

## New president outlines plans for tenure

### *Improving advising, financial aid services on Maggie Guzman's to-do list*



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

USM's new Student Body President Maggie Guzman poses for photo for the Free Press. Guzman is the University's first female to hold that position.

#### **Daniel MacLeod**

News Editor

Maggie Guzman has big plans. In May she will take over as student body president, a position currently held by Ben Taylor.

Besides establishing a cabinet, appointing committee members, improving advising and financial aid services for students, and performing the normal daily duties of the student body president, Guzman wants to pursue an ambitious sustainability project that would retro-fit campus buildings to be more energy efficient.

Oh yeah – she's also a double major in English and political science, and a Phi Mu sister.

But one of the many challenges she will face when she takes office is the persistently low student involvement that has plagued USM's student government, particularly on the Portland campus. During the last election, only 5% of USM undergraduates voted. She also says that few students express their concerns to the student senate and president.

"That definitely is a challenge because we do have a commuter campus. A lot of people don't have as much of a connection with the university as they would at Orono," she said.

Guzman thinks this can be changed through the student body president's active engagement in improving the services that matter most to USM students, like advising.

"These [faculty] advisors don't always know what they're talking about, which creates confusion with students; they don't always know what their requirements are to graduate," she said.

Guzman wants to establish training in Mainstreet for faculty advisors, as well as making sure that advisors know about all the programs available to students, like study abroad.

She also wants to work on financial aid services, which can seem like an assembly line to some students, she says.

See **GUZMAN** on page 4

## Student Senate optimistic despite turnout

### *Student reps. bolstered by textbook resolution*

#### **Charlie Nickell**

Staff Writer

When the *Vote USM 2009: Student Government* election campaign came to a close at noon on March 19, the student senate found that roughly 5% of the entire student body actually voted, a slight increase over last year's turnout.

"It is discouraging," said Katherine Letourneau, current senate chair. "It shows that a lot of students are busy or just not concerned."

In an effort to get more students to vote this year, a campus wide email urging undergrads to vote was sent out during election week and two coffee house events were also held where senate representatives promoted the student

government in between performances, mixing entertainment with politics. A table was also set up in Luther Bonney with a computer where students could vote.

Even with additional measures to get students to vote, the lack of student involvement has many senators concerned.

"More students need to be involved," said Senator Martin Emerson, "right now we're thinking of ways to increase involvement with events where students can network and socialize."

Student involvement isn't the only issue facing the senate. This year the student senate passed the "Textbook Resolution," which addresses the rising costs of textbooks required for classes.

Re-elected student senator Allie Parker wants the campus



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

Member's of the University of Southern Maine Student Senate hold out their hands to vote on a proposal during a recent meeting in the Glickman library in Portland.

book stores to make it known to students that they can sell back old textbooks at any point during the year. She also wants to establish an online marketplace where students can buy and sell textbooks.

Despite low voter turnout, the student senate may have more influence than undergrads think.

The roughly \$500,000 dollars collected each year in student fees is managed by the senate. They decide how much money is to be distributed to each student group, the Gorham and Portland campus events boards, as well as the Free Press and WMPG.

As the representative voice of USM undergraduates, the

Senate is responsible for cultivating involvement through student groups and organizations that work to unite the university. Without direct input from the students themselves, the senate must rely on past results to determine future improvements.

See **SENATE** on page 5



# We can work it out

*Forum aims to bridge divide between religious believers, ardent skeptics*

**David O'Donnell**

Staff Writer

Can people ever really agree to disagree about God?

Two forums at USM last month invited religious believers, atheists and everybody in-between to approach that question head-on.

The series, entitled "Religion and Secularism: Contrasting Worldviews" was billed as a group effort between the off-campus Portland Skeptics and Open House United Church of Christ, along with SMASH - the Southern Maine Association of Secular Humanists, who donated their usual meeting time and space at 327 Luther Bonney.

David and Jennifer Dubay, primary organizers of the talks and founders of Portland Skeptics, opened the first session with a call for peaceful debate and a plea to avoid the "shouting match quality" that can take over when passions on both sides are incited.

"The intent is to look at things from a different angle... and dismantle stereotypes," said David Dubay, whose group organized through the online service Meetup.com.

Fliers for the first meeting also advertised it as co-sponsored by USM's Interfaith Chaplaincy, and while several chaplains attended, head Andrea McCall distanced her office a bit from the proceedings.

"To clarify, it would be more accurate to say I'm here as a guest," she said upon introducing herself. "I did not participate in the planning."

As it turned out, much of the planning was moot - despite two ambitious itineraries, the events were largely open discussion forums, though the Dubays aimed for more focus in the second session by steering the conversation toward stereotypes recognized by both sides of the divide.

One local resident and believer, Dana Seaman, asked for clarification on what constitutes a popular stereotype.

"Like Hare Krishna just sell pens and flowers at airports, that's a stereotype," said Jennifer Dubay. "You might even be a Hare Krishna."

"I am," he replied. "And we don't really do that anymore."

Over the course of the next two nights, topics included secular morality, doubt, and science - oc-

casionally veering off, very briefly, into something of a debate over the existence of God.

Here are some highlights:

## Twist of Faith

"Faith is a lot like falling in love," says Trevor Karrer, a student and one of the believers on hand. "It's not rational, you can't quite explain it, but you feel it."

Or you don't. Skeptic Paul Oppenheim of Yarmouth countered: "'People-of-faith' often sort of assume that people who would call themselves not 'people-of-faith' are somehow missing some incredibly essential, important kernel of meaning in their life."

"As if to experience the richness, wonder and sacredness of this world, requires one to be a person of faith," he added.

Stephen Carnahan, pastor at the Open House Church of Christ, disagrees with that notion, but he brings his own definition of the term.

"If you ask me how many people in this room are people of faith, I'd say we all are," said Carhahan. "I would define faith as the practice of belief in something greater than yourself."

"I couldn't agree with you more," Oppenheim replied.

## Moral Danger

Can secular people be moral? The question is posited by atheists in the room as a piece of stereotypical baggage that nags them. Few believers in the room seem interested in that idea, though Seaman openly agrees with it.

"There's an implicit metaphysical realm to it," he says. "It is what gives us all equal rights, because physically and mentally, we're not equal."

Jose and Hartwell quickly counter that morality, just like belief, are concepts born from the human brain. "We can all see we'd probably be better off if we didn't kill, steal - we live in society, we all need to live in society," says Jose.

## Wrath of Kant

"I'm a little miffed by the heaven and hell stereotype I'm hearing here," says Shirley Bowen, USM's episcopal chaplain, after there's some hints from the nonbelievers that the faithful



DAVID O'DONNELL / STAFF WRITER

*David Dubay takes suggestions of popular stereotypes traded by the passionately religious and secular people, some of whom gathered in 327 Luther Bonney Monday nights in March.*

put too much emphasis on fearing God's wrath.

Not all religions believe there's necessarily a heaven to have 'fallen' from, points out Chris Brown. Catholic chaplain Joseph Mailhot also worries that maybe these concepts aren't well-enough understood by the detractors of religious belief.

"Though maybe not enough Christians have cracked open scripture, either," he adds.

Some of the secularists say Mother Theresa, renowned for her charitable pursuits, must have been motivated by a selfish - none of the nonbelievers use this term disparagingly - desire to please God and attain eternal life. Bowen strongly disagrees with the notion that Theresa's deeds were the result of "utilitarian" thinking.

Jennifer Dubay lays it out flatly: "I believe there's only selfishness."

"I agree with that," says Mailhot, sounding like he's just discovered the first significant chunk of common ground. While he believes good is God's will, he also accepts Kant's theory that God would have created man to feel pleasure and often see self-interest in performing good deeds.

## Bound by Laws

Several atheists brought up evolution, but rarely stirred the pot.

In the first session, somebody called for a show of hands for people who think evolution is a valid scientific theory. While there was indeed a lone skeptic of evolution in the room, some believers looked thrown by the need to declare a mainstream understanding of science.

"Notice that in the Bible, you read page one, and you get a story of how the world was created," noted Pastor Carnahan. "Then turn to page two, and you'll read another story - they don't match up, because he intention isn't to show how it all happened. It's about why we're here."

Jose - who teaches a course on science and religion at USM's Osher college - maintains that the fragments of the fossil record scientists are piecing together are interesting to secularists' faith in the natural world, and that a creation story is being uncovered that is "much more powerful than anything in scriptures."

"Many believers feel that God acts or has acted in the world, and pray for the laws of nature to be

suspended," Jose continues. "I understand the emotional side of that, but there's the rub."

## Good Books

At one point David Dubay solicited book recommendations that might help people better understand the "other side," and several in attendance jumped at the opportunity.

Shirley Bowen recommends "Doubt: A History" by Jennifer Michael Hecht. The role of doubt in religious life and scholarship was news to some, and the book traces it's evolution from Socrates to Emily Dickenson.

Greg Lake recommends C.S. Lewis' "Mere Christianity," in which the author describes the reasoning behind his conversion from atheism and explores Christian ethics.

Jennifer Dubay likes Sam Harris' "Letter to a Christian Nation," one of several recent atheist manifestos, and David recommends Steven Waldman's "Founding Faith" for more information on the complicated beliefs and practices of five founders: Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Adams and Madison.



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# Faculty senate passes textbook resolution

*Brainchild of student senate aims to alleviate burden of textbook costs through faculty, student cooperation.*

**Matt Dodge**

*Executive Editor*

Textbooks are a risky but necessary investment for students.

Each semester, the average USMer drops between two and three hundred dollars on their assigned textbooks – a significant stressor on any student's typically thin wallet.

Ideally, most of these expenditures could be recouped through the textbooks buyback service offered by the USM bookstore. However many are not happy with the exchange rates offered on their semester-old texts, or are refused buyback because of low demand.

With this in mind, the USM student senate presented and passed the Textbook Resolution unanimously through the faculty senate last Friday in an effort to alleviate the burden on cash-strapped students and give them a fair return on their investments.

Drafted by the student senate, the resolution addresses what USM faculty can do to make the buyback process more profitable for students.

The senate based the resolution on a textbook survey conducted by the student senate student affairs committee, which asked nearly 500 students what they thought of the current textbook buyback system.

Around 63 percent of students surveyed reported getting back "very little of what I paid" during their textbook exchanges.

Strategies of the resolution include asking USM faculty to supply their list of next semester's texts prior to the buyback period. Without such lists, the bookstore has no way of knowing which texts they need to stock up on, and will routinely refuse to buy back a text that might actually be required in the coming semester.

The resolution also asks faculty to consider reusing the same texts from semester to semester "when it does not undermine the academic experience of the student,"

as well as increasing the use of electronic texts, and posting assigned readings on Blackboard to cut text related costs.

It also addresses the USM University Bookstore's practice of offering higher rates of return for students who return books earlier in the buy-back period; a practice that can cause students to feel pressured into selling back their texts before finals week.

"I'm not at all sympathetic to the idea that students should be selling their textbook before finals," said Political Science professor Michael Hamilton.

University Bookstore Director Nikki Piaget notes that the bookstore often has to spend more in

ordering and shipping new texts, and would much rather work with students to keep recycling the same books.

The survey also found that the "extras" or supplementary materials that come bundled with some texts, which according to the survey are rarely used by students. The Bookstore does not currently accept these extras for buyback.

The resolution also asks that at least one copy of each assigned text be made available on reserve in USM's libraries, to make them available "regardless of cost" for all students.

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From **GUZMAN** on page 1

“They look at your transcript, and they’re like ‘boom-boom-boom-boom, okay next student,’” Guzman said of some students’ experiences with the financial aid staff.

“It’s like they’re trying to just get you out so that the next student can come in, instead of really working on your case to make sure that you get the most money possible. A lot of students don’t get that attention,” she said.

Much of the problem with the financial aid department can be boiled down to one fundamental problem: USM doesn’t have the money to hire additional staff.

“The administration wants students to succeed at USM, the difficulty is that we don’t have the budget to have all these things we want to have. But there are things we can do as students to improve these services,” she said.

Guzman wants to increase the visibility of the student body president and improve communication between administrators, faculty and students.

“One thing that has been a big issue in this semester and last semester is that there hasn’t been a lot of communication between the Student Body President and the Student Government, which is a big problem,” she said.

Guzman plans to address this, by appointing cabinet members to assist in day-to-day operations and assigning committee members to each of the 15 departments the president oversees, effectively re-asserting the vitality of the position of student body president.

Guzman also plans to create a sustainability coalition; an ambitious project that would combine all the separate student groups

working on environmental causes at USM.

“We have a lot of students who are very energy-conscious at this campus, who are lucky to be in Maine, a state that’s at the forefront of the energy movement,” she said.

Installing solar panels, building a windmill in Gorham, and fixing leaks in campus buildings is a less expensive, she says. Some solar firms, like SunEdison, will perform the necessary repairs and improvements for no up front cost. Guzman has been talking with state representative Dave Marshall about the implications of the university signing a purchase agreement with these firms, which is a sort of loan whose repayment is calculated based on the amount of money the school would save in energy costs.

“I think it’s important for a campus to be marketable,” she said. USM being a leader in the green movement could potentially achieve that, she says.

She hopes to have a draft of the plan in the hands of USM President Selma Botman by the end of next semester.

The change Guzman wants to enact ultimately depends on the students of USM getting involved. This has been a consistent problem on the Portland campus, where she says “it’s almost as if all students are commuter students.” Despite this hurdle, she remains confident about the future.

“That is definitely an issue that we have been trying to work on,” she said. “This campus is not a lost cause.”

*If you have any questions or concerns for newly elected student body president Maggie Guzman, email her at maggi-rose27@gmail.com*

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### ‘Deficit continues to be a moving target’

In a post on her website on April 2, USM President Selma Botman said that next year’s \$4.3 million deficit will continue to shift, pending enrollment, state appropriations, and “other variables that may increase our costs.”

Funding to the library will not be cut next year, and financial aid will be increased, a move she calls “strategic” on the university’s part. Research projects will be funded at current levels, she said.

University administration are currently looking to make up for the deficit by making cuts to base budgets; one-time cuts that will realize greater long term savings, according to Botman.

“It is too early in the budget process to speculate about specifics. Until all of the schools, colleges and units have submitted their proposals for meeting the targets... I do not yet have any reliable information about what these reductions will entail for USM,” she said.

Botman expects to share the final budget decisions with the public in early May.

### New draft of strategic plan released

The third draft of USM’s strategic restructuring plan is now available for public viewing.

The newest draft takes into account recommendations offered by faculty, staff, students, and members of the general public.

The plan can be found online at <http://www.usm.maine.edu/spp/>.

### Task Force postpones report

Botman announced on her website last Thursday that the “white paper” report outlining the UMaine task force’s recommendations for the University of Maine will be released on August 28, at the opening breakfast of the new academic year.

“Classes are nearing conclusion and finals loom this spring. I fear that many of you would not be able to devote sufficient time or energy to think through carefully the scenarios presented by the Task Force. Additionally, the white paper is not yet complete,” Botman said.

—Daniel MacLeod

## Question of the Week

### Did you vote in the student government elections?



**A.J.**

**Freshman - Electrical Engineering**

“No. I knew it was happening, but I didn’t know anybody in it. [I didn’t] look into it at all, so I had no idea who I’d be voting for.”



**Angela**

**Senior - Psychology**

“No. I’m actually not very in tune with the campus. I’m a non-traditional [student], single mother. I’m mostly in the Psych. department. If the school has a paper, I don’t even know where it is.”



**Boo**

**Senior - Accounting**

“No. I’m Canadian and I’m not allowed to vote in the United States.”



**Elissa**

**Freshman - Nursing**

“No. Because I don’t really know any of the candidates. But I heard that a girl is doing really well.”



**Matt**

**Freshman - Biology**

“Yes. Because it’s right.”



**Ethan**

**Junior - Political Science**

“Yes. I have three out of five of the candidates in some of my classes. There was more outreach [this year] towards the students.”



**Nigel**

**Senior - Philosophy**

“Yes. I usually do vote. I want to say it makes a difference. Maybe not much, but at least a little bit.”

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From **SENATE** on page 1

"Students want to see changes but don't know how to go about it," says Alex Sargent, a senator graduating this spring. "they need to know the student senate is their representation in the university system."

Senator Matthew Tagett is working towards giving students due process when accused of committing offenses on campus. "Right now, if an underage student is accused of possession of alcohol on campus, they are automatically charged an adminis-

trative fee and forced to take a class on substance abuse whether they are guilty or not. I'd like to see steps taken where the student will have the right to defend their case," he said.

The senate will vote for members of its Executive board on April 24. This election will determine who will be the chair, vice-chair, parliamentarian, secretary and treasurer of the 38th student senate.

"There's a lot of passion," Letourneau says, "I look forward to seeing how the 38th senate performs next year."



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

Members of the USM Student Senate hold a meeting in the Glickman Library last Friday. Pictured left to right are Katherine Letourneau, Alex Bresler, and Julie Brewer.

## Smooth talker?

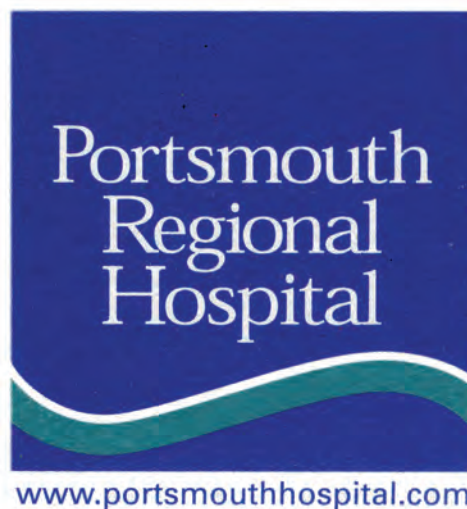
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# PERSPECTIVES

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

# Can't hide that port-city pride

Last weekend's short snap of spring weather was a godsend at my East End apartment. Just a couple blocks up from the waterfront, I've had the placed shuttered up pretty tight for the last five months to protect against the chilling winds that whip off the ocean.

So I tore the plastic wrap off the windows, broke out the mop and dustpan, and proceeded to engage in the lamest and yet oddly fulfilling activity known to man: spring cleaning.

After five hours, six trash bags, and two pruned hands, and barley a dent in the mess, I was ready for a break.

Maybe it was my overwhelming sense of accomplishment on my usually lazy weekend, but sitting on my porch with leftover pasta and a cold beer, not even the oppressive malt fumes of the Shipyard Brewery could dampen my spirit.

On this day, on this porch, overlooking the harbor (albeit, through the growing obstruction of office buildings) I felt like I could finally start to enjoy this city again.

Any member of the USM marketing staff will share one universal truth with you; Portland is a great city, and a big draw for USM. The school's 30-second television commercials, debuted a few months back as part of the school's new marketing efforts, are a jazzy romp around the city, full of smiling students who seem to be enjoying themselves all up and down the streets of Portland.

There is no denying the unique atmosphere of the city, and it's not only

weathered, grizzled Mainers who will tell you this.

Last week, Portland was picked by Forbes.com as "America's most livable city". Just a few days before, The Washington Post ran a travel article on Portland's Munjoy Hill area.

Funny, considering a couple months back, trudging across Franklin Arterial to catch a bus as feeling my face freeze into a stinging mask of pain, I didn't feel like I was inhabiting a particularly "livable" city.

Looking a little deeper into the article however, I started to understand the moniker a little better. Low unemployment and crime rates, coupled with high income growth and a unique arts and dining scene, paints Portland as something of an sea-side, flannel-tinged oasis.

The great thing about Portland is that is has little competition in being the arts and culture center of the state. Maine has its abundance of natural wonders to admire, from the western mountains to M.D.I.'s Sand Beach, but when it comes to man-made fun, it's all here.

This might seem a bold assertion for any objective newsman to make, but where else in the state could I walk along a beach, do some tasting at a brewery, and hungrily eye high-end foodie hideouts in one ten minute walk?

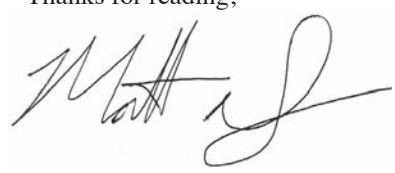
I would be reluctant to judge a city based solely on it's culinary treats and top-class microbrews, but there is something more to Portland than tapas and taps.

The independent spirit that runs through this city is probably what I am most proud of. Just try finding an urban area of comparable size anywhere in the country that has so wholly rejected Starbucks, and other such big name corporations in favor of supporting local businesses – a move that builds a sense of community while keeping the profits in the community.

Try finding an art community so vibrant and welcoming. Just take The First Friday Art Walk, where hordes of wine-thirsty denizens will trudge through deep freeze conditions to sample the work of new and emerging artists at businesses eager to promote the art scene.

From East End to West End, Deering Oaks to the State Pier, there is something special about this city, an eclectic sort of place with a little something for everyone just waiting to be explored.

Thanks for reading,



Matt Dodge

## THE F WORD

### A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

by Taryn Yudaken

# Israel vs. South Park

## A clash of cultural norms between Colorado and The Holy Land

A lot has been accomplished in the past several decades regarding women's rights, but there is still much to be done. In countries across the globe women struggle to be viewed as equals, and a recent event in Israel illustrates what we still have to overcome. A recent South Park episode illustrates where we're trying to go.

Limor Livnat and Sofa Landver, the only two women serving in Israel's Cabinet, have been removed from circulating Cabinet pictures by two Ultra-Orthodox newspapers. The Yated Neeman and the Shaa Tova, aimed at Orthodox readers, both found a way to keep their audience happy: Shaa Tova erased the women completely, while Yated Neeman replaced them with men.

The offense I take to that is not unlike the deeply ingrained offense Ultra-Orthodox men take to seeing images of women. They say they want to preserve female modesty, and not exploit women the way some other countries have. In the U.S. it is impossible to avoid sexed-up women beckoning from images everywhere. In Israel the women are just photo-shopped out. Where is the happy medium?

This is not the first time something like this has happened in Israel. During campaign season, pictures of female candidate Tzipi Livni were destroyed

around Ultra-Orthodox neighborhoods. Livni is the leader of Kadima, which is the largest political party in Israel's legislative branch of government, the Knesset.

Here at home things are quite different. There is way more than a mere acceptance of pictured women, there seems to be no shame in their sexual objectification. Even our female politicians are ridiculed and portrayed as irrelevant pieces of meat sometimes. Occasionally, however, I'll notice something take a step in a more equal direction, and though some areas are still greatly behind, others are moving up to inspire real progress.

A recent South Park episode gives reason to believe that American media's portrayal of women might be changing for the better. Always a good social commentary, South Park's satirical humor has great underlying truth. No matter how obscene the journey is the kids usually make a good point. This episode's point was that if men had the right to be open and laugh about farting, then women should have to same right to be open and laugh about "queefing." I think the larger point was about rights and equality in general, but in South Park crudeness usually represents more sophisticated ideas.

At the end of the episode, "Eat, Pray, Queef," all the men in South Park got

together and sung a song about women—about how we are still oppressed and deserve equal rights. Photographs of real women- a scientist, a firewoman, a mechanic, a nurse, a doctor, a mother, an athlete, and Hillary Clinton-form a picture montage behind the choir; a choir so absurd, so completely ridiculous, that they can't not be sincere.

Now would the Ultra-Orthodox be able to sit through the jokes? Would they be able to see the deeper meaning in them? I don't know, but I somehow doubt this episode's attempt at feminism would have flown among the Orthodox Israelis cutting women out of pictures.

Unfortunately, it wouldn't fly anywhere conservative around here either. The difference is that in Israel the Ultra-Orthodox folk are not equipped to deal with obscenity or objectification, or even shows that stray a little from the norm; unlike us they aren't bombarded with raunch culture all the time, and don't have the experience to automatically brush it off. Not that living in the states makes everyone an object-pursuing sex-fiend, but it does make most of us desensitized enough that no matter how conservative our upbringing, we should be able to sit down, look past the fart jokes, and absorb an intelligent message: the happy medium is still waiting to be found, all over the world.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Want to be heard?  
Write a letter to the editor.  
E-mail our  
executive editor,  
Matt Dodge  
at  
[mdodge18@gmail.com](mailto:mdodge18@gmail.com)  
or go to our website  
[usmfreepress.org](http://usmfreepress.org)  
and click on  
“Letters to the Editor”  
to send us your thoughts**

## Nestle water

I'm tired of all the misinformation regarding Poland Spring and water. The Fryeburg issue was one driven by politics, not science. The original Planning Board decision was correct, but because a vocal minority was upset, those members were replaced, the original decision was overturned and the ME Supreme Court agreed the original decision was correct. That whole fight was about a filling station off Rt. 302, a US highway, that local folks felt was not safe, not about pumping water. It happens that this particular section of Rt. 302 is in very bad shape, but that is a DOT problem, not a Poland Spring problem. The wells are actually located in Denmark and the town has adopted a very stringent water standard that is now being followed by other towns and states.

I do have to agree on the bottle issue, and carry my own bottle, sorry it's old and plastic, but fill it with my

own tap water from home, (about 5 miles by the crow's flight from the Poland Spring wells.)

So why do people buy bottled water? Often tap water tastes bad from the treatment needed due to old water delivery systems. So, do you prefer bad tasting tap water, or good tasting bottled water? Perhaps we should drink bottled soda, oh but that has high fructose corn syrup, and we know that's bad...

People need to get over this issue. This is a clean, low impact, environmentally sustainable product. Maine is blessed with an overabundance of clean water. This industry provides many well paying jobs that support local people. It is time that Maine should be encouraging this kind of local infrastructure instead of watching the continuous stream of jobs leaving the state.

*Ed Enos*  
FNP 2010  
Denmark, ME

# Thank God for C cups. Or not.

**James Couch**  
Contributing Writer

It has been quite some time since the creation of the World War II icon Rosie the Riveter. Rosie is one of the more well known ways that women started to gain independence from the 'everyday normality.' With her help, women began to become an increasing part of the work force. The world has come a long way since then, but are we beginning to go backwards? Have we gone so far ahead that we have looped right around to where we started? More and more evidence seems to support this theory.

Of course, there are women in the world that are outstanding. They seem to be pushing equal rights forward, but the media seems to have other ideas. Candace Parker is becoming a well-known WNBA all-star. At 22 she's married, pregnant, and striving to be a female Michael Jordan, a goal she could very well achieve. Parker has made such an impact that she has already gotten a front page story in the ESPN Magazine, published in March.

According to this article, written by Allison Glock, Parker could become anything she wants to be, and maybe even more. The common person would believe the article to be on Parker and her sports career, being a sports magazine published by a sports TV network. This does not seem to be the case.

Within the very first paragraph, Parker's cup size was mentioned twice. Of course, they do talk about her ability to play basketball, and how wonderful a person she is, but they also discuss her looks, and the level of them. Glock also seems to be pushing Parker's heterosexuality on the reader, repeatedly speaking of her husband and child to be.

There are even Christian undertones that seem to be coming

from the writer herself, and not from Mrs. Parker. Throughout the article, there are many quotes from an interview with Parker, but not one of these quotes mentions 'God.'

"I was surprised," Parker says of the pregnancy. "But everything happens for a reason. It will be exciting to have my child share my career and to remember what I was like when I was young."

This quote, taken from "Selling Candace Parker by Allison Glock" is the only thing Parker says that remotely sounds religious. Even then, many believe the same thing but have never stepped foot in a church. So it seems safe to say that Glock is adding her personal beliefs to the article.

While Glock is preaching, she also seems to have some idea of equal rights. She explains that Parker is "competing with the boys." Why does she say this, but then go into great detail on her sexual appeal, and the fact that she is married and expecting? Glock even seems to think that Parker should be proud for making a maximum 5 million annually while LeBron, having the same sports manager, is making minimum 95 million more.

A woman wrote the article in ESPN Magazine and still it was sexual, religious, and focused on the 'straight and narrow.' This sounds like there is need for women to speak their minds loudly once more, before we fall back into the "Leave it to Beaver" era.

## Corrections:

*In last week's article "USM gets new VP" the number of vice presidents was incorrectly given as seven. USM actually has four vice presidents.*

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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## From the studio to the street

*First Friday Art Walks fuse arts and business in a symbiotic celebration of culture*

**Meghan McCaffrey**  
 Staff Writer

The First Friday Art Walk is a cultural gem of Portland.

This past Friday on April 3 people flooded the drizzly streets to observe artwork that was vastly different at each exhibit. Depending on your energy level, you can get a small sampling of art and only go to a few places or you can be adventurous and try to visit over 60 locations partici-

pat-  
 ing in the art walk. Not only are works of up-and-coming artists on display, but there are also opportunities for non-traditional artists to show their work.

At Time Gallery located at 516 Congress Street, the home of CTV channel 4, there is a display of the Spiral Arts group, a group of seniors who have come together to learn about art expression. Their work consists of paintings

on fabric. The artists themselves were ecstatic to have their art on display. At the June Fitzpatrick Gallery at MECA, there was an exhibit of drawings, paintings, and sculptures based on one subject, the cow. This exhibit was a celebration of the gentle beauty of cows and their importance to our culture. Also at MECA, there is a

stun-  
 ning exhibit of the senior BFA students at the Institute of Contemporary Art. Using varied mediums from sculpture to video, this was perhaps one the most diverse and engaging exhibits in the First Friday Art Walk.

Space Gallery has been participating in the First Friday Art Walks "since Space opened,

See **FRIDAY** on page 10



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

Crowds gather on sidewalks and inside participating galleries during the First Friday Art Walk. The montly cultural event draws a big crowd - especially during the warmer months - for the free art and drinks it offers culture cultures.



# Another way to keep Portland independent

## Record Store Day celebrates indie music stores like Bull Moose

**Danica Koenig**

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Bull Moose began as a make-shift music store, carrying only a few discs. Started in Brunswick by Bowdoin College junior Brett Wickard in 1989, it is now the largest independent retailer of new and pre-owned music, movies, and video games in Maine and New Hampshire.

There is one day a year that celebrates independent music stores such as Bull Moose, and that is April 18th, the second annual Record Store Day.

Record Store Day was first thought of by Bull Moose's Chris Brown as a day to celebrate the unique culture of all the inde-

pendent record stores across the United States and internationally. Music stores join with musical artists to celebrate the art of music with festivities such as special vinyl and CD releases and special appearances and live performances from artists.

Metallica officially kicked off the first Record Store Day at Rasputin Music in San Francisco on April 19, 2008 and it is now celebrated the third Saturday every April in hundreds of stores across the US and internationally.

However, only independent record stores such as Bull Moose

See **RECORD** on page 11



## The truth is out there?

*Zeitgeist: The Movie Vs. David O'Donnell*

**David O'Donnell**

Staff Writer

Due to space constraints, "Zeitgeist: The Movie" is running unopposed.

Don't misread this as a defense of all mainstream intelligence, or a screed against research into and skepticism towards any "accepted reality." On the contrary, the deathly annoying thing about *Zeitgeist: The Movie* (besides the title) is the flighty little bubble of irony it exists in: the message is that the downfall of humanity is the acceptance of cheap and emotionally appealing truths from above.

We can only hope the filmmaker was inspired by Borat and is actually trying to prove this by example.

I believe the exact point where the film moves from pomposity to outright hostility toward serious scholarship - of any kind - is fifteen minutes in, when the "ominous" montage of Hubble telescope images and war footage gives way to a shocking expose of Christianity. No, not the pagan roots of scripture or the institutional alteration of sacred texts. Not even any dubious scientific claims that may or may not be in the Bible. The ice is instead broken by declaring the Egyptian god Horus as first among a string of deities that are, believe it or not, point-for-point templates for the mythology that would later become the story of Jesus Christ.

You needn't be an anthropologist or a Christian - of which I'm neither - to realize your intelligence is being kneed in the groin here.

You might develop an easily-confirmed hunch that, no, Horus

wasn't ever said to be born on December 25, of a virgin, adored by 3 kings, a teacher at 12, baptized at age 30, referred to by his native tongue's equivalent for "lamb of god", crucified and then resurrected after 3 days - all thrown up on the screen as fact. You might assume such glaring parallels would have dogged the Christian faith a bit more prominently over the years, and at least made it into a Christopher Hitchens book.

To its credit, *Zeitgeist* cites its source for that factoid - a book by Acharya S, who happens to have also written a companion book for *Zeitgeist* and who doesn't cite her own sources. That is almost, but not quite as convincing as relying on my grandmother's favorite chain emails, which interestingly enough have "proven" the Barack Obama is the Biblical antichrist.

That's just the first and maybe most innocuous instance of the film pulling "truth" clear out of nowhere in particular. The centerpiece may be the assertion that seven of the eight supposed 9/11 hijackers are still alive and well to this day, just waiting for us to hear their humble cries and dispute the official record. Exactly what you get when big government plans your faux terrorist attacks - U.S. officials just picked a bunch of real, live Arabs to pin the alleged "suicide missions" on, we're told.

The source here is a now-very-popular BBC News item with the tantalizing headline "Hijack 'suspects' alive and well." The story, written days after the attacks, expresses the difficulty FBI investigators were having in getting a firm ID for the men, who relied on forged documents

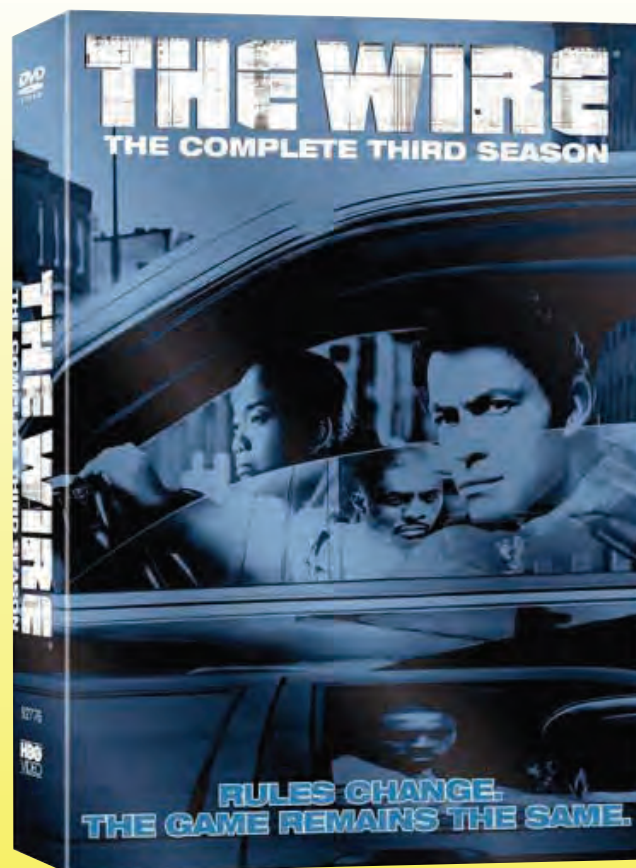
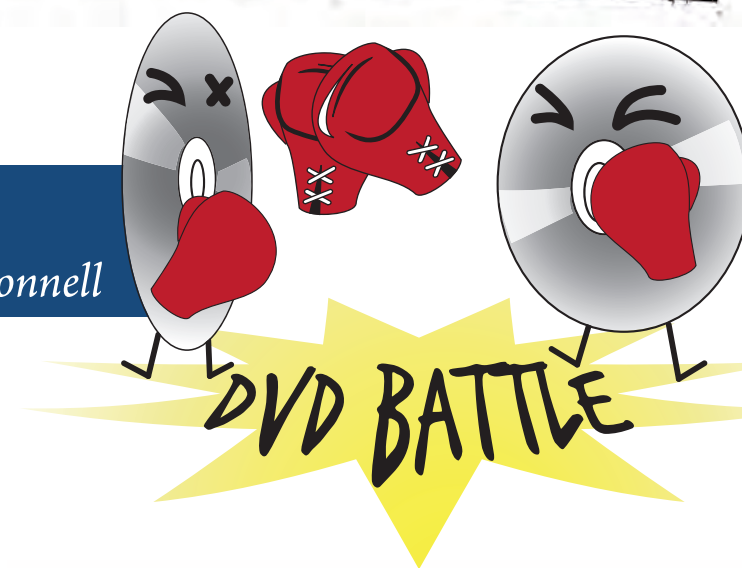


and were pretty well incinerated after the fact.

The movie has no time for the content of that BBC article, nevermind the linked clarification by an editor some time afterwards. Apparently, the BBC can only be trusted for the brief moment that it appears to confirm a conspiracy theorists' wet dream - in which case it can be trusted absolutely.

Yes, *Zeitgeist*, blind trust is a bad thing. Institutions are corruptible and potentially quite corrupting - if you think a person is capable of doing evil deeds, wait till you get a few hundred or so of them together. But there's nothing more irritating than some guy standing up and asserting that he "gets" it, then drastically simplifying things in the other direction. There's a feeling here that the filmmakers are privy to not merely to the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth about religion and terrorism, but also the idyllic alternative world of which we're being deprived.

Let's cross our fingers for the sequel.



## The winner...

In an upset, the victory goes to write-in candidate *The Wire*, an under-appreciated (but not suppressed) HBO show about how institutions can betray the people who trust them. All five seasons are available wherever fine DVDs are rented.



# Maine filmmakers launch web series

## The weekly series premieres with “Willard Beach, The Real Story 2.8”

**Tyler Jackson**  
Staff Writer

Where do you find lesbian speed dating, two brothers living together as the odd couple and a kleptomaniac mother-daughter team?

Look no further than Willard Beach, Maine—or, more specifically, WillardBeach.tv.

Gitgo Productions, the creative vehicle of Maine filmmakers Kate Kaminski and Betsy Carson, have launched the premiere of their new ongoing comedic web series, “Willard Beach, The Real Story 2.8.”

The weekly episodes explore the lives of fifteen interconnected characters in small town Maine. The show mixes equal parts soap opera, satire and improv experiment in a condensed, web friendly length of about three minutes apiece.

Some of the topics explored in the series are the search for love, infidelity, work and class issues, sexual orientation, loneliness, and how to cope with it all.

“It’s a revolving cast of characters that reflects, in a lot of ways, all of our experiences of living in this community, which is small,” Kaminski, a film professor at USM says.

“Everyone’s connected. And that’s the type of feeling we’re trying to evoke.”

Kaminski and Carson have been making features together for years. Some of their recent projects have been “Tripp,” a darkly comic surrealist hitchhiker film and 21st Century LP, a short

documentary about Portland’s Enterprise Records.

A bout of winter boredom coupled with a strong desire to “get in on the action” of free online programming led to the idea of making something short, challenging and most importantly, funny.

“Our focus is always on wrenching as much funny out of every situation as we can,” Kaminski says.

The premier episode, “Speeding Toward Love,” debuted online last Wednesday. It features two middle-aged women played by Denise Poirier and Toni Fiore at a lesbian speed-dating event. The scene quickly becomes awkward when one woman realizes that the other is married to a man and only there to check out the occasion.

“Willard Beach” features an ensemble cast of fifteen actors from around the Greater Portland community including Brent Askari, Keith Anctil, Braden Biddings, Harris Cooley, Franklin McMahon and Michael Best. Kaminski and Carson drew from a crop of talent they have worked with on previous projects, as well as a number of theater actors who



JUDY BEEDLE/ CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

From left to right: Harris Cooley & Braden Biddings during one of the scenes of ‘Willard Beach.’ Photo by Judy Beedle.

are comfortable in an improvisational setting. The shorts’ loose, genuine dialogue provides for a very naturalistic feel.

Kaminski says they are using the phrase “real story” with their tongues firmly planted in their cheeks.

“A lot of people have a clichéd idea about what Maine is,” she says. “The outsider view is that it’s very straight, white, middle class, working class.”

“Willard Beach,” which features characters that are straight and gay, black and white and employed and unemployed, challenges the popular misconception that all Mainers are “boring L.L. Bean” types.

Kaminski says they intend on keeping “Willard Beach” going as long as they can by avoiding embedding hard-lined narratives into the episodes.

“One thing we noticed about most web series is that they’re

very engaged in plot. And what that does is make it finite. And we didn’t want to do that,” Kaminski says.

Currently, there are ten episodes in the pipeline and plans to produce another batch in May and June.

Watch “Willard Beach, The Real Story 2.8” at 2point8.tv, willardbeach.tv, iTunes, YouTube, Facebook, and everywhere video is playing online.

## EPICUREAN EPICS

by **Anne McCormack**

# Morel sauce

It’s time to start thinking about foraging for mushrooms on the forest floors, and to look forward to the bright green fiddlehead fronds that will poke through the ground around Mother’s Day. I began to think about mushrooms after I received a quart of dried Morels that were harvested in Idaho and sent to me in remembrance of my April Fool’s birthday last week.

This recipe from Bon Appetit is going to be the perfect accompaniment to a roast pork which will be framed by roasted carrots, asparagus spears, red potatoes, and golden beets.



## MOREL SAUCE

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 2 ounces dried whole morel mushrooms (about 4 cups) | 2 tablespoons brandy          |
| 2 cups boiling water                                | 2 cups low-salt chicken broth |
| 1 tablespoon butter                                 | 1 cup whipping cream          |
| 1 shallot, finely chopped                           | Reserved pork juices          |
|   | 1 cup slightly sweet sherry   |

Combine morels and 2 cups boiling water in 8x8x2-inch glass dish. Let soak until mushrooms soften, stirring occasionally, at least 1 hour and up to 3 hours. Using slotted spoon, transfer mushrooms to small bowl; reserve soaking liquid. Melt butter in large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add shallot and sauté 3 minutes. Add brandy and shake pan until brandy has almost evaporated, about 1 minute. Add chicken broth and cream. Slowly pour in mushroom soaking liquid, leaving any sediment behind in bowl. Add mushrooms. Bring sauce to boil. Reduce heat to medium and boil gently until sauce thickens enough to coat spoon, about 30 minutes.

(Mushroom base can be made 2 days ahead. Refrigerate uncovered until cold, then cover and keep refrigerated.)

Pour all pan juices from roasting pan into small bowl. Spoon off fat from top; pour juices into mushroom base in saucepan. Place roasting pan over 2 burners set at medium heat. Pour in Sherry. Boil 1 minute, scraping up browned bits; pour into mushroom base. Boil sauce until reduced to 3 cups, about 8 minutes; season with salt and pepper. Transfer to bowl. Serve with pork.



*From RECORD on page 9*

Music participate in Record Store Day. The Record Store Day webpage actually states how they define a record store qualified to participate: “a physical retailer whose product line consists of at least 50% music retail, whose company is not publicly traded and whose ownership is at least 70% located in the state of operation. (In other words, we’re dealing with real, live, physical, indie record stores—not online retailers or corporate behemoths).”

The Bull Moose record stores of Maine and New Hampshire are some of the stores participating in this year’s Record Store Day on April 18th. There will be rare and limited edition album and merchandise releases as well as free in-store concerts and autograph signings at Bull Moose stores all over the state.

Some of the items known so far that will be available in limited quantities at Bull Moose stores on Record Store Day include:

- Brandi Carlile 7” single including “Downpour” and a live version of the song “A Promise To Keep”
- Bruce Springsteen 7” specially-packaged single including: “What Love Can Do” and a live version of “A Night With The Jersey Devil,” which has never before appeared on CD or vinyl
- Modest Mouse 7” single including the two brand

new tracks “Satellite Skin” and “Guilty Cocker Spaniels”

- Queen’s first EP – a limited edition, numbered CD, on sale for the first time in the U.S.
- Black Kids’ Wizard of Ahhhs 10” – released for the first time on a physical format
- The Decemberists’ 7” single including “The Rake’s Song” and the previously unreleased “East India Lanes”
- The Stooges’ 7” single including “1969” and “Real Cool Time”

The New Hampshire-based band Wild Light will be performing at the Salem Bull Moose at 4 p.m. on Record Store Day. At the Portland Bull Moose on Middle St. the band Disturbed will be signing autographs at noon, and the Portland-based band This Way will be performing live at 4 p.m. The band Killswitch Engage will be signing autographs at 4 p.m. at the Scarborough location.

For more information about Record Store Day visit their website at [www.recordstoreday.com](http://www.recordstoreday.com). For a complete listing of all free concerts and special offers and merchandise at Bull Moose stores visit the Record Store Day section of the Bull Moose website at [www.bullmoose.com](http://www.bullmoose.com).

## From FRIDAY on page 8

The first opening was in August of 2002, and we’ve participated in most every First Friday Art Walk since then,” says Nat May, the Executive Director of the Space Gallery. The Space presented work done by Anna Hepler and her colleague Andrea Sulzer, and Anna Hepler’s students in the advanced printmaking class at Bowdoin College. May explained that Anna Hepler “has wanted for a long time to try experimenting with wood block printing by using a wooden floor as the wood block instead of using a smaller piece of wood.” They went to the old Brunswick High School which will soon be torn down, and carved on the wooden floors of two different classrooms, covered the floors in ink, and laid paper on top to soak up the print from the designs. They pieced the papers together and formed a 30’ by 20’ print of the different designs that they carved.

If none of these exhibits inspire curiosity, the art walk may still be a worthwhile event. In talking with a few people, it seems the importance for those walking from exhibit to exhibit is not in what the art work actually represents, for most it is a social event. Anna, a local art enthusiast who was observing the new Antarctica exhibit in the Portland Museum of Art, has been going to the First Friday Art Walk for months. For Anna, the best thing about the art walk is, “the people you run into. It’s kind of hard to walk half a block without seeing 5 or 6 people that I know. It’s the most people I ever see on the street in Portland and it’s really fun.” Anna and her friend Jon list the Dooryard as their favorite

place to go on the First Friday Art Walk. Anna says the Dooryard is great because you just “Sit down, make your own art, and eat really good food.”

For Portland, a small little sleepy city something like the art walk is a great way to get people to come out. Nat May explained a study done by the Portland Arts & Cultural Alliance on the economic impact of arts spending by non-profit organizations (which doesn’t include private galleries) had on restaurants, parking garages, and other extra expenses. Nat May stated that the Space Gallery’s yearly budget is \$300,000 which generates an extra \$700,000 spent because of the events held at Space. When people go out they have to spend money on things like gas, parking fees, babysitters, and a lot of times people go out to eat too, all of this adds up. “In a very real sense, economic sense, I think the art walk is a great way to bring people into town. It’s free, right? And there are other things to do like eat and other night time entertainment.”

So next time there is a First Friday Art Walk in Portland, show up, walk around and mingle for a little while. You’ll probably see familiar faces, see some wonderful art, eat great food, and do something that you wouldn’t do ordinarily.

# “I’m on Percocet right now”

## David Sedaris reads newest work at Merrill Auditorium

**Daniel MacLeod**

*News Editor*

Over last winter break, I drove across the country with a girl I couldn’t stand. She had asked me to ride with her out to her new home in San Diego; my charge being to ward off potential rapists and thugs who might accost her and her smelly dog at rest stops and hotel parking lots. At the start of the voyage, we were friends. But by the time we hit Scranton, Pennsylvania, the nature of her unbelievable bitchiness hit me like a random nosebleed, and I realized I would need some sort of distraction to plug up the wound.

I downloaded “When You Are Engulfed in Flames,” David Sedaris’ 2008 book of essays, at a hotel after the first day of driving. Three days later, when we hit El Cajon, I had listened to every book he had ever recorded.

I was never a Sedaris fan before this trip. I tried reading “Me Talk Pretty One Day,” at the urging of every white college graduate I had ever met, and I gave up after the first story. I thought he was overly cute, his writing contrived and his snarky tone somewhat annoying. But after hearing him read these same stories, I got it.

His essays are funny, for sure, but they never struck me as illuminating in any way. There never seemed to be anything more to what he wrote than a series of hilarious anecdotes about his large, neurotic family. But to hear him tell these stories in his own voice is to understand the relationships he writes about with a different kind of clarity.

Last Friday night, a sold-out crowd at the Merrill Auditorium in Portland hungrily fed on every word of David Sedaris’ two-hour reading of new essays and diary entries. Every 15 seconds or so, the entire crowd would erupt in rolling peals of laughter that seemed to shake the auditorium. One woman in the third row –

who only seemed to laugh when everybody else was listening silently – cackled so violently that Sedaris actually stop reading for a few moments.

After the first reading – an essay he had written about greed for an Italian collection about the seven deadly sins – Sedaris admitted that he had spent the previous night in a hospital in upstate New York because of kidney stones. They wanted to keep him longer, but he insisted on leaving the next morning, saying, “I have to get to Portland, Maine. My health doesn’t matter.”

“That is to say, I’m on Percocet right now,” he clarified.

The next story he read was about a trip to Australia – “Canada in a thong” – he had recently taken. For the first two stories, Sedaris scribbled in the margins of the loose leaves of paper he read from, a practice he explained later as being part of his writing process. He said that when he goes back to the hotel after each night of a tour, he rewrites the pieces he read aloud. When a particular passage caused a huge round of laughs, he made a note in the margins. When something fell flat – which it rarely did – he marked that as well.

The high point of the night was when he read from his diary. He started with the story of a woman at a Weight Watchers meeting in London, whose extreme, carnal eating habits shocked Sedaris’ friend, who was aghast of being lumped into the same category as someone who pulled over on the side of the road and ate five grocery bags full of Hershey bars. The woman described her ordeal as like it was a common tribulation for her fellow Weight Watchers. Sedaris mocked this desperate attempt at validation in subsequent entries. In one instance, he imagined the woman posing as a man and attending divinity school to get access to an unlimited supply of communion wafers.

“I will make nachos of the body of Christ. And then – just like you – I will empty the collection plate and phone in another order. See if I don’t.”

Sedaris’ knack at exposing the bizarre and ridiculous tendencies of the average person is his calling card; a skill he is most adept at when he turns the spotlight on his own follies. The opening story about greed tells of one of his first book tours, when he put out a tip jar in jest at a book-signing table. What started as a joke turned into a profitable enterprise: when the tour ended he had collected roughly \$3,000 in tips clumped into “sour-smelling bales the size of bricks.” He started judging each city based on the tips he collected, not the reception from the crowd.

Now, when new writers ask Sedaris about getting published, he seems to have a different view of fame.

“Writing and getting published are two different things. If it’s notoriety you want, maybe you should take hostages, or eat small bits of people you think are cute,” he said.

My impression – that Sedaris is a better reader than he is a writer – hasn’t changed since last winter. I agree with his assertion last Friday that “a good reader can sell a bad book.” It’s not that he’s a bad writer – far from it. He is a brilliant satirist, and his cutting descriptions have summed up so many ridiculous people whom I have met in one form or another. But his dry delivery, comedic timing – and impression of his father – are the subtle touches that make him more than a funny writer. They make him brilliant.

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# The Everyday Visuals

*Boston band goes back to their roots for third album*



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*The Everyday Visuals members Joseph Seiders, Kyle Fredrickson, Eli Scheer, and Christopher Pappas. Photo courtesy of The Everyday Visuals.*

## Dylan Martin

Staff Writer

The Everyday Visuals are preparing for the release of their third self-titled album on April 14th. If you like bands such as Radiohead, Wilco, R.E.M., and Fleet Foxes, you will love this band. They play around in Portland once in a while, and they're aiming to come back sometime in the summer. I recently had a chance to sit down with the lead singer, Christopher Pappas. Here's how it went down:

**Free Press: So your upcoming album is self-titled. Is there any reason behind this decision?**

Christopher Pappas: Yeah, I think Eli was the big proponent of self-titling it. Things Will Look Up and Media Crush were all sort-of transition albums. We're either transition members, we're transitioning location.

This record felt like more of a combined effort from all of the band members, and we have a clear vision. For the first time, it was really like art. Eli especially felt that sentiment, even more so than Things Will Look Up. We decided to go with it because we think he's right.

**FP: A long time ago you had a song called "What We Deserve" on your band's Myspace page. Did anything happen to that song? Is that on the album?**

CP: No, it's not on the record, but we are actually getting ready, after the release, to put a bunch of b-sides out because there are five or six songs that aren't going to be on the record that are new that we could release as b-sides.

That song was written...it was a very politically-charged song, and I wrote it while the primaries were going on. When it came time to choose a song for the record, I felt like that song almost encapsulated a different period, and we had moved past it. So when we put it on the Myspace, it was definitely for political reasons and it

was more in the spirit of the time. It was like writing a Christmas tune and then having a record that comes out in March.

**FP: That's what I was thinking, because I knew that it was politically charged.**

CP: I'm happy with that song, and I think it will get a release someday.

**FP: Was there any musical discoveries in the past few years that's had a major influence on your songwriting now?**

CP: I think it was more like personal discoveries...I feel like the hardest part for me is always keeping a steady vision of what I want and sort of trusting myself. And this has been a new struggle with me.

When I wrote Media Crush, and Joey Hallowell and I recorded it, I was like, "This is what we're gonna fucking do. I don't give a shit what's happening right now." So when we released that and started to plan the follow-up, we got very in tune with the trends that were going on, and not that we wanted to mimic what they were doing, but I felt like it almost made us self-conscious. It's like, "We don't sound like that, are we doing something wrong?" I don't know if we can be disingenuous about our music; if reggae suddenly took off and went top 40, I don't know if I could write a reggae tune, but it was more of a feeling of, is this going to fall on deaf ears? Are we doing something wrong?

I think for this record, I got back in tune with my roots, music I grew up with and went back to when I was more comfortable writing, and not only more comfortable writing, but starting to believe in it again. I feel like in Things Will Look Up, we got really beat up. We beat up ourselves. Or at least I did. Joe was like, "No, man. I was fine the whole time." And I believe him. He was very confident about the whole thing, but I'm starting to

feel comfortable again in my own skin.

That was kind of a round-about way to answer the question. I got back to the classics. I got back to the bands that I love the most. There wasn't any new musical discovery that I was like, "Oh, you know what? This is..." For example, I love Fleet Foxes and for a while, I almost fell under that trap of "oh, we should add more reverb and stuff like that," and for me, I caught myself doing it. I was like, don't try and follow because you're always going to be a step behind. You can never catch up. It's a fruitless effort.

So I just went back...I grew up on Crosby, Stills and Nash, America...those records are great, and I felt like I had already been writing acoustic songs, kind of like folky, harmony-driven songs anyways, so I didn't need to compare myself to other writers like that. Media Crush already had basically what the Fleet Foxes were doing. You know, there's no reason to chase. Just do your own thing, and it will work itself out.

**FP: The tracklisting has been revealed on your band's website. "I'll Take It All In Stride" and "Driving" are returning on this album. Are they new versions?**

CP: No, they are remastered, but it would be disingenuous to say we re-recorded them or anything. The reason why we put them on is because...when we finished the album cycle of Things Will Look Up and we looked at what we had accumulated band-wise and progression-wise, we felt that to move onto another record, it would be like, "Well, those songs are done." It didn't feel right to us. And especially since we're doing such a big national publicity push for this record, we really wanted to invest a lot of time, money, especially money, and effort into this new record. It felt wrong to leave those songs behind because I felt—I'm so proud of "I'll Take It

All In Stride," songwriting-wise, the sounds that we got on it.

**FP: It wasn't until last year that I started to really listen to "Driving." It was one of the last songs I got into. It's a really good song.**

CP: I feel like that song can flip by you if you're not in the right mood for it, but if you're driving at 1AM and it comes on—you hear the rain in the background, because we recorded the acoustic guitar while it was raining in this giant hallway.

I just feel like there are so many elements to that song that feels so good to remember. I remember recording it, and I remember feeling good. It clicked when we recorded it. That's what music is all about: collecting memories. If the song still gives you good memories, then you'll get something from playing it—it's hard to let it go.

**FP: You posted a new song on Myspace called "Florence Foster Jenkins." Is that about anyone in particular?**

CP: Yeah. That woman, Florence Foster Jenkins, was a real person. When I was studying music in college, I took this vocal class and every Tuesday, students and the teacher would bring in CDs of different vocal styles and vocal performances, and we would talk about them in class. One woman that our teacher brought in was Florence Foster, and she was brought in as a joke, like how not to sing classical.

Florence Foster was this woman who was born in the late 19th century and she grew up in Pennsylvania, and she always dreamed about being a singer. Her parents tried to swear her away from singing, but when they died, she inherited a lot of money, she moved away to New York and started putting on these concerts. She was starting to become really renowned in the classical music scene. This woman was completely off-key,

has no sense of pitch, no sense of rhythm and wears these elaborate costumes and seems to have no idea how horrible she is. She would hold these small concerts at the Ritz Carleton Ballroom once a year just for her lady's club, and she would distribute the tickets herself. And she started to gain popularity. So much that by the end of her career, there was enough demand for her that she booked a show at Carnegie Hall, and it sold out weeks in advance. So at 60 years old, this woman who had made music her whole life, regardless of what people thought, stood on Carnegie Hall, sang her heart out and then died three months later. And it's just like, that story was so touching to me.

I long to have that courage of not caring what people thought. She had this great quote about her critic, "My critics may tell me that I can't sing, but they can never say I didn't." And that's so true. Just do what you love. You know, to hell with everybody else. And that was such an inspiring story, so that's what that song is about. It's about trying to pin myself to Florence Foster, let her sing through me.

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*You can pre-order their upcoming album on their website:*

<http://www.theeveryday-visuals.com>



# Don't stay home!

## April 6th - 12th

### Monday, April 6th

#### Celebrate Writers Reading!

Monday kicks off the University's Celebrate Writers festivities, a four day event hosting student and published authors reading various works of poetry and short fiction. Monday night hosts student readings, with new participants daily, culminating on Thursday with readings from this year's "Words and Images." Free! Monday - Thursday 7 - 9 p.m./ Monday's and Thursday's readings at Woodbury Campus Center Amphitheater/ Tuesday and Wednesday at 7th Floor Glickman Library Events Room/ Contact Justin Tussing at (207) 228-8393 for more info

### Tuesday, April 7th

#### One Man Show!

The USM History Department, American Federation of teachers and the Part Time Temporary Faculty Association (PATFA) present Jimmy Higgins: A Life in the Labor Movement, a one man play written and performed by PATFA member, Harlan Baker. The show chronicles the ups and downs of a rank and file labor and socialist activist from 1912-1937. The play, which premiered in April 2008, has been performed in Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Free! 7:30p.m./ Talbot Lecture Hall, Portland Campus/ harlinbaker.com

### Wednesday, April 8th

#### Take Back the Night!

Take a stand and join the fight against sexual violence by taking back the night! This three hour event will include banner making, a speak out, rally and a march across the Gorham Campus. T-Shirts will be on sale for \$5 with all benefits going towards the advocates of the survivors of sexual violence. 6 - 8 p.m. / Hastings Formal Lounge, Hastings Hall, Gorham Campus/ For more info contact Chelsea at 780-5135 or email her at [crock@usm.maine.edu](mailto:crock@usm.maine.edu)

### Thursday, April 9th

#### Get a Fair Job!

Freaking out about graduation? Whether you're graduating this year or next, it's always a good plan to see what career awaits you after school. Take advantage of USM's Job Fair sponsored by Career Services and Professional Life Development by asking questions of employers and grabbing tons of literature regarding life after college. 12:00 - 3:00 p.m./ Sullivan Gym, Portland/ For more info call 780-4220

### Friday, April 10th

#### Sweet Baby Ray!

One of Maine's most prized musical possessions, Ray LaMontagne, will be visiting Portland for back-to-back shows Friday and Saturday at the Merrill Auditorium. LaMontagne is touring in support of last year's release, "Gossip in the Grain." \$43/ Friday and Saturday 7:30 - 10:00 p.m./ Merrill Auditorium/ 20 Myrtle St., Portland/ Visit [tickets.porttix.com](http://tickets.porttix.com) to purchase tickets

### Saturday, April 11th

#### Night of Mayhem!

I bet you've never seen Gilligan, the Skipper, Ginger or any other "Gilligan's Island" character dance to trance. Slainte bar is giving you that opportunity with a night of digital music and trippy visual effect where all attendees are encouraged to dress up as their favorite "Gilligan's Island" character. Now this is an island you'd want to get stranded on! 21+! Free! Slainte! 24 Preble St., Portland/ 828-0900

### Sunday, April 12th

#### Jazzy Easter!

Traditional Easter breakfast not your thing? Try a jazz Easter breakfast at Portland Museum of Art with musician, Sally Davis. The Museum's weekly jazz breakfasts are free upon admission to the museum. Children under six are free! \$8 with a student ID! Portland Museum of Art/ 7 Congress Square, Portland.



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# PUZZLES

## Newsday Crossword

**ACROSS**  
1 Football throw  
5 Colorado ski spot  
10 Chowder ingredient  
14 Carpet measurement  
15 Argentina neighbor  
16 Wish earnestly  
17 Happy tune  
18 Charged toward  
19 Puts frosting on  
20 Guy in a clothing catalog  
22 Student group  
23 Makes less difficult  
24 School corridor  
25 Pays out  
28 Imitator  
31 Herbal brews  
32 "Am not!" reply  
34 Cheer for a matador  
35 MD's coworkers  
36 Make wider  
38 Chop off, as branches  
39 "Are there \_\_\_ questions?"  
40 Kitchen appliance  
41 No longer around  
42 Snookums, e.g.  
44 Come into view  
46 Cereal grains  
47 Part of a BLT  
49 Highway haulers  
51 The latest in fashion  
55 Milky gem

**DOWN**  
1 Tropical tree  
2 Diva's solo  
3 Offer at retail  
4 Glossy fabrics  
5 \_\_\_ the board (completely)  
6 Beach-umbrella offering  
7 Evergreen trees  
56 Bronco-riding event  
57 Pork cut  
58 Flood-control device  
59 By oneself  
60 Looked at  
61 Scored 100 on  
62 Campsite shelters  
63 Curtain holders

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Edited by Stanley Newman  
[www.stanxwords.com](http://www.stanxwords.com)  
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9 Badminton barrier  
10 Mildly cold  
11 Regional customs and sights  
12 Chimps and orangutans  
13 Cluttered condition  
21 Angry  
22 Poultry purchase  
24 Sprinkler attachment  
25 Handbag part  
26 Tube-shaped pasta  
27 Goof-proof, as a recipe  
28 Relinquish  
29 Together (with)  
30 Native American abode  
32 Top-notch  
33 Cleaning cloth  
36 Unruly kids  
37 Ewes' mates  
41 Less severe  
43 Attached with a hammer  
44 Canyon sounds  
45 Jan. and Feb.  
47 Try to get, at an auction  
48 Insurance broker  
49 Fizzy drink  
50 Heroic tale  
51 Needle feature  
52 Toy on a string  
53 Was untruthful  
54 Finishes  
56 Tattle (on)

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## Husky Highlights

### LACROSSE

#### Women's LAX rallies, beats Western Conn.

Led by Jessica Martineau's (Auburn) six second-half goals, the USM women's lacrosse team rallied from five goals back to defeat Western Connecticut State University in their conference opener 16-14.

Trailing by five with fourteen minutes to go, the Huskies kicked into high gear enroute to the win. Trailing by one at the half, the Huskies surrendered four straight goals. The Huskies reeled off three goals before the Colonials could answer with their own. The Huskies were not be silenced, however, stringing together the next five goals to assure their fate.

Martineau finished the game with seven goals, one goal shy of the school's record of eight.

Jessica Knight (Alfred) chipped in with four goals for the Huskies, who improved their record to 4-3.

### WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK

#### Artesani named LEC Track Athlete of the Year

Junior Emily Artesani (Orono) of the USM women's indoor track team was named the 2008-2009 Little East Conference Track Athlete of the Year. A mainstay in Coach George Towle's team that won their ninth consecutive LEC/Allican indoor championship, Artesani won an unprecedented three events at this year's championships. At the meet, Artesani took home the 55, 200 and 400-meter events. The junior became the first woman to sweep three sprint events at the championship.

### BASEBALL

#### Baseball squeaks by Bridgewater State

On the back of a grand-slam home run by senior Anthony D'Alfonso (Westbrook), the USM baseball pushed past Bridgewater State University in a midweek contest, 7-6, last Thursday. The Huskies erupted in the third inning when two walks and a single loaded the bases for D'Alfonso, who took the offering from Bridgewater's State hurler over the centerfield fence for his second round-tripper of the season. Sophomore backstop Jordan Berthiaume (Berlin, CT) plated the Huskies' fifth run of the inning on an RBI single. Not to be denied, Bridgewater stormed back on a three-run homer, but two more runs for USM put the game out of reach.

## HANGIN' WITH MR. TARDIFF

by Mike Tardiff

# Coaching carousels make for rough rides

The always slimy John Calipari slithered his way to another big deal last week when he left his post at the University of Memphis for the coveted position at the University of Kentucky.

With a huge contract – eight years and 34 million dollars – waiting for him in the Bluegrass State, Calipari left behind a core of talented players and the nation's best recruiting class, which raises some precarious questions.

Calipari's move is nothing new. College coaches are consistently moving from college town to college town in search of the most notoriety and biggest payday. But what this sort of culture creates is a very uneven balance on the college sports scene.

Coaches are able to move without regard for what they're leaving behind. Players are stranded without the coach with whom they agreed to play. And while coaches are raking in millions of dollars, landing endorsement deals and living the high life, players are left to sort out their futures without their coach.

This is simply not fair.

Players attend schools, in no small part, because of the coaches that they have interacted with. When these coaches skip town, it leaves a void in that player's life. In some cases,

the players are allowed to back out of their scholarship without repercussion. In others, players would be forced to sit out an always-valuable year in order to follow suit.

Solution?

Coaches should either stay put or players should be compensated for their efforts. While it seems like a bold move, it's really just giving the athlete their due at the end of the day.

If coaches can have their woes softened by million-dollar deals, then players should get their share of the buck.

In the last couple of weeks, news stories have surfaced about just how lucrative college sports can be.

The NCAA, it turns out, has a billion dollar – yes, billion – TV deal to air the tournaments. Meaning that at the very least, college basketball, and other sports for that matter, are lucrative on the largest scale.

It's also been reported that UConn basketball turned a profit of \$8 million last year, again reminding us that people's wallets are getting fat on the backs of student-athletes across the country.

It's only right that players get a cut of this money. Scholarships are not enough. If some of the money is taken out of the coach's and

administrators' hands and placed in the hands of student athletes, it will do a number of important things.

That way, coaches aren't the only one's benefitting from athletes hard work.

USM has been lucky in terms of their coaches. At USM, consistency and longevity are the name of the game.

Take a look at the school's two pre-eminent programs, baseball and women's basketball. In both cases, the teams have been led to the top by coaches serving long tenures.

And it's not as though Ed Flaherty and Gary Fifield couldn't have hightailed it somewhere else. Both are on top of their game and have a lot to offer other prospective schools. Any D-1 program in the country would be lucky to have those two men at the helm of their programs.

Nevertheless, they've stuck around and built a really great thing in Gorham. And it is thanks to that consistency that those programs have been able to succeed. Players know (or in Fifield's case knew) what they were going to get. They knew they wouldn't be stranded. And that's important.

# Undersized, under experienced

## Youthful softball team led by lone senior

### Sarah Violette

Staff Writer

The USM softball team has seen their fair share of struggles this season. Coming away with only one win during their annual spring outing in Florida and coming off of their 15th loss of the season against UNE, the team is striving to improve as quickly as possible.

This year's team, however, is faced with a unique challenge that only the tick of the clock can help aid: their youth.

"You get a team this young about once every fourteen years," says coach Bonny Brown-Denico. "We only have four returning players and I think learning the level of college play so quickly is a big step up for a lot of them."

Due to difficulties in funding, this year's team has an undersized 12 player roster of seven freshman, four sophomores, and lone senior, Anita Dixon (Limington), whose role as captain has become pivotal, especially when regarding the future of the program.

"She's growing a lot," says Brown-Denico. "She takes on a very important role as captain and she handles the youth and inexperience very well."

Dixon's leadership has been a major factor in shaping the team's attitude, as well as their future. Her knowledge of the game is impressive and although she is a "fairly quiet leader," she leads by example through her dedication and work ethic, giving the underclassmen a strong role model to follow.

Although this is Dixon's final season, she is optimistic about the growth of the program both this season and future seasons to come.

"Our record doesn't show the improvements we've made as a team. In Florida we played many competitive teams and with each game I felt like we were taking one step forward," said Dixon. "If the same players come back, they're going to have a strong season next year."

Despite the challenges the team faces now, it is clear that Denico and the team are optimistic. With so many underclassmen receiv-

ing much more playing time than the average freshman or sophomore, the team can gain essential hands on experience needed to successfully compete in the LEC.

Another piece of good news is the Huskies' offense. Six of the twelve players are batting well over .250, with sophomore Molly Hopkins (Augusta) leading the way, batting .478 in just 23 at bats. Freshman Laura Leger (Quincy, MA) has also been a pleasant surprise, tying with Dixon for first with 7 RBIs and batting .314 in 51 at bats.

With such potential on their hands and time on their side, it is clear that the Huskies have a great chance to transform themselves into a dominant team within the next few seasons. For now, they will continue to ride through the waves of inexperience in hopes of honing their skills, and ending the season with a strong finish.

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# Hometown hero

## After dominating Southern Maine, USM's D'Alfonso poised for the pros

**Joel Neill**  
Contributing Writer

USM is no stranger to talented baseball players. Over the years, the Huskies have even sent players to compete at the next level. This year is no different. Senior outfielder Anthony D'Alfonso (Westbrook) is looking to join the likes of Vinnie Degifico and Tip Fairchild as USM players to make a noise at the professional level.

Raised in nearby Westbrook, D'Alfonso grew up playing baseball, but was not always the best at what is now considered a lifestyle for him.

In seventh grade he was cut from his middle school baseball team – an event that sparked the start of a promising baseball career for the Huskies cleanup hitter.

D'Alfonso got better and better through his late middle school and high school years.

The imposing 6-foot-4-inch, 265-pounder grew into his body and began putting up numbers that were catching people's eyes in the greater Portland area.

After leading his Westbrook High team to a Western Maine Class A championship in 2005, the kid that they call "Dally" took his abilities to Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) where he played for the Seawolves for two years before transferring to USM and joining the Huskies ball club in the fall of 2007.

This was just the change D'Alfonso needed.

"I think going from SMCC to USM has really helped me improve and become a better all around player," D'Alfonso says. "At SMCC I was playing extremely well but I felt like I needed to go somewhere that faced better competition. Here I'm learning more, playing with better players, being coached by some of the best coaches in the nation, and facing better pitching that I think is really preparing me for my future as a baseball player."

Southern Maine's rich baseball tradition was also a factor that D'Alfonso believes contributed to his development as a player.

Growing up and playing in the always competitive greater Portland area was the perfect environment to hone his baseball skills.

The slugger collided with some great teams and even better players including the perennial powerhouse Deering High school and such players as Ryan Flaherty, the former Vanderbilt shortstop and 41st pick in last June's MLB draft.

Other notable players that D'Alfonso competed against in his high school days are Ryan Reid, minor league pitcher in the Tampa Bay Rays organization, infielder Ryan Piacentini of Trinity College, USM's own shortstop

Chris Burleson, and USM outfielder Ryan Pike of Thornton Academy. But D'Alfonso himself is a bit of a local legend, once belting four home runs in a single American Legion game.

Nevertheless, the high level of competition and baseball-centered atmosphere fueled D'Alfonso's will to get better.

The senior is coming off an incredible year in 2008, when he garnered third team All-American honors after hitting .393 with 15 homers and 62 RBI's.

He is looking to carry that tenacious hitting and defensive play over to this year as he was picked as a second team preseason All-American.

Currently D'Alfonso is batting .415 with 19 RBI's and two home runs and is always looking to improve with hard work at practice and in the weight room.

Much of D'Alfonso's success at the plate comes from his approach and how he handles himself when he steps in the batter's box.

"My approach really depends on who's on base or the certain situation I'm hitting in, but overall when I get up to the plate is that it's a battle between me and the pitcher," D'Alfonso says. "I need to win that battle to help my team win the game because I hate losing. I zone out when I'm at bat and my goal is to always hit it hard and right at the pitcher's cap."

This extremely competitive nature is a perfect characteristic to channel to his fellow Huskies in their bid for a third National Championship.

During each of the last two springs, there has been speculation that D'Alfonso would be selected in the draft. But last year when his name wasn't called, he was left without any options.

Enter opportunity.

Just 35 miles from his hometown of Westbrook sat the perfect opportunity: the Sanford Mainers of the New England College Baseball League, a premier wooden bat league geared toward mostly Division I baseball players.

He and junior pitcher Mark Schmidt (Gorham) were picked up after the team had already played 14 regular season games.

The slugger used his toughness at the plate to make an immediate contribution for the Mainers, who eventually won them the NECBL Championship.

By the end of the season D'Alfonso had made the All-Star team and led the team in batting average after hitting .426, and RBI with 20.

D'Alfonso's manager Joe Brown had high praise for the lefty when he told the Portland Press Herald that Anthony was among the top 10 players he had coached in his 10 years at the helm - no small praise considering the talent pool in the NECBL.

Brown went onto say that if D'Alfonso didn't play professionally somewhere "then I don't know where the scouts are."

D'Alfonso praises the experiences that he had playing in Sanford, noting that players are treated as though they're major leaguers, with die-hard fans going to every game.

He also commented that he was playing with some of the top prospects in the country. D'Alfonso believes that this experience has prepared him for the rest of his baseball career.

D'Alfonso has always held his family in a special place, and their support has been invaluable in ascent of the baseball ladder.

His parents are huge supporters and make it to every game they can. On the past two Arizona spring trips, his mother and grandmother traveled cross-country in an RV to watch Anthony and the team tear it up.

At home games and games around New England you'll see Mr. D'Alfonso and his brothers cheering him on from behind the back stop.

But D'Alfonso's family isn't the only one supporting him. His teammates are quick to tell you what sort of player he has become.

"Anthony is one of the best pure hitters I have ever played with and definitely has the fastest hands that I've ever played with. He has remarkable hand eye coordination," junior first-basemen Collin Henry says of his teammate. "He really gives the team energy with his laid back, kind of joking style when were off the field but when we get on the field it's all business for the guy and he'll do anything to help the team succeed."

D'Alfonso's hard work ethic was put to the test when he suffered a knee injury during an intramural basketball game just a month before winter practice began.

After surgery he was in the rehab room and gym everyday trying to get better so he would be ready for the season opener in Long Island.

"I was in rehab with him every day and he was doing everything he could to get himself as close to 100 percent as possible before our season started," Henry added. "I still don't think he is 100 percent but I can tell you it will be soon if he keeps up the hard work."

As far as playing at the next level for D'Alfonso, there is a likely possibility he will do so.

Scouts have been talking to the power hitter dating back to his days at SMCC and he is currently being looked at by the Cincinnati Reds and the Seattle Mariners.

And so D'Alfonso will likely have to end his reign on the southern Maine baseball scene when the pros come knocking.

But, no matter where he goes, D'Alfonso will likely be taking a big part of the area with him.



JASON JOHNS / USM ATHLETICS

This will mark the third straight spring that Anthony D'Alfonso (Westbrook) has a chance to join the likes of Vinnie Degifico and Tip Fairchild as USM alumni who play at the next level. For now, D'Alfonso is leading the nationally ranked USM baseball team.

### D'Alfonso's diamond deeds



#### WESTBROOK HIGH SCHOOL

2005

- .458 BA
- .678 Slug
- 27 Hits

#### HONORS:

- All-SMCC
- All-State



#### SOUTHERN MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2007

- .550 BA
- 4HR
- 28RBI
- 13 Games

#### HONORS:

- All-American



#### UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

Spring 2008

- .393 BA
- 15 HR
- 62 RBI

#### HONORS:

- All-American



#### SANFORD MAINERS

Summer 2008

- .426 BA
- 20 RBI

#### HONORS:

- League All-Star