

the free press

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

FEEL THE BURN

Aging backup electrical system to blame for New Year's Eve fire

Daniel MacLeod
News Editor

An electrical fire in the boiler room of The Sullivan Fitness Complex forced over 100 people at the gym and the adjacent day care center to evacuate the building at 12 p.m. on New Year's Eve. There were no injuries.

The fire was caused by a short circuit in the building's backup electrical system.

According to the Department of Facilities Management, a hole in one of the aging battery cell casings drained the battery of its fuel, creating the short circuit.

The University plans to update the antiquated system sometime next week, says Dave Barbour, Interim Executive Director of DFM. It is unknown how much the project will cost.

The acrid stench of burning plastic was the first thing that anybody noticed at the gym. An unidentified patron informed

Lifeline Fitness Administrative Associate Pat Rich that there was a terrible smell in the basement hallway outside the office.

Rich noticed the smell as soon as she opened the door to investigate. She walked down the hallway to find the source. As she neared the boiler room, the smell grew stronger.

"I was coughing, because the smell was gagging me," she explained.

Rich notified Administrative Manager Wendy Benson-Sargent, who after confirming the odor in the south stairwell, immediately phoned DFM. Although no smoke or fire was visible, Benson-Sargent could tell something was wrong.

"When you've been in the building for 10 years, you can tell when something is off," she explained. Guy Durichek, a mechanical trades worker for DFM, had just started his lunch break at the nearby heating plant when he received the call from dispatch.

Benson Sargent lead Durichek to the boiler room, where the source of the smell had since been identified as a small fire along the back wall of the boiler room.

"There were flames coming up from behind the line of batteries right against the wall," Durichek confirmed

Durichek instructed Benson-Sargent to pull the fire alarm and evacuate the building. Durichek then put the fire out with a nearby extinguisher, and stayed on scene until the Fire Department arrived.

Durichek said that the fire was small, but that prudent action was the best course.

"It wasn't a raging inferno," he admitted, "but it was in a very sensitive area. Not knowing



RANDY HAZELTON / PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

what could possibly happen... I thought that would be the proper procedure, just to avoid the disaster of someone getting injured."

Barbour says that the size and location of the fire were the primary reasons that the fire detection equipment did not alert the building's occupants of the danger.

Mechanical areas on campus are outfitted with heat detectors, which only go off when temperatures in the room reach a threshold of 160 degrees. The normal operation of some of the equipment

in these areas can sometimes produce smoke, explained Barbour, which could result in false alarms if the areas were equipped with smoke detectors.

The age of the batteries is believed to be the prime cause of the fire.

"I would say they were well past their shelf life," Barbour admitted last Tuesday morning.

Nickel-cadmium batteries such as those in the Sullivan Complex

See **FIRE** on page 4

New library entrance unlocks new worlds



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

President Selma Botman cuts the ribbon to the Glickman Library's new entrance last Wednesday.

Charlie Nickell
Staff Writer

The new entrance to USM's Glickman Library officially opened last Wednesday afternoon with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The new entrance that faces the campus is part of an ongoing revitalizing project financed through private donations and government earmarked funds, which the University hopes will

make the campus more attractive to its students and faculty.

The new entryway replaces the original Forest Avenue entrance that faced away from campus towards Portland's busiest street. Library director David Nutty said during the ceremony, "This is more than just a door, this is your campus library." The entryway's design was developed with the help of KKA Architects in Boston

See **RIBBON** on page 3

Muskie School economist predicts prolonged recession

Charles Colgan delivers grim economic forecast for 2009

Daniel MacLeod
News Editor

A buzzing throng of local business figures, students, and other guests assembled at the Hannaford Lecture Hall at 7 am on January 14th to witness Muskie School professor Charles Colgan's annual economic forecast.

A grim excitement filled the air prior to the lecture, as more than

400 guests milled around the urns of coffee, platters of danishes and sliced canteloupe.

"You always see more people at these things when the economy is bad," remarked Jim Ortiz, president of SMCC. Ortiz has been present at the last five presentations and said that every one has been worth attending.

In addition to holding positions in several national and local economic organizations, Colgan

is a professor of Public Policy and Management at the Muskie School, and the chair of Muskie School's Community Planning and Development Program.

This year's lecture marked the 16th annual "Breakfast with Charlie," where he analyzes previous economic trends in an attempt to map out a prediction of Maine's economy in the coming year.

See **COLGAN** on page 3

Budget gap widens

Pattenaude announces \$42.8 million shortfall over the next four years

Matt Dodge
Executive Editor

In an effort to create a financially sustainable university system in Maine, UMS Chancellor Richard Pattenaude last week announced a six-month process aimed at spurring "major transformative changes".

In a meeting with trustees on Jan 11, Pattenaude predicted that without significant restructur-

ing of the UMS system, Maine's seven public universities would face a \$42.8 million budget shortfall over the next four years. This grim assessment of future finances has forced system administrators to stop looking at small cuts in specific areas, and rethink the way the UMS is run as a whole.

"Incremental cost-cutting—both by our seven universities and within the shared service functions provided by the System office—will not do enough to

attain financial sustainability," Pattenaude told the trustees.

The Chancellor's presentation, called "New Challenges, New Directions: Achieving Long-Term Financial Sustainability," suggests working alongside the seven university Presidents, and calls for a 12-person task force to assess the UMS infrastructure, and bring their cost-cutting pro-

See **BUDGET** on page 3

USM's Green Team page 4
PERSPECTIVES **PAGE 6**
Inauguration experience. page 7
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT **PAGE 9**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Port City Music Hall page 9
PUZZLES **PAGE 14**
SPORTS **PAGE 15**
Hillary Hall page 16

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Barack Obama, Colorado Springs, July 2, 2008

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From COLGAN on page 1

His forecast for 2009 ranged from the pessimistic to the depressing, with a few brief moments of guarded optimism.

On one hand, the end of 2008 may turn out to be the worst point of the recession. On the other hand, Colgan doesn't see the recession ending until the third fiscal quarter of 2012.

He forecasts 2009 as being a year of steady decline for Maine's job markets. By the end of the recession, he estimates that 17,000 jobs will have been lost from the local economy.

"And this is my optimistic forecast," he warned.

By most accounts, Colgan's forecasts have historically been accurate, though he is the first to point out that "the dismal science" is not an inerrant predictor of human behavior.

"For the first three quarters of 2008, my forecast was relatively on track," he half-joked at the beginning of the presentation. "I did however miss the collapse of the financial system."

Colgan explained that accurate forecasts of economic trends are predicate upon certain assumptions about the economy holding true.

"Economic forecasting, like weather forecasting, is actually pretty good, if the system behaves itself," he said last Thursday.

USM economics professor Michael Hillard agrees that forecasting can be problematic when unpredictable forces intervene.

"The basic problem that forecasters face is that they can only extrapolate from what they know today, and what they know from the recent past... Extrapolation doesn't work when there are sudden turns of events."

Colgan says that this year's forecast is based on a set of pre-requisite policy initiatives being put in place to stave off future decline.

"If those assumptions are wrong, I'm not going to be anywhere near right," he said.

According to Colgan, before the economy can begin to recover, credit markets must first recover their function. The basic inability of people to procure loans has effectively halted the flow of credit. The Federal Reserve's attempts to stimulate the economy by pumping billions of dollars into the stalled banking system is essentially a futile pursuit, he says, without a functioning credit market.

Colgan says the next step is an effective fiscal stimulus, which newly inaugurated President Obama is currently working to draft into law.

According to Hillard, the success of Obama's stimulus package is difficult to predict.

"All things being equal, the stimulus package should help... but we don't know if that will happen successfully, or if it will be enough."

State governments are hoping for a piece of this stimulus to shore up widespread budget shortfalls. However, given the depth of Maine's current budget crisis, whether the University of Maine will get any of this money is uncertain.

"With Baldacci's position... the University will be well back in the line in terms of any kind of stimulus that the state gets," said Hillard.

Both economists agree that the impact of the current recession on state universities is nothing new.

"We have been through this before," says Colgan.

The recessions of 1975 and 1991 were the worst in recent memory for state universities, he says.

"Those two both saw pretty heavy cuts to the university system... there were a lot of programmatic cuts, layoffs, and so on."

Hillard remarked that state support of publicly funded universities generally drops during times of recession, but due to increasing health care costs over the past 20 years, the state never returns to its previous level of funding.

Hillard agrees that there is a predictable tightening of the belt for higher education in recessionary times, but that this time around, the University may feel the pinch more than in previous times.

"The depth of this crisis is as big as we've seen in a generation," he said.

Colgan says his yearly forecasts are meant to provide an interpretation of the vast wealth of economic information available to the public.

"What I do is try to link all the national news into an outlook for Maine. And that helps a lot of people put their own plans into context."

What people choose to do with his predictions is ultimately up to them, he says.

"I don't know if it helps them or not. I do know that a lot more people come today than used to."

To listen to Dr. Colgan's presentation, and view the presentation slides, visit:

<https://blogs.usm.maine.edu/publicaffairs/archives/148>

From BUDGET on page 1

posals to the system trustees in July.

"Although negative financial and demographic forces challenge us, the work ahead should be viewed as an opportunity," said Pattendaude. "The result will be strong universities, clearer objectives, and more measurable outcomes."

This news comes as the UMS is still scrambling to cut \$34.2 million to balance the current fiscal year's budget. USM, which had been told to cut \$2.7 million to help with this deficit, was still \$900,000 short of goal as of Jan 20th.

"We must consider elimination of programs and services that are not critical to our mission," said President Botman at a Faculty Senate meeting last November, in response to the growing budgetary gap across the state's public university system.

The predicted budget shortfall of \$42.8 is based on several factors. Enrollment is expected to stay stagnant as the number of Maine high school graduates begins to decline.

Operating costs are also expected to rise 5.0% per year, due to increasing energy and health care costs. As USM's CFO Dick Campbell notes, "as we become a more electronically based society, it drives up energy costs."

A state appropriation of -2.7% for Fiscal Year 2010 also means that the UMS will have a less

money than the previous year, followed by an anemic 0%, 1%, and 2% increase for 2011 through 2013.

The Chancellor's cost saving plan targets three specific "arenas of action." – administrative student and financial services, academic programs and services, and structure and governance.

Administrative, student, and financial services are the day-to-day support services that keep the university running, and cover everything from financial management to IT, facilities management, student billing, and loan processing. According to Pattendaude's report, work in this arena can begin quickly by consolidating services, and rethinking the way they are performed. Cost savings targets for this arena are between \$17-20 million.

One idea already in the works proposes sending out student tuition refund checks electronically, instead of through the mail, saving the system thousands of dollars in postage.

The second arena of action, academic programs and services, will be handled on a slower-paced timetable, to ensure that the quality of education does not suffer. The proposal aims to save between \$8 and \$10 million by eliminating or combining redundant or under-enrolled programs and courses.

This arena also addresses enrollment and graduation targets for each of the seven universi-

ties, suggesting that "continuous enrollment growth at every university is not a viable budgetary strategy" in a state with declining high school graduation rates, and a growing community college system.

"Given present economic realities, we are going to see big changes in business, government, higher education, and in the local school system," said Campbell. Viewing the problem from a new angle is the best way to create rapid change, he explained.

The third arena of focus is that of the UMS's structure and governance, a system, which has remained virtually unchanged in its 41 years. A task force on reorganization will consider the size and role of the Chancellor's office, the structure, funding, and oversight of system-wide services, as well as collaboration among universities in an effort to trim another \$3-5 million from the budget.

Changes in UMS's structure could mean a very different public university system in coming years, but Pattendaude is careful to mention that "the underlying assumption is that UMS will continue to consist of seven institutions with specific missions, all operating within a single System."

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DANIEL MACLEOD / NEWS EDITOR



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From **FIRE** on page 1

should be replaced every 10 to 12 years, he said.

Barbour estimates that the batteries in question were only replaced once since the complex was built in 1969.

"We test them annually," he explained. "They were still working and they were still holding a charge, so it wasn't anything we expected."

Steve Woodhead of Environmental Safety and Health agrees that the emergency backup system was operating normally when he performed the annual test two days prior to the incident.

The test is done per National Fire Prevention Association guidelines, which require backup systems be run once a year for 90 minutes. He concedes that the test itself may have driven the batteries to failure.

"Maybe that 90 minutes put a load on them or something that they couldn't handle," Woodhead said last Wednesday afternoon.

The test of the batteries' physical integrity is performed by George Pattershall, Assistant Life Safety Systems Supervisor, who said that the age of the batteries has meant that increasing amounts of maintenance is needed to keep them operational.

"The nickel-cadmium batteries, as they age, tend to use more water... so you have to add more and more."

He added that Life Safety Systems has monitored the system closely, but that age may have finally caught up with the batteries.

"We've watched this system, because it uses more water, and needs more care. It's aged to the

point where it's not worth maintaining."

DFM has already replaced batteries in Payson Smith Hall and the Law Building. They plan on replacing the current system with decentralized emergency light heads, the same kind that are set up in Luther Bonney Hall. The proposed batteries are fueled by a sealed lead-acid fuel mixture, which is more reliable.

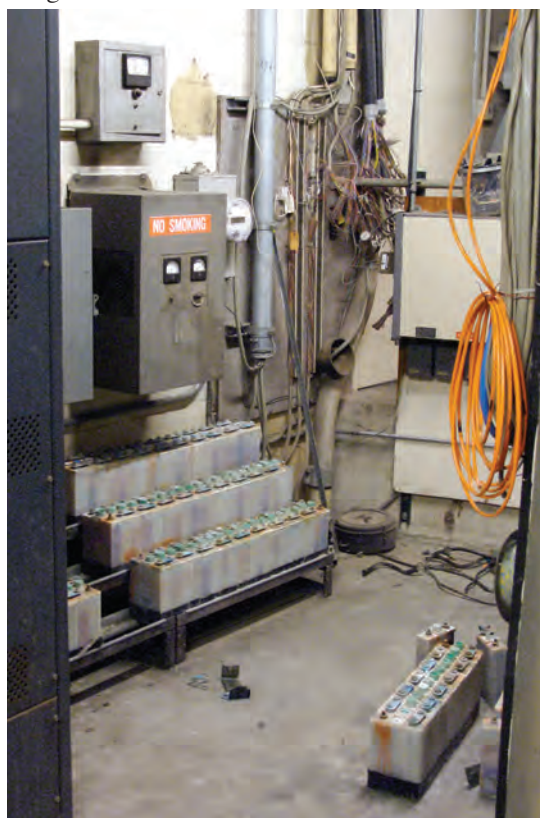
Given the long list of repairs currently on the deferred maintenance list, and the lack of reserve labor, USM may have to subcontract the project to an outside firm, says Barbour.

"It's an old campus. There's a lot of deferred maintenance, so things keep breaking down..."

We're going to need the staff we have, if not more."

Barbour does not know how much the project will cost, or how it will be paid for, but he stresses that the job is too important to put off.

"We're going to have to fix it, we have no choice."



DANIEL MACLEOD/ NEWS EDITOR

From **RIBBON** on page 1

and focuses on allowing more natural light to come through.

Switching the entrance towards campus makes the library seem closer to the rest of the buildings. "I park right there in the parking garage, so it's an easier walk." USM student Casey Webster said about the new entryway.

The new entryway is considered by many to be a positive addition to USM's Portland Campus. "It's more convenient, and the entrance should be facing campus instead of Forest Avenue," Library secretary Jennifer Barret said.

The new entrance is part of a long arcade that serves as a portal to the library as well as the Osher Map collection, the most prominent collection of historical maps in New England, which is scheduled to open in September '09. USM president, Selma Botman, who gave a brief speech before cutting the ribbon said, "This new entrance is a portal to a bright future." As Botman struggled to cut the ribbon, she remarked "It's not very elegant, but we're getting there," drawing a parallel to the University's economic troubles.

The library building was originally constructed in 1919 and served as a bakery until the 1950's when it became a plumbing supply company and warehouse. The University purchased the building in 1990 and transformed it into the technological center that it is today.

Zip Kellogg, a reference librarian who has been with the University for 24 years, hopes that students are drawn to the closer location, urging, "Hey gang, come on down." Zip helped move the library in 1993 from

what is now the computer lab in Luther Bonney to the first four floors of its present location. The top three floors were renovated in 2004 to accommodate the library's growing collection of materials. The addition of this new entrance, "celebrates the final step," says Nutty.

Staying competitive in the 21st century means that the library must focus not only on the printed material found in the stacks, but also access to electronic resources through the library's vast network of texts found online. President Botman said, "The availability of electronic library resources are an indication of who we are and will become." According to its website, the Glickman library contains more than 200,000 bound volumes, 1,500 subscriptions, and nearly three-quarters of a million pieces of microfilm.

Student body president, Ben Taylor, who also attended the ceremony said that the new entrance, "ties the campus together," adding, "It's nice to see something good that's been done and to appreciate it."

Despite the hard economic times faced by USM, the event managed to bring people together and connect them to an important foundation of the University system.

"The library is central to university life," President Botman said. "All of these books are yours."

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USM's Green Team releases fall report

Window warriors urge us to shut it

Danica Koenig
Staff Writer

Walking through Luther Bonney this past semester it was hard to miss the group of campaigning students who called themselves the "Window Warriors." This was the most recent campaign of the USM Green Team, whose past efforts in the fall of 2006 involved covering light switch covers with sticker bearing the phrase "Flip it Switch it Turn it Off." Their most recent campaign focused on conserving heat by shutting open windows. At the end of the semester the Team released a report of the campaign results during a public forum on December 18th at USM's Wishcamper Center in Portland.

The Green Team of '08 comprised of five students from Professor Nancy Artz's BUS 398 class, Marketing Practicum. Besides being part of this experiential learning class, the

campaign helped USM to meet the goals of two environmental initiatives it has signed, the Governor's Carbon Challenge and the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment.

The goal of the campaign was to try to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by the University while also trying to cut heating costs. Professor Artz states she was very pleased with the amount of greenhouse gas that was reduced due to this campaign, but in her opinion there were more important successes of the campaign. She is most proud of how much her students learned and the amount of general awareness they raised.

"We changed behavior for some individuals that will last beyond the two week period we measured," says Artz. "Just because we only saved so much greenhouse gas emissions from Luther Bonney over a two week

period, doesn't mean that people aren't thinking about their behaviors in Masterton or Payson Smith or at home and will do so over the long term."

Artz also adds how extremely impressed she was by the effort and work put in by the students of her class.

"My students were great, really great," says Artz. "They did the project entirely on their own. They designed, ran, and evaluated a marketing campaign. You can only learn so much from lectures and multiple choice tests. At some point you have to do."

The students from the Artz's business class also considered the campaign a success and the experience wonderful. Michael Brett, the student project coordinator, was extremely pleased with the results that both reduced wasted energy and saved USM a notable amount of money.

"My team felt very good about the results because it showed that our actions were noticed by the USM community and people were actually listening to the environmental needs of USM," says Michael. "Other than that, the experience of running a real social marketing plan as a small team of students was a unique and eye-opening experience into the realm of marketing that we all will surely remember for a long time."

Despite the positive reception by the majority of the student body, there was the occasional negative comment. Someone wrote "Climate Nazis" across one of their fliers. But overall, Artz says she has noticed an increase in environmental awareness at the University since 2006.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GREEN TEAM

"There was a greater receptivity this time to the campaign goals," says Artz. "I think there has been a shift in cultural acceptance of climate change and human cause of climate change."

Amanda Sarver, a senior Business student and the research coordinator of the campaign, agrees that one of the most important successes that resulted from the campaign was the level of awareness raised around campus.

"Even though we didn't see a dramatic decrease in the number of windows left open we did see a big increase in awareness. For us this was success," says Amanda.

Nancy Artz is unsure whether there will be another Green Team in the future due to budget issues, but she sees this class as a small part of a bigger change.

She hopes that the awareness and issues raised by this campaign will continue to encourage people to change their behavior. This, according to Artz, is the only way to bring about real change.

"Most people in America say they're concerned about the environment, but if you actually look at their behaviors it doesn't necessarily correspond with the level they themselves say they care about the environment," says Artz. "We're creatures of habits and social norms so it's important to not just educate people, but get them to change behavior patterns. This class was one small part of a much bigger piece of culture change."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GREEN TEAM

USM announces next Provost

Early start for "shifting" key role

David O'Donnell
Staff Writer

President Botman has named USM's next Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs - Dr. Kate Langdon Forhan of Northeastern Illinois University. Forhan is currently the dean of NEIU's College of Arts and Sciences, a post she has held since 2002. Her selection caps a hiring campaign that yielded 97 applicants from colleges around the country.

It was also announced that Dr. Forhan will begin her job unusually early - whereas such positions typically change hands in July, at the start of a new fiscal year, Forhan has negotiated to leave her current job and start work at USM in April.

"The team of people I'm working with [in Illinois], they're in good shape, and the college is in good shape," Forhan says.

"When I met with the President and search committee at USM, it was clear to me that the sooner I can be there, the better."

Forhan will inherit one of the most senior administrative roles at a University grappling with major budget limitations and uncertainty about its future: in the short-term, the school is still contracting its operating budget to reconcile a sudden funding shortfall of \$2.7 million.

In the long-term, it faces a likelihood of deeper cuts in the coming years, and a major restructuring effort is underway.

"We've entered a new world and a new reality," says President Botman.

"Dr. Forhan will have major input in how we implement a new strategy."

She will relieve interim provost Mark Lapping, who has been holding the job since Joseph Wood relinquished it to act as interim President in 2007, for the presidential search that resulted in Botman's hire.

When Botman took office in July, she declined to ask Wood to return to the position; instead, she initiated a search committee consisting of various faculty,

staff, members of the community, and student body president Ben Taylor. Ads were immediately placed in prominent academic journals.

"We made sure to start the search early in order to stay ahead," says Taylor. "A lot of other schools were hiring this year."

Taylor says that while only a small percentage of students may have been aware of the job opening, he feels he was able to bring student concerns to the search process. Aside from reviewing cover letters and resumes - roughly 1,500 pages, he estimates - he was also granted private 30-minute interviews with all four finalists.

"From my perspective, it's all about how they handle a student with an issue that reaches their office," he says.

"Once you get to the provost, you're usually fairly upset."

Forhan hopes her interactions with students aren't necessarily so stressful.

"It's important that people know who you are, and be able to find you," says Forhan, who plans to open a second office in Gorham in addition to the existing space in Portland's Law building.

"If I see [students] sitting on a bench, I'm not averse to asking 'hey, you - what do you like about this place?'"

Aside from channeling student concerns to the President's office, the provost is expected to provide a similar link to the school's faculty. For that reason, members of the search committee focused as much on each candidate's prior lives as scholars as to their accomplishments as administrators.

Following B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of California, Forhan earned her Ph.D in political science from Johns Hopkins University; she has written and edited several books, with particular focus on medieval French writer Christine de Pizan, believed by many to

be Europe's first female to do so professionally.

Forhan may be asked to return to the classroom to teach in her area of expertise, as Botman is doing with Egyptian political history this spring. But Lapping points out, as he prepares to assist in the transition, that much of his workday is largely tied up in the budget crisis. He says that the focus of his job has shifted in recent months, and that this month the UMaine system has given its chief academic officers a daunting agenda: "To change the system, by collaboration."

In her scholarship, Forhan has been fascinated with the metaphor of the "body politic" to describe the roles of people and groups within an institution. And in that spirit, even she has a hard time pegging down the role of provost at USM.

"We are all interdependent," she writes. "...so sometimes a provost is an eye or an ear, or a heart or a hand, or an arm or a foot, but so is everybody else!"

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PERSPECTIVES

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

A flurry of news

Over winter break, I fell into a normal, domestic routine that comes with time spent at home. No cable means I am woefully dependant on network television to fulfill my entertainment needs.

As I lazed around the homestead, I watched as The Price is Right gave way a solid three hour late-afternoon block of courtroom judge shows, followed by my now-close friends, Ellen, Phil, and of course, The Big O. By six o'clock the evening news was a welcome refuge of substance and information.

Or, it was.
As major cold front moved eastward a couple weeks ago, the night's top stories became an avalanche of warnings about EXTREME TEMPERATURES, and SUB-ZERO CONDITIONS. With an urgent and serious tone, newscasters mentioned "artic air" coming in from Canada with the same solemn manner usually reserved for the Hamases and Al-Quedas of the world.

Two local news outlets even sent reporters to the frosty peak of Mt. Washington to document the fact that – yes – it really is colder on top of a mountain.

Now, I understand the weather is a very real concern for many people. Plunging temperatures can be dangerous for those who work outside, or the elderly. But the disproportionate amount of attention being given to the

earth's normal cycle of seasons started to get to me after a few days.

Here's a breaking news story for you. It's Maine, it's between October and May, and it's going to be cold.

As the editor of The Free Press, my weekly job includes deciding what is, and what is not newsworthy. Believe me when I say that a lot goes on around campus that doesn't make it into the paper, but being constrained by page size, and resources forces us to make such decisions.

So I find it frustrating when events are blow out of proportion just to make for an exciting lead story, or something juicy to mention in between prime time shows... "Tonight at 11! Extended coverage of a thermometer steadily dropping!"

It's this sort of elastic definition of "news" that can alienate the viewer, and stop them from wanting to tune in. Who is gong to trust the news judgment of a station that believes a demonstration on turning boiling water into snow belongs further up in a newscast than the latest reports out of Gaza?

If this problem only extended as far as the weather, I might be able to cope. However, "news" can also sometimes mean borderline creepy voyeurism, specifically in the case of our nation's newest first kids. Their first day at a new school must have been hard enough adjustment, but to be followed by professional "journalists," who are between

three and seven times your age, capturing your every move on camera and broadcasting your lunch menu on the nightly news, borders on ridiculous.

News in this country has always been decidedly America-centric. The country's nightly news programs give little coverage to events around the globe compared to other media organizations. But I refuse to believe that the time spent broadcasting a forlorn Malia, head pressed to the window as her armored SUV rolled into school, could not have been better spent on... well, anything really.

A distinction needs to be made between news and entertainment masquerading as important information. It's a tough sell because cut –and–dried facts are usually not as riveting as exploitative, glitzy entertainment. But when the two intersect it degrades the value of important information. And while it might give the people what they want, it certainly does not give them what they need

Thanks for reading,



Matt Dodge

Remember to love

Changing the world through transcendence

Taryn Yudaken
Staff Writer

Lately, I have spent a lot of time thinking about human nature. I've been thinking about collective consciousness, the power that it may have, and how greatly our emotions really affect our lives.

There are two emotions that all other feelings stem from-love and fear. Positive emotions like happiness, excitement, joy, and peace are rooted in love, whereas negative emotions like anger, sadness, greed and jealousy are rooted in fear.

In our society we are bombarded by fear, and therefore we literally breed it. While mainstream media often leaves people feeling insecure, inadequate, and in need of constant material improvement, our personal lives are focused around competition, petty judgments, and dramatic relationships. We fear that we might be unsuccessful without college degrees, so we push ourselves through school - many of us with the main goal of money, not inner improvement. We fear we might not be socially attractive, so we go to great measures improving our appearances. Some people go as far as discriminating against others to feel more secure about themselves; through action and violence, great fears are manifested. The fear to lose what we've grown up believing, to lose our conditioned identities: The fear that we may not be married with children by thirty-five, or ever. The fear to walk away from

the norm and develop some original opinions in case of exile from a certain group of people. All these fears keep humanity in a box, a great big messy box, filled with war and crime and hate and insecurity.

I recently discovered an uplifting story about changing people's consciousness from negative to positive. A martial artist and novelist, Arthur Rosenfeld, was in a line at Starbucks one morning when he encountered an unpleasant driver behind him. The driver was honking the horn at him, cursing for him to pull up (which, due to the line, Rosenfeld could not do). Well, instead of ignoring the situation, or even retaliating, Rosenfeld pulled up to the window and proceeded to pay for his tea, and the breakfast of the guy (and his four family members) behind him. When the presumably irritated man pulled up to pay and was told that his order had already been paid for by the driver preceding him, he felt a change of heart. He decided that he would pay for the car behind him. When the next car rolled up to a meal already paid for, they decided to pay for the car behind them. This chain reaction lasted until the afternoon. A news organization caught up with Starbucks, and Rosenfeld was tracked down through his credit card information. When interviewed, Rosenfeld said that it was not an act of kindness, it was a change of consciousness. He wanted to change a negative situation into a positive one, and with that came tangible (albeit small) change.

By acknowledging the universal consciousness that connects every human, one develops far more than just respect for everything around them; one finds a deeply rooted power, an ability to change one's own life just by changing a negatively-charged outlook. Rosenfeld said that he paid for the guy's breakfast to benefit himself too, because instead of leaving both of them in a bad mood, he left both of them in a fulfilled mood. With a change towards transcendence, humanity has the potential to evolve. I think we should all remind ourselves daily to focus on this evolution by remembering to love. By extending positive feelings to strangers on the street, the cashier, a peer on the bus-anyone and everyone. Love not only your family and friends, but your enemies too. Once we all start recognizing the power of love in human connection, we will evolve. That's what the Mayans said anyway, but I think they were really onto something. Even if indirectly, we all affect each other. Perhaps if everyone searches themselves for true meaning, a higher consciousness, we can eventually find ourselves governed by peace and love, realizing we're all so connected, and living in a better world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To whom this may concern:

On behalf of USM's "Supporting Student Parent Task Force", I am writing in response to Nicole Bergeron's article "Breaking with Tradition" that was published in the December 1, 2008 issue of The Free Press. This article highlighted the challenges that one non-traditional student faced when she returned to college while juggling a family at the same time. While the University provides opportunities for students who have personal and career aspirations that will yield them later success in life that only a four-year baccalaureate can provide, the simple logistics of just getting out of the house in the morning can be a major obstacle for students who have children. Many of our student parents also juggle work on top of a full course load and the responsibility of caring for their children. The fact that many of our student parents do persevere and succeed is an inspiration to all of us. My hunch is that those who are successful have someone in their lives that they can lean on. But what happens to the students who don't have this kind of support?

The student in this article described the feeling of isolation that exists for her at USM, exacerbating the every day hurdles of parenting young children. One of the challenges to providing support for this group of students is that we don't have a mechanism for identifying students who are also parents. Unless someone volunteers that information, brings their children to class, or utilizes USM Child and Family Centers, there are no identifying characteristics that can categorize a student who has children (unless, of course, you look closely at the dark circles under their eyes or the sweet smell of talcum powder wafting from their person).

In the past year, the Task Force was established by various University departments in response to this dilemma. The membership includes students, University Counseling Center, Advising, Student Life, Early Student Success, Residential Life, Child and Family Centers and LAC/Multicultural Student Affairs. The group is charged with the coordination of University and community resources, providing a welcoming atmosphere for student parents and discerning what student parents need in order to provide the resources that they need in order to be successful. Our challenge has been and continues to be: how do we know who is a student parent? And, how can student parents connect with each other?

To this end, we have a few opportunities coming up in the near future:

- Second Time Around is a new student organization for non-traditional students. The contact for that group is Brian Green at brian.greene@maine.edu or look in Facebook under "groups". They will be hosting an information table on January 7th. Check USM's calendar of events for specific time and place so you can stop by.
- USM Parents Connecting: a new series of parent support groups starting in January. The first topic is "Temperament" which will be held on Thursday, January 29th from 5:45 – 6:45 at the Women's Resource Center in the Woodbury Campus Center. USM Child and Family Centers in Portland will provide child care for a nominal fee.
- Parents as Scholars meeting on January 21st with representatives from DHHS so PaS participants can meet one another and brainstorm ways that we can help to meet their needs.
- A survey determining student parent support needs and potential eligibility for child care subsidy will be disseminated to student parents on USM Child and Family Centers' waiting list for child care.
- The New Student Mentor Program through the Office of Early Student Success. Students are matched with a USM faculty or staff person who is eager to support you during your first year at USM. You may be matched with a person who is also a parent who may be able to provide support to help you manage your multiple responsibilities. Call 780-5470 for more information.
- During the Week of the Young Child which takes place April 19 - 25, the student coordinator of the Office of Community Service Learning on the LAC campus is planning "child-awareness/kid-friendly events" for students whose children are on school vacation that same week.

One of USM's strengths is its diverse student population. Several of the students profiled on USM's website specifically mentioned the benefits of having older students in their classes. We need to celebrate the enrichment of their experiences that add to the depth of what they bring to USM. So, Got Kids? If you do, there are many people at USM who care. For more information, please contact me at Imoses@usm.maine.edu

Sincerely,

Lori Freid Moses
Director
USM Child and Family Centers

One Maine, One University

Maybe I'm the most naïve student on campus, so someone please set me straight.

Here we are cutting books, computers, faculty, and progressive programs like EYE in order to try to cut \$2.7m from USM's budget, and trying to do so without reducing the quality of education. Does it seem like we're trying to swat this financial fly with a proverbial sledgehammer? By the way, the order for the entire University of Maine System is to chop \$11.2m.

UMS's (University of Maine System) website boasts "7 Unique Universities. One Amazing State". What's the benefit of having 7 unique universities? Implicit in this statement is that they all operate separately, which in fact they do. As a result, there are 7 unique budgets and expense structures. I wonder if we combined all those budgets if we'd see opportunities for some significant economies of scale? Could we split some costs 7 ways? If so, wouldn't this mean 1/7th the cost for some items that could be shared, like electronic functions, data bases, forms creation, administrative functions, billing systems, etc.? If you're ride pooling, 7 unique people pay 1/7th the cost each to get where they're going, right? Would we have 7 times more buying power through combining purchases of supplies, utilities, capital purchases, etc.? Towns with unique businesses are finding that by combining their strength they are able to rival the strength of giant nationals, and build stronger local communities. What about consolidating redundant colleges, i.e. sciences, education, art, business, etc., and sharing more resources?

I hope we're not too proud to open ourselves up to this kind of thinking. In my mind, it just makes us smarter, and after all, we are a higher learning institution. Maybe our slogan should read something like "7 Amazing Universities (in one). One Unique State".

Peter Brown
Junior
Class of 2010

January 20th 2009

My inauguration experience

Jennifer Willard
Contributing Writer

January 20, 2009, I was a witness to the fulfillment of Martin Luther King's dream that people will judge others by the content of their character and not the color of their skin.

More than twice the population of Maine stood before, behind and around the Capitol Building with more people spilling out of Metro gates like the march of the penguins and walking the streets of DC in hopes of finding a giant Jumbotron where they could watch the swearing-in ceremony.

People standing in lines to enter the Mall chanted "Yes We Did" and "Obama Obama." The mood was celebratory, anticipatory with the air filled with energy

and a sense that all of us were somehow connected. Connected as Americans with a newfound purpose.

People from Romania, Trinidad, Sweden and every state in America all acknowledged the same feeling of unity as if a wall separating us had come down. We were listening to each other as a people sharing our challenges, without an ideology that separated – for indeed the time of ideology is gone replaced with a hope that united.

The call of our new president who said that this was our country, our government, our time, ready to "begin again the work of remaking America" was heard. Only through "hard work and honesty, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty



COURTESY OF THE OBAMA CAMPAIGN

and patriotism" choosing to take responsibility as citizens and participants in our future.

It was a clarion call of 49 years ago when another young handsome man challenged the

youth of America saying, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." That generation put us on the moon, gave us the Peace Corps, legislated an end to

Jim Crow and died at Kent State as they marched to end a war in Vietnam. What will this generation do?



Don't stay home!

January 26th - February 1st

Monday, January 26th

Binding, Wood Blocking & Paste Papers, Oh My!

The Kate Cheney Chappell '83 Center for Book Arts at USM presents an exhibition in book artists by 50 USM graduates. The art will be on presentation through Spring Break on the 7th floor of the Glickman Family Library with the opening celebration on February 4th, from 4:30-5:30, where many of the USM alums will be in attendance. Free! 7th Floor Family Glickman Library! For more information and hours of operation visit: [//library.usm.maine.edu/about/hoursspring2009.html](http://library.usm.maine.edu/about/hoursspring2009.html) or call (207)780-4270.

Tuesday, January 27th

And a pocket full of shells!

So you miss your favorite politically driven rock, rap, alternative band and you don't know what to do? Fear not! Members of Portland based bands Boombazi and Labseven have teamed up to give you that Rage Against the Machine fix you've been missing. Don't miss this special tribute to one of music's most important acts! 21+! 9 pm! The Big Easy! 55 Market St., Portland

Wednesday, January 28th

Don't wear a fur coat to the meeting!

USM's Animals Rights Activist Team will have its first meeting of the semester to discuss future plans and events. The meeting will be held at the Woodbury Campus Center Amphitheater. Don't know where that is either? It's the open theater like area to the left of the bookstore. 8-9 p.m.

Thursday, January 29th

You think you're funny?

Overwhelmed by the first week of classes? Flex your funny bones at Slainte's Open Mic Comedy Night by laughing at some of the best amateur stand-up comics in Portland. Don't like what you see? Get up there yourself and start cracking those jokes you make up in your head everyday. Someone's bound to laugh. 21+! Free! Slainte! 24 Preble St., Portland! myspace.com/slainteme

Friday, January 30th

Cut me to the core!

Prepare to get your face ripped off in a flurry of metal riffs and growls from one of metalcore's best acts, Unearth. The Massachusetts based outfit will be bringing the moshpit to The Station along with opening acts Emmure, Born of Osiris, and Impending Doom. Prepare for a sweaty good time! \$15 adv, \$18 day of show! 7 p.m./ The Station! 272 St. John's St., Portland! myspace.com/thestationlive

Saturday, January 31st

Middle Eastern groove!

Celebrate Middle Eastern Night at the Space with traditional Arabic music. Turgay Ertrk comes all the way from Turkey to showcase his talents on the longed neck lute saz, oud and yayli tanbur. Don't know what any of these instruments are? Go get cultured and find out! Portland based Alhan will also be playing a mix of classical and Arabic tunes. 18+! \$10! 7:30 p.m./ Space Gallery! 538 Congress St., Portland

Sunday, February 1st

Go Pats (tear)!

Still can't get over last years, ahem, Super Bowl debacle? Don't care for the Steelers or the Cardinals? Than treat yourself to some punny hi-jinx at the Brooks Student Center in Gorham which will play host to 'Soup-er' Bowl Sunday. Guaranteed to distract you from even the worst flashbacks of last year's tragedy. Free! Brooks Student Center/ Gorham! visit <http://gwcal.usm.maine.edu> for more information as it becomes available

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HIV TESTING

NOW AVAILABLE AT USM HEALTH SERVICES

Effective January 20, 2009

Confidential, voluntary HIV testing is now available for USM students at both the Portland and Gorham Health Centers of University Health and Counseling Services.

Cost is \$35

The cost for HIV testing is covered as a benefit for students who have purchased the USM Sickness and Accident Insurance offered by the Chickering Group and underwritten by Aetna Life Insurance. Other forms of payment include cash, check, credit or debit card, or placing on your student bill.

For more information contact Gorham Health Center, 110 Upton Hall at 780-5411 or Portland Health Center, Modular Unit at 780-4211 or check our website at www.usm.maine.edu/health. Health Services is part of the Division of Student and University Life: Supporting student learning and success.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Page 10.Featured artist
 Page 11.Epicurean epic
 Page 12.Academy snub

Building something out of nothing

Port City Music Hall seeks to fill two voids with one stage



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

Portland's Sidecar Radio became one of the first to play the new Port City Music Hall, opening a Saturday night show with Fear Nuttin Band

David O'Donnell

Staff Writer

504 Congress Street has been home to a lot of business in the past two decades, and unfortunately for a string of entrepreneurs, it hasn't been any one of them for very long.

Rob Evon is the latest to take an active interest in this prime piece of downtown real estate, smack in the middle of Portland's arts district, just around the corner from Monument Square. And he isn't worried by the recent history.

"I think our music industry contacts will speak for themselves," he says, as delivery men unload the first boxes of liquor into his Port City Music Hall.

"Nobody's gonna be able to touch what's happening here."

Finally, this weekend, the public has been able to enter the space that Evon snatched up last fall, in a high-profile sale that also peaked the interest of Todd Bernard, founder of nearby SPACE gallery, who likewise hoped to exploit its potential as a major music venue. He's now looking elsewhere.

Not only is Port City rising out of the ashes of this beleaguered property; its aim is to fill a niche left wide open several years back with the closing of the historic State Theater - where an empty ticket booth still juts out onto the sidewalk a few blocks away.

The State Theatre was, for many years, Portland's premier medium-sized arts venue. As Free Press columnist Jeff Beam lamented on these pages last

April, it "wasn't as big as the Civic Center, but bigger than any club or bar" - meaning intimacy for the music lover, and a private bathroom for the band.

"Portland didn't need another bar where you can play live music," Evon says. "Right now, Portland needs a music venue that can provide services and amenities that nationally touring, professional artists require."

For the State, that meant the likes of Bob Dylan, Phish, John Fogerty, or Jimmy Eat World. The more modestly-sized Port City, with a capacity of about 660 bodies, still hopes it can attract the sort of acts who have bypassed Portland on their recent New England tours.

And so far, they have. Indie rockers OK Go, for instance, just penciled in a gig between shows at Boston's Paradise Rock Club and San Diego's House of Blues (March 13).

Jazz icon John Scofield stops by on April 2nd. A February 6 performance by Derek Trucks Band is already sold out.

Not bad for a venue that has yet to secure its liquor license.

"Let's get this damn water out of here!" jokes bartender Chris Lopez, pulling bottles of Dasani from the refrigerator to make room for bottles of beer.

Tonight's show will be another attempt at the "soft open" originally planned and advertised for a week ago. The club's opening had to be postponed when it became clear Port City wouldn't be licensed to serve liquor as a Class I auditorium. This classification

is something Evon has fought for rather than more easily-attainable bar or lounge clearances.

"We're trying to set a new precedent in liquor law interpretation and enforcement," Evon says. While he explicitly rules out hosting all-ages shows, he would like to welcome an 18+ college crowd from time to time.

For tonight, at least, he and his crew have nothing but praise for state senator Justin Alford, who just helped them work out a last-minute solution: a one-night license to get the alcohol flowing for the show that begins in six hours. Early next week however, it's back to city hall.

Beginning in 1988, 504 Congress was one of several former department stores to sit abandoned and boarded up until Portland's downtown renaissance of the mid-1990s. In '97, it reopened as the trendy Keystone Theater, one of many "dinner and a movie" joints that were then predicted to be the future of cinema.

By 2003, the space had morphed into OZONE II, a short-lived, chem-free dance club for teenagers.

It was soon sold and converted to The Stadium sports bar, which despite plastering its title across the massive facade, eventually receded toward the Free Street half of the property. Its ownership then caused a splash in 2006 by announcing their intentions to use the extra space to open a Hooters franchise.

It would have been Maine's first incarnation of the global



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

restaurant chain, famous for its waitresses' tight tank tops and short-shorts. The city council responded with a special ordinance to prevent it from opening.

The liquor license ordeal is indicative of Evon's larger aims with his new establishment - his first music venue, having previously helped found both an on-location recording service and an organic food company.

If that means buying only all-new sound equipment for his

deluxe floating stage, and having the acoustics tested and perfected by the same experts who normally work with Jay-Z and Steve Miller Band, so be it. He's not going to let a little recession spoil his dream.

"We're looking to cater to a higher-end clientele, higher-end demographic, people with disposable income," he says. "I don't like to do anything half-assed."

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Featured Artist

Nick Downing keeps viewers guessing. While he may be a sculpture major, his portfolio of works show a vast creativity and incorporation of many mediums and techniques.

Nick Downing

Free Press: What is your major and concentration?

Nick Downing: My Major is Art and Entrepreneurial Studies with a concentration in sculpture. I also have a minor in art history.

FP: What year/class are you?

ND: I am a senior, but I am anticipating being back for another semester in the spring.

FP: What is the medium that you work the most with?

ND: I work in several mediums but the two that I work in the most are hardwood and steel. I really like materials that present a challenge and have some innate character. In the last few years I have also gotten into ceramics quite a bit.

FP: How would you describe your artwork?

ND: I would say that my artwork is largely based in craft. The part of art I enjoy most is the actual physical making of the work. It is a meditative experience for me. I love watching glowing metal take shape under my hammer or the challenges of revealing and working with the character of wood. I often create functional art. I really like the idea of integrating art into every day life, I have a mug that I made that I drink tea out of almost every day.

FP: Where do you get ideas/draw influence from to make your art?

ND: My inspiration can come from just about anywhere but I often find inspiration in nature and literature. I also love ancient art. Medieval reliquaries are some of my favorites and

Japanese metal and lacquer work also. A few years ago I saw some miniscule seal stones from the Middle East that were thousands of years old, they are just tiny bits of rock crystal carved with these incredibly detailed and complex pictures I had never even heard of them and I was so amazed that something so exquisite could be almost completely looked over in all the art history classes I have taken. Discoveries like that fuel much of my creativity.

FP: Do you have any continuing themes that you find pop up in your work often?

ND: There are a lot of themes in my work I occasionally get obsessed with things and they will show up again and again. Recently it has been birds, roots, spirals and human hands. Through out the years, the human figure, animals of all kinds, and arcane imagery such as green men and Celtic knots have also

featured prominently in my work.

FP: What are you currently working on (in your spare time, for class etc)?

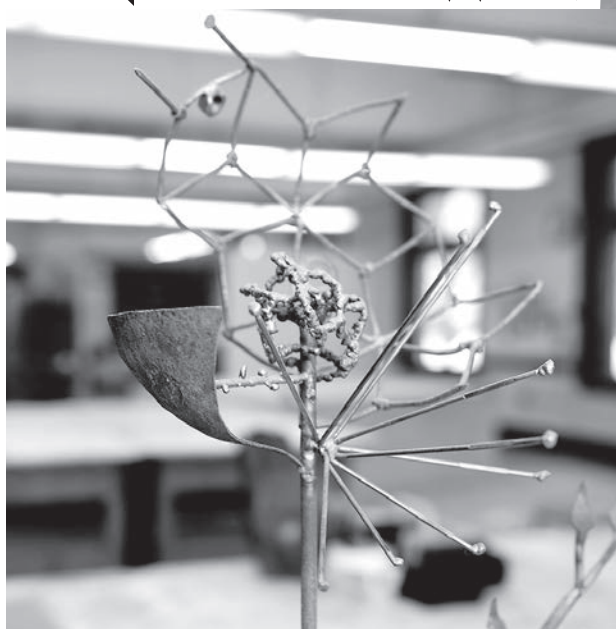
ND: Currently I am working on refurbishing my forge, which I hope to use to do some advanced blacksmithing techniques for my independent study this semester. I am also assisting Professor Hewitt with a project he has in Brunswick in March, I have been back here for track since January 6th and in addition to the forge and the project with professor Hewitt, I have also made some small eating utensils for camping, but I dressed them up so they are fairly aesthetic. I also built a hilt for a fencing sword which I hope to use fairly soon, and I've been, with the gracious allowance of Professor Schneider, throwing lots of mugs as a fundraiser for the Art Student's Union.



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

Above: Downing displays a variety of sculptural pieces that he has created during his time at USM.

Left: One of Downing's metal sculptures.



FP: How do you see your art fitting in after you graduate?

ND: I am really not sure exactly what I want to do after I graduate, perhaps volunteer for a while. I don't think I want to be a studio artist, at least not right away, because I do not think I have the discipline, but I would really like to get a job in an arts related field, one that has regular hours and a steady pay check would be ideal. I have also considered going into art restoration because it has to do with science, history and art, which are things I am passionate about.

FP: How have you grown as an artist during your time here at USM?

ND: The professors here at USM have been wonderful in that respect, each one has encouraged me to explore a different aspect of my creativity. I admit that I have been resistant to a lot of it, but what they have

gotten me to do (still-lives of mundane objects, projects where the only direction was something like the word "Hinge") have done much to expand my horizons.

FP: Where do you want to see your work go? Do you have any plans, techniques, mediums you'd like to try or get into?

ND: There are always things that I want to try. For ceramics I would love to get into wood firing because I think that creates some really beautiful effects. I would also like to try glass blowing, I have done a little lampworking and I loved it, but I have never made any sort of vessels and I would really like to. I would also like to get into jewelry more. I have experimented with stone setting and silver work, but I have had very little formal training and that is something I think would really benefit my work.

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EPICUREAN EPICS

by Anne McCormack

Ro's Pulled Pork

3 tablespoons canola oil	1/2 cup molasses	1 teaspoon salt
4 lbs. boneless pork shoulder	1/3 cup brown sugar	1 teaspoon pepper
1 onion, coarsely chopped	2 teaspoons red pepper flakes	1/2 teaspoon paprika
1 cup cider vinegar	1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce	
3/4 cup ketchup	1 teaspoon dried mustard	

Heat oil in large cast iron pan or casserole and sear all sides of the pork.

Transfer meat to Dutch oven or crock pot. Pour off all but 1 tablespoon of fat, and add onion,

cooking until golden. Add vinegar and stir, scraping pork bits off bottom. Add remaining

ingredients, stir to combine and heat until it bubbles. Pour over the pork in the crock pot and

cook high 4-5 hours or 8-10 hours over low heat. If using a cast iron Dutch oven, low and slow

is the key - 225 degrees for about 5 or 6 hours.

Pull the pork apart and give a nod to the memory of America's most revered realist painter,

Andrew Wyeth. He is now a part of Christina's World, as he rests at the edge of the field at

the Olsen house, next to Christina and her brother Elvira.



Lunch with Wyeth

Rosey and I have been friends since we met at UMO in the late seventies. Last weekend, her sisters and I met in South Thomaston, as Lynda's husband Joe had flown to Florida to play some baseball. Lynda and Joe live in a house on Patten Point that is warm with pine, rich with art, and has generous windows that frame the sea and islands.

We all arrived late on Saturday, just ahead of the storm; Rosey and Kathie from Rhode Island, Chrissy from Lamoine, and I from New Gloucester. Our grocery bags foretold a weekend of feasting, merriment, and cheer.

From the kitchen we could see Lynda through the French doors in her study, on the phone in front of

her monitor as we began unloading bags, locating a corkscrew, and slicing crescents of lime. Ten minutes later and Lynda was still on the phone, occasionally gesturing apologetically to us. When she joined us, we learned why.

Joe is a gravedigger, and cemetery overseer for South Thomaston. Just prior to our arrival, Lynda had received a call from Hutch, the local funeral director, saying that Joe had to dig a grave for Andrew Wyeth, who had died the day before, January 16, in Pennsylvania. He was coming home to Maine to be buried. Therefore, Lynda had been arranging flights; Florida to Portland wasn't too bad, Portland to Owl's Head a bit more complicated. But she did it, and reunited; we gathered around the island and commenced to kick off the long weekend.

There was an array of food that sustained us through the storm that left up to 20 inches on much of Maine. We began with several pounds of salmon pink Maine shrimp, right off the boat, which we dipped in a blend of white vinegar and melted butter. Seeded crackers were drawn through garlic hummus, and then we ventured to town for crisp wood-fired brick oven pizzas. The next night Rosey made dumplings with three dipping sauces (ginger, one with orange and garlic, and one hot and spicy) and a vegetable lo-Mein. For lunch we delved into a cast iron Dutch oven full of out of this world Pulled Pork, the recipe of which follows. Serve on any time of bread or sandwich buns.

Animated films remain afterthought at Academy Awards

Jake Cowan
Staff Writer

The 2009 Academy Award Nominations were announced last Thursday with a sound no louder than a "thud." The lackluster Oscar push of this year's nominations left much to be desired from last years onslaught of intellectual and intriguing titles. "Slumdog Millionaire" seems to be this year's favorite for best picture, already taking home the Golden Globe's Best Picture award (Drama) along with many other accolades from contests around the world. I could spend this time detailing the differences between this years and

last years Best Picture nominees, but you can't blame the Academy on the quality of movies released in the past year. Instead, I'd like to focus on blaming the Academy for overlooking one of the best films of the year, Pixar's "Wall-E", and allocating it to a meaningless, hypocritical category, Best Animated Feature.

The Best Animated Feature Category was created in 2001 in order to commend the work done by animators and directors in this particular field of work. The Best Animated Short award has been given out since the 5th Academy Awards in 1932. Until 2001, feature length animated films (70

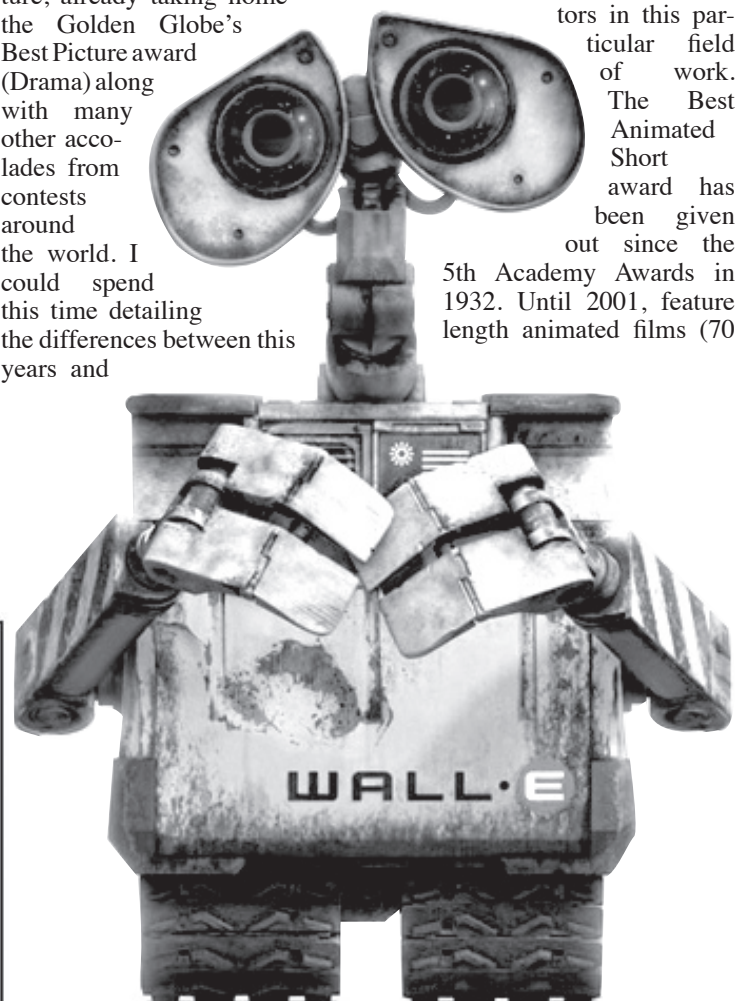
minutes or longer) were judged equally alongside live-action films - 1991's "Beauty and the Beast" becoming the one and only animated feature ever to be nominated for Best Picture.

With the rise of CGI animation, competing distributors, and the millions and millions of dollars brought in by any new chil-

dren's CGI film, it seemed only fair to give this booming technological and money making genre its due at the Academy. What is unfair is placing "Wall-E", one of the most critically acclaimed and celebrated films of the year, into an animated film category whose films only add to the perception that American animated films is a

sandbox genre: replacing artistic merit and meaning for sight gags and loose plots in order to cater to children. Official Academy Awards rules and regulations state that any film nominated in this category is not banned from being nominated for Best Picture.

See **WALL-E** on page 13



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From WALL-E on page 11

But if “Wall-E”, an intellectual, post-apocalyptic, social commentary, romantic film that can only be understood by adults, yet loved by children at the same time can’t be nominated for Best Picture, than what hope does the future of American animation have?

In 2002 Japan’s “Spirited Away” took home the award for Best Animated Feature. France was nominated in this category for “The Triplets of Belleville” in 2003, Japan again for “Howl’s Moving Castle” in 2005, and last year’s “Persepolis” marked another nomination for France. Starting in 2002, I was ecstatic to realize that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was finally taking notice for the groundbreaking techniques and complex thematic elements used in animation in other countries around the globe. Various nations, besides France and Japan, use and view animation as an art form. Not to say America doesn’t either, but it is hard to gain respect for a genre that’s normal function is to entertain children with fluff piece CGI films or teenagers and twenty-somethings with cheaply made late-night comedies (I’m looking at you Adult Swim!).

Another confusing twist in this year’s Best Animated Feature Category is Israel’s submission, “Waltz with Bashir,” a fully animated feature detailing various Israeli soldiers’ experiences in 1982’s Lebanon War. The twist here is not that it was nominated for Best Animated Feature, but Best Foreign Picture - no doubt a more prestigious award than Best Animated Feature. So why wasn’t “Waltz with Bashir” placed with the other animated features? And why weren’t any of the past foreign animated films nominated for Best Foreign Film? It can’t be for lack of prestige: “Persepolis” won the Grand Jury Prize and was nominated for the Golden Palm at 2007’s Cannes Film Festival, two of the highest honors any film can receive. There is also no rule against films double-dipping in categories. In

2000, “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon” was nominated for Best Foreign Film and Best Picture, taking home the award for Best Foreign Film. So, if the fully animated film “Waltz with Bashir” is nominated for Best Foreign Film, than wouldn’t that automatically place it among the best animated pictures of the year?

The Academy needs to do something about the hypocrisy faced with Animated Features and their role in America. What’s the final kick in the pants to this story? “Wall-E’s” competition; Disney’s “Bolt” and Dreamworks’ “Kung-Fu Panda.” Want a tidy solution to this problem? Separate the kiddie animated films from the mature animated films. An even easier solution? “Wall-E” should have been justly nominated for Best Picture of the Year.

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BREW REVIEW *by Mike Tardiff*

Stouts: a sample

Stouts are one of craft brewing’s biggest mysteries. For those who don’t frequent the aisles of specialty shops, stouts often become synonymous with Guinness. But beyond the macro-brewed, oily-black goodness of a Guinness Draught, there’s a whole new world of stouts waiting to test your palate. Ranging from the super-roasty to the chocolaty and rich, stouts run an amazing gamut. For this week’s brew review I sampled some readily available stouts that stretch this beer’s boundaries.

YOUNG’S DOUBLE CHOCOLATE STOUT

Wells and Young Ltd. - Bedford, UK
5.2% ABV



From the sweet/milk stout category, I picked Young’s Double Chocolate Stout, which is available at most specialty stores in either 550 ml bottles or tall-nitro cans.

Those who like stouts for their residual sweetness and smooth drinking will love Young’s offering. A deep dark brew capped with a mocha colored head, this beer wafts chocolate on top of chocolate on top of roasted barley: not surprising given the beer’s name. The drinking follows suit with strong chocolate notes backed up by a real English ale quality. The roasted barley seeps through with hints of fruitiness, probably a result of an English-style yeast. Drinkability with this stout is not a problem as it is as smooth as it is chocolaty.

Kudos to Young’s for balancing the double chocolate motif with enough beer flavor to make this brew more than just a gimmick

A-

SAMUEL SMITH’S OATMEAL STOUT

Samuel Smith’s Old Brewery - North Yorkshire, UK
5.0% ABV



Known for their unbelievable smoothness imparted by the use of oats in the brewing process, oatmeal stouts are common place at many-a-brew pub. And while Samuel Smith’s brew comes from England, it’s a fitting introduction to the style and available at most specialty stores.

A handsome dark brew with a light tan head, Sammy Smith’s brew offers oatmeal and malt to the nose and a smooth and fulfilling blend of oatmeal, malt and chocolate to the taste buds. This beer got better with time: a definite session ale. And while oats and malt may take center-stage, hints of coffee and chocolate make themselves known as the brew warms and settles. This is the type of brew you take a swig of and it feels so good you don’t want to swallow.

Smoothness alone garners this beer a B and, overall, it’s an A- for drinkability and classic stout flavors.

A-

CADILLAC MOUNTAIN STOUT

Bar Harbor Brewing Company - Bar Harbor, ME
6.7% ABV



Born out of the American stout tradition, Cadillac Mountain stout is a drier, more sharply flavored rendition of the black frothy goodness. Pouring an almost perfect black and topped with a tan cap of head, this beer smells like a stout. Roasted grains, chocolate and vanilla all foreshadow the complex and well-balanced flavor to come. To the mouth, the Caddy offers a veritable buffet of flavors. But, like any blue hair will tell you, the key to buffets is balance. Too much mashed potato and you won’t savor the prime rib; too many cokes and you won’t have room for soft-serve with jimmies. This beer’s got the right balance and won’t spoil your appetite. Blending the soft richness of chocolate, vanilla and caramel, this brew brings a malt-hop bitterness that counterbalances any attempts at making this a sweet stout. The finish is dry and terse, which beckons more drinking, but at 6.7%, this isn’t a beer to be taken lightly.

Definitely a world-class beer and tops among the pantheon of Maine breweries.

A+

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RANDOM FACT!

Dimples may be cute, but they are an inherited genetic flaw. They are caused by a fibrous band of tissue that connects the skin to an underlying bone.

For more random facts go to:
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PUZZLE ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND BELOW

PUZZLES

Newsday Crossword

SAVING FACE by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Bowl of greens
6 Prepare, as laundry
10 Not narrow
14 "Cool!"
15 Quaker's pronoun
16 Biblical garden
17 Hunter constellation
18 "No ifs, ___ or buts!"
19 Like a ___ in the woods
20 Informal oral communication
23 Sing without words
24 Tiny bit of water
25 Earth science
27 Nile vipers
30 Stop-sign color
32 Genetic initials
33 Sense of wonder
34 Fairy-tale monster
35 Confess
39 Is well suited to be a reporter
43 Catches sight of
44 Puts on, as clothing
45 ___ and vinegar
46 Angry
48 Take to court
49 "Do ___ others..."
50 Well-educated person
54 Hoarse voice
56 Plaything
57 Attention-grabbing
62 Region
64 Voting group
65 One who gets up

DOWN

1 Winter forecast
2 Prefix with dynamic
3 Animal's den
4 In disagreement
5 Blood giver
6 Ones who apply postmarks
7 Cry of dismay
8 Made a new hole
9 Tried out
10 Spider's creation
11 Boise's state (singly)
12 Fix computer problems
13 Foe
21 Do without
22 High awards
26 Suburban front yard
27 Sighs of relief
28 Make a trade
29 Mexican coin
31 Real-estate documents
34 Reduced for clearance
36 Advertising sign gas
37 Poke fun at
38 Norway's capital
40 Prefix meaning "air"
41 Very good poker hand
42 ___ a time
47 Convertible couch
49 Toward the mountain's peak
50 Office crew
51 Reef material
52 "Laughing" beast
53 Pass-the-baton race
55 Scour thoroughly
58 Sheltered harbor
59 Analogy phrase
60 Infamous Roman emperor
61 Metric weight
63 Inquire

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Women's basketball working out kinks

Huskies need late season push to garner NCAA berth

Brian King

Sports Intern

The USM women were busy over break. While most of us were away with family, food and drink, the Huskies were ascending the national rankings – all the way to 15th in country. But now, in the rigors of conference play, the Huskies are clawing to gain traction and stop a mid-season plunge in conference play.

Coach Mike McDevitt's squad tore through the early part of the season, amassing a 12-1 record with their only loss coming to a solid Mary Hardin-Baylor squad during their winter trip to Texas.

But since that start, which included wins over teams like Keene State and Bowdoin College, the Huskies have found themselves on the losing side of games against Western Connecticut, Keene State and Rhode Island College.

The recent rough patch started with a surprising loss to Rhode Island College, where the Anchormen shot their way to a 72-64 overtime victory. McDevitt calls the game a "perfect storm," noting RIC's uncanny ability to knock down shots.

Immediately following this upset loss, USM suffered one equally as surprising to Western Connecticut who beat the Huskies by 15 points, 66-41, a testament

to the amount of parity in this year's LEC field.

"We didn't play like ourselves, we didn't play with confidence [against Western Connecticut]," Senior captain Nicole Paradis (Skowhegan) said.

But, keeping in line with the ups and downs of one of the nation's best conferences, the Huskies bounced back to an authoritative win, thrashing a lesser UMass-Boston team 69-44.

This last weekend, the Huskies looked to continue their strong play against rival Keene State, who they beat handily earlier in the season.

No such luck. The Huskies dropped yet another game - this time 66-44, sliding their conference mark to 4-3.

But with a new coach and a host of new faces, the Huskies are still poised to make a run at the LEC title. If they want to achieve that goal, however, they'll need to learn from past experiences in conference play, a sentiment that Captain Stacy Kent (Northwood, NH) has tried to instill in her teammates.

"You learn the most from your losses. We've learned and those losses are in the past," the Huskies leading scorer said.



With any luck the Huskies have gleaned can help them in their upcoming games. A pleasant surprise thus far has been the offensive prowess of Kaylee Demillo (Jay), whose 13 points a game has been the perfect compliment to the well-established scoring attack of Kent and Paradis. Demillo has led the Huskies in scoring in four of the last five games, including scoring outbursts of 29 and 23 against Rhode Island College and Eastern Connecticut respectively.

USM looks to put an end to their LEC woes when they play host to Plymouth State (Tuesday) and UMass-Dartmouth (Saturday) this week.

From **HOCKEY** on page 16

A fact I found out while trying to get a fan perspective at the game, when I tried to approach a man who was actually a father from the opposing team, whoops! He said he was from New York but travels to see his daughter play, which just goes to show that the USM Huskies, as well as any other women's hockey team are indeed supported.

The Huskies have a conference mark of 8-3-1 and are 9-6-3 overall. They are currently ranked third in their conference

behind Holy Cross and Manhattanville. The team picked up 12 new freshmen this year, as Gaube says "our team had a lot of adjusting to do in order to create team chemistry." With the Huskies bypassing their wins from last season before reaching the half way point, I would say that they are well, well adjusted.

On the team's achievements, Gaube says, "Our large freshman class has definitely contributed to our team's success... It also helps having a large returning group on defense because of their collegiate experience." The team's toughest team to beat is no doubt Norwich, who handed the Huskies one of their only losses.

Gaube says the team's strength this season has been speed, fore-checking, and work ethic, but admits they need to work on "capitalizing on our scoring opportunities and our confidence on defense". With practices four days a week and games two days, the team has plenty of time for improvement.

Senior defensemen Stephanie King (East Sandwich, MA), a business administration student,

was not recruited but came to USM on her own after a friend told her about how great the program was. After playing in co-ed teams for most of her school years, she helped create a girl's team for her high school, which eventually became a varsity sport.

"Playing hockey is the one thing I can look forward to doing every day. I enjoy playing for the memories, the experiences, and the friendships I have gained throughout my hockey career. The most inspiring aspect of this sport is feeling the adrenaline. There's nothing like tying a game up with .01 of a second left and bringing the game in to overtime thanks to Kylie Blasen (which actually did take place this season)," King says of hockey's impact on her life.

King credits "great captains who have been great leaders throughout the season" as well as chemistry with the Huskies new-found success.

Captains this year include Megan Irving (Cumberland) and Regina Wilson (Shrewsbury, MA). With more than the minimum amount of players, each person "needs to work for their spot on the bench. This year's players had to earn their ice time by giving 110% everyday".

Adding to the success, Coach Lauziere says the "offense has stepped up". With success comes failure, which comes in the form of a few holes in the game that are "little let downs in the period". He says their upcoming games won't be easy. No matter what the outcome, Lauziere says he plans on staying "as long as they keep me here, we just keep getting better every year."

HANGIN' WITH MR. TARDIEFF

by *Mike Tardiff*

Let the games continue

With the economy in the toilet and the state looking to make ends meet, a conversation has arisen about the importance of sports. Though most of the discussion has focused on high school sports, no level is immune to the ill-effects of budget cuts.

It's easy enough to course through a budget, line by line, and strike games off schedules and limit sport-related expenses with an executive turn of the wrist. And while it's certainly necessary to give every sector of the economy its requisite fat-trimming, sports, especially those involving student-athletes, should be spared – at least a little – because of their ability to unite people and soften life's roundhouse blows.

And by no means am I trying to conjure up images of the triumphant baseball games that were played after 9/11, complete with soaring eagles and F-15s.

No, this is a different time of unity. It's the sort of thing you might find at the Sappi paper mill or at the local grocery store.

It's the conversations about the neighboring town's point guard or the running back from down Portland-way.

No matter what else, sports have the unique ability to bring people together, even during times of Blackberries and Podcasts. At the high school and small college level – untainted by mass media coverage, huge revenues and greed – sports pack gymnasiums and bring people together like nothing else I can think of.

Just check out the Civic Center during tournament time in February. From the smallest Maine towns like Vinylhaven, to the state's only legitimate city, Portland, people flock to watch and eat and experience the thrill of watching 15 to 18 year olds compete.

And while the conversations about budget cuts don't call for doing away with tournaments as a whole, they are asking for smaller fields and shorter seasons.

It'd be a shame if any fewer games were held. It'd be a trav-

esty if, for even one less night in the dead of winter, two communities couldn't be soldered together by the heat of athletic rivalry.

Yeah, maybe I'm romanticizing a purely mathematic situation. But I dare anyone to name one other instance where so many people come together to rejoice in a single thing.

And this, of course, fails to mention the unquantifiable impact of sports on young people. For it is through sports that friendships are forged, lessons are learned and younger generations ward off the unfortunate childhood obesity problem.

Ask a USM athlete sometime if they could put a price tag on all things sports. My guess is they'll probably tell you it's priceless. And, well, they're right.

No matter how many dollars and cents are saved by scratching games off schedules, the losses to our state, as a whole, will throw us even more in debt, if only in a different way.

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Oats, blankets and humor

Hillary Hall's formula for success

Sarah Violette
Staff Writer

When most people attempt to do something new for the first time; whether it be playing an instrument, learning to surf, running a marathon, or jumping over a bar that stands anywhere from four to five and a half feet tall, they generally are not very adept at it. It takes time to master the skill. One must practice the technique often and be well coached enough to someday be able to compete with those who have years of experience. Unless, of course, you are someone like Sophomore athlete Hillary Hall. In that case, the theory does not completely apply.

During her freshman year of high school Hillary saw a friend of hers showing off to some of her male peers with her high jumping skills. Unimpressed and undaunted, Hillary, who had never even attempted the high jump event, decided to give it a go during a track meet. "I didn't really know anything about it," Hillary says. "I didn't know (the technicalities of) how to jump or anything."

You'd think that Hillary would be setting herself up for a humiliating, or even worse, injury-bound disaster. Hillary, however, sought to show people otherwise. The result? A successful 4'10" jump that would eventually qualify her for the state championship meet. Not too shabby for a rookie.

Now, six years later, with confidence and experience under her belt, Hillary is effectively competing in the high jump event for the Huskies Indoor track team. She has been named the LEC Field Athlete of the Week and has jumped a personal best 5'2 1/4" at the 40th Annual Dartmouth College Relays. She has also qualified for the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division III Championships in March, and improved her New England Division III Championships qualification mark by eight centimeters.

With such success, one cant help but wonder, what's her high jumping secret?

"I always have oatmeal on the day of a meet. Two packs," Hillary states. "I have to have the packet ones. Also, I still have the

same blanket that I had in high school that I sit on at the meets. Its like my zone," she explains in a tone that makes us both laugh. "Sometimes, I get really upset when people try and sit on it. Its like a, 'I know it's comfy, but please back off kind of thing,'" Hillary jokes. Like most athletes, Hillary is a bit superstitious. Before each jump she has a specific routine that must be performed, similar to a basketball player going throw their own motions before shooting a free throw. "I have to have that little warm-up routine. I go down, keep my back foot stretched, lean back, focus intently on the jump, and then I just go," she explains. I suggest that such a routine helps to set her apart from the other jumpers; a definitive and confident swagger to keep her on top of her mental game for each and every jump. "Yes. Exactly," she grinningly agrees.

Behind Hillary's vivacious smile and exceptional sense of humor, there lies a determined competitor with a strong will to win. "I want to get the school record," she states in a more au-



Hillary Hall started high jumping on a whim, now she hopes to leap into the USM record books.

thoritative manner. "Very bad." Her sights are anything by far. She came up just 2 inches short during the meet at Dartmouth and she has previously jumped 5'4 1/4" twice during her career at Medomak Valley High.

With a good chunk of the season left and precious time on her side, it seems that the young athlete

has an extremely good chance of reaching her paramount goal. As far as preparation is concerned, "I'm eating my two packets of oatmeal before every meet and keeping my 'Zone Blanket' by my side," She says, breaking into a laugh. A little humor is always helpful in easing a big pressure, luckily, Hillary has plenty of it.

Strong recruiting yields more wins

Women's Hockey's new winning ways

Abigail Cuffey
Staff Writer

Being a former high school hockey player myself, I was excited at the chance to write this article, and consequently attend a game. As co-captain of my own team (back in the day) I never thought I had enough skills to join an elite college team like the Women's Huskies, so I didn't try out. When I went to their game on Jan. 16, I soon discovered I was right.

On that chilly Friday, the Huskies were playing the Castleton State Spartans from Vermont. The pamphlet tells me that USM ranks first in their division (C) in the Division III East conference with 7 wins, 1 loss,

and 14 points within the ECAC. This year they have surpassed their wins from last season, and they're only halfway done.

When I arrive to the rink, the Huskies are already winning 2-0 and the fans seem to be trickling in. You'd think an ice arena would be the last place to go with below zero temperatures, but surprisingly the air outside feels much colder. The USM ice arena is abundantly supported by local and national companies including Amato's, Sebago Brewing Co., and University Credit Union.

Intently watching the game, I am forced to duck for cover as two pucks land mere bleachers away from me. As Christian Siriano from Project Runway would say, "that's fierce." These girls know how to play. I witness

more slap shots then I have ever seen in a women's game, to my shame I was never able to pull one off quite like the Huskies can. Experiencing an ice hockey game at USM is part sports event and part rock concert, as the likes of Green Day play, with their song "American Idiot" blasting through the airwaves.

At this point in the game the Huskies have already outnumbered their opponent in shots on goal by 3, proving that they have what it takes to stay on top. They end up winning 4-0, with two goals scored by Kylie Blasen (Okemos, Michigan) and another two by Danielle Ward (Lansing, Michigan). Sophomore Jackie Zarb (Grosse Pointe Woods, MI) also picked up her third career shutout, making 17 saves.

One person that has led the team's success is Coach John Lauziere, who took over the reins in 2006, after serving as the assistant coach to the men's team for 4 years.

Coach Lauziere says that the team has "progressed dramatically" over the seasons, adding that the reason for their success this year is strength in numbers. Last year they averaged fifteen skaters, this year they're up to about twenty four.

Lauziere spent a lot of time and effort recruiting for the 08-09 team, often attending summer showcases with club teams, visiting high school and prep school tournaments. But the team isn't all recruits; some students had to make the initial contact to be on the team.

Joanna Gaube (Woodstock, CT), a Freshman business major and current left wing for the Huskies is one of those recruits, and she says hockey was the main reason she came to USM. In total Gaube has played the sport for nine years, accrediting her brother for the reason why she started.

"I started playing hockey because my older brother plays and I wanted to be just like him and overtime I started to enjoy the game. I love the fast pace and the idea of being on a team."

She also says that she has great support from her family, especially her dad who attends all games "regardless of the distance."

See **HOCKEY** on page 15

