allergy to artificial coloring and a sensitivity to wheat.

What she's left with is a very particular shopping list that includes a host of gluten-free and rice-based products - not to mention a sometimes hefty grocery tab. The decision between exhausting her bank account and eating the right foods leaves her pigeonholed.

"It's just very frustrating to be limited in what products are available. They have rice bread, but its costs so much that I'd rather just go without any bread than continually spend a huge amount of money on a product with a short shelf-life due to lack of preservative chemicals," she says.

In a study conducted by the University of Washington, researchers tried to find the price difference per 1,000

calories between non-health foods and foods they considered to be healthy. What they found was an immense gap between high calorie "junk foods" and their vitamin and mineral rich counterparts. According to the study, non health foods cost approximately \$1.70 per 1,000 calories, whereas foods marketed for their health value can run the consumer almost \$18 per 1,000 edible calories.

And while these numbers may seem to tell a bit of a tall-tale, the stickers don't lie.

According to a New York Times survey, organic food is more expensive across the board for staples like milk, bread and eggs. Even those without dietary restrictions find it hard to eat well or shop where they want.

Sarah Barron likes shopping at Whole Foods, but finds the prices of organic fruits and veggies to be a little excessive at times. She says that sometimes the price of health foods can deter her from doing the right thing.

"I like eating organic because every little thing makes you live a healthier life, even the smallest things, but we've never bought all organic stuff because of the price," Barron says.

The empirical data seems to side with Barron. A gallon of organic milk, according to the Time's survey, can cost as much as \$7 a gallon, while its traditionally produced counterpart rings in at around \$4.

And the disparity between specialty supermarkets and their traditional competitors isn't just about organic versus non-organic foods. Prices at Whole Foods

on the exact same products as Hannaford have a tendency to be considerably higher as well.

A gallon of Oakhurst whole milk costs \$4.99/gallon at Whole Foods market, but is only \$3.94 at Hannaford. And the trend holds true in the bread aisle, as well. At Whole Foods, a loaf of their Whole Foods brand wheat bread is \$3.49, while Hannaford's Nature's Place wheat comes in a dollar cheaper at \$2.49.

Barron added that she often shops at Whole Foods because of their expansive prepared food section, but usually opts for Hannaford when she's doing the bulk of her grocery shopping.

With a sagging economy, food prices sky-rocketing and the price of education forever on the climb, stories like Thomas' could become more common. Rather than just being a nuisance, however, they could pose serious health risks for those who simply can't afford to fund their hyper-restrictive diets.

"I know an increasing number of people who can't eat nuts or wheat and have to give up things altogether because the substitutes are just too expensive," Thomas says. "It's like a while back when meat substitutes first came out, they were rather pricey but once the demand for them became known they became more reasonable. I think that for whatever reason, accommodating to people's allergies just isn't seen as a lucrative business strategy."

Whether or not the health and specialty food industry's business model completely aligns with that of its consumers is unclear, but one thing is for sure: the demand from students is there, just not the bucks to back it up.



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

Whole Foods on Marginal Way offers more nutritious fare, than the average grocery store, but the price can deter many shoppers.

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CORRECTIONS

The photo accompanying the men's soccer loss [‘Panthers bounce Huskies Men's soccer waits post-season fate following loss’] was incorrectly credited to Brandon McKenney. The credit actually goes to Danielle Milo one of our staff photographers. Sorry Danielle.

PERSPECTIVES

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The answer, my friends

During this chilling transition into winter, things can start to look grim for the coming months. Shorter daylight hours can get anyone down, and if winter sports aren't your thing, the prospect of snow might do nothing more for you than conjure up images of backbreaking, early-morning shoveling.

Still, I'll take Maine any day. The natural beauty and unlimited outing opportunities it offers might not be everyone's vision of a "Vacationland", but for those who opt for sub-zero mornings over sandy beaches, and boots over bikinis, it's a winter wonderland.

But tourism can be a finicky economic business model for any state. High gas prices stemmed the usual steady stream of summer visitors, and a mild winter can wreck havoc on the state's ski industry.

If the state wants to survive this time of economic pessimism, Maine needs to remember the natural legacy that has always been at the root of it's economic success, and national notoriety as a nature-lovers destination. At the same time it must also keep an eye to the future, figuring out how to keep and create jobs in the state, so that those who enjoy living here can have the opportunities to continue doing so.

These two goals should not have to contradict each other, but as the renewable energy industry sets its gaze on our rolling hills and rocky coasts, a confrontation is brewing. Some Maine residents see proposed wind farms as a blight on the land, a giant spinning

eyesore that corrupts the state's natural heritage.

While aesthetics are a hard issue to argue, I would encourage Mainers to weigh the costs and benefits of this new frontier of "green" energy and realize that it is far from marring the reputation and scenic appeal of the state.

In fact, embracing clean, renewable sources of energy would act as a testament to just how much we value this natural gift, and would be a statement of our intent to keep it looking as pristine as the pages of an L.L. Bean catalog.

Many of Maine's island residents are embracing offshore wind power in an effort to counter rising fuel prices, a problem amplified for them by the harsh weather off the coast that makes island home very expensive to heat.

As discussed in more depth in Arthur Page's article on the opposite page, Danish energy expert Soren Hermansen shared the story of his island community's switch to renewable power at a recent sustainability conference in Belfast, Maine.

Responding to a challenge from the Danish government, the people of Samsø Island built their own wind turbines, and bought shares in them. Now, 10 years later, the people of Samsø produce 10 percent more power than they need each year, and island residents with shares in the project turn a profit selling excess power to the mainland.

It's hard to ignore the success and potential of this business model. The energy sector has long been an industry controlled by large corporations, har-

vesting limited resources at whatever costs necessary, and passing on the cost to consumers.

This potential "green revolution" in energy that we find ourselves presented with is really a liberation of energy, giving the average citizen a chance at reasonable energy costs, as well as relieving the burden that years of non-renewable fuel harvesting has caused.

If Maine were to invest in these technologies on a larger scale, we could lead the nation and stand as an admirable example of energy-independence. Maine's small population and large tracts of unpopulated land make it an ideal candidate for renewable energy.

The impact of such a program would not only be an economic boost to a struggling state, but would make a powerful statement about the Maine mindset; we want to compete in our nation's economy, but we want to do so in a socially and environmentally responsible way that reflects the values and assets of this great state.

Thank you for reading,

Matt Dodge

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

USM Green Team

Who: We are the USM Green team 08 (a.k.a the Window warriors). We are a collective group of 5 devoted USM business students that are being supervised by Professor Nancy Artz.

What: Our goal is to bring awareness to window behavior at USM in an effort to reduce heat cost and greenhouse gas emissions. Our primary objective is to encourage people to close windows during the winter months. Also we want to bring to people's attention that closing the blinds and lowering the thermostat are good energy saving alternative to opening windows.

To promote our window closing campaign we are using prompts, social norming, and various communication tactics to get our point across. We will use stickers strategically placed on the slits of the window that will only be visible when open. To further drive our message a second prompt is being placed next to each door, reminding people to look before they leave. We are writing e-mails to all facility and staff in the buildings to educate them on the effects of open windows and to encourage them to commit to changing their behavior. We will also target stu-

dents for commitments in the lobby of Luther Bonny in-between classes.

The campaign is designed to promote the message that we are all responsible for the windows.

Where: We are placing our prompts in every room and will record the results compared to the data we have already collected prior to the campaign around the Portland campus.

When: The campaign will begin its run on November 5th

Why: University has a very large heating bill that can be reduced with such a simple thing as closing a window. We feel collectively that if we bring to people's attention that we have a problem, people would be more conscience the next time a window is left open. Generally people feel it's not their responsibility to close windows, or that it was left open for a reason, and we must change that thought. The University custodian staff is not large enough to tackle this problem, therefore we all need to do our part and "Use our Pull" (campaign's slogan).

The second reason for the campaign is to reduce the amount of pollutants and greenhouse gasses emitted from the University. Recently the state has set up the Governor's Carbon Challenge to all universities to reduce emissions levels to that of 1990. Our campaign is a step in the right direction to ultimately achieving the governor's goal

Mike Brett
USM Business student

English Students' Association

Following Senate approval of the ESA's constitution, the organization is USM's newest student group. Professor Lisa Walker is serving as the association's faculty advisor, and the following students were elected to the board:

President: Alex Merrill
Vice President: Anne McCormack
Secretary: Katye-Marie Allen
Treasurer: Ben Rybeck

Weekly meetings are held on Thursdays at 2 p.m. in the Woodbury Center café. If you are interested in joining but can't make the meetings please contact Alex Merrill at xcolorfast@yahoo.com for information on involvement.

Last Thursday the ESA sponsored the ever popular Faculty Flick Night in Masterton Hall which featured Marlon Brando's movie *Burnt* followed by discussion by Professor Lorraine Carroll.

This Wednesday, November 12th, there will be a fiction reading by USM's English Professor Willard Rusch and a poetry reading by the English Department's Administrative Assistant, Layla Carroll, who earned her MFA from Warren Wilson College. Readings, held in the Talbot Auditorium in Luther Bonney Hall, will start at 7 p.m.

Anne McCormack
USM Student

Catching island energy

Danish islanders share wind power experience with Maine's offshore residents.

Arthur Page
Contributing Writer

A large crowd of Maine island residents gathered in the Portland Museum of Art last Thursday to hear a lecture presented by Soren Hermansen from Samso Island, Denmark, which since 1998 has reduced its carbon foot print by 140% with renewable wind energy.

The islanders came to learn how they can become more energy independent in their communities. If you think your electric bill is rough, island residents in Maine can pay between 2 and 4 times the main land rate. Through this event and other like it, island residents are making progress to harvest abundant sustained winds like the people of Samso Island. By copying the plan implemented in 1998, Maine island

residents are hoping they could not only generate all of their own power but also sell some back to the main land to create a negative carbon footprint.

As Soren points out, wind turbines are the perfect example of easier said than done. There is a lot of investigation that needs to be done to protect the interests of all parties involved. On Samso Island, for example, there was a two-year study done to determine potential negative impact on the local bird refuge. There was also a lot of consideration and resulting financial compensation paid to fishermen who stood to lose fishing area. That's two years of work with out even breaking a sweat or talking to local residents to find out if they even would tolerate an off shore wind farm.

There was a lot of communication with island residents, as

everyone had a stake in the project. A few of the turbines were owned by investors, and some by companies, but a few were owned by citizens. They pooled their money to by a three of the turbines, one was owned by 1000 investors after funding from an investor fell through, and another two were split into \$600 shares paid by the residents.

The goal of this lecture was to help provide local islanders with a means to build their own energy independence. Soren tried not to give an exact estimate of cost for the project during the Q&A portion of the lecture because he wants people to investigate on their own the unique conditions of an installation. There is no one size fits all solution or price tag when it comes to these projects and citizens must ask one another what will work for them. "We had

meetings. It didn't just happen over night we had to talk about it," says Soren about the complex diplomacy required to accomplish such a project. Real lasting change starts from the ground up, not the top down and to do that takes years of hard work with local people.


You don't need to have millions of dollars to make change and you don't need to be a radical green person to make change. "There are people who are so green they glow at night. Those people you don't want to work with because you can't live up to their standards. You're in your car and you feel guilty when you drive home."

Soren was quick to point out that the investors were not green people, they were accountants, contractors, and dentists. They didn't donate millions of dollars;

in fact the investors who really made the projects happen contributed as little as \$600.

Samso Island are now reaping the benefits of their wind project and generating free power. The typical repayment on a project like this is on average between three to five years but depends on a lot of factors. Regardless, the Samso Island residents have now enjoy the fruits of their labor and can sleep a little bit easier at night knowing that their investment has helped insulate their economy from oil price shocks.



A fashion advertisement featuring two models. The model on the left has long, wavy brown hair and is wearing a dark navy blue coat with a high collar and a button. The model on the right has long, dark hair and is wearing a light beige coat with a high collar and a button. Both coats have a pleated detail at the waist. The background is a neutral, light grey.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Man Who Came to Dinner

Alex Merrill
Staff Writer

A large cast. A highly referential, period-specific text. A cavalcade of outsized, eccentric characters. A run time of nearly three hours, with two intermissions.

Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman’s 1939 play, “The Man Who Came to Dinner,” is a dramaturgical minefield. Fortunately, USM theatre department’s production, playing November 14-23rd at Russell Hall in Gorham, is one of the most deftly-staged, well-acted and all around professional I’ve seen in quite some time (and this includes several, ahem, “Union Scale” endeavors I’ve had the misfortune of witnessing).

Fourth year theatre major Travis M. Grant stars as the ornery gossip maven Sheridan “Sherry” Whiteside, and negotiates Hart and Kaufman’s rapid fire witticisms with impeccable timing. This is no mean feat in and of itself, especially considering how esoteric so many of the references Whiteside makes are by today’s standards.

However, it is Grant’s ability to embody Whiteside’s charisma that is impressive; though he is callow, manipulative and vindictive, he is also highly engaging. Sherry isn’t just Perez Hilton for the New Deal set; he’s a fully realized human being...who happens to have the demeanor of Oscar Wilde in the end stages of syphilis.

The supporting cast is equally strong, I was struck in particular by the ability of the young cast to portray characters who are not only from another time and place, but who are much older. Joshua Adams and Sarah Baglione are wonderful in the thankless roles of master and mistress of the house, completely cast aside by the dictatorial Whiteside.

Being a farce, “The Man Who Came to Dinner” has plenty of two-dimensional characters thrown in for added comic effect, but the young actors manage to portray them in such a way that avoids unnecessary mugging. It’s always my inclination to hate these kinds of characters; it’s too easy a brand of comedy, but freshman Darren Brown as the wild haired etymologist Professor Metz and Political Science major Ethan Woodard as the doddering Dr. Bradley are genuinely likeable and believable despite the absurdity of their characters.

Only Erol Ileri as Whiteside’s raconteur actor buddy, Banjo, seemed to defy my sense of truth; he’s very talented, and displays great physical ability, but he didn’t seem to be in the same play as the rest of the cast, and at times, it felt like he was channeling Yogi Bear.

The production works from top to bottom, with very few exceptions. The stagecraft at the theatre department, as usual, is top notch; the two-story set, designed by Charles S. Kading and ably constructed by USM’s Stage Craft Lab, is an unassuming yet evocative interior of an upper middle class home, circa the late 1930s. Besides one piano piece that sounds like it’s being played on a Victrola somewhere in the house rather than by a character onstage, Nathan Speckman’s sound design is strong, giving the set an added sense of dimension.

Sometimes the key to completing a character lies with a detail: a prop or a costume piece, and it’s clear that “The Man Who Came to Dinner” is full of costumes and makeup that actively assist many of the players in crafting their characters.

The vintage wheelchair which Sheridan Whiteside, inhabits for the majority of the play, is practically a character unto itself, as is the outlandish purple suit which Sherry’s solipsistic ingénue pal Lorraine Sheldon is wearing when she makes her grand entrance.

Under the exacting direction of faculty member Thomas Power, “The Man Who Came to Dinner” sustains a perfect level of energy for its length; it neither drags, nor does it derail at any point. It’s an amusing and unusually well controlled farce, completely worth checking out.

Cast

Directed by Thomas Power

Mrs. Stanley	Sarah Baglione
Miss Preen	Desiray Roy
Richard Stanley	Colin Whitely
June Stanley	Hayley O’Connor
John	Adam Ferguson
Sarah	Sarah Dube
Mrs. Dexter/Harriet Stanley	Heather Scamman
Mrs. McCutcheon	Molly Pietroski
Mr Stanley	Joshua Adams
Maggie Cutler	Megan M. Leddy
Dr. Bradley	Ethan Woodard
Sheridan Whiteside	Travis M. Grant
Bert Jefferson	Michael Lynch
Professor Metz	Darren Brown
Luncheon Guest	Alex Kopack
Luncheon Guest/Deputy Mr. Baker	Taylor Rosseau
Expressman/Deputy	Michael Frier
Expressman/Plainclothesman/Radio Technician	Ryan Nash
Sandy	Sam Rapaport
Lorraine Sheldon	Mary Casas
Beverly Carlton	Benjamin Row
Westcott	Brandon Johnson
Radio Technician	Mike Johnson
Banjo	Erol Ileri
Deputy	Ryan Defiore
Choir Girls	Jacqueline Ann Cascella Natalie Beaulieu Lori Harmon



TROY BENNETT / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Film review: Rashomon

Tyler Jackson

Staff Writer

Akira Kurosawa's 1950 masterpiece *Rashomon*, released on DVD as part of the esteemed Criterion Collection, remains one of Japan's most influential and visually stimulating films. Kurosawa worked closely with cinematographer Kazuo Miyagawa in creating a stunning display of light, shadows and virtuoso camerawork.

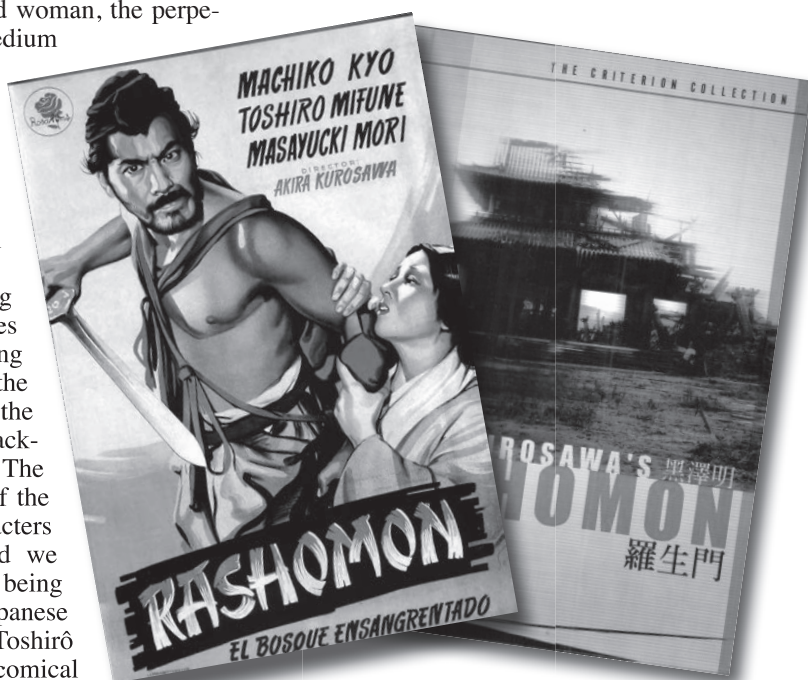
The film depicts three commoners discussing the murder of a traveling man and the rape of his wife which took place in nearby mountains earlier that week. They wait beneath the ruins of a gatehouse called *Rashomon* for pounding, deafening rain to cease, retelling accounts of the crime as told from a courthouse by the raped woman, the perpetrating bandit and a medium through which the murdered man spoke. Each account is wildly different and contradictory, leading the audience to believe that each story is true and that none of them are true.

The stylistic framing of the courthouse scenes show the characters telling their accounts placed at the foreground and two of the commoners just in the background like a silent jury. The audience plays the role of the interrogator as the characters speak directly to us and we hear none of the questions being asked. The ostentatious Japanese acting—particularly Toshiro Mifune as the bandit—is comical and frightening. He continuously

shrieks with murderous laughter in a style atypical of western film, almost as a caricature.

The sturdy yet simple visuals ceaselessly beautify the film—violent rain and heat, thick mountainous forest, the dilapidated gatehouse. The shadows and play of light and dark symbolize good an evil; confusion and reason. In a brief introduction on the DVD, filmmaker Robert Altman calls Kurosawa the first to point his camera at the sun—a reference to a stunning shot of the camera pointing up, moving through the forest; and a nod to the pioneering nature of Kurosawa and Miyagawa's visual sensibilities.

Rashomon experiments with storytelling methods, but remains entertaining at its core—a captivating story and a gorgeous picture.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF IMDB.COM

Rashomon, a Criterion Collection film comes highly recommended as a beautifully made classic.

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Quantum of Solace

Bond is back, and better than ever

Kaitlyn Creney
Staff Writer

James Bond is number three on the American Film Institute's list of the greatest movie heroes of all time. For many filmgoers he is the epitome of sleek, badass, male, danger on a path to destroy evil and willing to take out time to bed the ladies. After Sean Connery's iconic portrayal as author Ian Flemming's fictional MI-6 spy character, audience enthusiasm dropped. Bond became campy, weak, relying on increasingly cornier gadgets and catchphrases to get the bad guys. All hope was lost. I remember my father sadly shaking his head at the Roger Moore films. That is, until Daniel Craig came along.

When the actor was first cast as Bond the media was so angry that a blonde had been chosen that he was immediately cast aside and doomed for failure. I had loved Craig's acting in various films (Layer Cake, Road to Perdition, Munich) and hoped he would be able to expand on the Bond tradition. Then came Casino Royale, surpassing everyone's expectations as Craig not only breathed life into the dying character but revitalized its legacy. His acting was reminiscent of Connery's with more action for twenty-first century audiences and visible internal flaws that made James Bond human.

Quantum of Solace follows right where Casino left off, focusing on James' angry betrayal from his lost love Vesper Lynd and his mission to infiltrate QUANTUM, the secret organization that blackmailed her. Early on it is known that there is a mole within MI6 and that the new villain, Greene (Mathieu Amalric, of 2007's stunning The Diving Bell and the Butterfly,) who aims to seize power by controlling natural resources. Bond still broods over his lost Lynd, to the point where M (Judi Dench) must step in and reevaluate his mental health.

All the performances were excellent in Quantum but I felt the villain came across as too meek. On first view Craig plays Bond with pure unbridled anger but in doing so he is attempting to reveal more about the multi-layered, flawed character that is James Bond. It is a delight to see Craig give the secret agent an elegant perspective of a downward

spiral while we view his physical strength in the numerous action sequences.

The Dame has always been M to me; her brutal sarcasm and want of order seemingly come natural to the immaculate actress. In this movie and Casino her roles are becoming larger to the franchise, which is essential to the storytelling as well as the overall success of the films. Bond's women in this film, Strawberry Fields (Gemma Arterton) and Camille Montes (Olga Kurylenko) are forgettable, but this is done purposely as to allow Bond and the audience some space to grieve for Lynd.

Quantum of Solace is more action packed than any other Bond film in the past, showcasing his cold vengeance more than the plotline or his romps in the bedroom. Some will be disappointed with this, especially after viewing the short, but adrenaline infused opening sequence. The movie is about building on Bond's character as a whole and we finally get to see the dark side of our favorite spy. Quantum of Solace gives the audience an in-depth portrayal of the new Bond's emotions, which is becoming increasingly popular and innovative in the current series.

The movie is well-done, and since Craig is contracted to star in at least two more Bond expeditions filmgoers have something powerful to look forward to in the future. Reinventing Bond was something most thought was impossible, but it is evident here that the series will finally get better with age.

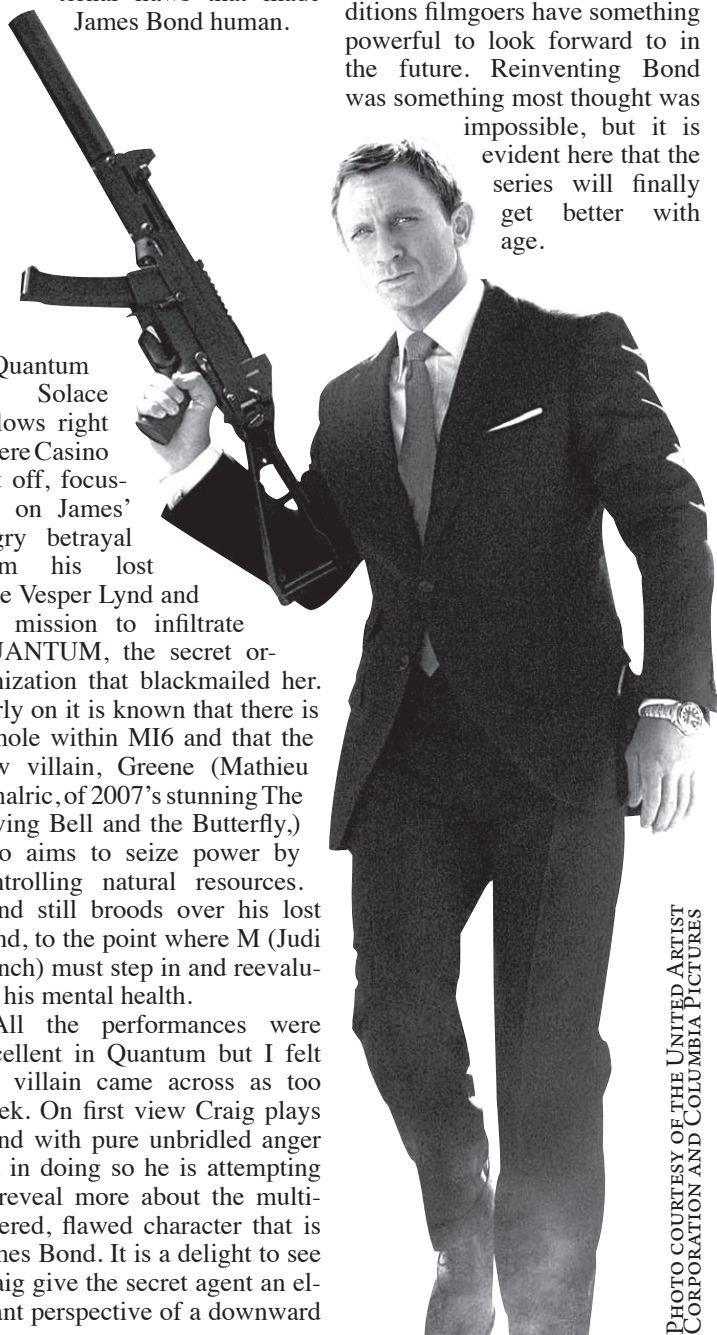


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Eccentricity, laughter and song in Burnham Lounge

A look into the monthly coffee house at Robie-Andrews



STEPHANIE MACDONALD / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Julian Bones happily strums his guitar in a performance on Thursday as part of the monthly coffee house in Robie-Andrews.

Dylan Martin
Staff Writer

When I arrived in Robie-Andrews and scurried into Burnham Lounge for the monthly coffee house, a crowd of 40 or so were gathered around Kurt Perry, singing "If I Didn't Believe in You" from the musical The Last Five Years. It was a solo act; he was focusing on the vocals. It's a difficult song to sing without an accompaniment, but Perry did it with ease.

Julian Bones, a resident of 2nd Andrews, got up to play next. With his acoustic guitar in hand, he covered a Vanessa Carleton song, followed by a lewd, yet hilarious Irish drinking song about the life of a married man and his hormonal wife.

He called upon a thick Irish accent to compliment the song. Bones' use of explicit language in the song yielded nervous laughter and a few disapproving frowns but he was met with applause and the laughter he was going for as he rejoined the crowd on the floor.

"Our coffee house has become a really interesting open-mic opportunity for Gorham," says Jason Saucier, the director of Community of Arts at USM, "Over the last four years we've been doing it, I've seen bands form, performers come just to showcase something new, and students get up and perform in public for the first time. You never know what is going to happen!"

The coffeehouse is held monthly in Burnham Lounge at Robie-Andrews Hall on the Gorham

campus on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. In the future, they hope to hold it every three weeks. It is open to anyone who dares to sign up or wants to watch.

Coffee and snacks are offered, and housing points are awarded to residents who attend. While singing and guitar playing is standard act, Burnham has been treated by bagpipe performances, poetry reading, and performance art; there have also been a few impromptu jams to break out on the spot.

While Robie-Andrews is known for its unique Community of Arts program, which fosters the arts within the dorm, the people involved in the coffee house expand well beyond just Robie-Andrews.

James Rossi, who played a supporting role in the most recent SPA production, The Fantasticks, ventured from Wood Hall to play two original songs. The first song he played was a soulful blues tune, raspy blues voice and harmonica included, and the second was a hard-hitting protest song about the environmental movement. The lyrics were blunt and provocative with lines like "your body has no right / to spread its greedy seed." Rossi also had an amazing vocal range, often hitting the bass notes to the audience's great surprise.

Kennie Farrigan of Andrews brought out a new bagpipe to play a traditional Scottish march with speedy notation. Farrigan had crafted the new bagpipe with his father recently after dreaming of an out-of-the-box bagpipe.

Travis Mencher also delivered an unusual performance, rap-

ping "Alphabet Aerobics" by the hip-hop duo Blackalicious while using visual aid to guide the audience through the alphabet.

Over a dozen others also performed, including Stefan Henegar and Jakob Battick, both residents of second floor Andrews. Henegar played in a style akin to Conor Oberst from Bright Eyes, performing "Don't Pass Me By" by The Beatles and a blend of three originals. Battick sat down to quickly tune his guitar and then abruptly left the room, coming back after two minutes to play Bruce Springsteen's "I'm on Fire." He had a unique style of playing, utilizing slowcore methods with folk. Audience members commented on his voice, "sounds like Rufus Wainwright."

The coffeehouse finished off with Joseph Hooper and two joiners jamming out to a Dispatch song. An improvisational act tends to spring forth from each coffee house, an interesting part of the night.

The most interesting act yet? According to Saucier, "A girl in Florida had heard about the coffee house, and she wanted to sing. She got on her instant messenger, and her friend adjusted the laptop to the microphone. The Floridian sang to the crowd through the computer. It was crazy!"



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EPICUREAN EPICS

by Anne McCormack

“Raven” about corn: everything to crow about

The open field across the street from our farm invites the north-west winds to invigorate the yard, sometimes saving us hours of raking or shoveling. Such was the wind that howled during the full moon last week. Its invisible force blew the tied cornstalks away from the craggy granite signpost on the front lawn.

Earlier this fall, my machete had made quick work of harvesting the tall yellowy-green stalks, still laden with their cocooned ears of corn wearing little hats of silk. I gathered a dozen or so and secured them around the tall piece of stone from which an old wrought iron arm holds the heavy wooden oval sign reading Connemara Farm. I tucked a pumpkin between the heavy curlicues of the iron, and trailed a variety of pumpkins out from the granite base, beginning with a large traditional orange Jack-o-lantern, followed by a few heirloom varieties such as Cinderella Carriage, white Lumina, and squat red French pumpkins. When I got around to righting the cornstalks, crows and ravens had evidently been nibbling on the pumpkins as well as pecking at the ears of corn, leaving barren, drying cobs. Thinking about how the birds must have feasted on those golden, milky niblets, two recipes using corn came to mind.

The first recipe, for a remarkably moist and tasty rendition

of cornbread, comes from my friend Phoebe, who uses her Waterford woodstove to bake in. Additionally romanticizing the thought of corn bread baked within a cast iron pan in a stove made in Ireland, is the tantalizing drizzling of pure maple syrup, finished with a slather of sweet, creamy butter, fresh off the farm.

The second recipe, for corn chowder, is a cinch to make, is well-worth doubling, and can be made with or without the crab garnish. These recipes are great together, and also make ideal accompaniments to crab cakes.

Anne McCormack, former owner of the Village Bakehouse, is an English major who also teaches cooking classes at her farm in New Gloucester.



CORNBREAD

4 tablespoons butter
1 3/4 cup of buttermilk (can be made by adding a spoonful of vinegar to regular milk)
1 egg
1/4 cups pure maple syrup (optional)

Dry ingredients:

1 1/2 cups cornmeal
1/2 cup white flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 teaspoons baking powder
4 tablespoons sugar or 2 tablespoons honey

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Melt 4 tablespoons of butter in an 8 or 9 inch iron skillet. Swirl pan to coat sides. Pour off all the butter that doesn't stick to the sides of the pan into 1 1/2 cups buttermilk, and briefly stir buttermilk. (Buttermilk can be made by adding a spoonful of vinegar to regular milk). Keep pan warm.

Mix together dry ingredients.

Add milk/butter mix and 1 egg to dry ingredients. Stir just until blended, and pour mix into warm skillet. Bake for 25-35 minutes, depending on size of pan. Option: In the last 5 minutes of baking, drizzle about 1/4-cup pure maple syrup over cornbread and return to oven for final finish.

CORN CHOWDER WITH CRAB GARNISH

(yield: 4 first course servings)

1 16 oz. bag frozen petite white corn (reserve 1/4 cup)
1 cup milk (low-fat, whole, skim...)
1 8 oz. bottle clam juice
4 tablespoons sliced scallions (reserve 1 tablespoon)
2 teaspoons grated fresh ginger (reserve 1 teaspoon)
4 1/2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice (reserve 3 teaspoons)

2 tablespoons butter
4 oz. crab meat

Bring corn and milk to boil in medium saucepan. Cover, remove from heat. Let stand 10 minutes.

Puree mixture in blender, or, more conveniently, use a hand blender. Add clam juice, scallions, ginger, lemon juice and puree until almost smooth. Bring to a simmer. Mix in 1 1/2 teaspoons lemon juice. Season with salt and pepper if desired.

For the Crab garnish

Melt butter in small skillet over medium heat. Add reserved 1/4 cup corn and sauté 1 minute. Add crab and remaining reserved ingredients. Stir until warmed through.

Divide piping hot chowder among bowls and mound crab mixture in center. For additional pizzazz, sprinkle with a few fresh kernels and a few snips of herbs.

Clash of the Titans

The Big Easy finds a hit with its battle of the cover bands

JENNA HOWARD / A&E EDITOR

Take Portland songstress Megan Jo Wilson as Prince and match her up against Zach Jones as Michael Jackson - and see who comes out on top at the Big Easy for the weekly Clash of the Titans.

Jenna Howard

Arts and Entertainment Editor

For lovers of local music in Southern Maine, the phrase “Clash of the Titans” no longer refers to a film pairing super hero against super hero, rather, it means a competition of super-bands, by local band members.

Beginning in 2006, local musicians began collaborating to perform evenings of cover songs by super-bands, pitting The Red Hot Chili Peppers v. Oasis, Fleetwood Mac v. The Eagles, and Bob Dylan v. Bob Marley. Since this event has become a weekly staple,

Tuesday nights at the Big Easy are no longer quiet. In fact, for the recent Clash of the Titans: Prince v. Michael Jackson, more crowd arrived than the venue

could physically, or legally hold. The music club was at capacity before the show began and a line extended from almost a block long.

“I saw the real Prince perform in the 90’s in his prime,” a Portland woman waiting in line outside told me, “and the line wasn’t this long.”

This week, anticipating another success, the Big Easy put on an encore Friday night performance of M.J. v. “The artist formally known as” and again, drew more of a crowd than the club could handle. Michael Jackson’s band included fifteen performers, from backup singers to a brass section. Jackson, in all his glory, was played by Zach Jones, of The Pete Kilpatrick Band, and As Fast As.

“I can pretty much die happy now. I did moves last night I’ve

been doing since I was six-years-old dancing in my basement,” Jones said.

Prince embodied in Megan Jo Wilson, Portland singer-songwriter who put out her solo album “Seeds, Stars, Galaxies” in 2006. This talented singer was able to capture the raw sensuality that is the artist’s trademark. Wearing ruffles and hitting all the high notes, the audience was thrilled by her performance, especially during “Purple Rain,” “Little Red Corvette,” and “Raspberry Beret.” So thrilled, at one point, that a young lady in the audience threw her bra on stage. Staying in character, Wilson wrapped it around her microphone stand and carried on.

Whether or not you can gauge a performance by the items that get thrown onstage is questionable. The entire Big Easy was singing

along, with fans belting out well-known lyrics. Because it was an encore, there was no winner announced, rather, a grand finale that included both bands in a triumphant decree of “We are the World.”

If you want to pick future winners, the match-up next Tuesday

will be INXS vs. The Killers. On November 25, Erykah Badu vs. Jill Scott. December 2 will feature Primus vs. Rush, and on December 9, ABBA vs. The Beegees. December 16 promises Tenacious D vs. Spinal Tap. The event begins at 9 p.m. for those 21 and older.



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“The thrills of the western foothills”

It’s still dark out as I hop in my car and head west on Route 25 towards the New Hampshire border. The drive lasts about 45 minutes until I finally reach my destination as the sunrise takes full effect. I’m just off Route 160 in Brownfield, at the trailhead for Burnt Meadow Mountain. Although I’ve hiked this trail many times before, it felt like time for a refresher. It’s an easy hike, but one that affords you many views along the way up.

The trail starts out fairly gradual, almost deceiving you for what awaits. It quickly unmasks its hidden identity as the rocky surface rears its ugly head. The trail remains like this throughout the rest of the hike and becomes increasingly steep as you move towards the peak. With all of the recent rainfall we’ve seen, the surface was fairly slippery but I know this trail well.

What is most exciting about Burnt Meadow is its history. It gets its name from the great fire of 1947, sometimes referred to as “the year that Maine burned”. The Brownfield area in particular took a hard hit, destroying nearly 85% of the town. After the fire,

the mountains surrounding the town went through a brief stage as a ski mountain, before failing to get past the initial planning stages. While the ski lift remnants remain in places, there is little to distinguish its past. But what the mountain does offer is a moderate hike, short enough for the whole family, but challenging enough to not be completely boring.

The most intriguing features of Burnt Meadow are its multiple peaks. Many a hiker has likely been fooled by the first peak, which hides the remainder of the trail on its backside. The trail dips down from here before returning to an ascent. This happens again further up, but it is less deceiving. Finally, the trail finishes off with a very steep crag-like peak before reaching the summit.

The views you will find on Burnt Meadow give you a great sense of the area, one I am particularly fond of as it was my home for the first 18 years of my life. The western foothills region of Maine is one worth exploring if you haven’t yet. There’s many small climbs like Burnt Meadow, Mount Cutler, or Bald Pate. While the Maine side of the

border doesn’t get the attention that the White Mountains do over in New Hampshire, they still have plenty to offer. For convenience and plenty of striking scenery that can rival any other part of the Maine, head out to the border and explore what many consider a hidden gem of our beautiful state.

Brandon enjoys fresh air, short walks on long beaches, and everything else that happens outdoors.



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR



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HANGIN’ WITH MR. TARDIFF

by Mike Tardiff

Conflicting schedules

Mike Tardiff
Sports Editor

It’s hard not to marvel at the skill and dedication of student athletes. Balancing school, sports and social life isn’t an easy task.

With commitments all over the place, scholar-athletes are often faced with critical time-related decisions. Should I go out tonight or do my required reading? Go to the gym or the library?

But there are some decisions our athletes shouldn’t have to make – like what’s more important, failing a class or playing in your final collegiate soccer game.

Regrettably, that’s a decision that one USM athlete had to make. And it should never happen again.

After four years of conditioning, weight training and the tireless balancing act of school and sport, a senior on the men’s soccer team was pinned against the proverbial rock and hard place.

In a class where six-absences of any kind results in automatic failure, this young man had missed four classes due to sport-related events and one for personal reasons.

Teetering on the brink of failure, he had no choice but to forego his final soccer game, a

quarterfinal match in the ECAC tournament.

Of course, there is an important variable to this entire equation: the student himself. But having been in this person’s class on at least one occasion, I can speak without reservation that he does everything that is asked of him.

He is up-to-snuff on the material. He participates in a substantive way. And he never allows soccer to serve as an excuse for anything.

What this unfortunate incident demonstrates is a couple of things.

1. This athlete clearly has his priorities in the right order, a testament to not only him but also his coaches.
2. There is a fundamental flaw in the system.

Needing certain classes to graduate with a degree in English, this player had to pick and choose his classes wisely. He needed to make sure soccer wouldn’t prohibit him from being in class on a regular basis, while making sure that his other obligations can be met.

But, because of class scheduling, there was little he could do but take this required class in a less-than-desirable time slot.

It’s hard enough to get the right classes and graduate on time

when you’re not playing a sport. I can only imagine what its like to be completely pigeonholed by the system.

Some of the onus has to be placed on the student, too. Open lines of communication are the only way to avoid a situation like this. The student should take it upon him/herself to make sure they’re not at risk of penalty and should exhaust every possible option before enrolling in a class that could conflict with their athletic schedule.

In the end, though, it’s a matter of understanding and respect for both sides. Students should respect the expectations of their classes and understand the seriousness of falling short of those expectations.

Likewise, there should be a level of respect and understanding for the impressively multifaceted lives our student-athletes lead.

Since the Huskies lost 3-0 in that game, the results of a conflict that could have been resolved are slightly amplified. And the looming question “what if?” seems to resonate the loudest.

su | do | ku

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 thru 9.

		3				6		9
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RANDOM FACT!

One way to discern a crow from a raven: crows hop, ravens walk.

Courtesy of Anne McCormack

PUZZLE ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND BELOW

PUZZLES
Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Paper fragment
- 6 Just slightly
- 10 Fishhook attachment
- 14 Chicago airport
- 15 Shoe bottom
- 16 ___ mater
- 17 Success-vs.-failure phrase
- 19 Drought ender
- 20 Make a choice
- 21 Words of denial
- 22 Rowing a boat
- 24 Contractor's proposal
- 25 Name of a movie
- 27 Magazine editions
- 30 Provides with cards
- 34 Eyeglasses, slangily
- 35 Gets a glimpse of
- 37 Garbed
- 38 Canine kiss
- 39 Pekoe, for instance
- 40 Sounds from Santa
- 41 Poker-hand starter
- 42 Like skyscrapers
- 43 Croc's kin
- 44 Whodunit, for example
- 46 Spring flowers
- 47 "Dr." who wrote Green Eggs and Ham
- 49 Neither's partner
- 50 Regard highly
- 53 Is unable to
- 55 Make soaking wet

- 58 Former Big Apple ballpark
- 59 Billiard cues
- 62 Rhyme writer
- 63 Italian coin
- 64 Verbal exams
- 65 Desires
- 66 Fork part
- 67 Go after

- DOWN
- 1 Fair-to-middling
- 2 Serving-dish defect
- 3 ___ and rave
- 4 Biblical boat
- 5 Showy spring flowers
- 6 Helper: Abbr.
- 7 Namely
- 8 ___ Baba

- JUST ADD WATER by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com
- 9 Reduces in rank
- 10 Upholstered semicircular seat
- 11 Jai ___
- 12 Poker phrase
- 13 Sharp taste
- 18 Fishing poles
- 23 Pie ___ mode
- 24 Sports-car features
- 26 Absolutely perfect
- 27 Religion of the Koran
- 28 Like a cactus
- 29 Religious groups
- 31 Vegas attractions
- 32 California/Nevada lake
- 33 Aromas
- 35 Doesn't leave
- 36 Snakelike swimmer
- 42 Bugle relative
- 43 Caverns
- 45 Extra-wide, on a shoebox
- 46 Rural stopovers
- 48 Treat with contempt
- 50 Catch sight of
- 51 Moccasin, for one
- 52 Adolescent
- 54 Hand-cream ingredient
- 55 "Beat it!"
- 56 Tulsa's state: Abbr.
- 57 Low-key "Hey!"
- 60 Yes, in Paris
- 61 Anger

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From **MEN** on page 16

basket, Bergeron will introduce mismatches for the Huskies, who will need to parlay mismatches into much needed offensive production.

Andy Tracy (Ellsworth), a junior transfer from Colby-Sawyer, will be a helpful addition to a young USM squad. The former MCI prep player and standout at Ellsworth High School is exceptionally athletic and has an uncanny ability to find the rim.

Fellow transfer Otis Smith (Altamonte Spring, FL) will also chip in on the offensive end. At 6'3" 250, Smith is strong enough to bang down low, but skilled enough to face the basket and put the ball on the floor.

Another key variable for the Huskies will be point guard play and pace-of-game management. With two of their returning players, Jellison and Pollack, in position to share their ball-handling duties, USM will likely be strong in the backcourt.

Against the exceptionally quick backcourts of the LEC, the sophomore tandem will have to work hard to keep the Huskies' under control and in games.

Because of their youth, the Huskies have been selected to finish last in the eight-team Little East Conference. However, Henrikson sees their ranking more as a challenge than any disrespect. Rhode Island College was the unanimous number-one selection with UMass-Dartmouth following in second place.

Michael Poulin (Readfield), who played on the 2008 State Championship team at Maranacook Regional High School, is a tremendous on-the-ball defender. His defensive efforts could prove pivotal in shutting down the potent backcourts of teams like RIC and UMass-Dartmouth who pushed the pace against USM a season ago.

"There are no bad teams in Div. III anymore," Henrikson said, adding that his team's learning curve will have to be steep since the LEC is one of the top-5 conferences in the country.

The Huskies' goal, regardless of what outside sources say, is still to host a first-round playoff game, something the team did for the first time in recent memory last season.

In the end, it will be the success of the Huskies' new faces that will dictate their future. If players

like Tracy, Smith and Bergeron are able to utilize their skills, the Huskies should be poised to climb out of the LEC's cellar.

USM will look to pick up conference wins against lower-echelon LEC teams like UMass-Boston, Plymouth State and Western Connecticut and hopes to play the part of the spoiler when they play nationally ranked Rhode Island College and UMass-Dartmouth.

From **WOMEN** on page 16

leading the team in scoring, and should continue to develop as one of USM's most dangerous scoring threats.

If the Huskies have one major weakness it's their depth. Running seven or eight players deep, McDevitt conceded that he'd like to see his bench extended to nine or ten players.

"It's going to be a challenge. I don't think we're as deep as we've been in years past," McDevitt said.

The Huskies should fare well against most of the LEC. Their biggest tests will come when they play Eastern and Western Connecticut.

Their early non-conference game against Bowdoin should

serve as a good measuring stick for the 2008 squad. Ranked 15th in the country, Bowdoin is a perennial powerhouse and nationally recognized program. If the Huskies play well against Bowdoin, it could be a good sign of things to come.

USM will also gauge its program when they play in the Alamo Shootout in San Antonio, TX. The Huskies will square off against Mary Hardin Baylor, a powerhouse on the men's side, and Trinity (TX) a nationally regarded program that garnered votes in the D3hoops.com pre-season poll for 2008-09.

The Huskies open their season on Nov. 18 against local rival University of New England in a game that could shed some light on this year's team.

"Right from the start with UNE we'll get a chance to see where we stand," McDevitt said.

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A tale of two teams

USM's basketball team picked to finish at opposite ends of the LEC

Senior-less men's squad hopes to prove critics wrong

Mike Tardiff
Sports Editor

For the USM men's basketball team, the future looks bright.

With a host of transfers and freshmen, this year's squad look like they're a year or two away from being a force in the Little East Conference.

In the meantime, though, there's a season to be played and the Huskies' success will rely on getting better every game.

"We're going to grow as the year goes on," head coach Karl Henrikson says. "But I want them to know the future is now, too."

With no seniors and the enormous scoring vacancies left by Drew Coppenrath and Jamaal Caterina, this year's squad will have to sort itself out as the season progresses.

Junior Greg Whitaker (Presque Isle) returns as the most likely candidate to lead the Huskies on the offensive end and should get help from the likes of sophomores Luke Pollack (Eliot), Troy Jellison (Bangor) and Kione Morgan (Garland, TX).

Caterina and Coppenrath, who collectively accounted for 33.4 points and 16 rebounds per game last season, also provided Henrikson's squad with some formidable size and tough match-ups for opponents.

If the Huskies hope to reproduce last year's mismatches, they'll have to get production from some new faces.

Look for freshman Sean Bergeron (Kennebunk) to make his presence known early. At 6'7" and with the skill-set to face the

See **MEN** on page 15



McDevitt hopes Senior point guard Nicole Paradis (Skowhegan) - known for her exceptional ball handling and steady shooting - will provide more scoring this season

BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

High expectations set for seasoned women's team

Mike Tardiff
Sports Editor

It was a busy off-season for the USM women's basketball team.

After suffering a heartbreaking loss in the first round of the NCAA tournament to Brandeis, the Huskies have since had to rebuild their roster and install a new coach.

But despite all of the changes, the Huskies are still picked to finish second in the Little East behind Eastern Connecticut and even received votes in the D3hoops.com top-25 poll.

With legendary coach Gary Fifield stepping down earlier in the semester, Mike McDevitt assumes the role of head coach for the Huskies and his emphasis is loud and clear: defense.

But the transition has been a smooth one and the prospects look bright.

"I think because I was here the previous five season it made it a lot easier to make the transition," McDevitt said of his installation.

With good team size and a solid cohort of players returning, the Huskies will look to familiar faces and a few new ones to help guide them to hopefully another berth in the NCAA tournament.

Led by 2007 Maine Collegiate Player of the Year and captain Stacy Kent (Northwood, NH), the Huskies will look to exceed the pundit's predictions and find

their way back to the top of the Little East and back in the NCAA Tournament. Kent average 14.6 points per game for the Huskies to go along with 5.8 boards per contest.

"Stacy is one of the best players in the state and one of the best in the region," McDevitt said of his senior captain.

Kent will be joined in her leadership role by senior point guard Nicole Paradis (Skowhegan). A second-team all conference selection last year, Paradis will handle the ball-handling duties for the Huskies and provide a steady shooting touch.

McDevitt hopes that Paradis will provide more scoring than she has in the past, putting to use her shooting and ball-handling abilities.

After losing three of their top four scores from a year ago in Josalee Danieli, Shannon Kynoch and Angela Santa Fe, the Huskies will have to rely on Kent and a balanced supporting cast to do the brunt of their damage on the offensive end. Becky Dixon (Pittston), Kaylee Demillo (Jay) were selected to the All-Rookie team last year and should help Kent and Paradis carry the load for the Huskies.

Junior Haley Johnson (Simsbury, CT) played well in the Huskies for two scrimmages,

See **WOMEN** on page 15



Left: Returning forward, Greg Whitaker (Presque Isle) completes a layup in a 2007-2008 season game against Bates College.