New president outlines plans for tenure
Improving advising, financial aid services on Maggie Guzman’s to-do list

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, 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 Mainestreet 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 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 member 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.

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 student 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

Member of the University of Southern Maine Student Senate holds out their hands to vote on a proposal during a recent meeting in the Glickman library in Portland.
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 “shooting 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 the head Andrea McCall distanced herself 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.

Several atheists brought up atheist manifestos, and David recommended Steven Walderman’s “Founding Faith” for more information on the complicated beliefs of “People-of-faith” often sort of assume that people who would call themselves not ‘people-of-faith’ are somehow missing some incredibly 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.”

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 posed 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 reality 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, by Hartwell.”

Jennifer Dubay likes Sam Adams and Madison.

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Several in attendance jumped at the opportunity.

“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’re reading 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

Several in attendance were 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.

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“One 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.

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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 Walderman’s “-Founding Faith” for more information on the complicated beliefs and practices of five founders: Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Adams and Madison.

PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED
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 USM'er 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 staff 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, according to which 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 textbook be made available on reserve in USM’s libraries, to make them available “regardless of cost” for all students.

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Maine Robotics is a 501c3 non-profit that provides educational outreach programs in the State of Maine. We work closely with the Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology program on the USM Gorham campus. We are currently looking for 16 camp counselors to run on the USM Gorham and USM Portland campuses in conjunction with the ART program. This position is ideal for teachers, graduate students (education, engineering, sciences, technology) or upper level undergraduates.

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Executive Editor
“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 of 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 maggieroze27@gmail.com

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**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 scenarios presented by the UMaine task force’s “white paper” report outlining the University of Maine’s strategic restructuring plan.

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/spf/. If you have any questions or concerns for newly elected student body president Maggie Guzman, email her at maggieroze27@gmail.com

**Task Force postpones report**

Botman announced on her website last Thursday that the “white paper” report outlining USM’s task force’s recommendations for the University of Maine will be released on August 26, at the opening breakfast of the new academic year.

“Classes are nearing conclusion and finals loom this academic year. 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.
“Students want to see changes but don’t know how to go about it,” says Alex Sargent, a senior 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 administrative 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.”

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Can’t hide that port-city pride

The independent spirit that runs through this city is probably what I am most proud of. Just trying to find 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.

Trying to find an art community so vibrant and welcoming. Just take The First Friday Art Walk, where horses with fancy liveries and trudging 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

Shey Turk and Ravi Dankwah

I felt like I could finally start to enjoy every single minute of the winter in Portland, Maine.

Can’t hide that port-city pride.

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Nestle water

I’m tired of all the misinformation regarding Poland Spring 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
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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.
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 participating 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 stunning exhibit of the senior BFA students at the Institute of Contemporary Art. Using varied mediums from sculpture to video, this was perhaps one of the most diverse and engaging exhibits in the First Friday Art Walk.
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 independent 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

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 deadly 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 exposé 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 deprived 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 chine 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 understand the truth about religion and terrorism, but also the idyllic 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 some evil thing - in which case it can be trusted absolutely.

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 working together for years. Some of their recent projects have been “Tripp,” a darkly comic surrealist hitchhiker that’s very straight, white, middle class, working class. The series is playing online.

The week’s premiere features an ensemble cast of fifteen actors from around the Greater Portland community including Brent Askari, Keith Ancil, Braden Biddings, Harris Cooley, Franklin McMahon, and Michael Best.

Kaminski and Carson drew from actors that they had worked with on previous projects, as well as a number of theater actors who 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 much on the edge of 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

Morel sauce

by Anne McCormack

It’s time to start thinking about foraging for mushrooms on the forest floors, and to look forward to the bright green fiddleheads 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
2 tablespoons brandy
(about 4 cups)

2 cups boiling water
1 tablespoon butter
1 shallot, finely chopped

Caramelize mushrooms and 2 cups boiling water in 8-inch saute pan. Let cool and puree into liquid, stirring occasionally. When cool, add 1 cup brandy. Reduce heat to medium and add reserved pork juices, 3 cups chicken broth and reserved brandy mixture. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium and simmer gently until sauce thickens enough to coat spoon after about 30 minutes.

Boil sauce until reduced to 3 cups, about 8 minutes; season with salt and pepper. Transfer to bowl. Serve with pork.

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

Heat all pan juices from roasting pan into small bowl. Stir in 2-cups chicken broth and cream until smooth. Add additional broth as needed. Bring sauce to boil. Reduce heat to low, add pork juices and simmer gently until sauce thickens enough to coat spoon after about 30 minutes.

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New tracks "Satellite Skin" and "Giddy Cooker"
- 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 River Song" and the previously unreleased "East India Lanes"
- The Stooges' 7" single including "Raw Power" 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 Will Be Performing live at 4 p.m. The band Killswitch Engage will be signing autographs at 4 p.m. at the Scarborough location.

From Record on page 9
Music participate in Record Store Day. The Record Store Day web-page actually states how they define Record Store Day: "to participate: a physical retailer whose product line consists of at least 50% music retail, whose customers are local and whose ownership is at least 70% located in the state of operation. (In other words, we’re dealing with real, live, independent, record stores—not online retailers or corporate behemoths.)" 

The independent record stores of Maine and New Hampshire are some of the stores participating in this year's Record Store Day. The stores participating are: Bare 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's "Downpour" and a live version of the song "A Promise To Keep"
- Brandi Carlile's "Specialty-Packed Single Includ- ing: What Love Can Do" and a live version of "A Place In Hell, The Devil," which has never before appeared on CD or vinyl.
- Modest Mouse's 7" including the two brand new tracks "Satellite Skin" and "Giddy Cooker"

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 director of the Space Gallery. The Space Gallery was her first job out of college. After working for a while with wood block printing by using a wooden floor as the wood block instead of using a smaller piece of wood, she decided she was ready to move on to something bigger. She moved to Brunswick High School which will soon be torn down, and carved on the wooden floors of the school. She then moved to the Space Gallery and began working with the floors in ink, and laid paper on top to soak up the ink line etched on the design. They printed the papers together and formed a 30 by 20 print of the different designs that they carved.

In these exhibits in spire curiosity, the art walk may still be a worthwhile event. In talking with a few people, it seems that the people who are most impressed by the art are those walking from exhibit to exhibit is got in what the art work actually represents, for most 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 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 to 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 experience the city and to see something different. A study done by the Portland Arts & Cultural Alliance on the economic impact of arts spending found that for every $100,000 spent on art (which doesn’t include private galleries) had on restaurants, parking garages, and other extra expense, 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, baby buggies, and a lot of times people go out too early, all of this adds up. "In a very real sense, economic sense, I think these art walks are 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 wondrous art, eat great food, and do something that you wouldn’t do ordinarily.

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- Brandi Carlile’s 7” single including “Downpour” and a live version of the song “A Promise To Keep”
- Brandi Carlile’s specialty-packed single including: “What Love Can Do” and a live version of “A Place In Hell, The Devil,” which has never before appeared on CD or vinyl.
- Modest Mouse’s 7” single including the two brand new tracks “Satellite Skin” and “Giddy Cooker”
The Everyday Visuals members Joseph Seiders, Kyle Fredrickson, Eli Scheer, and Christopher Pappas. Photo courtesy of The Everyday Visuals.

The Everyday Visuals
Boston band goes back to their roots for third album

Dylan Martin
Staff Writer

The Everyday Visuals are preparing for the release of their third self-titled album on April 14th. It features six songs that aren’t going to be b-sides out because there are five others that aren’t going to the bands that I love the most. There wasn’t any new musical discovery that I was like, “Oh, you know what? This...” For a while, I almost fell under that trap of “oh, we should add more reverb and stuff like that,” but it would be disingenuous because you’re always going to be a step behind. You can never catch up. It’s a futile 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 folkie, 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 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 the time, I caign, myself especially money, and effort into this new record. It felt wrong to leave those songs behind because I feel—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 can never catch up. Because we recorded the acoustic guitar while it was raining in this giant hallway.

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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 discovery in the past few years that 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 we were doing. You know, there’s no reason to chase. Just do your own thing, and it will work itself out.

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.

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Monday, April 6th
Celebration Writers Reading!
Monday kicks off the University's Celebration 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. 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! 7:30 p.m. Talbot Lecture Hall, Portland Campus. Contact harlinbaker.com

Wednesday, April 8th
Take Back the Night!
Wednesday 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. Contact Justin Tussing at (207) 228-8393 for more info.

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 p.m. to 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 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.

Your Campus Computer Store
University of Southern Maine • 144 Luther Bonney Hall
Portland Campus • 207-780-4164
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Sign up to win a Free iPod Shuffle!
Drawing April 13th@ 4:00 PM

Student Discounts on computers and software.
Select computer bags and accessories on sale!
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.

The length of your ring finger in comparison to your index finger indicates the amount of testosterone you were exposed to as a fetus. The longer the ring finger, the more testosterone.

For more random facts go to: mentalfloss.com/amazingfactgenerator.
HANGIN’ WITH MR. TARDIFF
Coaching carousels make for rough rides

by Mike Tardiff

The always slim 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 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. This year, in fact, has seen an all time high in million-dollar deals, both this season and future seasons to come.

And it’s also been reported that UConn basketball turned a profit of $8 million last year, further reminding us that people’s wallets are lucrative on the largest scale.

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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 Friedland couldn’t have mentored 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 Field’s case knew) what they were going to get. They knew they wouldn’t be stranded.

And that’s important.
Hometown hero

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

Joel Neil 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. But in this case, there 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 life-style for him.

In seventh grade he was cut from his middle school baseball team – an event that sparked his ambition for a future in baseball and prepared him 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 it’s all business. 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 of the best teams and even better pitchers 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 Riacianti 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, 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 sensor 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 to the rest of the year as he was picked as a second team preseason All-American.

Currently D’Alfonso is batting .315 with 19 RBI 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 over all 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 pitchers 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 league that 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. “I have no small praise considering the talent pool in the NECBL.”

Brown went on to 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 always go to every game they can. On the past two Arizona spring trips, his mother and grand-mother traveled cross-country in a 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 brother 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 co- ordination,” junior first-basemen Colin 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 that 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 potential hitter dating back to his days at SMCC and he is currently being looked at by the Cincinnati Reds and the Seattle Mariners.

Anthony doesn’t 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.

D’Alfonso’s diamond deeds

WESTBROOK HIGH SCHOOL

2005

• .488 BA
• .768 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