

## USM to shut down day care



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

Last week, USM announced the impending closure of its Child and Family Centers in response to decreased state funding. Above: two of the Child and Family Centers youngest clients awaiting snack time in Gorham.

## Botman stands by 'excruciating decision'

**Daniel MacLeod**  
News Editor

In an update posted on her website on Feb 4, USM President Selma Botman announced that the University will shut down its Child and Family Centers on August 14.

The school's childcare program employs 24 staff members and serves 88 children from infancy to age 5.

54 are the children of USM students, the rest are children of university employees, alumni, and members of the general public.

In Botman's newsletter, "The 21st-century USM," she called the decision "excruciating" but necessary.

"We have provided a \$400,000 annual subsidy to the child care program, a subsidy we regrettably can no longer afford," Botman stated in the newsletter.

This is the second program the university has cut in six days.

On Jan 31, Botman revealed that the school would close down the Lifeline Fitness Center, the 33 year old community fitness program which operates out of the school's Sullivan Fitness Complex. The absence of this program will save \$200,000 a year, she said.

Both cuts are the result of university efforts to account for this years state budget curtailment of \$2.7 million.

According to Craig Hutchinson, vice president of student life, the USM childcare centers had already cut \$300,000 from their budget last year.

"There was simply no way to cut the cost of the center any further, which necessitated the decision to close the center," he said.

Before last week, the school had accounted for all but \$900,000 of the state curtailment.

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## Parents and faculty push for reprieve, cite 'hidden costs' of closure

**David O'Donnell**  
Staff Writer

When Bridgid and Tom Hood left Indian Township, a small reservation in Northern Maine, late last year, they were moving hundreds of miles from family and friends. But Bridgid, having begun her college career at the University of Maine, wanted to finish it in USM's nursing program; Tom had his eye on the paramedicine program at Southern Maine Community College.

But the deciding factor in their move wasn't their own almatars, it was where they could send their two young children during the long schoolday.

So once daughter Aselis, 2, and son Molihk, 1, made it to the top of the waiting list for USM's Child and Family Center last summer, the Hoods headed south.

"They love it. We love it!" says Bridgid.

"When we walk in there it's like family. The teachers care about what's going on in our lives, in our kids' lives."

"And it's one of the ways we've been able to afford daycare," she adds, referring to the highly subsidized rate.

Asleis and Molihk are among 88 children enrolled in USM's childcare program, now in its 35th year. And the staff is quick to point out that it is more than just a couple of daycares, located at the University's two main campuses. From infancy to age 5, the centers aim to provide a cutting-edge, age-appropriate educational experience.

In 1988 it became Maine's first such program to earn accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young People.

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## EYE'll be back

Faculty senate reinstates EYE requirement for incoming freshmen

**Matt Dodge**  
Executive Editor

At last Fridays monthly meeting, the USM Faculty Senate voted to reinstate the Entry Year Experience (EYE) requirement for next year's crop of incoming freshmen. This reverses the decision made by the senate during its Dec 5th meeting, when they agreed to postpone the requirement until 2010.

EYE courses were introduced three years ago, and were conceived as an interdisciplinary introduction to higher education. With topics ranging from "HIV/AIDS: Science, Society, and Politics" to "Shopping: American Consumerism," EYE classes draw from different areas of study and give freshmen a taste of what college has to offer.

Faculty Senate Chair Tom Parchman called for a second pass at the proposal, which had passed 16-7 in the December.

"The meeting in December did not give adequate notice to members," said Parchman.

Updated data on the development of EYE courses, presented in a special meeting of the Senate in mid-January, showed that around 60 courses had been developed, or were in the process of being finalized. The Senate decided to allow a second vote on the issue, given the faculty-wide effort in the last month to staff and develop all the necessary EYE sections.

"We proceeded hastily out of a fear we would not be able to meet our commitments at that time" said Carlos Lück of the Engineering Department. "Since then, I have seen substantial effort to make that happen".

Political Science professor Michael Hamilton proposed delaying the requirement in December's meeting, citing a lack of resources and a concern that USM's faculty would be "unable to deliver the number of sections we know we need to fulfill this requirement."

Faculty Senators spoke out on both sides of the issue, with some favoring the reinstatement of the requirement for the coming fall, and others expressing concern about the cash-strapped USM taking on any more responsibilities.

With USM still looking to cut 21 positions out of a proposed 65,

See **EYE** on page 7



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# Students, bookstore grapple with prices

## Online sales put pressure on USM bookstores

**Arthur Page**  
Staff Writer

"Text books have always been expensive," says USM student JJ Brewer outside the Portland branch of the USM Bookstore. Coping with the cost has been made easier recently by his professors who have chose more affordable texts, he said.

"I just bought this one for seventeen bucks, so I'm not complaining," Brewer said.

Nicole Piaget, director of USM's Portland Bookstore, says "students are shopping around."

To make sure that students shop at the USM Bookstore, she plans cut overhead costs and work with all parties involved to keep prices low.

Brewer found his book for \$17, but other students outside the bookstore who don't share

the same professors say they are increasingly looking to online retailers for their textbooks.

"It's a challenge - this is a tough time for everyone," says Piaget. The bookstore is responding to this challenge by taking measures to cut overhead and deliver low prices to students.

All branches of the USM bookstore have suspended hiring new full time staff in favor of filling positions with work study funded students. In addition, Piaget says that empty positions will not be filled for the foreseeable future.

Another way that Piaget says the USM Bookstore is cutting overhead is by reducing hours of operation. She says that the Portland campus will not see its bookstore's hours reduced but the Gorham branch already has.

Piaget says the bookstore plans to attract students by continuing its ongoing membership in a buying consortium. The USM bookstore is one of 70 in a regional buying consortium that use their collective buying power as a bargaining chip with wholesale booksellers.

Piaget pointed out, however, that the tactic doesn't work with publishers who rarely, if ever, make any sort of concessions for the consortium.

When it comes to staying competitive with the slew of online booksellers like Amazon and Half, the USM Bookstore has adopted an

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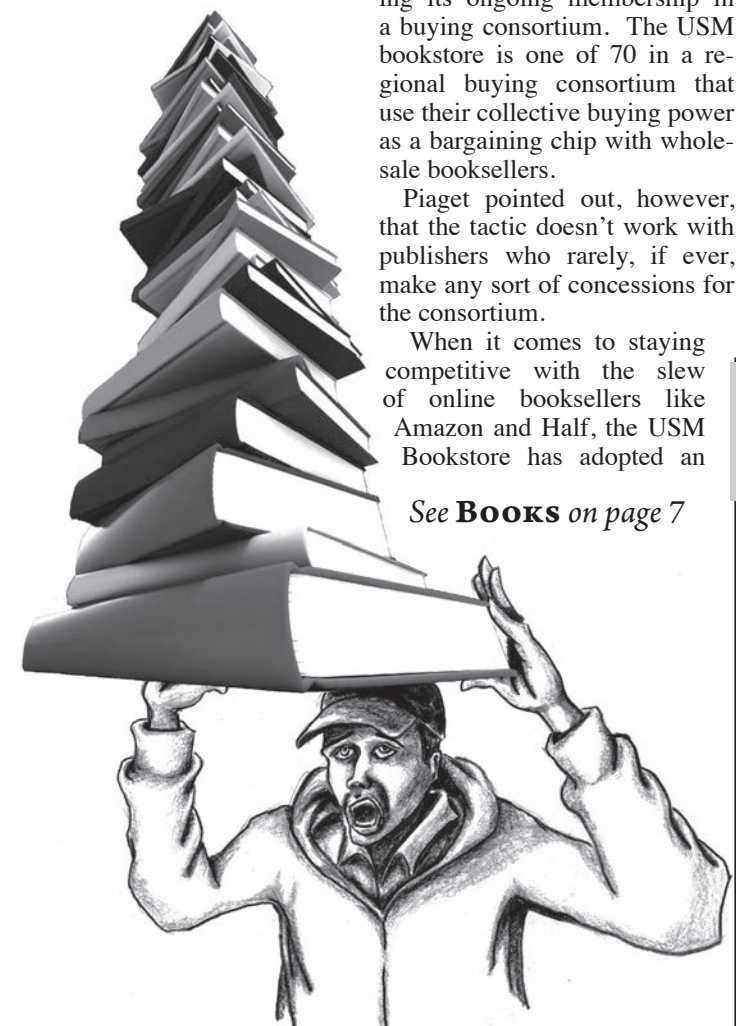


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# New book honors Maine immigrants' stories

## 'New Mainers' celebrated by USM groups

**Abigail Cuffey**  
Staff Writer

The Women and Gender Studies Program (WGS), in collaboration with Multicultural Student Affairs at USM will be holding their Annual Women's History Month Dinner, which recognizes and honors the students, staff, faculty, and community members who have contributed to the program's success.

Women's History Month actually occurs during the month of March, but because of scheduling issues, the event is usually held at the end of February as a kick-off to the month.

The dinner will include Persian pastries, and a "really special menu" based on a Middle Eastern dinner.

Following the dinner will be a presentation entitled, "New Mainers: Stories of Survival and Arrival" which features four women describing the journey from their land of origin to Maine. These stories, along with many more, are the subject of the new Tilbury House publication, "New Mainers: Portraits of Our New Neighbors."

With the upcoming release of the book, the WGS after dinner presentation will include speeches by immigrant women living in Maine, who were featured in the book.

"New Mainers," a book of photographs by Jan Pieter van Voorst

van Beest, texts by Pat Nyhan, and a foreword by USM's own Reza Jalali, contains photographs and stories of twenty five refugees and immigrants living in Maine.

WGS Program Chair Lorryne Carroll, says they chose the book because it represented "local people, interested in feminist approaches."

WGS aims at "making our diversity clear" and with the book, "women's history has brought them to Maine."

Carroll goes on to say that "feminism is about understanding immigration in a larger, more particular frame", an issue that "New Mainers" addresses.

Reza Jalali, Coordinator of Multicultural Student Affairs at USM, wrote the foreword for the book. He says his job at USM is to "include those students who often feel invisible, because students have to feel good about themselves."

He says a few of the people interviewed for the new book have strong connections at USM, some of them professors and graduates.

Their stories are as diverse as the places they came from. Many people come from religious minorities, others are Jewish, Muslim, and Buddhist.

He reiterates that while some of them are immigrants, others came here for economic reasons or marriage. Others are refugees.

He hopes that the book will create "an accurate picture of new Mainers, and dispel myths about immigrants and refugees."

Jalali mentioned a recent article in Newsweek about how Somalis saved Lewiston. A caption in the article said: "a dying Maine mill town gets a fresh burst of energy."

According to the article, since Somali immigrants first started arriving in 2001, "per capita income has soared, and crime rates have dropped."

Enrollment at USM's Lewiston Auburn Campus also went up, with immigrants seeking higher education.

Jalali believes there are many reasons why immigrants come to Maine.

"Some come for higher education, safety... people come for different reasons."

This is an issue that is explored in the book. Some Mainers might not know that the state actually seeks out physicians from other countries because "rural Maine needs doctors, no one else wants to work up there."

The book, which is officially released February 15th, will also be used as a textbook for a Political Science course at USM (POS 380) titled "Refugee Experience."

See **WOMEN** on page 7

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE THE STUDENT COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER?

### Speech Requirements:

- Speaker must be a graduating student, eligible to participate in commencement and have no more than 9 credit hours to complete at the end of the 2009 spring semester.
- Speech must be 3-5 minutes in length.
- One speech per graduating student may be submitted.
- Two students may collaborate on a speech, but only one student will be permitted to deliver the speech and sit on the commencement stage.
- Speech should be addressed to the University community in general, including traditional and non-traditional students, family members, guests, faculty and staff.
- It is suggested that the speech reflect the student's experience as a member of the University community.
- Selection is based on quality, originality of content and oral presentation.

### Presentation Requirement:

- **One or more selections from all entries will be orally presented before the selection committee on Wed., April 8th from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in Rm. 423-24 Glickman Library, Portland Campus.**  
\*If you submit a speech, please block out this time on your schedule. You will be notified by April 1st if you will be invited to present before the committee.

**\*DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION\***

**Friday, March 13, 2009, 4:00 p.m.**

Please return (or fax: 228-8210) cover sheet and speech text to:

Attention: Cathy Wright RE: Student Commencement Speaker, 135 Woodbury Campus Center, Portland Campus

Questions: Call Helen Gorgas Goulding, Committee Chair, 780-4629 or visit: [www.usm.maine.edu/destinationgraduation](http://www.usm.maine.edu/destinationgraduation)

- The selected speaker will be honored with a University of Southern Maine Chair with engraved name plate graciously donated by the USM Alumni Association.
- For any writing assistance, you are encouraged to contact the Portland Learning Center, 253 Luther Bonney Hall; or Gorham Learning Center, Costello Sports Complex

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From **PARENTS** on page 1

And on Aug 14, due to the latest round of budget cuts, the centers are set to close down.

"Closing our child care centers is an excruciating decision," President Botman wrote in a public announcement on Feb 4. "Unfortunately, this decision is one of many we'll have to make as we grapple with steep financial challenges and work our way toward institutional sustainability."

It wasn't long before those words appeared on the President's web site that the 24-person staff was quietly informed. They'd been bracing for bad news since the University announced a budget gap of \$2.7 million last semester, followed by increasingly dire forecasts from the UMaine system.

Yet when the final word arrived, the effect was jarring.

"I understand it's an economic process and things have to be cut," says Jen Dean, who has been involved in the centers as a parent, teacher and member of the office staff. "But the way it's been handled - I'm appalled, actually."

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"We're about there," Botman said last Thursday.

"We're checking the numbers, but we think we're getting closer and closer."

She does caution, however, that the school's budgetary woes are far from over.

"The moment we seal [fiscal year] 2009, we have to build the fiscal year 2010 budget, and that includes another cut by the state," she said.

"There will be other areas that we expect to close down that are not core to the teaching and learning of this university."

Botman denies that the past week's decisions are connected to the UMaine system's strategic restructuring plan proposed by Chancellor Richard Pattenaude on Jan 11.

A first draft of the plan was recently released to 100 student, faculty and staff representatives who participated in initial discussions of topics that the strategic plans should address.

"Writing a strategic plan is an iterative process, you don't get all the pieces right from the start," Botman said.

In the meantime, the university is trying to keep costs down while faced with an uncertain future.

Although some patrons and employees of the childcare centers are currently debating the merits of alternate sources of funding, Botman says that there is no chance of keeping the program running at USM.

Hutchinson agreed that it would take a miracle for the university to keep the childcare centers open.

"At this point, the centers are planned to be closed, and the employees have been notified. I would find it highly unlikely that the decision be reversed."

"We have questions and concerns that were never discussed and never answered," she added.

When the University recently cut it's Lifeline wellness program, a group of anxious parents preemptively rallied at Woodbury Campus Center, attracting local TV crews and urging a letter-writing campaign to help prevent the same fate from befalling the Child and Family Centers.

But many felt it was too late even then, despite Vice President Craig Hutchinson's assurances that Botman would wait a week to 10 days to make the call and take their concerns into consideration. Six days later, the decision was handed down.

"We've had plenty of parents approach us that if this place closes, they won't continue to take classes here," says Dean.

"Obviously, some people are angry right now, but I feel like there was not enough research done before the decision was made."

One person who has been doing extensive research is Bruce Thompson, associate professor of Psychology. He and his students have used the facilities for years, for a variety of research projects

on the cognitive development of young children.

"The child and family services program serves as a defacto lab school," says Thompson. "Which is to say, it's a branch of the academic program."

Hutchinson, the primary channel between the President's office and the centers, expressed some awareness of the academic link.

"I know there's a research function," Hutchinson said. "Whatever it is, I'm certainly willing to talk with them about alternatives. I suspect at this point, if they're dependent on a childcare center, there are others in the area."

But Thompson says he can't envision a for-profit variation that could provide many of the same benefits, such as a controlled environment, wired for sound, with a specially trained staff and educators.

He says that portions of the linguistics, sociology, and nursing programs will face the same difficulty, and that a substantial amount of grant money has depended on having the on-campus site.

"We have students that we know became eligible for fairly

high-tier research positions at Maine Medical Center, students getting into high-quality Ph.D and masters programs, who largely made those critical career leaps because they had the opportunity to do direct, hands-on research at these centers," says Thompson.

He and Hutchinson do agree that the prospects of the President reversing her decision are slim, though Thompson is drafting a letter to her office to highlight what he calls the "hidden, long-term costs" of USM losing the centers.

In an email to the Free Press, Botman asserted that the decision was carefully considered, and there is no going back.

"Let me be clear," she writes, "USM is definitely out of the child care business. If indeed our child care program were to operate after Aug 14, it would do so independently."

That's one of the options being explored by parents and staff, who are now meeting and planning to do whatever they can to preserve the current personnel and structure of the program - whether it means lobbying to restore the University's \$400,000

subsidy, or the daunting task of finding new funding sources.

The University would not confirm whether it will entertain bids from commercial childcare enterprises, though it acknowledges some have expressed interest in the facility.

"Are our parents going to continue to fight for keeping childcare at USM?" writes Lori Moses, director of the Centers. "You can bet on it! There are many impassioned parents who are petitioning, writing letters to legislators, and the Governor in order to keep child care at USM."

And while Bridgid Hood's family is one of many who don't know what effect the closing could have on their lives, the danger alone has had a pretty obvious one.

"We didn't really know many of the other parents before this," she says at their first planning meeting, several days after the announcement, her daughter running circles around her.

"Now, we're all kind of coming together."



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

USM's Child and Family Care Center in Gorham. Last week, the univeristy announced that the program will end on Aug 14



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From **WOMEN** on page 3

The course will show what happens when they come to Maine, including finding jobs.

Jalali emphasizes that immigrants have really helped bring a new energy to Maine.

If you walk along Congress Street it's hard not to notice the ethnic restaurants such as Indian and Thai places, something that was not around until the mid-1980's when immigrants began to arrive in Portland.

Jalali reminds us that prior to that there was no Indian food, no place to buy Kosher food, and no Muslim place for worship.

Even the suburbs are changing; more immigrants aspire to have status and move to bigger homes.

"It was always a dream of mine to write the book, and put a face on these hyphenated communities," said Jalali.

He hopes the book will stop people from labeling them as "refugees" and "immigrants."

Jalali anticipates that the book will educate Mainers about other cultures and about what is going on in other countries.

From **BOOKS** on page 3

'If you can't beat 'em, join 'em' strategy.

In line with the mission to provide every book for every class, the bookstore has been able to use Amazon to find obscure books, and Half to sell 'dead books' that wholesalers won't buy.

Dead books used to represent a real monetary loss for the bookstore, but now it can at least recover some of its investments by selling them online.

"Online textbook sales from the USM bookstore website have increased every semester, in spite of the recession," said Piaget.

She also expects USM branded merchandise to make up ten percent of total sales.

Piaget says that to provide the best service to students, the bookstore will continue to "work closely with faculty to obtain textbook requisitions in order to pay students as much as possible at buyback."

She says that it makes a big difference when she is able to work with faculty.



**What's that smell?**  
Jan 31, 11:21 p.m.

An officer responded to a report of the odor of marijuana in Upton Hastings Hall and spoke all parties. Nothing was found.

**Campus safety**  
Jan 30, 1:22 p.m.

A suspicious male was reported following a female near Masterson Hall. Described as a medium build, 510-511, White or Latino, wearing a striped vest

"It's really up to the readers," he said.

"People are realizing that the U.S. is changing and people hunger for accurate knowledge."

*"New Mainers: Stories of Survival and Arrival" will take place on Friday, February 27, 2009 at 6PM. It will be held at the Hannaford Hall in the Abromson Community Education Center on the USM campus in Portland. It is free and open to the public. FMI contact (207)780-4862/780-5798.*

*A book signing will follow the event's program. Say It Loud, a local multicultural hip hop poetry troupe will be opening the program, and Shamou will provide Middle Eastern music throughout the night as well.*

*The USM Area Gallery will also be displaying the complete collection of J.P. van Voorst van Beest's photographic portraits. New Mainers, Portraits of Our Immigrant Neighbors will be on display at the Area Gallery inside the Woodbury Campus Center in Portland from February 27, 2009 – March 30, 2009. FMI call (207)780-5008.*

In spite of the cost-cutting measures taken by USM Bookstores, Makalya, a USM freshman, says that her books are still so expensive that she has begun to plan her classes around her ability to buy them.

If a class uses a book she can't afford and she can't find a copy to borrow, Makalya says she'll just wait to take the class. She also admits to taking a class without buying the text but says it "doesn't work out as well."

According to Brewer, professors are catching on.

"I think that recently professors are trying more and more to request affordable books for students because they understand that the prices are high," Brewer said, as he left the bookstore with the one required text for his class.

At least for Brewer, it would seem that the measures taken by his professors and USM's Bookstores are enough to get him by.

with a red bandana on pants pocket. An officer responded and checked the area as well as the Woodbury Campus Center with negative results.

**Burglary**  
Jan 30, 11:28 a.m.  
A laptop was reported taken from a resident's room in Anderson Hall. An officer responded and took a report. Teletype sent.

**Weapons Violation**  
Jan 30, 2:46 a.m.  
An officer confiscated a pocketknife from a male subject in front of Dickey Hall. He was told that he was allowed to pick

# A bite with Botman

## Monthly meetings kick off at Woodbury campus center

**Arthur Page**  
Staff Writer

USM President Selma Botman followed through on a promise that she made in a campus-wide email, and held her first informal lunch meeting with students last Tuesday in the Woodbury Campus Center.

At the lunch, Botman provided some insight to students in attendance regarding her plans for the future of USM.

Though well-received by all who attended, at least one student had a difficult time finding the event and mentioned that it could have used more publicity and advertising.

Botman started by giving students her general outline of where she wants to take the university.

In response to a student's question about the direction of the university over the next five years, Botman said "we have to become more focused, more streamlined, and more mission driven."

Elaborating on exactly how she would do that, she added, "I want to work harder to become more student-focused so that a student has the support and help he or she needs from the time they come to the university right through graduation."

The discussion quickly moved to the next topic which happened to be the changing role of future student demographics.

"I think that a comprehensive regional university like USM has to welcome students of all kinds," said Botman in response to a question from student Sara Montegut, who asked what demographic she plans to attract to USM.

Montegut also wanted to know if Botman was going to focus on attracting traditional or non-traditional students.

"For me, it's not a dichotomy between the traditional students and non-traditional students because increasingly, the non-traditional students *are* the traditional students," said Botman.

Even though the email invitation sent by Botman was delivered to the entire student body, just a hand full of students attended the event.

Karine Odlin, a USM student, attributed the low turn out to a difficulty finding the meeting table in the crowded campus center. She said she would have "made it more obvious that the meeting was taking place."

Odlin also added that "a bigger sign would have helped," instead of the 'reserved' card placed at the table before the event started.

She offered these comments as improvements for the next lunch meeting, which she plans to attend.

In spite of the kinks in the first meeting, the lunch was generally well received by Odlin, who said "overall I appreciated the effort she made."

*The student lunch session in the Woodbury Campus Center and dinner session in the Brooks Student Center were just the first in a series being held on the first Tuesday of each month between now and the end of the semester. If you would like to attend the sessions, you can register for planning purposes at:*

<http://www.usm.maine.edu/pres/rsvp/>

# POLICE LOG

the knife up the following day on his way off campus.

**Paraphernalia**  
Jan 30, 1:03 a.m.  
An officer responded to a male subject who checked in to the Towers with a marijuana smoking device. The subject was issued a summons for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

**Ghosts?**  
Jan 29, 10:14 p.m.  
911 call from the Dickey Hall elevator. Officer responded and checked the elevator. No one was present.

**Stolen pistols**  
Jan 26, 11:53 a.m.  
An officer responded and took a report of two missing starter pistols from the Costello Sports Complex.

**Acting strange**  
Jan 19, 7:50 p.m.  
Officers responded and spoke with a male subject reported as acting strange in the snack bar and making the students uncomfortable. Arrangements were made to transport the subject back to his hometown.

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their concern is that a gradually shrinking faculty could not do all that is being asked.

"[There is] no evidence we have adequate faculty to enact this program," said Sociology professor Ed Collom. "It's irresponsible to overhaul the general education [curriculum] when the university is in such economic trouble."

Even some of those who believe in the benefit of the EYE program are wary of starting anything new in tough economic times.

"There is a certain energy around curriculum development, it's something we haven't seen for a while at USM" said Kathleen Ashley of the English Department. "However, I won't be able to vote to reinstate...I have seen so many innovative programs begin in good faith, and fail because of a lack of resources".

Classics Professor Jeannine Uzzi admitted that it is "painfully clear we have no money," but thinks the benefits of the EYE courses are important. "These courses are proven to increase retention...part of the reason we are in this crisis is because we do not retain students," she said.

"We should take this optimistic, calculated risk, instead of letting our fear say no," Uzzi added.

The potential infusion of money into the nation's college scholarship coffers from President Obama's economic stimulus package gives USM every reason to move forward as planned with EYE, according to Betty Robinson of Lewiston-Auburn College.

The stimulus package - which has yet to be approved by the House and Senate - would include billions of dollars for higher education. The money would be spent on increased funding for federal student financial aid, as well as emergency funding for states to prevent the kind of drastic budget cuts that have been affecting many public institutions.

More money for financial aid could mean thousands of new potential USM students, an attractive prospect in a time of faltering enrollment. "We must respond to this demand, or we will be left in the dust" Robinson said.

"Every journey starts with a first step...this is a huge one, but one worth taking", said Luck, quoting a Chinese proverb in his support for the Fall '09 implementation of the EYE requirement.

The Senate also voted to extend enrollment deadlines for classes.

The current university policy is to cancel classes with 12 or fewer students enrolled, and classes are automatically cancelled if this reserve is not met. The new policy leaves cancellation up to the discretion of a college's dean, and states that cancellation cannot take place sooner than three weeks before the first class.

The policy change is meant in part, to accommodate students, who, for financial or strategic reasons, delay signing up for classes.

Many classes at USM tend to see a last-minute rush of new enrollments. As economics professor Joe Medley noted, "I might have five students [signed up] in a section two weeks before, 12 the day before, and 40 show up for class".

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Informative T.E.D.

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You know how it seems as if some lectures end way too quickly? Yeah well, me either, but if you feel like a little extracurricular mind-expansion, your options are not limited to the fine USM faculty, or schedule one narcotics.

TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) is an annual conference, being held this week in southern California. Under the motto “ideas worth spreading” TED brings together a wide range of speakers from former President Bill Clinton, to LOST creator J.J. Abrams, best-selling author Malcolm Gladwell, and a host of other less recognizable names who seek to challenge the way we think, perceive, and act in our everyday lives.

But the real charm of this “meeting of the minds” is that it’s all available online. The TED website features over 300 of these “TED talks” organized by theme, speaker, date, as well as such eclectic categories as “most jaw dropping, funniest, and most inspiring”.

The talks, which range in length from five minuets to a half-hour, are infectiously insightful, and cover such a broad range of topics, that there is bound to be something to pique anyone’s interest.

TED gives a platform for some of the worlds best and brightest to share their bold ideas and visions.

But this is no intellectual snore-fest, filled with dense jargon and inaccessible ideas that would only make sense to those in a specialized field of study. These are academic conferences for the everyman, with speakers carefully chosen for their ability to convey and idea in a fresh way.

Take for example, Sir Ken Robinson, a “creativity expert” who claims, over the course a dry-humor filled 20-minute speech, that the modern school system stifles creativity in children, an quality that he thinks to be “as important in education as literacy, [that] should be treated with the same status”.

If overhaul of the western world’s educational system is not your thing, then how about the break dancing performance of a lifetime? In his baggy red velour suit, self-taught dancer Kenichi Ebina mixes hip-hop, martial arts, modern dance, and magic in a performance that will leave you wondering if this man has the requisite number of bones.

Slam poet Rives starts off his six-minute speech with “Mockingbirds are badass” and ends with him wishing for the key to the city of Monterey, California, so that he might be able to “unlock the air” in order to “listen for what’s missing, and put it there”. What comes in between these seeming non-sequiturs is a dizzying barrage of colorful imagery and clever metaphor that is best experienced first-hand.

During this year’s TED2009 Conference, speaker and world’s richest nerd Bill Gates released mosquitoes on the crowd as a unique means of delivering his message on malaria. “There is no reason only poor people should be infected,” Gates said, as a swarm of non-infected mosquitoes buzzed around the auditorium.

TED offers something for everyone, and gives the every-man access to a caliber of discourse not easily found outside of the Ivy League. The effort by the people at TED to embrace technology, and make these talks available to the world is not one that should be ignored.

I encourage you to get on over to [www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com), and do a little extracurricular learning.

Thanks for reading,



Matt Dodge

CORRECTIONS:

*In last weeks paper in the article “Riffs on rock ‘n’ roll photography” The Griel Marcus lecture at the PMA drew 400+ people, not 850.*

Make your *mark* on the paper...

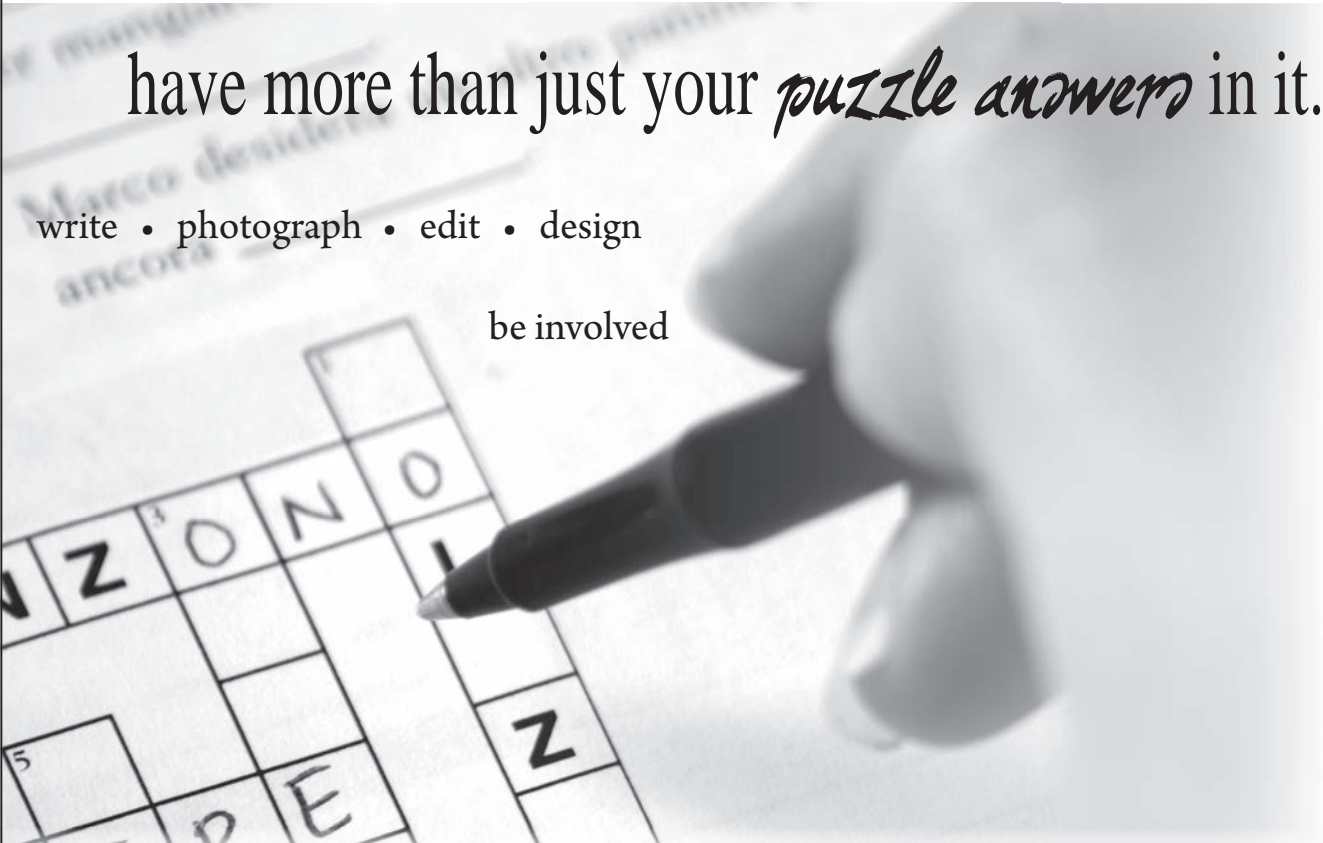
have more than just your *puzzle answers* in it.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## USM child care

I had the distinct pleasure of being employed by USM Child & Family Services on the Portland campus. I began there as a work-study student when I was an underclassman in the Psychology program in the Fall of 1994. That progressed into substitute work, a temporary position, and then being hired permanent full time in 1996. From 1998-2007 I was a teacher in the Preschool classroom. I felt that it was an excellent program not only as an educator, but also as a parent. Unfortunately, financial and personal reasons made it necessary to end my employment there in the Fall of 2007.

I believed then, and still do, that it was a wonderful asset for students who wanted to further educate themselves and be able to be successful in the "working world" to have the opportunity to go to college and KNOW that their child(ren) was/were being well provided for. Being able to drop off their infant/toddler/preschooler and know that they could call or pop in at any time to check on them was a major relief for many parents. Once both parents and children became accustomed to the idea of school, it became easier and easier for drop off time; although, that also meant that children really wanted to stay later than when their parents came to pick them up because they were so involved and having so much fun!!

I realize that times are tough right now, economically, but I also do not feel that the success that many of USM Child & Family Centers' fine teachers have had with students along the way has been taken into consideration. For those students (children) that may have needed outside assistance (PT/OT/etc), USMCFC was very accommodating and welcoming

to those with a commitment to making childhood fun even for those with "special needs."

I understand the need to make cuts to meet budget, I just wish that others could experience the genuine love, devotion (at least 1/2 the staff at the Portland site have been there for 12-25+years!), and compassion that the staff have for the children and families in their care, and the true LOSS that will be felt without that service being provided anymore. No more walking across campus in the afternoon on the way to a BIG test you crammed all night for and hearing the infectious laughter resonating from the preschool and toddler playgrounds, reminding everyone that school can be fun and it is always good to laugh... it will be missed.

Sincerely,

*Liz Sullivan*  
USM Alumni

**Want to be heard?**

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**Matt Dodge**  
**at**  
***mdodge18@gmail.com***

**or go to our website**

***usmfreepress.org***

**and click on**  
**"Letters to the Editor"**  
**to send us your thoughts**

# USM Community Arts Gala

## Community Arts Initiative hosts semi-formal event on March 8

**Alicia Sampson**  
& **Michael Wilson**  
*Contributing Writers*

AmeriCorps Service Leader Rachel Church is wielding the power of creative expression as a tool for community work.

This year, she has launched the USM Community Arts Initiative (CAI). The CAI mobilizes students of the arts to take on community issues of Greater Portland with their paintbrushes, cameras, voices, choreography and other media. The initiative offers students opportunities to engage and reflect as citizen-artists.

On September 28, USM volunteers cleaned and organized the SPIRAL Arts studio space and worked on the community arts organization's Mosaic of Hope.

Upon completion of this project, USM volunteers appreciated SPIRAL Arts; particularly, they observed that the organization brought art to Portlanders who might not have access otherwise.

The students also saw that SPIRAL Arts might not survive in the current financial climate. They decided that the best way

they could help the organization was to raise money to support its operation.

On March 8, USM's Community Arts Initiative will host a semi-formal celebration of community-based creativity to benefit SPIRAL arts. We will offer hors d'oeuvres and live music.

The centerpiece of the gala is a silent and live auction of work created by SPIRAL arts participants, USM students, and Maine artists. Tickets are \$25 each and include entry into a raffle.

We are currently accepting donations of art. All types of art are welcome. Fifty percent of the sale will return to the artist and fifty percent will go to SPIRAL Arts.

To reserve tickets, complete our online ticket reservation or donate to the art to the gala, complete the online submission form at

<http://www.usm.maine.edu/studentlife/communityservice/gala.html>

With questions, contact Rachel Church at [rachel.church@maine.edu](mailto:rachel.church@maine.edu)

# USM scholarship deadline Feb 27

## Everything you need to know to put yourself in the running

**Matt Dodge**  
*Executive Editor*

The average student working fast food might be able to pull down \$8 an hour. Add a couple bucks to that pay rate if you are toiling away in retail at the Mall. Waiters might make off with some hefty tips, but there is an easier way to dent that USM tuition bill than flipping burgers, folding clothes, or balancing trays.

The USM General Scholarship takes just a couple hours to fill out, and pays out an average of \$1000, meaning a respectable \$500 an hour if you qualify for one of the 35 scholarships the application includes.

"An embarrassingly small percentage of students even apply for these scholarships," said Lawrence Bliss, Director of Career Services and Professional Life Development. "That means the probability of receiving a scholarship if you apply is fairly high."

The scholarships are open to all students who have completed at least one semester at USM, which excludes only first semester freshmen or transfer students.

Many of the scholarships require at least a 3.00 GPA, although there are some merit-based, taking an applicant's background or achievements into consideration along with their academic performance.

"One or two are designed for women, one gives preference to students of Italian-American decent, and a few are for specific class levels," said Bliss, "none are strictly based on financial need."

The application requires a resume, and a two-page essay, and can usually be completed in about two hours.

Because some the scholarships are funded by USM endowment – much of which is tied up in investments – a tougher economy could mean less money to go around. "The return on those investments is significantly reduced, and therefore, the money available for scholarships is reduced," said Bliss.

However, many of the scholarships covered under the general application are funded by individuals who "appreciate the quality of students here, and provide funds year after year to make sure that their scholarship continues," according to Bliss.

Any USM student taking six credits and above can qualify for the scholarships, regardless of how many years they have been enrolled at USM. "We don't ask how long they've been students," says Bliss. "We understand that lots of students are full-time workers, trying to raise families, and juggle lots of other things."

The USM General Scholarship requires five copies of all application materials to be turned in by 4:30 Friday, February 27th, at 100 Payson Smith Hall.



Don't stay home!

February 9th - 15th

### Monday, February 9th

#### Winter Fun!

Celebrate winter with Maine's Coolest Outdoor Festival, Portland's WinteRush 2009. All around Portland from Monday through Saturday, there will be winter events including: a snow and ice art expo, public skating, pick-up hockey, XC skiing, snow-shoeing, scavenger hunts and so much more. Just because it's cold outside doesn't mean you can't have fun. Visit [PortlandWinterush.com](http://PortlandWinterush.com) for a schedule, maps and additional information.

### Tuesday, February 10th

#### Better than regular frisbee!

Get the ultimate high by playing Ultimate Frisbee with fellow USM Students every Tuesday night at the Sullivan Sports Complex. It's free and you're guaranteed to come away with no grass stains. Well, no grass stains on your knees. Free/ 7:00 - 9:30/ Sullivan Sports Complex, Portland

### Wednesday, February 11th

#### Do the Right Thing!

USM's Multicultural Film Forum presents Spike Lee's 1989 breakout film, "Do the Right Thing." The film takes place on the hot, summer streets of New York City with several characters sharing the screen with thoughts on racism, hate and understanding. It's a film that is still emotionally prevalent today, 20 years later. Light refreshments will be served. Free/ Multicultural Center/ Woodbury Campus Center, Portland/ Call 780-4006 for more information

### Thursday, February 12th

#### We're gonna score tonight!

Gorham Events Board's Thirsty Thursday presents free bowling at Yankee Lanes. When was the last time you've done something for free? Get out of the dorms and get bowling tonight! You're guaranteed to score big. Call 228-8011 to make reservations for you and your friends.

### Friday, February 13th

#### Hate the Love!

Before you celebrate love tomorrow, celebrate anti-love with the Maine Roller Derby Girls at the Big Easy. There'll be music, dancing, and the main event of reading love and hate letters, break-up notes, and other little nothings that probably should have dissolved with your last relationship. \$5/ 9 p.m./ Big Easy/ 55 Market St., Portland/ [BigEasyPortland.com](http://BigEasyPortland.com)

### Saturday, February 14th

#### Cherry Poppin' Celebration!

What better way to celebrate another lonely Valentine's Day than to reminisce about your first time? No, not the first time you caught your parents having sex, the first time you had sex, dummy. In 1998, Peter Fold and Craig Stuart created the website [MyFirstTime.com](http://MyFirstTime.com) for the sexually active to anonymously share the first time they did the nasty. Fold and Stuart took these confessions and transformed them into a play recreating these cherry poppin' scenes. It's going to be a hilarious romp. \$10/ 8 p.m./ One Longfellow Square/ One Longfellow Square, Portland/ [onelongfellowsquare.com](http://onelongfellowsquare.com)

### Sunday, February 15th

#### Everybody do the dinosaur!

Get the whole family together and learn about humanity's favorite extinct friends; dinosaurs! USM's Southworth Planetarium presents an exciting new exhibit about those silly, dead dinosaurs. See what they looked like and learn about how they spent their days. 3 p.m./ USM Southworth Planetarium/ 96 Falmouth St., Portland

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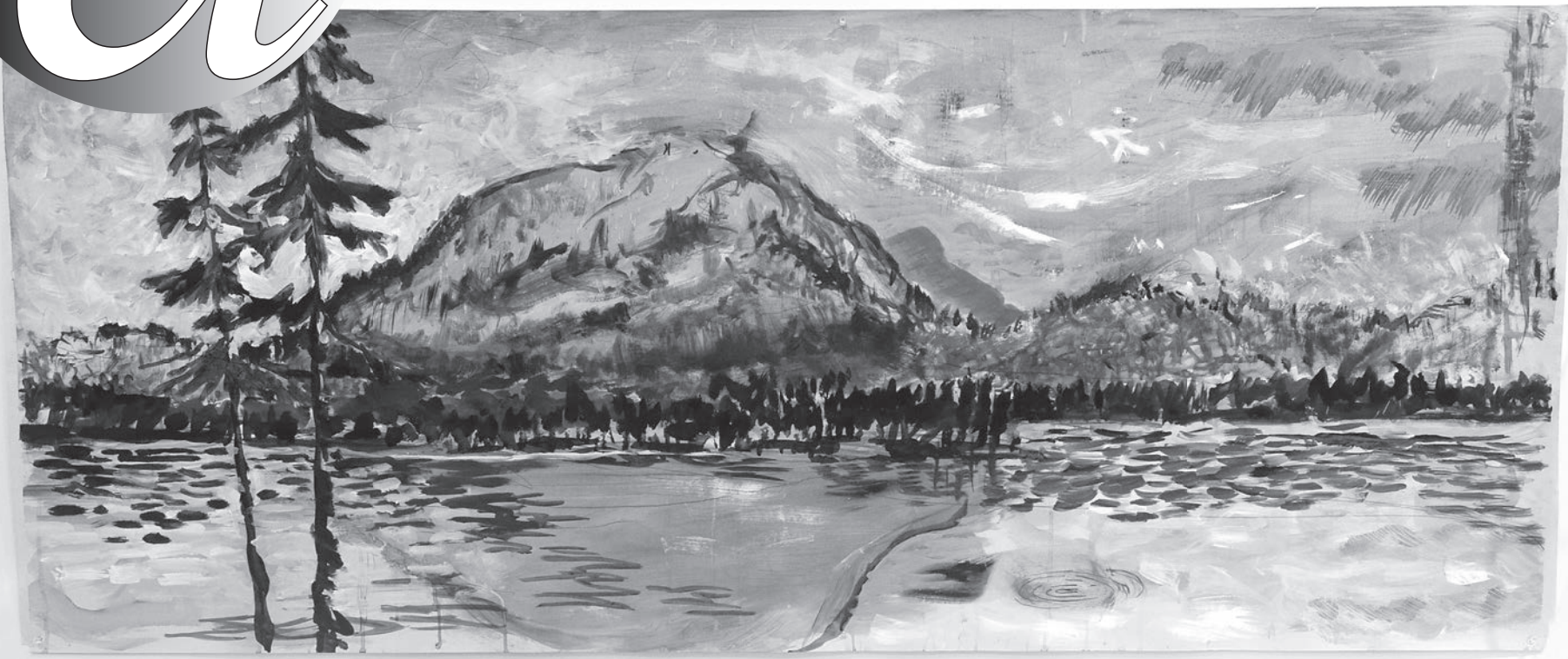
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Page 15. .... Art show review  
 Page 17. .... 2009 movie preview  
 Page 19. .... DVD battle



## Out with the old, in with the crew

### *Juris Uban's Retrospective more than just a one-man show*

**Jenna Howard**  
 Staff Writer

The opening reception was crowded with old friends, students and colleagues. As Portland's Channel Six attempted to get a few words with Juris Ubans, aglow in suit and tie and standing taller than the camera man, he kept interrupting the interview,

surprised as another familiar face brushed by,

"Oh Hello!" Juris belted, ignoring the camera and energetically shaking hands with a former student who had returned to USM for the art show, a retrospective exhibit of the work and history of Juris over his long career.

UBART: a Juris Ubans Retrospective runs until February 15 in the Gorham art gallery, documenting more than the artist's own work. Over half the work in the 160-piece-show is by other artists he knows personally, includ-

ing former students and friends. "I look at the work and think of the people that did it," Juris says, "The work is sort of like a surrogate of the artist." Juris says that the show highlights the relationships built through his art career and the strength of an art community.

When asked to do a retrospective show on the eve of his retirement, after 41 years at USM as a professor and gallery director, Juris admitted he wasn't too excited. "A retrospective? That's what you have when you're dead or retired!" After talking to friends like Dennis Gilbert, who

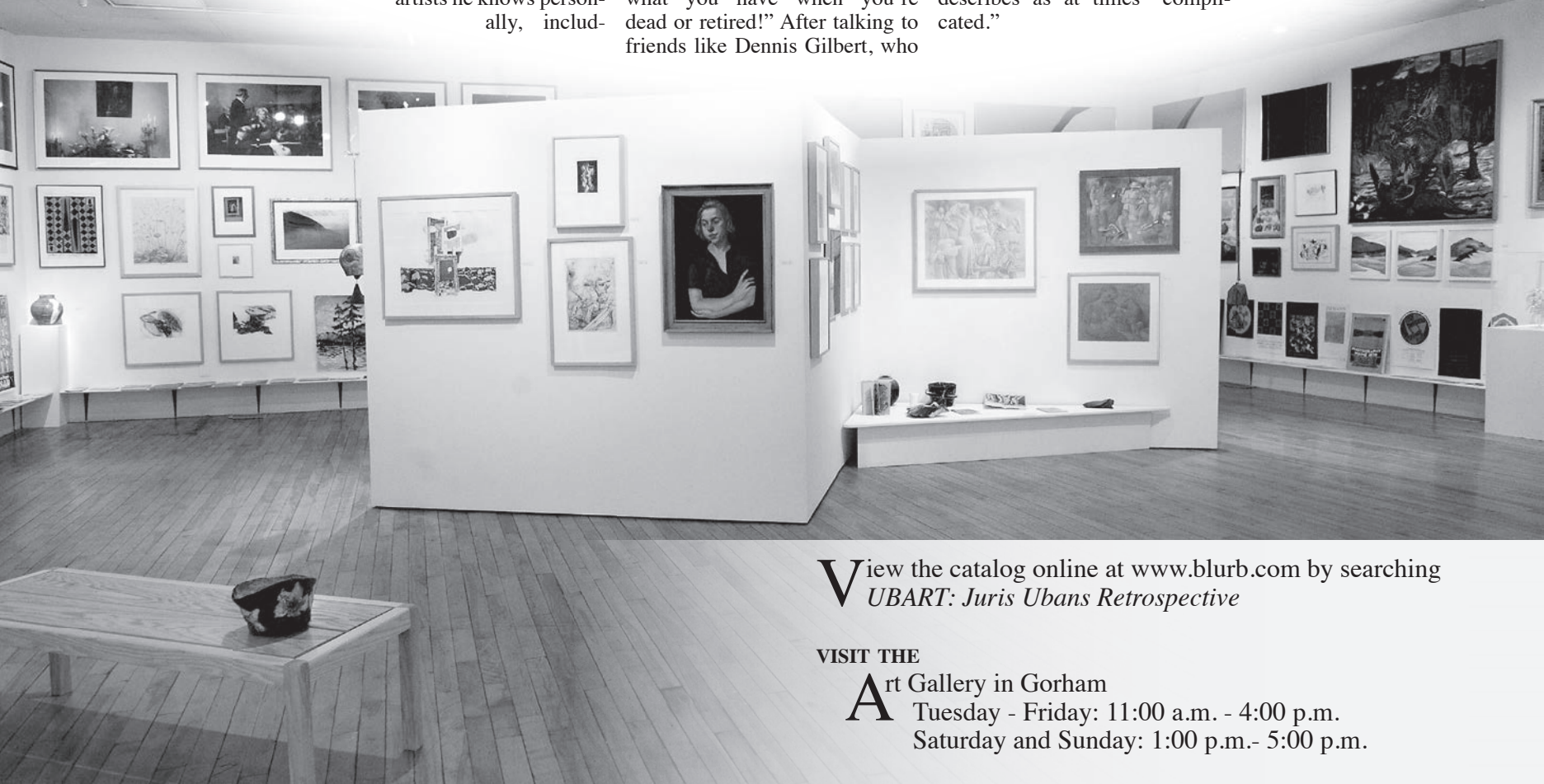
said "you've got to do it." It was decided that he would involve the art community that he'd been part of as the focus of the show.

Longtime friend of Juris, Gilbert curated the show and wrote the essay for the catalog that accompanies his Retrospective. The essay begins with a phrase constantly used by Juris, "Fantastic!" - fitting to explain his encouraging and lively relationship with students and friends and their art.

The essay also attempts to summarize Juris' life, which he describes as at times "complicated."

Juris was born in Latvia, where he grew up until the age of 6. "The Russians were coming, so we skedaddled. In 1950 we immigrated to the United States; they were trying to resettle displaced people. I went to school when I arrived, we lived in Syracuse, New York. Later I went in the army, I was drafted, then I continued school - I wouldn't say sporadically, but not for

See **UBANS** on page 3



View the catalog online at [www.blurb.com](http://www.blurb.com) by searching  
 UBART: Juris Ubans Retrospective

VISIT THE

Art Gallery in Gorham  
 Tuesday - Friday: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
 Saturday and Sunday: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

# Not taken for Grant-ed

## USM theater major wins place in national competition

**Kathleen Wilber**  
Production Editor

Travis Grant, a costume designer and theater major at USM, has created many of the wardrobes seen on the Russell Theater stage. It was Grant's ten designs for last spring's play, "Last Easter," that got the attention of a Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) respondent.

For years the USM theater department has paid for a Kennedy Center respondent to critique their shows. This feedback is not only beneficial for the cast and crew, but it also allows students to be recognized for their outstanding work. "The respondent works with the director [of the USM performance] to name Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Audition Nominees, design nominees and stage management nominees," Grant says. These nominees are then eligible to compete in the KCACTF regional competition for a chance to go to the national competition; Grant was one of these lucky nominees.

The KCACTF is held every year at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and is designed to celebrate and improve collegiate theater. The competition started in 1969 and draws in many students from colleges around the United States with theatrical talents in production, design and acting. Prior to the national competition, eight regional competitions are held. Maine

is included in Region I along with New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and north east New York.

While participating in regionals, Grant went through two rounds of response sessions with judges. During these sessions, a trifold display showed Grant's well thought out design process. Rough sketches, production photos, final design render-

ings, and a process journal, were just some of the materials Grant had for the judges to view. Grant even had two costume examples to show that not only is he a designer, but a craftsman too.

*What can any artist or designer hope for but to hear that their work is actually good?*

*-Travis Grant*

Aside from all of the great visuals included in the judgement, Grant was required to answer questions. "The lone female judge asked me who my favorite professional designers were to see if I had any knowledge of what was going on in the design world. I told her one of my favorites was William Ivey Long, and she said (and I quote!) 'William Ivey Long? Forgive me, but he can't draw for shit. You can. Look into Carrie Robbins and Desmond Heeley, their work will inspire you!' It was brilliant."

Grant was surprised when he was then called back for round two. With only ten minutes, Grant had to explain to three judges his design process and his choices made for the show. To add to the pressure, one of the judges was Kip Shawger, KCACTF National Design Chair. "[The judges] kept going back to the lack of energy in my finished plates, and assured me that they were being nitpicky because I'd done good, solid work."

If nothing else, I would have been happy just to hear that! What can any artist or designer hope for but to hear that their work is actually good?" Grant was soon reassured again that he had "good, solid work" when he was named the Barbizon National Costume Region I winner.

"It still seems very surreal," says Grant. "I put together a display and presentation, and after two rounds of response sessions with the judges (and a very nerve-wracking award ceremony!) I won!"

As a result, Grant and fellow thespian Kimberly Stone will be travelling to Washington D.C. in April to take part in the KCACTF. While there, they will participate in as yet unknown master classes and workshops as well as compete for some hefty prizes. Among the prizes are an "observership" with Ming Cho Lee ("an incredibly influential professor of design at Yale Drama," Grant contests) and an internship with a theater company in Korea.



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

*Inside the USM costume shop, Travis Grant examines a costume during a fitting.*

Scholarships of various amounts in USM theater's production, will also be awarded. Until then, "Moonchildren." Grant's latest designs can be seen on the Russell Theater stage

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# Featured Artist

Award winning costume designer, Travis Grant took the time to answer some questions with The Free Press's Kathleen Wilber

## Travis Grant

**Free Press: What is your major and concentration?**

Travis Grant: I am a fourth year Theater major originally from Waldoboro, ME.

**FP: How did you get into costume design?**

TG: I started by assisting a volunteer costume designer in high school, which in turn led to outside work with community theater, and eventually branched out into semi-professional and professional work.

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

TG: I find myself frequently working in watercolors because it is the medium that allows me the most freedom in technique (as far as renderings go). I have recently found new love for Prismacolor graphic markers, as they have a life and energy unlike any other medium I have used.

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

TG: My major influence when designing a show comes from the research that I do. I look at editorial photographs from old magazines and newspapers and watch old movies and documentaries. I also find influence from certain artists for certain shows. Last spring I designed

the New England premiere of "Last Easter" for the University, and when choosing a palette for the second act costumes, I was drawn to "The Taking of Christ" by Caravaggio, a piece that was featured in the text of the show. The colors that are found in the painting were found in the clothing of the characters in the play. I had a similar instance when I designed "Picasso at the Lapin Agile" for Waldo Theatre, Inc. a few years back. Picasso's "Les Desmoiselles D'Avignon" was featured in the final tableau of the show, and per request of the director, the colors of the painting (as well as some of the lines) were featured in the costumes.

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

TG: Funny that you ask this. I was just talking with costume shop director Kris Hall about this last week. We discovered that I always have one BIG piece in each show. There's always some grandiose design that makes people pull their hair out a little in the shop. I also use headbands frequently... a little TOO frequently.

**FP: Is there any particular style of clothing you like to design? mens, women's, children, any special time period?**

TG: I am a hardcore womens' wear designer. For some reason, I



BRANDON MCKENNEY/PHOTO EDITOR

Travis Grant stands next to a dress form in the costume shop in Russell Hall on the USM Gorham campus. Some of Grant's costume designs hang on the wall behind him.

have no problems designing clothing for women. I find men to be significantly harder to design for. As far as time periods go, I have an obsession with the 1940's. The line and silhouette of the time is just so instantly recognizable: the natural waist, the bias cuts... the shoulder pads!

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

TG: I am currently designing "Moonchildren" for the University, opening February 12.

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

TG: I have spent the last 18 years of my life active in theater, and I don't really see a life for myself outside of it. My goal is to pursue my MFA so that I can eventually become a Professor of Design.

**FP: How have you grown as a designer during your time here at USM?**

TG: I have had the great luxury of working with some incredible design faculty who have taught me invaluable lessons in the field of design. Jodi Ozimek (former costume design faculty), Kris Hall (costume shop director), Devon Kate Ash (current costume design faculty, wigmaking) and Sue Picinich (Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; rendering technique) have helped give me the tools I need to succeed.

**FP: Where do you want to see your work go?**

TG: Do you have any plans, techniques, mediums you'd like to try or get into? My plan is to design as much as possible while here at the University. The world of academia allows you great opportunity because you are al-

lowed, often times encouraged, to fail; in essence, you are able to learn from your mistakes as you make them. I think that is really the most beautiful thing about working in an academic setting: being allowed to make beautiful, wonderful mistakes.

**FP: Does USM technically have a costume design major? How are you making USM's offerings work for you?**

TG: We have an all encompassing theater major that allows us to explore the many aspects of theater (from performance to technology to design) without having to declare a concentration. It helps to make us well rounded, well educated theater professionals. I have taken any and every theater course related to costume design since I've started here in an effort to gain as much knowledge as possible surrounding my craft.

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# It's a grace (only bodies can impart)

*Battick, South China, and friends rock Hastings*

**Dylan Martin**

*Staff Writer*

On the night of Saturday, Jan 31, the Gorham campus was graced by the beautiful folk music of USM resident Jakob Battick with his friends (Mark Dennis, Milo Moyer-Battick, Jesse Meuner, Wade Linebaugh, Ryan Higgins) and Biddeford-based duo South China in the Hastings Formal Lounge.

Jakob and his friends spent a few hours before the show decorating the stage, similar to last year's Swollen Spring Violets show, with stars, angels, a moon and flower petals hanging from the ceiling with sheets as a backdrop and rugs on the bottom. The room's subtle lighting created a warm, intimate setting.

A few weeks of promotion drew in a crowd of 50 or more, and they all listened intently to the sparse, sleepy melodies of Jakob's music.

One of the high points of his set was the performance of "Massive Moth, My Dreamfield," when Mark, Jesse, Wade, Ryan, and Milo were harmonizing "my dreamfield" while Jakob was passionately singing a line on top.

The band members switched in and out on almost every song, going from a seven-piece to a duo (Jakob and Mark) at times.

South China followed up with a serene array of songs, combining sounds of electric guitar, bass, cello, accordion and piano.

Jerusha Robinson has a wonderful syncopation in all of their songs, and Jeremy Robinson joined in a few times for a great blend of male and female vocals.

I felt chills down my spine when they played "Partridge In A Pear Tree," a beautiful, melancholic piece on piano and guitar with Jerusha singing gently over. "Sun Sets On Washington Avenue" was one of the other peaks of the show; the song eminently demonstrated the complex dynamics Jerusha and Jeremy use to make such elegant music.

This was the first folk show performed at USM in a while, so we can only hope for another in the next coming months.

Stay in touch with South China's progress on their upcoming LP with Peapod Recordings at [myspace.com/southchinamusic](http://myspace.com/southchinamusic).

You can download plenty of free albums from Jakob Battick and his friends at [myspace.com/teaandorangesfamily](http://myspace.com/teaandorangesfamily).



COURTESY OF STEPHANIE ELIZABETH PHOTOGRAPHY

*Jakob Battick performed late January at USM's Hastings formal lounge.*

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# Review:

## PMA Backstage Pass: Rock & Roll Photography



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART

Top clockwise: Susanna Hoffs, 1985 taken by photographer, Laura Levine; James Brown, 1984 also taken by Laura Levine; The Beatles with Maharishi, 1966 by Philip Townsend.

### Tyler Jackson

Staff Writer

The Portland Museum of Art's current photography exhibit, Backstage Pass: Rock & Roll Photography, is a reasonably comprehensive glance at the pop musicians of the second half of the twentieth century as cultural icons.

The featured photographs do not show musicians at work. They are press images and candid

people behind the sounds really that interesting (or deserving of our attention), or did the photographers make them seem that way?

Many of the best photographers in the business are featured, including Lee Friedlander, Laura Levine, Baron Wolman and about 50 others. In terms of aesthetics and general photographic quality, the images are top-notch. Fans of the featured musicians will not be let down by the personality and

*They rely on the camera to perpetuate their coolness, realness, or drunkenness.*

shots documenting the utopian rock 'n' roll lifestyle our culture has grown visually accustomed to in the past half-century.

According to the museum's press release, the purpose of the exhibit is to "capture the intimate relationship between photographer and musician." It is an implication that musicians rely upon the camera to perpetuate something, whether it be their coolness, realness or drunkenness. The exhibit, intentionally or not, questions the reasoning behind the public's frank obsession with rock 'n' roll culture as a non-musical thing. Were the

intimacy of the photos.

As a whole, the exhibit doesn't present anything new or particularly compelling. The best of its photographs speak beyond the confines of the frame.

Bob Gruen's 1987 portrait of the young Beastie Boys with DJ Hurricane, for example, illustrates the downright smug attitude of their music and public persona of the time. Despite their juvenility, the Beastie Boys were brimming with ambition and talent that would eventually help

See **Rock** on page 17

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# Coming soon to a theater near you

## The first cinematic look at 2009

**Kaitlyn Creney**

Staff Writer

April showers bring May movies? Not really...but "Terminator Salvation" does come to the silver screen. I am not personally a huge Sci-fi fan or James Cameron fan, but seeing how the latter is missing from this endless saga, it does seem promising. Having the most sought after man in Hollywood right now, Christian Bale, play a post-Judgment Day John Connor doesn't seem to hurt either. After previous letdowns following the original, this may be the film to reprise or contentedly end the former forgettable flops. However, if Salvation does well commercially, which is inevitable, two more sequels are to be set into motion. It seems the mechanical mythology will never die even though the human race will when the last installment is made public.

Further proof that May is the month for Comic-Con movies, "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" finally enters the picture. The prequel to the amply successful X-Men movie series, based on the Stan Lee comic books, stars Hugh Jackman, who has played Wolverine before. It's a creation story that examines the mysterious development into his mutant stage, Logan's strong brother-like rivalry with Sabretooth (Liev Schreiber), his past hush hush relationships, and his final transformation into his character and involvement with the X-Men team. Speculation of a sequel looks much more realistic than continuing on "X-Men: The Last Stand" but the inclusion of Deadpool (Ryan Reynolds) and Gambit, who are said to spawn their own Origin flicks.

May also brings "Angels & Demons," the film sequel and book prequel to "The Da Vinci Code." Why the filmmakers are furthering this bad with a capital B concept is beyond me. So many people hated the way the book translated into film in 2006, so why make a sequel that's supposed to be a prequel and throw in other random plotlines, furthering this bruised franchise. Although I am positive many adored the film and hated the books, Catholic chaos or fun can be experienced for all on May 15.

For the ultimate Johnny Depp fans, and crime flick buffs in general, July is undeniably the month to hit up your local theater. In his upcoming movie, Depp plays the original gangster, more aptly known as legendary Depression era bank robber John Dillinger. The movie, "Public Enemies," also boasts infamous actors playing numerous badass criminals that left a great legacy of crime in the old-school days. Christian Bale, Channing Tatum, Giovanni Ribisi, Stephen Dorff and Billy Crudup are among the many who take on the law

from both sides. However, brilliant tension-making director Michael Mann "Heat" is in total control of this cast and will help the movie secure its place in radiance. "Public Enemies" seems to be following the trend of the revival of "Western Gangster" movies "The Assassination of Jesse James."

On June fifth "Land of the Lost" makes its much-needed comeback and revival. The cheesy effects that were in this '70's Saturday-morning cult classic are the only characteristics missing from this forgotten gem. Instead, Will Ferrell leads this comedy cast as a disgraced paleontologist trying to give credit to his lost career- it mixes comedy with "Jurassic Park" as far as classifying the flick. Thankfully the reptilian Sleestaks, and cave-man-esque Pakuni are still present, and hopefully the film will be as ridiculous as the original, but in a much different mindset.

Another potential June comedy blockbuster could be "Year One" from comedic genius Judd Apatow (Pineapple Express, 40-Year-Old Virgin, Step Brothers etc) - which basically means the movie will become an instant classic in humor. The film is said to follow two cavedudes (Jack Black and Michael Cera) who get banished from their village and stumble through scenes in the Old Testament. The biblical civilization and its post-production timeframe is said to be similar in the same vein as Monty Python's "Life of Brian," and if you don't know what this movie is, shame on you - Rent it! In a recent Entertainment Weekly interview, comedians/actors David Cross and Paul Rudd both deeply agreed that they expected and hoped the religious satire to offend all or most, controversy ultimately brings more publicity and money.

August brings another summer release, "Julie & Julia," in which an emotionally penetrating Meryl Streep attacks the Paul Bunyan-sized life of renowned chef Julia Child. The film mixes in elements of the cook's memoirs and true-life experiences from others. These others include Amy Adams (Junebug) playing an unfulfilled secretary who spices up her outlook by attempting the bulk of Child's recipes. Previews of the movie are already applauding Streep's spot-on portrayal of Child's less than smooth accent, mannerisms, and overall persona.

Unfortunately we all have to wait until October 16 for Maurice Sendak's classic childhood tale "Where the Wild Things Are" to come to life onscreen. Hip director Spike Jonze will probably keep the story extremely intact but evidently will throw in elements that update, and possibly improve, an essential fairytale. Most of

the movie was filmed in Australia, combining aspects of live action, suitmation, animation, and CGI. It helps that Catherine Keener, Catherine O'Hara, James Gandolfini, and Forest Whitaker have lent their voices to the multitude of characters, although a great deal of people turned down participation in the film because they thought filming the story would be a "horrible idea." I guess we are just going to have to judge it for ourselves.



From **UBANS** on page 11

four years straight. I took semesters off, I worked, I finished my BFA painting in 1968, completed some training at Yale, and then after grad school at Pennsylvania State and a lot of time spent in California—I moved to Maine 1968."

Maine, specifically USM, has been Juris' home for 41 years, and now, freedom from his day job as an art professor has its perks for Juris, who has a plan for what is in store, although guarantees this could change.

"Without having to be somewhere Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m., I'll certainly do more work, and I'm looking forward to that. And I love to travel, so this will give me that opportunity!" In the 1980s when Juris was asked to go to Brazil with

students, the experience changed him. Several years ago Juris started an exchange program between USM and a school in Riga, Latvia. Since then, USM has also gone on to partner also with two schools in France and one in Germany. He has taught through this exchange program and will keep visiting, improving the program, and teaching there. He recently received a Fulbright grant to work between Latvia and the U.S., which he hopes will widen the community of artists he is part of.

His show wraps up this week, but has served to show that the life and work of an artist doesn't have to be an isolated affair. "I tried to show that there was and still is a community of artists, a continuum, hopefully that comes though in the show."

From **Rock** on page 15

bridge the racial gap in hip-hop music.

Gruen's 1978 photo of Sid Vicious of the Sex Pistols on an airport bus in Baton Rouge is another revelatory selection. Three male business-dressed passengers stare at the vociferous bassist—who is pictured reading a magazine—with utter disapproval, as if he is about to break something, or vomit. But he keeps to himself, complacently. Perhaps he spouts an obscenity seconds after the snap of the shutter, but that's irrelevant. The photo is so non-punk that it is punk; Vicious silently puts the presumptuous squares firmly in their place by doing nothing at all.

There is a rather emotional photograph of Kurt Cobain crying helplessly on the floor somewhere in his home city of Seattle. It almost forcibly foreshadows the grim suicide photos in Cobain's garage that would circulate a short time after.

As a historic, cultural representation of rock and roll music, Backstage Pass covers most the ground one would expect. Heavy-hitters like the Rolling Stones, the Beatles and Bob Dylan each have their own wall, while Roy Orbison, Buddy Holly and the Velvet Underground merely pop up here and there. Bands like the Smiths, Black Sabbath and Joy Division aren't shown at all. One cannot expect every important band to be covered, but the likes of Moby and Rod Stewart appearing over the aforementioned rejects is a bit disconcerting.

The Portland Museum of Art is always a worthy visit, especially to USM students, who have free access with a student ID. Backstage Pass certainly has its share of entertaining and enjoyable selections. The sheer amount of photos and their geometric placement is a sight to see on its own. But the collection is nothing more than a collection; a broad visual essay of rock music, its parts far more interesting than the whole.

## the vagina monologues

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EPICUREAN EPIC

by Anne McCormack

# “A great kick” in the snowpants

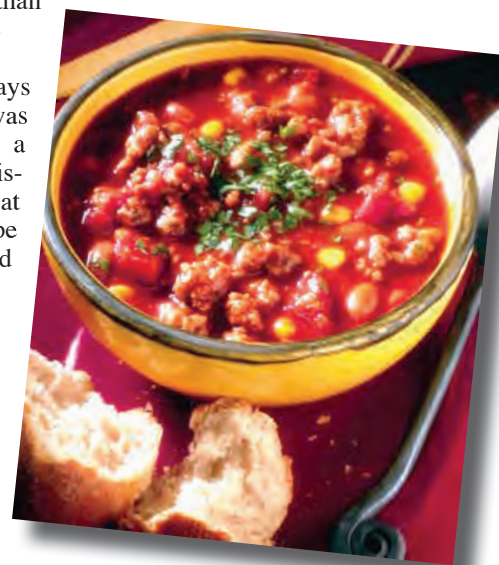
CHILI

Olive oil	2 cups beef broth
2 large onions, chopped	2 cans kidney beans
8 cloves garlic, minced	1 can diced tomatoes
2 1/2 lbs. 85% lean burger	2-4 oz. tomato paste (optional)
1/4 cup cumin	6 jalapeños, chopped with seeds, veins removed
2 tablespoons chili powder	
1 teaspoon paprika	

In a huge Dutch oven, casserole or cast iron pan, sauté the onions in a couple of tablespoons of olive oil until soft. Add the garlic, sauté for a minute or two, and add beef, cooking until brown. Add the rest of the ingredients, bring to a boil, then simmer for an hour, or until thickened, stirring occasionally.

Serve with slices of jalapeno, a dollop of sour cream, and a sprinkle of cilantro.

A bowl of hearty chili spiked with sweat inducing spices is a welcome dish in the midst of any chilly month; especially one with a Superbowl in it. As a first time chili maker, I took an opportunity to send a container to my son at UMO (for critique and, hopefully, enjoyment). I respect his feedback as he is a mean cook himself, and I knew his input would be based on more than “happy-to-get-any-thing-homemade”. He called a few days ago to say “...it was really meaty, had a nice, thick consistency, and a great kick”. The recipe was a keeper. Good enough for me.



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## BREW REVIEW

by Mike Tardiff

# Battle of the bars

## Two of Portland's best places to pull a pint

Sometimes enjoying your favorite pint in the comfort of home isn't enough. Sometimes it's just plain better to belly-up to the bar and enjoy a fresh ale. But, if you're a craft-beer nut like me, it can be tough to find a place that couples the right atmosphere with a robust selection of beers at a decent price. But never fear, because this week, instead of reviewing beers themselves, I'm scoping out a couple of locations that keep the beer flowing in mass quantities.

### NOVARE RES BIER CAFÉ - Exchange Street

Don't ask me to pronounce the name of this delightful little watering hole because I'll fail miserably. But I think that's the point. It fits the whole motif of this place to feel a little uncomfortable. Offering over 300 bottles of beer and 25 rotating taps, Novare Res is like the Crime and Punishment of bars. You know it's something you should try, but when you've finished you feel a little befuddled.

Located in a beautiful nook that's reminiscent of an old-school college quad, Novare Res is a dimly lit “bier” haven. It's like heaven for beer nerds. Serving up beers from all over, including the most impressive Belgian and German selection I've ever seen, Novare Res will keep you on your toes.

What I can only describe as an ingenious blend of redemption center and super-trendy-hipster-bar, Novare Res has the incredible quality of transporting you from the hum-drum of other Portland bars. The quad-like set-up is reminiscent of old European cities and beckons you to try a 750 ml bottle of enigmatic beer, which is this place's best quality.

But, if you're not into the trendy scene of beers from all over - and I don't necessarily blame you - the Bier Café can leave something to be desired. The bottles can be exorbitantly priced (and with good reason) and the draught selection is a veritable revolving door (which isn't all that bad). But Novare's does offer some killer

nights when they offer great specials on themes. Whether they're showcasing a particular brewery or a theme (this weekend it's chocolate flavored beers in time for Valentine's day), the folks at the Beer Cave, as I fondly call it, know good beer.

### GREAT LOST BEAR - Forest Avenue

Built on the back of a massive draught list (roughly 60 beers), Great Lost Bear (GLB) is somewhat of a Portland icon. Without the moist and cloistered atmosphere of Novare Res, GLB is more warm and inviting than their more trendy counterpart (probably a product of their Grateful Dead-esque theme).

With an awesome showcase of beers from Maine, GLB gets points for staying local but loses points on diversity (especially since most of the Maine beers they have on tap are available elsewhere in the city). But beyond the confines of the state, GLB also offers some great breweries from around the country like Stone and Rogue, which offer a West Coast alternative to the

somewhat homogenic beer selection in these parts.

More visually stimulating than the dark and bland Novare Res, GLB couples Beericana with random artifacts of American signage to create an eclectic drinking environment.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays at GLB are the best since they offer 22 oz beers for the price of a standard pint, but even on their non-promotional nights their prices are a little more palatable than Novare Res'. But lower prices are invariably reflected in the bars' respective clienteles.

To keep the same literary theme going, GLB is “The Old Man and the Sea” of bars. GLB is simple like a finely-tuned Hemingway sentence, but let's you maintain your beer-geek status without trudging through the foily-corked waters of pretentious beer.

No grade this week. I think it's a push, anyway. More than anything, it's great that a city the size of Portland can support two bars of this quality.

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A number of movies were released on DVD last year that continue to cling to the edges of the ‘new release’ shelf at certain local video stores. And once the film companies finally know which new movies to slap “Oscar Winner” onto in a few days, there will finally be a changing of the guards.

So now, here’s a royal rumble of a DVD battle, to finally bury the dreaded year 2008. Except for next week, when I pit that year’s largely-ignored Noise against the even more ignored Itty Bitty Titty Committee. But that, I promise, will be the end of it.



The Love Guru

“I had a hat like that once. Then my mom got a job.”

There, an insult you can use with your friends, and now you don’t have to watch The Love Guru.



I’m Not There

Here’s another movie that presents a life by splicing, squishing, and shuffling it up. Only this time, it’s Bob Dylan’s life, which may have been written about and discussed to death, but nobody has ever made a film about it. And somebody was going to someday, so it’s noble that Todd Haynes decided he’d beat everyone to the punch (while Dylan is still alive and touring like a madman, mind you. That’s called cheating.)

And unlike Ray and Walk the Line, he wanted to play with the very idea of a biopic - ideal when the subject is Dylan, who is often accused (unfairly, I think) of morphing into an entirely different man and artist every several years. Needless to

say, six or seven actors play Dylan, and one of them is Cate Blanchette.

It’s great that Haynes ditched all the nagging conventions of a biopic, but what exactly did he think he was trading them in for? Instead of a really formulaic narrative structure, how about no narrative structure at all. Instead of making some sense out of the subject’s life or latching on to theme, how about just making a psychedelic mess out of all the popular stereotypes?

Since the movie doesn’t say anything about Bob Dylan, it’s anybody’s guess what it’s actually about. I guess I’d wager that it’s an incredibly profound meditation on the life lived in public. So interesting and profound, in fact, that I got bored and wandered off before it ended.

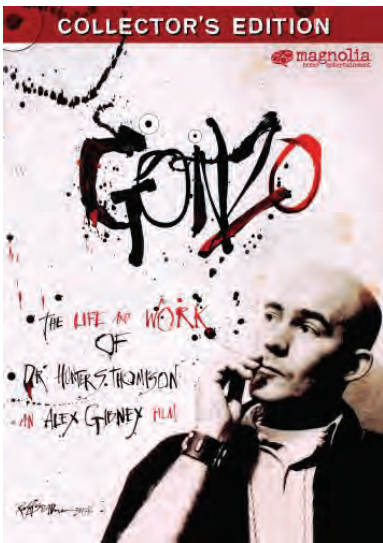


Righteous Kill

“Hi, I’m Robert DeNiro. Somebody at a small film company has pictures of me doing horrible things, perhaps next to a smiling Saddam Hussein.

This is my co-star Al Pacino. He just doesn’t know any better.

VS.



Gonzo: The Life and Work of Hunter S. Thompson

Hey, aside from that nutty conspiracy film, we’re on a roll with movies about bizarre lives. But this isn’t a bizarre movie, just a straight-ahead documentary that travels its subject in chronological order, for the good of the nation.

There are lots of generous samples of the man’s writing, enough to make you want to read more but not necessarily stop the DVD to do so. Gonzo

is a worthwhile, almost even-handed tour of the rough twists and turns of a journalist with enormous talent and insight, but an obvious tendency toward self-destruction. You can see it in the way he would enthusiastically build up a cause, only to become preoccupied with knocking it down as soon as it gained any traction. His own career included.

Synecdoche, New York

In his first stab at directing one of his scripts, Charlie Kaufman (Adaptation, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind) offers what is easily his darkest and most introspective story so far. At the center, Philip Seymour Hoffman is a playwright/director who loses his mind in the twisting, ambitious task of turning his entire life into an interactive play.

There are many nods to Woody Allen, and the whole thing is remi-

niscient of Deconstructing Harry. But that film was brutally funny, where Synecchoche, New York is just brutal (with some funny touches.) Let’s just say it begins with a terminally ill man realizing there’s blood in his stool and his marriage is falling apart...and that his life starts to go downhill from there.

And for once, Kaufman uses his wit and surrealism to amp up the darkness, rather than to just make it pop.



Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed

Here’s something you may not have known - Ben Stein is a very weird guy. A brilliant economist and veteran comic actor, with steadfast conservative beliefs and a former career as a presidential speechwriter. Sounds like a pretty lovable guy, no?

Well, thanks to this movie, we now know he’s a manipulative jerk with a gut-level hatred of science. I wouldn’t say that of many people who happen to subscribe to strict creationism, only those who make a movie that holds Charles Darwin re-

sponsible for the murder of 6 million Jews in the Holocaust. Which Expelled does, one way or another, in addition to not including volumes of pertinent biographical information about the kooky, unemployed “scientists” it holds up as exiled men of honor.

To be fair, though, Stein does little in Expelled that Michael Moore didn’t make a career out of doing. It’s just that tricky matter of comparing mainstream scientists to Nazis.

The winner...

Gonzo: the Life and Work of Hunter S. Thompson, which I’d accuse of glorification if it wasn’t about a man who managed to net Tom Wolfe, Bill Murray and Pat Buchanan for his funeral.

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.

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

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PUZZLES

Newsday Crossword

WHAT, NO BELL? by Gail Grabowski  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Go out with

5 Library loans

10 Lose traction

14 Makes mistakes

15 Blacksmith's iron block

16 May auto race, for short

17 Defeat in a match

18 Connect with

19 Ration (out)

20 Listen in on calls secretly

22 Sliced into cubes

23 Most high-schoolers

24 Savings institution

25 Widen

28 Cut-rate purchase

31 "How sad!"

32 \_\_\_ of lemon (drink garnish)

34 Sis' sibling

35 Once around a track

36 Takes long steps

38 Cereal grain

39 Room coolers: Abbr

40 Horses' gaits

41 Adorable

42 Ruby's color

44 Said

46 Really saturate

47 Stain-free

49 Walk casually

51 Dessert selection

55 Just \_\_\_ (slightly)

56 Watchful

57 Airline to Israel

58 Way in

59 Passover feast

60 Take it easy

61 Counting-out word

62 Smart-mouthed

63 Gets a glimpse of

DOWN

1 Money owed

2 Region

3 Golf hazard

4 Ritzy residences

5 Used the tub

6 Burger topper

7 Pizzeria appliances

8 Toy with a tail

9 \_\_\_-mo replay

10 Home's aluminum exterior

11 Do nothing

12 Doing nothing

13 Tinted

21 Pod veggie

22 Pub projectiles

24 Military installation

25 Course with lettuce

26 Location

27 Informal discussion

28 Auctioneer's quests

29 Furious

30 Well-known

32 Walked heavily

33 Clever one

36 Leave the path

37 Difficult journey

41 Calls off

43 Limericks and sonnets

44 Military guard

45 Little bit

47 Sorority members

48 Fishing aids

49 Constructed

50 Woodwind instrument

51 "Not guilty," for one

52 Moisturizer ingredient

53 Cabbagelike plant

54 Letters after keys

56 Beast of burden

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54

55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63

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DICE DPHONE TAPAP  
DOLE TIE TO BEAT  
INDY ANVIL ERS  
SKID BOOKS DATE

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7 8 6 3 9 8 7  
4 3 5 1 9 6 7  
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3 6 1 2 7 4 9  
9 4 2 8 6 5 1  
8 3 6 1 2 4 7  
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## GET OUT!

by *Brandon McKenney*

## Sled the day away

Sometimes getting outside isn't about finding a new activity or re-inventing the wheel for that extra jolt of excitement. When you're in the middle of the winter in Maine and your energy levels are getting lower each day, sometimes all it takes to get you outside is a past-time that you haven't done in years. For me this week, that past-time was sledding.

But what to do when you're 22 years old and haven't owned a sled in over a decade? You grab the closest thing out of your storage shed and hope it'll hold up. I actually lucked out and found a snowmobile cargo sled, disregarding the high walls that could potentially turn it into a death trap that's impossible to bail out of.

I went to a few different hills around the area, places that will remain a secret for now. That's half the fun of sledding in my mind, seeking out that perfect spot that feels like it was almost built to be slid down. I'll leave it up to you to find your own spots so you can enjoy the experience in full.

With our latest snow storm bringing a bit wetter snow to the area, and the

subsequently warm weather the past few days, the snow is perfect for sledding right now. Unlike the powdery stuff we've had most of the winter, the current conditions make for a good pack and a much quicker sled. I'd also recommend waxing the bottom of your sledding vehicle, especially if you're using a metal object, as this will make your ride even more thrilling (think "National Lampoon's

Christmas Vacation").

The greatest thing about sledding is that it is probably the cheapest winter activity you can take part in. Sleds are relatively inexpensive, and even if you don't want to shell out the cash, you can likely find something sled-like around the house. A bit of ingenuity goes a long way. Just get out there as soon as you can, as we've turned the corner and we're heading closer and closer to spring.

## Upcoming Games

## February 10

**Women's Basketball @**  
UMass Boston 5:30 p.m.  
**Men's Basketball @ UMass**  
Boston 7:30 p.m.

## February 13

**Men's Ice Hockey @**  
Connecticut College 7  
p.m.  
**Women's Ice Hockey v.**  
NICHOLS 7 p.m.

## February 14

**Women's Indoor Track**  
@ LEC/Alliance  
Championships 11:30  
a.m.  
**Men's Indoor Track @ LEC/**  
Alliance Championships  
Noon  
**Women's Basketball v.**  
RHODE ISLAND  
COLLEGE 1 p.m.  
**Men's Basketball v. RHODE**  
ISLAND COLLEGE 3  
p.m.  
**Men's Ice Hockey @ Tufts** 4  
p.m.  
**Women's Ice Hockey v.**  
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# Morin leads historic Huskies

## 2009 boasts best wrestling squad - ever



**Ben Slagle**  
Staff Writer

The USM wrestling team entered the 2008-2009 with justifiably high expectations.

Out of 95 NCAA school offering NCAA Division III in the country, USM boasted an incoming recruiting class ranking within the top-five.

The incoming class, coupled with a core of standout returning wrestlers including five NCAA All New England Athletes, three NCAA New England Finalists, and three NCAA New England Champion/NCAA National Qualifiers formed a team with historically good potential.

Head Coach Joe Pistone is well aware of this year's potential for both the success of team as a whole, as well as the success of some standout individual players.

"This wrestling team in particular has a very special place in the USM wrestling history as this is the most talented team that the program has seen," Pistone said.

Several men on the team are enjoying particularly successful individual performances thus far.

Junior Doug Christensen (Middletown, NY), an All New England wrestler last year, has put together a solid season to date with the majority of his matches coming in the 149-pound weight class.

Recently, Christensen, dropped to the 141-pound class in hopes of capturing the 2008 New England Championship at the lower weight.

Along with Christensen, senior Mike Dumas (Kennebunk) has had an outstanding season so far.

Dumas has tallied 23 wins this season, an impressive number in itself, but 19 of those 23 wins have come by way of pinning his opponent. He is the NCAA national leader in this category, spanning all divisions, a title no Husky wrestler has held before.

Senior Mark Moyer (Somerville, NJ) continues his solid contributions to this talented team, building on his two previous All New England sea-

See **MORIN** on page 23

BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

Junior, Mike Morin, captain of USM wrestling team leads the best team in USM history.

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From **MORIN** on page 22

sons. Moyer will contend for the New England Championship in his weight class hoping to then advance to the NCAA National Championships in his final semester at USM.

Standout senior captain Stephen Valastro (Montgomery, NY) is on track to gain his second New England Championship title. He sits at 19-2 on the season and has won both the Roger Williams and Oneota State Invitational. On his way to winning the Oneota event, Valastro triumphed over Luke Baum, who was number three nationally at the time.

Heading the deeply talented team through both performance and leadership this season has been junior captain Mike Morin (Fryeburg).

Morin is on track to have what could be the best season of any USM wrestler to date. Coming off a 2008 New England Championship and NCAA National qualification, Morin boasts a perfect 32-0 record for the season. He is currently ranked fifth nationally in the 165lbs class and has won all four invitationals he has competed in.

Morin stands a good chance at not only repeating as the New England Champion, but also succeeding in capturing the first-ever National Championship for the school: a goal he doesn't shy from stating.

"With the season winding down my end goal is to go into New England's undefeated, win that tournament to get to nationals, and then become a National Champ and All-American. Last season I made it to nationals, but came up short going 0-2."

His perfect record so far this year suggests he is fully focused

*He has been the rock of the program this entire year. His athletic accomplishments are in direct correlation with how he carries himself in the community, his habits in the classroom, and the way he leads this team.*

*- Head Coach Joe Pistone*

and determined to reach his goal. While some might let the pressure of continued perfection become a mental burden, Morin uses it in his favor.

"I think this year I'm having a good year because I'm just getting older and gaining more experience each year. For me it's real mental and I think just having more confidence is helping me get through some of my tougher matches. I think if anything it gives me a little more confidence to know that I haven't been beaten this year and hopefully I can continue that way."

On top of Morin's exceptional individual performance in contest, Pistone praises him for his contributions to the team as leader.

"He has been the rock of the program this entire year. His athletic accomplishments are in direct correlation with how he carries himself in the community, his habits in the classroom, and the way he leads this team. His successes in those capacities have been very instrumental and influential to the younger members of the USM wrestling program.

If it wasn't for Mike, some of our younger Huskies wouldn't have seen the success they have seen as Mike has consistently acted as a mentor for these gentleman."

In return Morin credits his coach and teammates for his success.

"Wrestling is individual but I think my team mates and coaches play a big part in my success. The big thing is having great practice partners that help me get better everyday."

With a match left to go for the team, a best-ever second-place finish in the NCAA Pilgrim League standings (a sub league of the New England Wrestling Association) is within reach.

From there the Huskies will send their top ten wrestlers to the New England Championships where each will have a shot to advance on to the NCAA National Tournament in Iowa, where Morin and company will look to make history for the university.

# HANGIN' WITH MR. TARDIFF

by *Mike Tardiff*

## Ice fishing: a Maine landscape

Drive by any lake or pond this time of year and you're likely to find a hamlet of ice shacks spotting the pristine white surface of the water. Bustling from shanty to shanty, people swap stories, venison and overall good times.

Last weekend I had the chance to head back home (Bangor) and throw some traps in a local pond. Though I'm not exactly a diehard outdoorsman, I find something distinctly appealing about huddling around an auger hole, waiting patiently while a comrade waits for sign of a bite.

Ice fishing is often maligned – and I'm not sure why – for its reputation as "just an excuse to drink beer."

While I'm sure there are plenty of adult beverages consumed on any given lake on any given weekend, ice-fishing is much more wholesome than that.

Anyone who lives in Maine knows how hard it can be to drag yourself out of the house on a cold and blustery winter day. And when skiing, snowshoeing and other activities will leave you to the elements, ice-fishing is a perfect middle-ground.

Not only does fishing get you out of the house, it takes you to some of the most beautiful and serene places in the state. And rest assured, you won't be alone. Fellow fisherman are often the most gregarious people you'll meet.

Whether they're stopping by to see how fish are biting or to offer you some corn chowder, fellow fisherman always have something to offer. Often in the form of small nuggets of information or gossip, what you can glean on the ice is often as valuable as anything you'd learn elsewhere.

Just this weekend I learned the spawning patterns of white perch, how to keep a particularly aggressive smelt from tripping your trap (you bite its tail off) and how to put tracks on your four-wheeler.

Admittedly, none of this information will impact my life in a traditional way. I'll never be able to tell a future employer that I'm an official smelt-tamer or ATV mechanic. But someday, when I'm on the ice with my children,

I can gross them out with the not-so-believable story about my buddy nibbling on the tail of a bait-fish.

Standing on the wind-swept and desolate landscape of a lake seems like a barren image. But with tendrils of smoke billowing out of the ice shacks and the smell of food emanating from everywhere, the lake, even in the depth of winter, is alive. Set against an all-white background, the lake is a veritable tapestry of the Maine I love.

SCOREBOARD (2/3- 2/7)			
Men's Basketball			
2/3			
Colby	81	USM	57
2/7			
Eastern Connecticut	68	USM	65
Women's Basketball			
2/5			
USM	85	Thomas	44
2/7			
Eastern Connecticut	68	USM	65
Women's Ice Hockey			
2/6			
USM	0	St. Anselm	0
2/7			
USM	4	New England College	2
Men's Ice Hockey			
2/6			
USM	3	Skidmore	2
2/7			
Castleton State	2	USM	0



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**Brian King & Ben Slagle**  
*Staff Writers*

Take next week’s break from class and study hard on the slopes. Check out the rankings below for Maine and New England’s best skiing options.

We set up three different classes:  
**Casual Skier** - you love a nice day at the mountain but you just don’t have the time

**Moderately Serious Skier** - a regular day tripper, good for 20 days a year

**Full-On Chargers** - you can’t count your days per year, you’ll chase any snow storm anywhere, you know who you are.

**Shawnee Peak  
(Bridgton, Maine):**

If you are a beginner on a budget, meet Shawnee Peak. At around an hour’s drive from Portland and costing a comparatively cheap \$52 for a day ticket, Shawnee is the ideal day trip if you are just looking to get on the hill and make some turns.

Out of the three resorts, Shawnee is the smallest by a large margin with just 40 trails offered. If you are looking to progress your abilities from beginner to intermediate, while not spending the better part of 100 dollars for a lift ticket, Shawnee gives you that opportunity.

However, Shawnee falls short in what it can offer the advanced charging skier/snowboarder. While the mountain can offer a few sections of steep challenging

terrain, an advanced skier looking for varying difficult terrain will quickly exhaust all the hill has to offer.

Without a single high-speed chair on the mountain, a run-counting ripper will most likely become frustrated with the short runs and long lift rides.

While Shawnee Peak can lay claim to a respectable snowmaking system, its natural snowfall comes in at 90-130 inches per year, lower than most other Maine resorts. If you are the powder-hunting type, your chances, as well as reward, increases as you move north past Shawnee to other resorts.

Because of its proximity to Portland and it’s small mountain family feel, Shawnee has cut out a niche’ for itself in the Maine ski mountain market.

**Casual Skier** - A  
**Moderately Serious Skier** - C+  
**Full-On Chargers** - C-

**Sunday River  
(Newry, Maine):**

Sunday River offers what can best be described as the most well-rounded mountain experience in Maine.

Alongside Sugarloaf, Sunday River stands as one of two mountains in Maine that fall into the “resort” category. Located in Newry, Sunday River can be reached in good conditions in around an hour and a half from Portland, making it the perfect day trip mountain for all abilities.

Along with its resort status comes its lofty ticket prices at \$79 a day, a hefty sum for a poor college kid. But there’s hope. The New England College Pass offers a good alternative for skiers and riders, it pays for itself after six days and is valid at both Sunday River and Sugarloaf (COST?)

Sunday River boasts the most capable snowmaking system in the east with the ability to cover 92 percent of its trails. This perk makes Sunday River the clear front-runner in early season skiing, especially in years with low natural snowfall amounts.

With 155 inches of annual snowfall, it is a great option for the powder-hunting day trip following the unexpected storm.

With four high-speed quads servicing a variety of skill level trails, lap totals can be numerous for the midweek skier.

If park riding is your thing, Sunday River champions that category as well with a super-pipe and four terrain parks. From competition size kickers to baby rails, all terrain park bases are covered at Sunday River.

Boasting eight skiable peaks, the resort is quite large laterally, but lacks prowess vertically, leaving an advanced skier with something to be desired with both run length and ease of traversing from one area of the mountain to another.

Along with the accessibility for the southern population, and Sunday River’s family “resortish” feel, comes the potential for weekend and vacation-week

crowds, which can result in lengthy lift lines and a generally clustered effect.

If you want a full day of crowd free cruising its best to visit Sunday River mid-week.

**Casual Skier** - A-  
**Moderately Serious Skier** - A  
**Full-On Chargers** - B

**Sugarloaf  
(Carrabasset Valley,  
Maine):**

Second only to Katahdin in height, Sugarloaf offers the most advanced lift serviced terrain in the state.

If you are serious about skiing and are looking to challenge yourself on a variety of groomed and un-groomed steepes, Sugarloaf is unparalleled in Maine.

With 200 inches of annual natural snowfall the most frequent and most plentiful powder days of the three resorts reviewed are found at Sugarloaf.

While only offering one large peak, compared to Sunday River’s eight, Sugarloaf has more trails.

On top of marked trails, Sugarloaf has a boundary-to-boundary skiing policy, meaning you can venture into the woods anywhere on the mountain you please without having to worry about a pulled pass.

For the advanced skier looking for the best natural snow, longest runs, and gnarliest terrain, Sugarloaf competes with any mountain in New England. However, a \$75 lift-ticket and a

two-and-a-half hour drive each way can really put a strain on your wallet and will.

Plus, the same raw size, steep terrain, and tumultuous weather that makes Sugarloaf so appealing to the passionate skier/rider, can also result in sub-zero temperatures and wind-holds on the desirable lifts.

Sugarloaf is not the best option for the casual skier and requires a tolerance for unpredictable conditions.

While possessing a competent snowmaking system, some years the mountain will still only have limited terrain open at Christmas vacation, meaning its is surpassed by Sunday River in terms of early skiing.

Contrastingly, because of its high annual snowfall and the sun-shielding position of the front face of the mountain, Sugarloaf can offer some of the best spring conditions, which stick around long after other mountains have packed it in.

**Casual Skier** - C  
**Moderately Serious Skier** - B-  
**Full-On Chargers** - A