

## Gorham marchers 'take back the night'

*Annual event aims to increase awareness of violence against women*



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

USM students stand in front of Upton-Hastings residence hall last Wednesday night as part of a Take Back the Night rally to combat night-time crimes against women.

### Abigail Cuffey

Staff Writer

If you were on the Gorham campus last Wednesday night, you might have seen and heard roughly fifty people marching around campus, shouting chants like Survivors unite! Take back the night! This event, called Take Back the Night (TBTN), is a national march aimed at raising awareness of violence against women. Another event is planned for the Portland campus at the end of the month.

Community members, student organizations, faculty, staff, and students from USM all worked at organizing this event, which kicked off with a pre-rally at 6 p.m., where supporters could make banners and buy T-shirts and candles. Take Back the Night, which is held in April as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, was sponsored by the Department of Residential Life and Resident Education.

Despite the refreshments and brightly colored banners, the somberness of the event was palpable. T-shirts lined the room reading messages like, "Not my daughter! Break the cycle now!" and "He beat my mom in front of us four kids..."

At the head of the program, which was brought back to USM after a few years hiatus, is Chelsea Rock, a Residence Director at Upton-Hastings Hall on the Gorham Campus.

"The department of residential life was searching for a program to bring the residential community to educate students about sexual assault," said Rock, who along with Lyndsay Santeusano, Coordinator of the USM Women's Resource Center, helped formulate the idea to make the campus "a safe place for all – both in the daytime and at night."

According to Take Back the Night's web site, the origins of the march are often disputed. Some say their roots stem back as far as 1877, when women protested fear and violence in the streets of London. Others believe it was in 1976, when women from the International Tribune of Crimes Against Women took to the streets of Belgium with candles and rallied against violence against women.

TBTN was first introduced to America in 1978, when protestors gathered in San Francisco

See **TBTN** on page 2

## Senate recommends budget approval

*GTV funding still frozen, free newspaper program to be cut*

### Charlie Nickell

Staff Writer

The final version of next year's budget proposal passed through the Student Senate on Friday night with a heated debate over the future of GTV, the student run television station located on the Gorham campus.

"Will we be leaving them out to dry if we take away their funding?" Senate Treasurer Christopher Hopkins asked.

With a spreadsheet of GTV's budget projected on the wall behind the executive board, the debate over whether GTV's funding should be re-allocated brought senators head to head about the future of the student organization.

The problem for GTV has been its lack of attendance at senate meetings. Without a presence, many senators feel that the station gives up their opportunity for financial support.

"I have asked the students who work at GTV several times to send me an e-mail regarding their plans and still haven't heard anything," Senator John Finison said.

Franklin Kendrick, GTV's



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

USM Student Senators Brent Jandreau and Jessica Chahanovich listen to President Selma Botman speak during last week's Senate meeting.

general manager for the past four years feels that the senate hasn't made it clear enough that representation at their meetings is

what they expect.

"Our funding has gradually decreased over the years as new groups are needing money, so I'm

not surprised," Kendrick said. "I

See **BUDGET** on page 4



From **TBTN** on page 1

after an anti-pornography conference. Protestors marched down the city’s red light district to protest rape and pornography - which was seen as contributing to the subordination of women. Adopting the slogan “Take Back the Night,” those who had been negatively affected by pornography gathered to share their stories.

Perhaps the most emotional part of the night was the “Speak Out.”

“The Speak Out is held in an effort to get survivors to share their stories and have their voices heard among a supportive community,” said Rock. Counselors from the USM Health & Counseling Center were on hand throughout the night, in the event that those affected by sexual abuse needed someone to talk to, and express their questions and concerns.

Rock feels that USM’s Gorham campus is already a place where students can feel safe, but that they have to be proactive in order for it to stay that way. “Having a TBTN is a way to send the message that our community not only wants, but demands that this campus be a safe place where women can feel safe going out after dark,” Rock said.

Part of Rock’s role as a Resident Director is to be able to react to situations where students might not feel safe. When victimization occurs, she is prepared to give them help when needed, including getting them access to medical help or recommending a crisis support organization like Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine (SARSSM), Cindi Amato, Executive Director of SARSSM, kicked off the Speak Out on Wednesday. In her opening speech, Amato emphasized the importance of reviving TBTN and speaking out about these issues on campus, relating that it’s an event that’s meant to break the silence. She highlighted the resiliency of the human spirit, and ability to work through trauma as aspects of TBTN.

Mentioning the SARSSM hot line as a “place to figure out what to do next,” Amato says that their role in support isn’t to tell victims what to do, but giving them options, so they can make appropriate decisions for themselves.

Education plays a key role in allowing victims to take control back in to their lives. On the Speak Out itself, Amato says that there are a lot of different ways to speak out against sexual abuse, including something as simple as marching.

While only a few people actually “spoke out,” the crowd’s silence was reflective of the seriousness of violence. Amidst a silent and solemn group of people at the Speak Out, one of the people to come forward and share what TBTN means to them was a USM Police Officer, who said he only wished the crowd tonight was bigger “to support those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.”

Another speaker, Lyndsay Santeusano, also spoke up and said that the night was about “reclaiming our country.”

“I love that there’s so many men here,” she said, adding that men are also victims of sexualized violence.

Tracking the numbers of sexual crimes statewide and nationally can often be a challenge. “It is difficult to know. Sexual assault historically has been the most under-reported crime in the U.S. However, over the last several years, crime statistics in Maine and nationally show a rise in the number of sexual assaults reported to police. This is encouraging because we want people to speak out, get the help they need and seek justice,” says Amato.

Amato says that all of SARSSM services are available to men as well. According to the group, 1 in 5 Maine residents report that they have been victims of rape or attempted rape in their lifetime. In the U.S. in 2007 there were almost 248,300 reported rapes, which means someone was raped about every 2 minutes.

Considering these alarming numbers, the organization aims at empowering victims to speak out about sexual violence, and for those people to feel supported by their community.

SARSSM supports victims, survivors, and concerned others through their crisis and support line, support groups, Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART), and outreach. In order to promote a safe and violence free community, they offer K-12 “age-appropriate and interactive presentations” like Personal Body Safety and Sexual Harassment. They also offer community training and speaking, a sex offender notification panel, outreach to homeless, education of incarcerated youth, and support and advocacy with incarcerated women.

According to Amato, people can promote safety on campus by supporting others and their safety. “It is important to use the buddy system at parties and around campus, to speak up when you see something happening that could turn into a violent situation, and to let authorities know when it does,” Amato said.

Take Back the Night closed with an energized march around campus, with stops at almost every dorm. Chelsea Rock held a megaphone so all could hear chants like However we dress, wherever we go, yes means yes, and no means no.

A police escort was provided for the marchers. As the brigade marched past the New Dorms, onlookers peeked out their windows in curiosity of the large crowd, certainly not something you see on campus every day.

Rock says she anticipates Take Back the Night will become an annual event. She hopes it will be “something our students, staff, and faculty will come to not only expect, but to look forward to.”

# NEWS

## The Obama Years

### A Free Press political primer

**David O'Donnell**

*Staff Writer*

It seems quaint now, but just last November there was this idea that some of the deep political divisions in this country were going to be bridged with the beginning of a newer, younger, less ideological administration. Or at least that the country’s problems might warrant putting them aside for awhile.

There are three big reasons to think that’s just not yet the case.

First, Democrats and Republicans in Congress are still voting down party lines. But so what? Many of them still remember when now-91-year-old Sen. Robert Byrd was showing up to committee meetings in a leisure suit and gold chains, so you might chalk that up to generational spillover.

Second, a Pew Research Poll released last week found that the gap between how many Democrats versus Republicans approve of Obama’s work so far is the largest since the 1970s - 61%. That means that at the same point in 2001, Democrats appreciated George W. Bush more than Republicans do Obama today. So, is Obama the Divider in Chief? - as a Fox News headline asked. More than likely, he’s been unable thus far to slow a trend that’s been developing since the Reagan years.

And third, none of the leadership on either side seems to give a damn.

That includes the President, who didn’t waste any time going on the offensive after finding Republicans hostile to his spending plans. From that point on, it was alright to characterize opposition to his agenda as advocating “doing nothing” about the economy. It was okay to have his staff name-check enthusiastically irreverent and maligned pundits like Rush Limbaugh in press conferences, an attempt to further marginalize the troubled Republicans.

But an easy route, considering the professional opinion-deliverers of TV and radio are the only coherent messengers for Republican ideology right now, much to the chagrin of conservative intellectuals (yes, they do exist.) Take Glenn Beck, for example, who moved to Fox News at about the same time Obama moved into the White House. His television show, which follows 3-hours of chattering away on radio, has been a smash hit. It’s almost like an old-time medicine show for alienated right-wingers.

Beck warns of apocalyptic scenarios, refers to the Democrats as “vampires”, cries on-camera when he thinks of what’s happening to his country, and then consoles his audience with lines like “we surround them!” In between, he can act like a giddy schoolboy heckling the liberals he occasionally lures onto his set.

We should be thankful that so far, viewers are only taking this out on pollsters.

**Marry Me**



If there was any hint last November of some culture war still left to fight, it was the passage of Proposition 8 in California, a ballot measure limiting the state’s definition marriage to a union between a man and a woman. No exceptions.

California is far from the first. In the 2004 elections, 11 states - Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Montana, Mississippi, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Utah, Ohio and Oregon - voted to prevent gay couples from entering into anything labelled “marriage.”

But California’s decision was particularly devastating for gay rights activists, given that it has one of the largest gay populations and a reputation for supporting progressive causes. The groups supporting the ban, mostly conservative religious organizations, saw it as proof that the country does not support marriage for homosexual couples - and that the courts should stop ruling in favor of it, as California’s supreme court had in a May decision that sparked the referendum.

By the time voters went to the polls in California, the issue was made into more than whether or not gays and lesbians could be legally wed. Organizations pushing for the ban swore in ad after ad claiming that in reality gay marriage was a road to churches losing nonprofit status, kindergartners being “taught” homosexuality, and the moral fabric of society unraveling at an alarming pace.

Get ready, Mainers, because the battle is coming here in what should be a long and vitriolic fight over what exactly is “the way life should be.” 60 Maine legislators have banded together in the statehouse to support a bill that would change the definition of marriage on the books from a union between a man and a woman to one between any two adults.

It would follow a decision last week by Vermont’s legislature to legalize gay marriage. These are big deals because unlike previous decisions that have opened the door for gay couples to marry, these are coming from democratically-elected bodies and not appointed judges. Still, there’s no saying how Maine and Vermont would fare in the likely event that conservative groups call for a peoples’ vote.

On April 24, there will be an open hearing on the matter

at the statehouse. Governor John Baldacci has always taken the standard line for liberal Democratic politicians with a good percentage of conservative constituents: he likes civil unions, has nothing against gay people, but doesn’t want to see marriage touched. He is now reportedly reconsidering that stance, but his office is being deluged with form letters from “traditional marriage” activists urging him to remain firmly in the middle (since there’s little hope of him moving rightward, especially in his last term.)

**Meta Data**



Call it naval-gazing, or a juicy economic soap opera, but the story of the biggest (and smallest) names in news going belly-up is an easy headline-grabber. Then there’s a bit of intrigue attached that makes it even more important - like, whose gonna be in charge of writing the news when all is said and done?

The problem is that so much of news gathering has been tied up in an increasingly irrelevant and money-hemorrhaging medium - newspapers. It took nothing short of dire straights for the industry to understand that they couldn’t treat the internet as an afterthought in the 21st century.

What does this have to do with government? For starters, some of our elected officials have proposed tapping into the mood of the times and sharing some bailout-love with publishers. A bill introduced recently by Sen. Benjamin Cardin, Democrat of Maryland, would allow newspapers to become tax-free nonprofits, enjoying the same off-limits income and dwindling patronage as your neighborhood church.

That bill is in about as good a shape as the Portland Press Herald (still looking for buyers). If there’s been one benefit to the great money meltdown of 2008, it’s that archaic industries that controlled both content and distribution are finally losing control over the latter. That’s good news for consumers and emerging technologies.

The bad news is that democratic government could be a bit vulnerable without local media outlets to report on it. As journalist-turned-TV-producer David Simon told The Guardian newspaper of London last week - “Oh, to be a state or local official in America over the next 10 to 15 years, before somebody figures out the business model.”



# Student partisan groups stumble back on the scene

USM Dems, GOP groups resintated by student senate

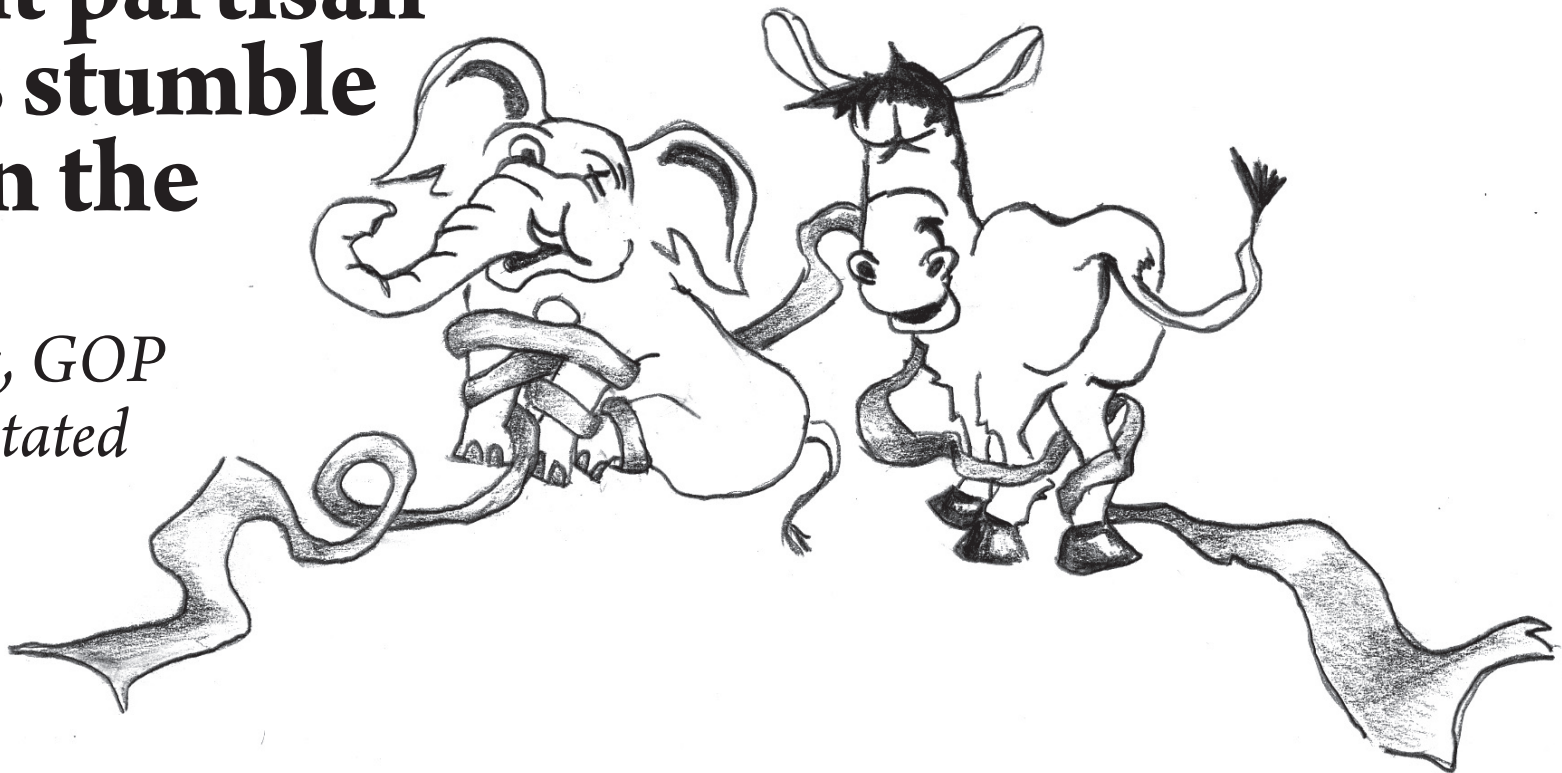


ILLUSTRATION BY RANDY HAZELTON / PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

**Daniel MacLeod**  
News Editor

The only thing that nearly stopped Josh Grennie from getting the USM College Republicans group off the ground was the fact that he was the only member.

In the weeks leading up to last November's national elections, the USM College Democrats were in full force around campus, bolstered by the hugely successful grass roots Obama campaign. Grennie, however, realized that there was no group that reflected his view as a conservative republican.

"I wanted to join the college republicans, but [it] didn't exist," he said. During the lead-up to last fall's election, he worked with Maine PIRG's non-partisan "Get Out The Vote" effort. But at the same time, Grennie saw a need for a more institutional representation at USM for student conservatives.

Grennie, a freshman finance major, says that having a group advocating conservative issues is necessary for a school like USM, where it seems to him that a majority of students lean to the left.

"It's definitely overwhelmingly liberal," he said.

Grennie says that it's not just students and student groups who are liberal – a large number of professors are as well.

"But that's why there is such a strong need [for this group], because there aren't really any conservative groups. There needs to be one for those students," he said.

The only problem he ran into was that the Board of Student Organizations (BSO) never told him that he needed to have more than one member in order to qualify as a group when they gave him the green light to reinstate the USM Student Republicans.

His next task would be to go before the USM Student Senate, and get his group's constitution approved.

"One person doesn't make a group"

At the April 3 meeting of the USM Student senate, love was in the air.

The 37th senate spent the first 15 minutes nominating each other for various service awards,

and commending the efforts of certain senators.

"The senate doesn't usually turn into a love-fest," said senate parliamentarian Molly Dolby.

"We usually fight a lot more," she clarified.

At the urging of Commuter Senator-at-large Alex Sargent, the senate decided to postpone the "love-fest," and move on with the agenda, which included the testimonies of Grennie and USM College Democrats spokesman Chet Tetreault, whose group's membership had been revoked for lack of attendance at BSO meetings.

Last semester, the USM College Democrats were so busy knocking on doors, running phone banks, and "getting out the vote" in general, that they didn't notice when the Board of Student Organizations revoked their membership as an official USM student organization, Tetreault said.

"It was bad management on our part," he told the senate. The College Democrats were holding events on every Friday, he said, so nobody was available to go to

the BSO meetings.

According to Tetreault, the problem with getting their membership revoked was that the BSO froze all the money the group had saved up doing fund-raisers. The group had saved up around \$500.

"Part of that kind of shocked me – that the school would do that," he said. Once his group realized what had happened, however, he went before the senate, who reinstated the group's charter.

It took the senate a few minutes to realize that Josh Grennie's group wasn't really a group after all. Marie Follayttar, student rep to the UMS board of trustees, noted that a group technically needs to have two members.

"I met with them several times and was never made aware of that," Grennie said.

"I've had a lot of interest [in the group], it's just that I didn't try to get a huge base. I just wanted to get it created and then build up support."

BSO president Eric Favreau says that a group needing to have more than one member should just be common knowledge.

"Maybe we didn't spell it out

for him, but... I don't think that's the fault of the BSO," he said last Saturday.

"There's a sort of an assumption and implication that... one person doesn't make a group."

*Senator steps in*

Just as it was becoming unclear as to whether or not the group would be able to form, Senator Alex Sargent volunteered to join the USM Student Republicans. "I was surprised at first, but now that I've talked with him, I'm not surprised," Grennie said.

Sargent says that he joined the group mainly to speed things along.

"I felt bad," he said last Saturday.

"I was mainly like, let's just get this on the road, let's get this group going. Let's get students

involved. Who cares if it's ideologically different from some others?"

Sargent, who has registered as a republican twice, but has never voted for a republican presidential candidate, agrees with Grennie that USM is a profoundly liberal campus; so much so that some students are afraid of letting their political stances known.

"There are certain classes that, if you do voice opinions of opposition, your grade will suffer," he said.

According to Sargent, who plans on being an active member in USM Student Republicans, diverse opinions should be given equal credence.

"I think the job of a university is to explore ideas, not matter how bad or good."

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From **BUDGET** on page 1

didn't know the senate expected GTV to be at the meeting."

Kendrick, who is a senior, says that despite advertising the station's need for a new manager for next year, he has heard little response from students.

GTV has been showing feature films on the Gorham campus for the last three months and helps produce students' independent film projects.

After a final 10 to 5 vote against reinstating GTV's funding, the money was set aside in unallocated funds, suspending the station's financial support until they get the leadership necessary to represent themselves before the senate.

## State of the union

Guest speaker at the meeting was USM's President, Selma Botman, who spoke to senators about the progress of the strategic plan and the goals of the university. Working towards streamlining the transition for community college transfer students was discussed along with ways of increasing retention among undergraduates in this time of economic hardship.

"In all of the budget cuts affecting the university, financial aid will not be affected," Botman said.

The difficulty students have funding their education was highlighted by Senator Adams, who said that his own financial situation has deteriorated to the point where he may not be able to afford to enroll next semester.

Amidst the economic gloom, Botman was optimistic about the strategic plan.

"It's beginning to take some good shape and we hope to produce a final draft by the end of the semester," she said. The five-year strategic plan aims to help resolve issues of economic sustainability as well as make the university more suitable to its diverse population.

## Are you In or are you Out?

Two newly elected senators, Kaitlyn Hamilton and Micaela Enevoldson, had their letters of resignation read by Senate Chair, Katherine Letourneau, citing scheduling conflicts as their reasons for giving up their seats.

Also newly elected senators, Daniel Barret and Melissa Donahue, were voted on to sit for the remainder of 37th term, which runs through April.

The search process for students for board of trustees was initiated and nominations will be solicited by the end of the week.

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The senate approved funding for the 3rd annual Laura Vogel Memorial 5K race to be held on May 23, providing \$1450 to help pay for port a-potties, tee shirts, and a finish line director under the agreement that the entry fee for students will be reduced by 50%. The USM Bayside Nursing Partnership is organizing a free community health fair the day of the race and hopes to attract over 1000 people. USM student athletes and nursing students will be volunteering at the event.

A new student group, the Phoenix Network, which helps at-risk youth with mentor and advocate services, had its constitution passed unanimously. Ben Skillings, who represented the Phoenix Network before the senate, explained that there were 8 students involved in the group, and a fund raising party is being scheduled for this summer.

Student Body President Ben Taylor and Senator Matthew Taggett went before the senate to request funding for the Spring Fling '09 events scheduled for the week of April 26.

The request was for \$9,500 to fund an outdoor concert scheduled for the Saturday night of the festival, as well as other activities. The Spring Fling event is one of three major festivals held during the year and is a significant opportunity for the Student Senate to generate excitement about university activities and events. The senate passed the proposal.

## No more newspapers?

The newspaper program, which pays for the daily issues of the New York Times, Boston Globe and Portland Press Herald, has been removed from the laundry list, a list the senate uses to identify budget items it doesn't know what to do with for next year. The decision will free up about \$12,000 dollars.

Reasons cited for the program's removal were that faculty members were taking the free papers and that news could be obtained more cheaply over the Internet.

The question of whether requiring students to present their I.D. would solve part of the problem was undermined by Senator Donahue, who said, "If I knew that I had to bring my I.D. with me every time I wanted a newspaper, I would probably not even try to get one."

Because the budget is only a recommended proposal, The 38th Student Senate will have the chance to make changes when it takes office in May.

# NEWS

## Portland greenhouse thrives under green thumb

### A look inside USM's rooftop oasis



STEVEN LEE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Greenhouse manager Mayleen Farrington tends to some plants atop the science building on the Portland campus. Tasked with growing and maintaining plant specimens for biology courses, Farrington spends a couple hours a week on pruning and pest control to keep things looking green.

## Matt Dodge

Executive Editor

"We have an ant on Mr. Spiky" Mayleen Farrington says to her daughter as she carefully pushes aside a leaf on the barbed plant to give Maya a better look at the insect crawling over the four-foot-tall, prickly looking plant.

As greenhouse manager, a work-study position the 40-year-old biology senior has held for two years, Farrington looks over one of the most unique and least-known spaces on the Portland campus. Nestled on the locked sixth floor of the science build-

ing, you're not likely to stumble upon this space by accident.

For a couple hours each week, Farrington tends to this diverse and unique collection of plant species, which are primarily used as teaching samples for biology classes to study plant reproduction, pollination, and adaptation.

Farrington's job is year-round, and primarily involves watering, maintenance, cultivation, and a whole lot of pest control. "Mealybugs are the bane of my existence right now" she says.

A proponent of integrated pest management, Farrington does not like to go straight for the harsh insecticides to fight her pest

problem, but rather uses a myriad of cooperative techniques to keep the plants healthy.

"I would like to get some predatory insects in here, but funding is limited," says Farrington.

Farrington, whose has worked as a farrier - trimming and shoeing horse's hooves - for sixteen years, stumbled upon the manager position and jumped at the chance to cultivate an unlikely and diverse collection of plants.

One such unique specimen is the Stapelia gigantea, also called a "carrion flower", this starfish-

See **HOUSE** on page 5

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NCUA



From **HOUSE** on page 4

shaped flower emits an odor reminiscent of rotting flesh as a means of attracting flies, which help it to pollinate. "They kind of smell like road kill," Farrington adds.

But this rooftop "Little Shop of Horrors" does not stop there. The *Euphorbia tirucalli*, or "pencil tree" is a waxy looking sprawl of thin green branches, whose sap can irritate or burn the skin.

Another, intentionally unidentified plant, is said to induce what Farrington calls "flying dreams" if licked. "But we are not supposed to discuss that," she says.

It's not only the carnivorous, burn inducing, or hallucinogenic that makes it into the collection. The *Stanhopea* orchid, growing just across from the putrid carion flower, gives off a pleasant warm vanilla smell and battles the olfactory senses for one's attention.

The greenhouse is kept at 55 degrees during the winter, and can get up to 90 degrees in the summer, and has a wide range of species all thriving in the same place.

From a six-foot papaya tree, to orchids, Egyptian papyrus, desert cactus, and a pineapple plant harvested from a grocery store Delmonte, there is no real rhyme or reason for what makes it into the greenhouse.

"It's kind of a free for all" says Farrington. Some of the plants are grown at the request of biolo-

gy professors looking for specific species to use in the classroom, but much of the stocking of this mini ecosystem is left up to the discretion of Farrington.

"A lot of it has been for my own entertainment," says Farrington, who does a lot of her research on the Internet, always looking for a new way to keep the greenhouse thriving. "These guys are sort of my pet plants," she says.

But the work-study job is more than just a hobby for Farrington. An advocate of developing sustainable communities and localized food production, she is currently applying to a master's program in sustainable communities at Northern Arizona University.

Farrington's specific focus is on noninvasive, low-maintenance landscaping techniques "to replace lawns and all that stupidity".

USM's science departments are among some of university's best funded, but their budgets focus very narrowly on specific concentrations such as genetics, and cellular work.

The greenhouse receives little funding outside of what is allocated to biology professors when they teach a class that calls for plant samples. Farrington's work-study salary is the only real expense incurred in running the greenhouse, making it an easy to sustain and uniquely adaptable venture.

Still, in her time at USM,

Farrington has come to see that the school's quality lies not in its bankroll, but the dedication of its faculty. "What it lacks in funding, it makes up for in amazing staff," she says.

As Farrington prepares to graduate this spring, she is keeping the future of the greenhouse in mind, putting together a manual for the next caretaker to assure that this sixth-floor sanctuary flourishes in her absence.

"It's just a great place to come up and get away from it all," Farrington says.



STEVEN LEE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Farrington, with the help of her daughter Maya, inspects a few of the greenhouse's exotic plants. From pineapples, to papyrus the sixth floor space houses plants that range in odor from rotting flesh, to warm vanilla.

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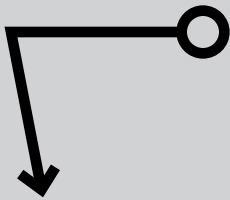
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## PERSPECTIVES

# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Comment on any story at [www.usmfreepress.org](http://www.usmfreepress.org), and we will pick a weekly winner to receive free swag. To be eligible, comments must include your name, contact info, and year/affiliation with USM.

Most creative, insightful, or funny entry gets the prize.

### CORRECTIONS

In last week's story about new student body president Maggie Guzman, Dave Marshall was credited as being a state representative. He is actually a Portland city councillor.

## GUEST COLUMN

# Shouldn't USM go solar electric—for free?

**Michael S. Hamilton**

*Guest Columnist*

Imagine solar photovoltaic collectors on the roof of every major USM building in Portland, Gorham and Lewiston-Auburn, providing enough electricity to meet USM's needs and often enough to sell to Central Maine Power Co.

Imagine the PV collectors get put there without any significant outlay of funds by USM, and provide electricity at a fixed price for the next ten to twenty years that is competitive with what USM pays today to CMP for our electricity.

That means no negative impact on student tuition or fees, while USM goes "green," reduces its carbon footprint on the world, and shows some leadership in the community.

And the side benefits include predictable energy costs, something incredibly valuable to persons preparing a budget for a large institution like USM. And also incredibly valuable to students who might prefer their tuition not increase in future to pay for more expensive electricity.

All USM needs to do is pick up the phone and contact SunEdison, Sungevity or SunRun and ask for a feasibility assessment. These companies are in this business today, and they've found a way to reduce the front end costs of going solar electric.

This is not some kind of California dreamin'; it's TODAY. SunEdison's national headquarters is in Beltsville, Maryland, and they have active operations centers in New Jersey, Oregon, California, Hawaii, and Ontario, Canada.

They are big, well-established, and they already have contracts to do the same thing with Staples, Ikea, Whole Foods, Kohl's, Costco and Wal-Mart, along with car dealerships, other universities, research parks, hospitals, federal agencies, municipal governments, utility companies, and self-storage warehouses. These organizations have two things in common with USM: a need for large amounts of low-cost electricity, and lots of roof space.

USM would not buy the equipment, but would provide the roof space and sign a power purchase agreement (PPA) with one of three competing national firms, SunEdison, Sungevity, or SunRun. USM currently has a PPA with Central Maine Power, but it's only for a year or two, and does not guarantee a fixed price for electricity. Every time the price of oil or another fuel goes up, the price CMP charges USM goes up, and USM tuition follows shortly thereafter.

But a PPA with SunEdison, for example, would be for at least ten years at a guaranteed fixed price for the whole period. The price would be fixed by contract because it would be determined mostly by the rate of interest SunEdison would pay to private investors for financing the entire project, NOT on the price of oil or gas or another fuel that might increase suddenly. And today, interest rates are low, low, low.

That's right, no upfront capital costs for USM, just payment of a fixed, predictable rate for electricity, a rate that is competitive and possibly lower than the local utility.

The company USM would contract with uses the PPA as collateral to secure

investment capital on the open market. They also build, operate and repair the systems. USM just signs the contract and pays the utility bill. The company makes a predictable profit while USM saves money.

This arrangement involves NO risk for generation and transmission price increases during the entire period of operation, at the end of which electricity prices will certainly be more expensive than they are today. During that period, CMP will be providing electricity to customers using mostly oil and natural gas, both of which will increase in price, possibly precipitously.

This arrangement would provide an important hedge against escalating electricity prices; a smaller carbon footprint; insulation from future rate increases. Can it get any better than this?

What's the catch? Getting somebody in the USM administration interested enough to look at it seems to be the major obstacle to doing it.

In March 2009, SunEdison went over 100Gwh of delivered PV solar electricity. Staples has 24 of their installations and is building more everyday. But don't take my word for it. Check it out yourself at [SunEdison.com](http://SunEdison.com), [Sungevity.com](http://Sungevity.com), or [SunRunHome.com](http://SunRunHome.com). Shouldn't we do this, now?

*Michael S. Hamilton is a USM professor of political science who is currently teaching an advanced undergraduate class in Energy Policy Analysis and researching a book with the same title.*

## GUEST COLUMN

## USM Child and Family Centers Closing

I am writing in response to the letter to the editor in the March 9th Free Press by "Hourly Employees." Believe me, I know first hand the impact of USM's financial situation and can empathize with the "author" regarding some of the decisions that have been made. However, I have issues with three points that were made in reference to USM Child and Family Centers: the deficit, the availability of care out in the community and the use of taxpayer dollars to subsidize child care.

Child care is a labor-intensive industry, especially due to the strict regulations regarding teacher/child ratios for infants and toddlers. Compensation is 88.5% of our budget compared with about 73% for USM as a whole. In this country, child care is one of the lowest paid industries. USM's child care staff have been fortunate to receive the excellent benefits that other UMS employees enjoy. According to a 2008 Maine child care workforce study, only 56% of 481 child care centers offer health insurance for their employees. This lack of benefits creates high turnover and lower expectations for professional qualifications, neither of which are good for children. The majority of our staff have advanced degrees. Unfortunately, this level of education is highly unusual in our field, since the requirements for training are less than for those of dog trainers or hair dressers. Many of our teachers have worked at USM for many years, again, defying the norm for the industry. This high level of competence by our staff has provided our many work study students with an enriched experiential learning experience, prompting them to return year after year. In fact, the majority of our student parents graduate from USM, which contributes significantly to the University, though it is not reflected in our bottom line. We bring in over \$867,000 in revenue, but that does not cover the cost of wages and benefits.

I wonder how many other departments don't cover their compensation costs either. USM C&FC's deficit taken out of context can be very misleading.

My second objection is the assumption that was made about the ease in which parents can make other child care arrangements. According to the 2004 Maine's Cost and Quality Studies, 76% of center-based and 70% of Maine's family child care homes are considered to be "poor to mediocre." Many of our parents are struggling finding alternative care in the community that is comparable with USM and those that are worthy have long waiting lists. USM C&FC was the first program in Maine to achieve accreditation status from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Only 70 centers in Maine are accredited and only 8 other centers are in the Greater Portland area. Most of these do not serve infants and toddlers. The trauma that our parents are experiencing due to the lack of suitable alternatives is evident on a daily basis. Finding alternate child care is not like choosing store-brand peanut butter.

USM C&FC has a DHHS subsidy contract for eligible families and receives scholarship money generously allocated by USM's Student Senate, thereby providing access to quality child care so that our student parents are able to earn a four-year degree. The research on the Parents as Scholars program demonstrated that PaS graduates increased their wages by nearly 50% by obtaining a college education and that nearly 90% of PaS working graduates have left the welfare system. This has major ramifications to break the cycle of poverty because the level of education of the mother is one of the most important determinants of child outcomes. USM Child and Family Centers was the lynch pin for success for many of the PaS participants.

Ninety percent of brain development

occurs by age three, which is the most critical period to positively impact a child's capacity for future learning. Dana Connors, President of the Maine Chamber of Commerce, wrote a letter of support regarding increased investment in early care and education as part of the economic stimulus package. He wrote that "high-quality early education programs prepare children for academic success and help them develop skills necessary for their personal and later career development. Children who lack early learning experiences are more likely to struggle academically, drop out of school, be arrested, become teen parents and abuse illegal drugs—all serious disqualifiers for successful careers." Research links high quality early childhood education to "better cognitive function and language development, higher rates of attendance at a four-year college and higher rates of employment." So basically, investing in quality early experiences for our children is investing in our future human capital. I think that makes quality child care critical to a public University, especially one that serves a highly non-traditional population and espouses transforming lives.

President Obama has certainly championed early care and education as a priority, as have Maine's bi-partisan and unanimous recommendation by the "Commission to Develop a Strategic Priorities Plan for Maine's Young Children" According to their report "investments in quality child care and early childhood education do more than pay significant returns to children—our future citizens. They also benefit taxpayers and enhance economic vitality. Economic research—by Nobel Prize-winners and Federal Reserve economists, in economic studies in dozens of states and counties, and in longitudinal studies spanning 40 years—demonstrate that the return on public investment in

high quality childhood education is substantial." Even Governor Baldacci's Business Roundtable on Early Childhood Investment released its recommendations for investing in the early years with its three priorities being: 1) public private partnerships to create and sustain Maine's comprehensive, early childhood system; 2) a public education and parent education campaign about Maine's moral and fiscal responsibility and the value of investing in young children; and 3) promote public and private investments that will increase the number of qualified early childhood professionals. The newly formed Maine Children's Growth Council, of which UMS Chancellor Richard Pattenaude is a member, has formerly adopted the "Invest Early in Maine: A Working Plan for Humane Early Childhood Systems", that, among other things, advocates for access to high quality, affordable, accessible and inclusive child care with a qualified and well-compensated workforce. Sound familiar?

A recent UNICEF study showed how the declining rates of spending on children in our country has resulted in the United States ranking 20th out of 21 rich nations in "child well-being." How can we ever compete globally if our children fare so poorly? I do believe that it is appropriate for our federal and state government to partner with parents to invest in early care and education the same way that it subsidizes the cost of higher education.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Lori Freid Moses*

Director

USM Child and Family Centers

## THE F WORD

## A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

by *Taryn Yudaken*

## Divided we fall

In the past couple weeks there have been major steps forward for equal rights advocates around the nation—namely Iowa and Vermont. We now have four states that grant full same-sex marriages: Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa and Vermont. The D.C. council also recently voted to grant marriage rights to same-sex couples in the nation's capital who have married elsewhere. Other states recognizing out-of-state same-sex marriage are CO, MD, MN, NH, NJ, NY, RI and our very own ME (which has Equality Maine, among other organizations, working very hard to have complete same-sex marriage granted here).

Since Prop 8 passed in

California, there has been a lot of turmoil in their state's political atmosphere. There is a huge battle there (...and everywhere else) between equal rights and anti-gay activists. The National Organization for Marriage, which advocated for the repeal of same-sex marriage in California, has spent a supposed \$1.5 million on airing their very anti-gay-marriage advertisement (eight times a day) in states that appear to be considering same-sex rights. These include New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, and unsurprisingly, California.

The ad shows several people standing underneath dark skies, claiming that a storm is coming—

—"the storm" being acceptance of same-sex marriage, which will supposedly infringe on everybody's freedom and rights (how, they don't say). But LGBTQ people are lacking in freedom and rights all over the place. "United we stand" are words with a meaning that has been lost upon many; at this point we are pretty divided, and fighting is maintaining our fall.

There is a lot of controversy about NOM's attempt to promote such an anti-gay message. Not only is its hate and bigotry questionable, but so is its credibility. Audition tapes for the ad were leaked and put on YouTube, and it was discovered that the so-called concerned citizens in it are

actually actors. HRC spokesman, Brad Luna, claims "this ad is full of outrageous falsehoods and they didn't even come out of the mouths of real people."

Although this ad does not speak of any progress in equality, its existence alone is proof enough that the more conservative are feeling threatened.

The marriage debate seems to be a thriving topic at the moment, but equal rights look like they might be slowly emerging. Although there are always going to be hateful attempts to counteract anti-discrimination movements, the U.S. looks like it might be moving in a more accepting direction, with more people who were apathetic realizing that this

is no meaningless battle. The heat of this issue begs to ask some important questions -- What is freedom? What is love? What is hate and how far should religion enter into the constitution? Where is the separation between church and state? Where is America going to end up on this issue? Constantly separated?

Some of us would like to know, how long is it going to be before we are all recognized as equal beings? When will same-sex marriage be acceptable enough so that it doesn't have to flood every other headline? And where will anti-gay activists draw the line?



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Page 9. .... DVD battle  
Page 10. .... Pick up a random album  
Page 11. .... Review of "I Love You Man"

## "I'm going with you"

Mint Films' "The Transition of Minor Skies" screens at SPACE

# THE TRANSITION OF MINOR SKIES



A FILM BY JEFF GRIECCI

Official movie poster for "The Transition of Minor Skies"

### Danica Koenig

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Never has a sleepy beach town looked so good. The production team Mint Films produced their longest film to date, "The Transition of Minor Skies," a film about the clashing of familiar comfort with the possibility of change.

Written and directed by Jeff Griecci, the film follows the lives of Hunter and Dom (played by Ian Carlson and Parker Newton) in a sleepy beach town. It shows their everyday, monotonous routines in a town where change seldom visits.

It starts off rather humorously with the boys going through their routine activities; one funny scene shows them stealing a few dollars from the tip jar of a small convenience store, giving each other high fives, and then running away in slow motion having just done the most exciting thing they're going to do all day.

Another funny scene shows Hunter and Dom going to the local video store and deliberating over what to rent, an activity they frequently do judging by their debate about renting Army of Darkness. Their conversation about which zombie movie has the best gore is interrupted by the movie store clerk who cruelly reveals how the special effects are done. Hunter and Dom looked as crushed as if they just found out Santa Claus is a myth.

The boys' daily activities become more sad and serious as the film continues, until Dom runs into a girl at a bookstore (played by Sophie Hill) who changes the way he looks at himself and his life. This visiting girl, a traveling free spirit (who remains nameless throughout the film) gives Hunter and Dom a taste of life beyond their sleepy beach town.

The film is sad, funny, bittersweet and touching all at once. The clashing of the mysterious girl with the boring lives of Hunter and Dom subtly shows the familiar theme of the conflict of the familiar with the long for change, but in a unique, funny, and touching way. The scenery and cinematography are

beautifully shot and meshes perfectly with the soothing soundtrack.

All three of the main actors truly become their characters. Sophie Hill points out that this is easier when you can relate to the character you are playing, which she could.

"My character is like this traveling girl who tries to remain kind of unattached to people. I feel that it takes a certain kind of person to travel different places and meet different people, because it's hard make connections while still staying unattached," says Hill. "I got the traveling bug when I was younger and spent a semester abroad, so I can definitely relate to my character."

"The Transition of Minor Skies" is Mint Films' longest film to date, at 55 minutes long. The cast and crew consist of a mix of Mint Film veterans as well as newcomers to the film scene, like Hill, as this was her very first film.

"It was interesting because the kids I worked with were pretty experienced. Both Parker and Ian had done theater and films before. It was really cool to work with such experienced people," says Hill. "It opened up a whole new talent and hobby for me, and I want to do more in the future."

Everyone in the cast and crew is extremely pleased with the way the film turned out. Hill attributes the success of the film to the people behind it, especially the gentlemen of Mint Films. She says her fondest memories of the film are the off-camera times they spent together.

"The best part of making the movie was hanging out with the guys," says Hill. "They are all just hilarious and they are really free spirits."

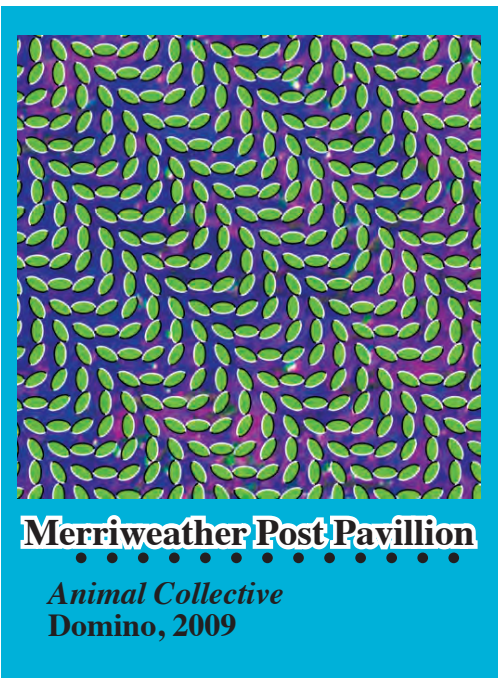
The first public Portland screening of "The Transition of Minor Skies" will be on May 20th at the SPACE Gallery in Portland. Some of the events at the screening include: DVD sales, Q&A with the cast and crew, and a bonus screening of Mint Films' short documentary "Murphy's Law." For more information and updates about the screening visit "The Transition of Minor Skies" on MySpace at <http://www.myspace.com/thetransitionofminorskies>.



From left to right: Parker Newton as Dom and Ian Carlson as Hunter

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MINT FILMS





**Dylan Martin**  
Staff Writer

2009 has already been a great year for music, and we're not even half way through. Over the final few weeks of this semester, I will review my favorite musical releases of this year so far. First off, Animal Collective...

**Animal Collective – Merriweather Post Pavillion**

Animal Collective is perhaps one of the most hyped up bands in the indie music world, but rightfully so. This album transcends everything the band has ever done before. Animal Collective is always pushing the envelope for a balance of experimentation and pop sensibility. Where their last album was more jagged and haunted, MPP is chilled-out, continuous and dreamy. Most of the songs seam-

lessly transition into each other, begging for listeners to digest the album in one sitting.

Immediate standout tracks include the single "My Girls," "Lion in a Coma," and "Brother Sport," but limiting this review to "standout tracks" would do this album a disservice. Every song on the album can stand on its own, and it's all thanks to Animal Collective's loose and eccentric songwriting. All of the songs have a bubbly, sometimes tribal atmosphere with melodies that heavily rely on synthesizers, strong lyricism and echoing harmonies. In addition, the band does a lot of layering with various synthesizer loops and drum tracks to build up the drama and excitement of their songs.

It's important to mention that this album is very lyric-heavy and its one of the albums strong points. "Bluish" greatly demonstrates the band's odd romanticism with "I like your looks when you get

mean/I know I shouldn't say so but when you/Claw me like a cat, I'm beaming."

In some cases, Animal Collective's lyrics can get repetitive: "Open up your, open up your/Open up your throat/And let the all of that time/All of that time, all of that time go," but only to their advantage to create a dancing frenzy.

While "Brother Sport" and other fast-moving tracks will make you dance fiercely, other songs like "Bluish" and "No More Runnin" will evoke a slow sway of the body. This balance sets a fine pace for the album, allowing listeners to get revved up for one track and then relax and chill for the next one.

If you're a fan of experimental, electronic, dub, and/or freak folk, I highly suggest picking up this album at your local Bull Moose Music store. And even if you're not, do the same; it's definitely worth it.

## Oh Miley! Edition

Jem vs. Crossroads vs. Glitter vs. Straight Outta Compton?

**David O'Donnell**  
Staff Writer

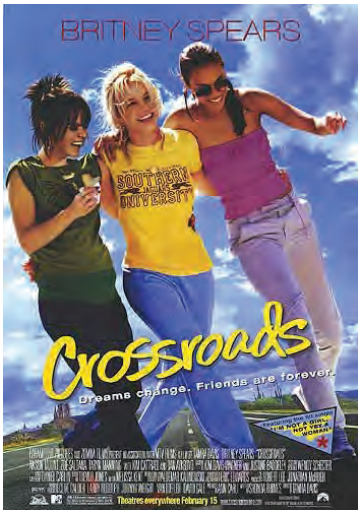
As a film columnist for the Free Press, its my duty to keep abreast of the times, to keep my finger on the pulse of young America, to watch at least 13 hours a day of the Disney channel. Unfortunately, times being what they are and court-mandated ankle monitors being so effective, I can't afford to leave the house of my own free will and plunk down \$8.50 to see *Hannah Montana: The Movie* this week.

But this column is about helping you dig up cheap alternatives to the multiplex at your local library and video rent-o-shack. Thankfully, Miley is not the first pop sensation to take all the behind the scenes angst of superstardom and make it into a movie. Maybe just the best.



Jem: The Movie

Like HanMo, JEM is the superstar alter ego of a normal girl, or in this case music industry heiress Jerrica Benton. The film chronicles the rise of Jem and the Mystix, as they battle the evil rival band of some other name. While I haven't seen this, if I remember my sister's toy collection correctly, Jem was a trampier, leg-gier Barbie with some seriously new-wave eye makeup. It's my family's suspicion that she really warped my sister.



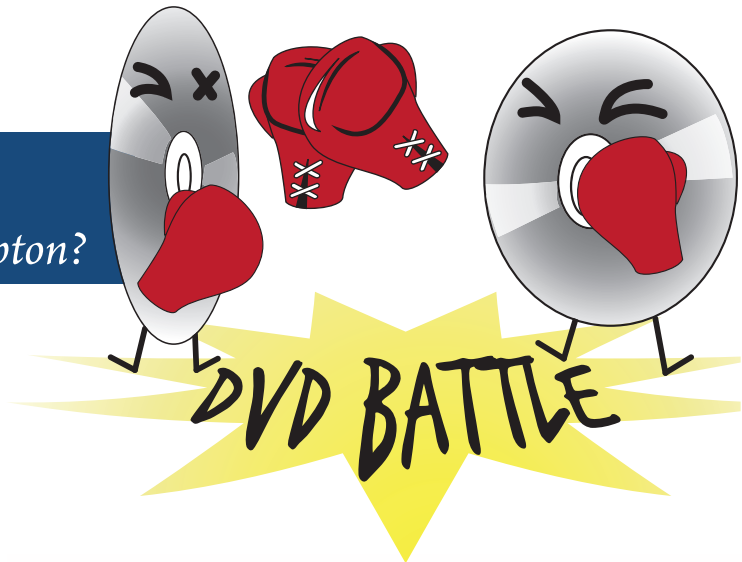
Crossroads

Sony thought it would be cheaper to create this movie rather than put together a standard press kit for Britney Spears' third album, the one where she covered Joan Jett's "I Love Rock'n'Roll". Crossroads is the lovingly generic story of BriSpe and two friends hitting the road after high school to find fame and runaway parents. Much in the same way Mama Mia! used the music of ABBA as the glue and soul of its story, this movie is pretty much based on the song "I'm Not a Girl, Not Yet a Woman," but gets kudos for it's daring ending where Britney's friends laugh her into a bitter drinking binge after she plays it for them.



Glitter

Don't forget that *Glitter* exists.



## The winner...

### The Hit (aka Straight Outta Compton II)

I still remember when somebody came bursting into the Whole Grocer several years ago to let everybody know "hey, I was over on Washington Ave., and they're filming Straight Outta Compton II in front of Buffalo Wings'n'Things!" Wow, I thought, the sequel to Straight Outta Compton is being filmed in Portland, Maine, of all places. Far too later on it dawned on me that nobody has ever heard of a *movie* called *Straight Outta Compton*. The blue ribbon goes to a film that combines a story of making it with the gritty streets of Portland.



# Pea soup from leftover Easter dinner

Last year our Easter feast was cooked outdoors in the mild air full of chattering bird sounds. Peter masterfully grilled a butterflied leg of lamb slathered with a blend of lots of fresh minced garlic and coarse mustard. Asparagus, baby red potatoes, ruby beets, and sleek carrots all got roasted on the grill. This year, Easter dinner was somewhat more traditional with a glazed baked ham, asparagus with Hollandaise,

Harvard beets, and mashed potatoes speckled with snips of green onions. Our plates held a palette of resplendent spring colors, harbingers of blossoms to follow. The fog and raw days of late inspired this satisfying soup which made good use of the leftover hambone.



### SPLIT PEA SOUP

*MAKES 6 SERVINGS*

2 tablespoons butter	2 teaspoons dried marjoram leaves
1 large onion, chopped	1 1/2 cups green split peas
1 cup chopped celery, optional	4 cups water
3 carrots, sliced	4 cups chicken stock or vegetable broth
Ham bone, or smoked turkey, if desired	

Sauté onions, celery, and carrots in a large stock pot for about 10 minutes, stirring. Add rest of the ingredients and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer soup for an hour and a half to two hours, stirring occasionally. Remove hambone and cut any ham off bone and add to soup. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

## Pick up a random album

### Album reviews from a different way of CD shopping

**Ben Boyden**

Contributing Writer

Lately, I’ve been trying out a new album choosing system. I go to the CD’s and I choose an album randomly. Sometimes, the outcome of this system isn’t what I’d like it to be, but it works 90% of the time. I try to go to the bargain bins, and look for interesting music that I’ve never heard before.

A black and white photograph of the album cover for Nico Vega. It features a woman in a long, flowing dress standing in a dark, atmospheric setting. The title "NICO VEGA" is at the top in a stylized font. A "PARENTAL ADVISORY EXPLICIT CONTENT" label is in the bottom left corner.

**Nico Vega - Nico Vega**  
MySpace Records  
2009

Of these random picks, I found that one of them sits among my favorite albums now.

Nico Vega is a LA based band featuring Aja Volkman on vocals, Rich Koehler on guitar and Dan Epanand on drums.

I’m not sure what it is, but everybody that I’ve shown this album to is taken in almost automatically by Aja’s vocals. Her voice is enchanting, seductive, and entertaining to say the least. A few of my favorite tracks from their self-titled album would be “Burn Burn”, “Million Years”, and “Iron Man”.

“Burn Burn” features a set of chord changes that drew me in to listening to the band. This

was also the first time I heard Aja sing. The Youtube video is also worth watching, by the way. “Burn Burn” focuses a lot on the guitar and drums if you’re into that kind of thing.

“Million years” has more of a vocal focus. The beat the drums are playing is pretty straightforward, and the guitar is playing some basic chords. The thing I like most about this track is the vocals. At times, this song has more of an edgy feel to it.

“Iron man” isn’t what you’d think it would be. It’s a nice ballad with an acoustic guitar behind the vocals. The drums come in later, but I prefer the balance of the vocals and the acoustic guitar.

Nico Vega also has a number of albums out. They include: Cocaine Cooked the Brain, No Child left Behind, Choose your words poorly, as well as Nico Vega.

This album was everything I wasn’t looking for. Every song only added to the overall quality of the album. The songs cover a variety of styles ranging from hardcore to a song that has a country feel.

Nico Vega is definitely worth the \$10.96 at Bullmoose, or the \$9.99 on iTunes.

A black and white photograph of the album cover for Newton Faulkner. It shows a group of people in a futuristic, mechanical setting. The title "newton faulkner" is at the top, and "hand built by robots" is below it.

**Newton Faulkner - Hand Built by Robots**  
Columbia Records  
2008

Another Album that I picked up off of the shelf at random was Newton Faulkner “Hand built by robots.”

This album is absolutely fantastic. The first sounds I heard when I played the album reminded me of the music in the movie “August Rush”.

Newton’s guitar playing is only overshadowed by his wonderful vocals.

This album has a lot of folk overtones to it. His lyrics actually carry a message that can be useful to everyone who listens to this album. There is a sense of lyricism that has become uncommon these days. He sings of topics such as the decline of soci-

ety, love, and aging.

One of my personal favorite tracks on this album is the track titled “U.F.O.” This track brings up the question of what the world would look like if you were to look from the outside looking in. How would the wars, and the pollution, and everything bad in this world look to an outsider? That’s something that I would like to know.

Another track that I love is “To the light”. This song is a really great track if you like the guitar. The guitar in this track shows Newton’s masterful use of his instrument.

One of the things that keep me listening to this album is the balance of the vocals and the guitar. I never get tired of this album because the balance is perfect.

The album art is also quite incredible. That’s actually the main reason I picked up the album in the first place.

I love to listen to this album on a nice spring day, while I’m walking down the street. For some reason, it gives a great walking pace. This album makes a sunny day even better.

You can get Newton Faulkner’s Hand Built by Robots for \$9.97 At bullmoose, or \$7.99 on iTunes.

A black and white photograph of the album cover for Marcus Miller. It features a man in a hat playing a double bass. The title "marcus miller" is at the top, and "marcus" is below it.

**Marcus Miller - Marcus**  
Concord Jazz Records  
2007

I’ve always been a big fan of instrumental music, and I found an album right off the shelf that was really cool. If you play the Bass Guitar, you’ve probably heard of Marcus Miller. I picked up “Marcus,” by Marcus Miller.

Marcus doesn’t waste any time satisfying his audience with the first track on this album, “Blast!” This song has an Arabic hip-hop feel to it. It’s actually the first time that I’ve ever heard this type of sound. This sound returns throughout the album. I’m not sure what it was that intrigued me about it, but it kept me listening.

Other favorites of mine on this

See **RANDOM** on page 11



From **RANDOM** on page 10  
album would be “Funk Joint,” and “Pluck (interlude).” These tracks could be used as the definition of funk.

I also love how that Arabic feel weaves in and out of this album. It gives the album a sense of continuity.

One thing that really surprised me about this album is that Marcus did a cover of “Higher ground”. He did an absolutely fantastic job with the bass line. It also included a lot of saxophone soloing, and even some harmonica playing. This is usually uncommon with an album featuring a bass player, but it only shows that Marcus is a true pro.

I definitely recommend that you pick this up if you love the Bass. You can get it for \$14.97 at Bullmoose or \$9.99 on iTunes.



**Take 6 - The Standard**  
Telarc Records  
2008

There have been three great albums in a row that I have picked up randomly. Those are really great odds. However, you will eventually pick up a lemon.

In this case, I picked up “The Standard” by the group Take

6. This is an a cappella group made up of six people. They cover songs like “Sweet Georgia Brown”, “Do you know what it means to miss New Orleans”, and “Straighten up and fly right”.

I know that there are going to be some people out there who don’t exactly agree with me, but I didn’t like the interpretation of most of the songs.

The only two of the songs that appealed to me, were the songs “Sweet Georgia Brown”, and “Someone to watch over me”. These were the only two songs that really spoke to me, and appealed to my particular taste.

Sometimes, when you do an album of old jazz standards, your album will either be a hit or a miss.

To me, this album is a giant miss.

If you’re going to take a bunch

of Jazz Standards, in my opinion, you shouldn’t change it beyond recognition.

They take “Do you know what it means to miss New Orleans”, and the lead singer on this song puts this horrible vibrato on, and it went from a nice song to karaoke in about 2.2 seconds.

That’s what they’ve done with this album. This group has changed the things that made that music great in the first place.

It might also be the tone of their voices collectively (one of which, I find incredibly annoying). I like the voice of their bass singer. If he were to make a solo album, I would probably look for that, but these people’s voices don’t compliment each other. They are constantly clashing.

I honestly wouldn’t recommend this album to anyone.

There is so much music out

there that we haven’t even discovered yet. I strongly recommend this new system of mine. Go to your local record shop (I prefer Bullmoose) and pick up something that you’ve never heard before. It’ll be something that you might regret right away, but don’t let it discourage you. I can promise that you will find some excellent music out there, and that music will lead you to another artist.

# Let’s Get Bromantic

## Review of “I Love You, Man” and the bromance phenomenon

**Kaitlyn Creney**

Staff Writer

The term bromance has recently appeared in our culture to describe a certain relationship; a bromance is when two men are best friends and are deeply involved with each other...but not in a homosexual manner. The word is a combination of brother and romance. Simply put, bromance is the male equivalent to the female BFF.

There was even a MTV reality show entitled “Bromance” starring Brody Jenner, where he sought out to find a close friend that competed in challenges to win his friendship.

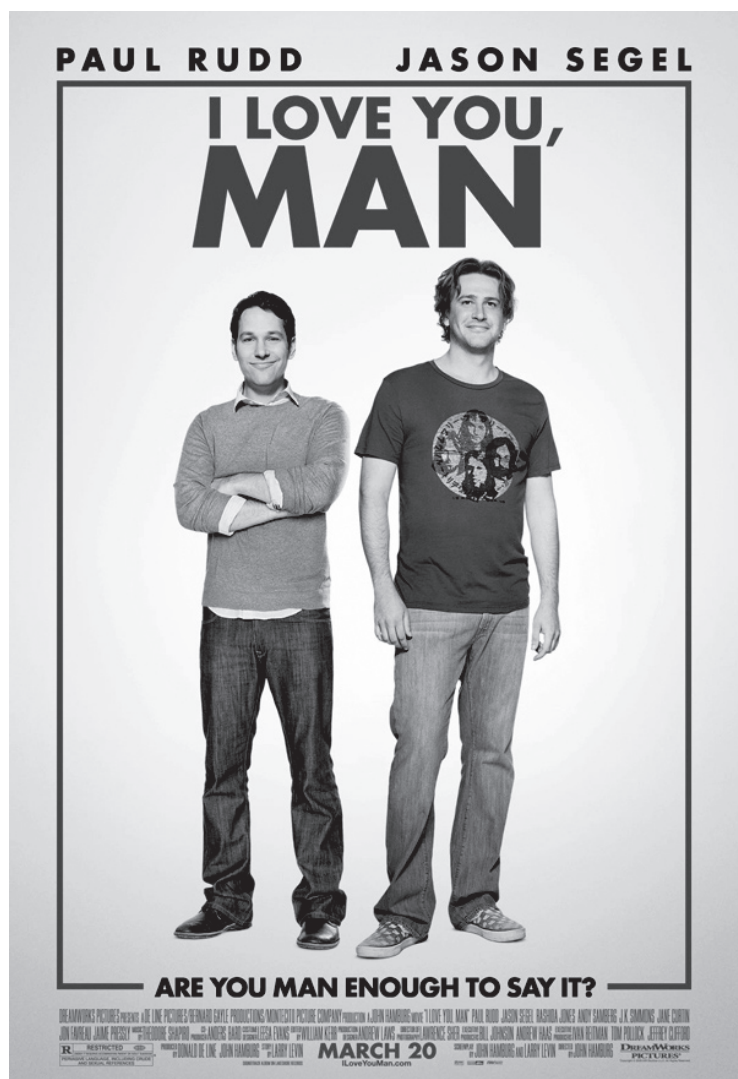
More importantly though, comedy movies are placing great emphasis and parody on this type of relationship, and making it normal to be involved with a male buddy. The recent release of “I Love You Man” demonstrates this emerging social trend.

This film reminds me of a Judd Apatow comedy, though he had no part in it. Like “I Love You, Man,” all of his tremendous comedies focus on some bromantic aspect and have the same strong basis of actors that is seen here.

“I Love You, Man” follows newly-engaged Peter Klaven, a Los Angeles real estate agent who has just come to the realization that he has no male friends. He begins a search for a new best friend who could be his best man. Peter is played by the amazing Paul Rudd (“Role Models” and “40 Year Old Virgin”) with such geeky tendencies the audience can only laugh hysterically at his embarrassing antics. His typical wisecrass antics are gone but replaced brilliantly with a nerdy understanding that makes one rethink his career.

The ongoing joke of “I Love You, Man” is that Peter is too sweet, sincere, and sensitive to indulge in typical crude male bonding rituals: vulgar sex gossip, sports talk, and caroling to Rush songs like there is no tomorrow.

This is where Sydney, played by Jason Segel (“Freaks and Geeks” and “Forgetting Sarah Marshall”), comes in to sweep Peter off his feet. Sydney is natu-



Paul Rudd and Jason Segel star in this hilarious comedy. This is their third movie together, but first with starring roles.

ral buddy material personified and the more the two hang out the more Peter sees him as a pro). spectve mate for his wedding. However, the male bonding that goes down shows just how bad Peter is at it (seriously, so wincingly funny it hurts).

Rudd’s character has such an eager desire to fit in and be accepted that he is easily a geek that you can emphasize with and root for. Sydney’s acceptance of his new best bud show the inner workings of an emerging bromance.

“I Love You, Man” is a guy-meets-guy “romantic comedy” and parodies how men have been changed by girl-power culture, seen through Peter’s great ease in relating to women but complete inability in bonding with

and guy-oriented, focusing on everything that makes and breaks a bromance.

Other comedies have also had great success with male bonding, but none like “I Love You, Man” because it intimately focuses on this once taboo relationship. In the “40 Year Old Virgin” bromance was defined and given faces: enjoying fine pornography, playing passionate poker games, rallying together to find women, smoking dope out of an apple, and joking about their borderline homosexual relationships despite being straight.

“Knocked Up” is another comedic example of the bromance trend which involves all of these aspects, along with arguing over trivial things like who is greater, Chuck Norris or Steven Segal?

Even “Pineapple Express” contains not-so-subtle male bonding situations, spending a weekend getaway in the forest together or just hanging out watching cartoons.

The film “Superbad” also falls into this bromance category as it focuses on teenage bromance relationship and all its intimate details.

The gender norm in our society discourages men from being emotional or sharing intimate feelings with other men for fear of being labeled un-masculine or homosexual. The term bromance has made men feel less homophobic about sharing their emotions with their closest male companion.

Through humor this idea has spread throughout our culture and has become widely accepted. “I Love You, Man” is a terrific film that imitates the male bonding in the tremendous Will Ferrell comedy “Step Brothers” and is just as funny and loveable. So go watch this awesome film and become inspired to forge your own bromance with a friend. Seriously, it’s okay.

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# Don't stay home!

**April**  
13th - 19th

## Monday, April 13

### Love that BOD!

Boys and girls, the summer is quickly approaching which means it's time to get that sexy bathing suit bod into shape. If you've been lackadaisical in your workout regime USM's Enhance Fitness is the program for you. Get back on schedule with this weekly fitness program at Sullivan Gym in Portland. \$10 per semester/ 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday/ Main Gym, Sullivan Complex, Portland Campus/ 780-4939

## Tuesday, April 14

### Memoir of a Boy Soldier

USM's Author Program presents former child soldier turned human rights activist, Ishmael Beah, discussing the experiences faced in his book "A Long Way Gone: Memoir of a Boy Soldier." The discussion is followed by a screening of the film "Fambul Tok" (Family Talk) and a book signing. Free/ USM, Abromson Community Education Center/ 88 Bedford Street, Portland

## Wednesday, April 15

### Transamerica

Take part in USM's Multicultural Film Forum as they screen the 2005 film, "Transamerica." Felicity Huffman gives an Oscar nominated performance as a transsexual man on the verge of a sex-change operation who becomes reacquainted with her son, to whom she must tell she is his father. Sound confusing? The film holds all the answers and much more. Light refreshments will be served. Free/ Multicultural Center, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland Campus/ Call 780-4006 for more info

## Saturday, April 18

### RACH-RACH-RACH-RACH!!

Heavy-rocker's, Disturbed, bring their "Music As A Weapon Tour" to Cumberland County Civic Center which is sure to be a sweaty, good time. The bands joining Disturbed, or should I say weapon's, are Killswitch Engage, Chimaira and Lacuna Coil. Give your neck plenty of rest the night before in order to maximize your head-banging ability. \$39.75/ 7 p.m./ Cumberland County Civic Center/ One Civic Center Square, Portland/ theciviccenter.com

## Sunday, April 19

### Reggae Fest!

Sugarloaf Mountain's 21st annual Reggae Fest is in full effect starting Thursday, April 16 and wrapping up on Sunday. There will be tons of free music to jam to indoors and outdoors plus all the warm weather skiing you can handle. Headliners include Jah Cutta and Westbound Train. There are several special ticket packages available so check out sugarloaf.com for all info regarding Reggae Fest. Don't forget to pass the dutchie to the left hand side!

## Thursday, April 16

### Ca-ress me down

Sublime will never get back together. It's an impossibility that we all must face. Don't fret though, the closest thing to seeing Sublime live, Badfish, are bringing their spot-on tribute act to Port City Music Hall. Tagging along for the fun are bands, Don't Scotty and Sidecar Radio. \$20 ADV/ \$22 Doors/ 8 p.m./ Port City Music Hall/ 504 Congress Street, Portland/ portcitymusichall.com

## Friday, April 17

### School's out forever!

Hot on the heels of Badfish, Port City Music Hall presents another spectacular tribute band, The Machine, performing as one of rock's greatest acts of all time – Pink Floyd. While rumors still swirl over a Pink Floyd reunion tour, catch the next big thing performing songs from 1960's premiere space-rock, experimental outfit. \$20 ADV/ \$22 Doors/ 8 p.m./ Port City Music Hall/ 504 Congress Street, Portland/ portcitymusichall.com



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From **RUGBY** on page 16

the major difference in the two seasons.

“Spring is the fun season. It’s a lot of fundamentals, and that’s good for players like me. But the Fall season is really competitive.”

So far Stigas is just attending practices when she can make them. She’s trying to graduate in the Media Studies department and maintain a part-time job. But this quasi-commitment is fine with the Club, she says. They understand that people have outside lives.

But how did a 25 year old just decide to pick up this heavily nuanced and extremely physical game?

Aside from boredom and a Craig’s List posting, Stigas says it was a combination of two things: exercise and camaraderie.

“I really wanted to meet people and be active. I figured this was a good way,” she says.

Stigas, who played soccer for 10 years in her youth, said that there are some similarities between the two sports.

“They’re the same in that you’re always running around and doing something,” she said.

But what about the first time she took a hit?

“Yeah. It was scary,” she says. “You’re in formations and you’re really tight together and you’re basically banging heads with one another. I’ve still got bruises from the first practice.”

Nevertheless, Stigas says that it’s rewarding to come home with a few signs of physical battle.

“It showed that I was tough,” she says with a laugh.

And as for the camaraderie end of things, there is plenty to be had. As you might expect, players are “encouraged” to partake in after-game socials at local bars that sponsor the team (Ruski’s, the Flask Lounge, Amigo’s and

the Loyal Order of the Moose).

“It’s not like we’re a bunch of drunks. We just like to celebrate after games, win or lose.” Stigas says. “It’s an important part of the club.”

But, what you might not expect, are the physical appearances of the team’s players.

“I was really surprised and I’ve even told some of the girls on the team ‘I really thought everyone here was going to be huge and strong’ but they’re not all like that. Some of the girls are big and strong, but there are some smaller girls who are just quick,” Stigas explains, making a zig-zagging motion with her hands.

The team is also a mixed bunch in terms of age. Ranging from high school girls to their mothers, and everything in between, the team is truly a hodgepodge of different demographics, who come together three times a week to take out a little aggression.

The team is led by a cohort of experienced players who used to play elsewhere. When they landed in Portland there was no rugby team. So they started one.

“There’s a good mix. There are quite a few girls who are really experienced and then there are some people like me,” Stigas says.

Asked if she’ll keep playing for a while, Stigas didn’t miss a beat.

“Yeah. Definitely. I can’t stress enough how receptive and helpful everyone has been. And they’re still recruiting people of all experience levels.”

If you’re interested in joining to ranks of Portland’s toughest set of women, check out their web page at [www.portlandrugby.webs.com](http://www.portlandrugby.webs.com). Or, if you want to see the team in action April 25 against Charles River. The game starts at 11 a.m. at Dougherty Field on Douglass Street in Portland.

## GUEST COLUMN

# Different terrain, same feeling *Skiing the Swiss Alps*

**Ben Slagle**

*Sports Intern*

Alongside an intense passion for a sport, almost always comes a sense of self-identification. When I say I’m a skier, I don’t simply mean that I enjoy sliding down hills on the snow. It means something deeper. It means that I enjoy the culture surrounding the sport, I appreciate its history, and I have let the sport permeate my concept of self-identification. Skiing feels as deeply familiar to me as the comfort of family and friends, and I consider it as much a part of who I am today as anything else in my life. This is why when I was presented an opportunity to spend some time skiing in Switzerland with close friends recently it was something I couldn’t turn down.

The European Alps are known as one of largest mountain ranges in the world. A chance to go ski them has always been a dream of mine and this trip represented a sort of personal pilgrimage to the skiing holy land. Yes, Utah might get more inches of snow annually than the alps, and yes there might be more first descents on epic untouched lines in someplace like the remote Alaskan mountain ranges, but the alps possess a certain mystique to them that is acknowledged by any skier familiar with the history of the sport. The Alps are the cradle of Modern Alpinism, as most of us know it today.

We came into the village we were staying in by train at night, so it was not until I woke up the following morning and stepped outside that I realized the sheer size of these mountains. I’ve skied out west in the Grand Tetons, which are widely recognized as some of the more gnarly skiing terrain in American, and they could not hold a candle to the landscape I found myself waking up in.

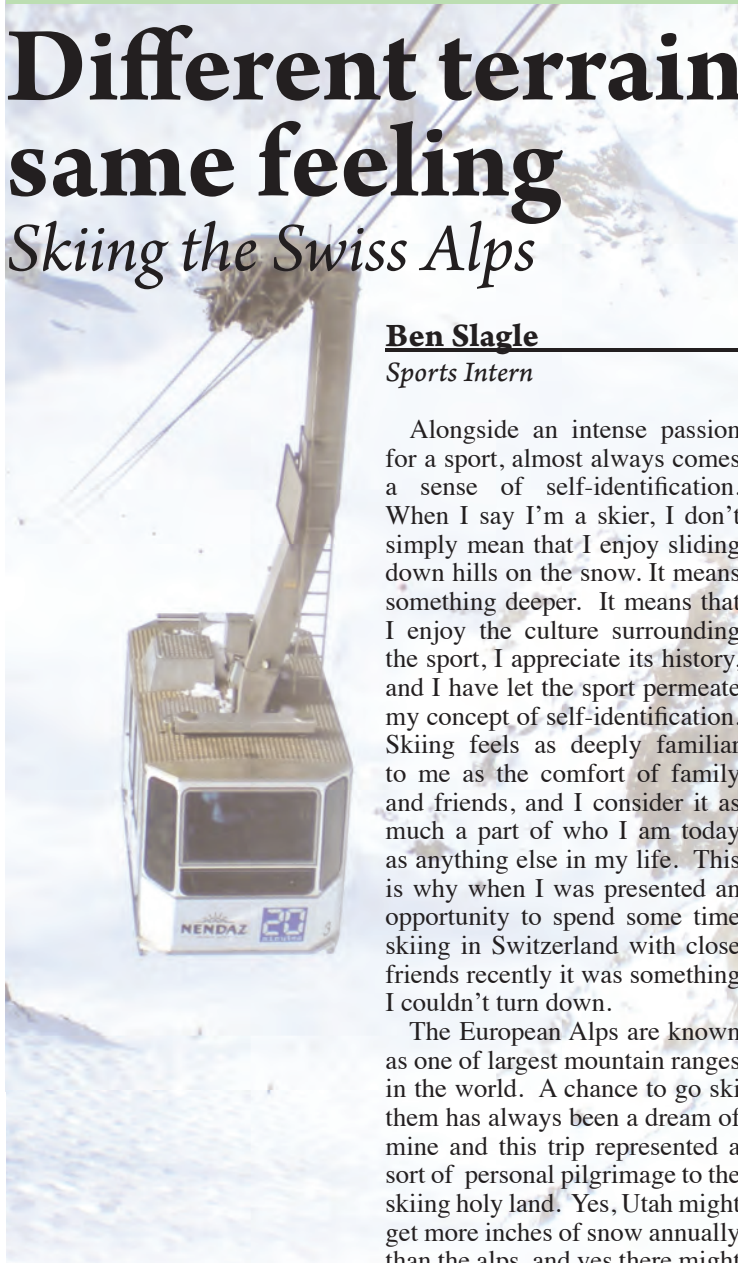
To reach the skiing village at the base of the Verbier ski resort, which spanned across four different mountain valleys, we were required to take a cable car from our small village up a mountain-side steeper than anything seen

at any ski mountains in Maine, and this was just to reach the base lodge. To reach the highest peak at Verbier, the famous Mt. Fort, was quite a task. We took a lengthy gondola up to a smaller peak, then skied down to a lodge nestled into a valley at the bottom of glacier called Tortin, elevation 6,726 feet (for comparison, Sugarloaf, Maine’s tallest ski mountain measures 4,237 feet). From Tortin we packed ourselves like upright sardines into a tramcar with ninety smelly French-speaking Europeans and continued upward. I don’t like heights, and swaying in a packed tram moving over deep valleys and steep cliff faces, I let my nerves start to get the best of me.

At 9,678 feet, we stepped off the tram at the base of Mt. Fort. I might have taken a second to think about whether I wanted to immediately get back into yet another tram that I could see docked at a station perched atop the highest mountain peak in sight. Luckily my friends continued on without considering my nerves and I silently followed. While unloading at the top of Mt. Fort, we stepped out of the tram onto steel grating that formed an expansive platform and allowed you to look down past your feet to a dauntingly steep mountain slope. I looked across the valley from us and saw the Bec des Rosses, the venue for the World Extreme Free Skiing Championships, and at this point started to become a bit dizzy.

Feeling quite intimidated and questioning the naivety of my own skiing ambitions, I made my way down the steps to the small area of snow designated for putting on skis. One of the most relieving feelings I’ve experienced followed: snapping into my ski bindings. Suddenly the nerves faded and my dizziness disappeared. The mountain did not feel as steep or intimidating as it had looked from the nauseating tram ride and I felt at home again on my skis. Then I proceeded to immensely enjoy what will likely be the most memorable skiing experience of my life.

Although I was skiing mountains so big and steep it had made me initially sick, I was still just in ski boots, on skis, skiing on snow. The familiarity and comfort I had felt with skiing for the better part of my life was still there, even in completely unfamiliar surroundings. For people who are passionate for a sport to the point where they feel it has become entwined with their identity, experiencing that familiar comfort in a scenario that is wholly unfamiliar is the experience of a lifetime. It’s an experience I wouldn’t trade for anything and it’s a sensation I can only hope I get to feel again someday.



BEN SLAGLE/ SPORTS INTERN

*A series of tram lines lead to Mt. Fort base at an elevation of over 9,000 feet. That’s twice as high as Maine’s loftiest peak, Sugarloaf. Sports writer and avid skier Ben Slagle spent some time skiing in Verbier, Switzerland. He said it’s pretty gnarly.*



## Husky Highlights

### MEN’S TENNIS

#### Men’s Tennis rolls past UMass Boston

USM’s men’s tennis team, led by a senior Derek Stevenson (Raymond) and junior Josh Warren (Hermon), blanked UMass Boston in LEC tennis action 9-0 last week. Both Stevenson and Warren picked up singles victories while grabbing a first doubles match together. Senior Matt McGown (Waterville) and junior Stefan Kelly (Biddeford) also picked up a doubles win, as did the tandem of junior Steven Lent (New Sharon, NH) and Zach Holt (North Conway).

### SOFTBALL

#### Softball splits with Colby for second win

USM softball notched their second win of the season when they split a double-header with Colby College last Sunday. The Huskies lost the first game 11-0, but rallied to defeat the Mules 3-1 in the nightcap. In the Huskies’ win, sophomore Molly Hopkins

(Augusta) raked two doubles and collected a pair of RBI, while sophomore hurler Sarah Deroche (Portland) scattered five hits over seven innings to pick up the win. The Huskies improved their record to 2-16 win the win.

### WOMEN’S LAX

#### Women’s LAX pair notch LEC honors

Junior Erica Robertson (St. Albans, VT) and sophomore Jessica Martineau (Auburn) earned weekly accolades from the Little East Conference for their efforts during the week of March 30. Robertson was cited as the conferences Defensive Player of the Week, while Martineau picked up Rookie of the Week honors. Over that three game stretch, Robertson racked up 17 ground balls and nine caused turnovers. Martineau tallied 13 goals.



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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.

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RANDOM FACT!

Green potato chips are made from potatoes that inadvertently climb above ground while growing. The "green" is a poison, but it's only dangerous to humans if ingested in heavy amounts.

For more random facts go to: [mentalfloss.com/amazingfactgenerator](http://mentalfloss.com/amazingfactgenerator)



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PUZZLES  
Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sound of distress
  - 5 Pet-protection org.
  - 10 Make a duplicate of
  - 14 Yes-\_\_\_ question
  - 15 Quiet periods
  - 16 West Coast sch.
  - 17 Penny
  - 18 Makes level
  - 19 Bring up, as children
  - 20 Company newsletter
  - 22 Conceited
  - 23 Do \_\_\_ burn (seethe)
  - 24 Superlative ending
  - 25 Repairs
  - 26 Rough-\_\_\_ (unfinished)
  - 28 Join in marriage
  - 29 Cincinnati's state
  - 32 Contributes to the mix
  - 35 Unhappy
  - 38 Home-based business
  - 41 It comes after ess
  - 42 Couldn't remember
  - 43 Little child
  - 44 Prohibit
  - 45 "Hold your horses!"
  - 47 Way to the attic
  - 50 More than moist
  - 52 Deal negotiator
  - 56 Sandwich fish
  - 57 Stay-at-home's restlessness
  - 59 Moose relatives
  - 60 Idolize

- 61 Foal's mother
- 62 1,760 yards
- 63 Continue a subscription
- 64 Betting stat
- 65 Went too fast
- 66 Secret meeting
- 67 Cluttered condition

- DOWN**
- 1 Cocoa/coffee combo
  - 2 Black-and-white cookies
  - 3 Declare void
  - 4 Mediocre
  - 5 Choir voice
  - 6 Concede defeat
  - 7 Sink stoppers
  - 8 Soccer-shoe feature
  - 9 Organization: Abbr.

- 10 Like an arc
- 11 Atlantic or Pacific
- 12 Tartan pattern
- 13 Knitter's materials
- 21 Lamb's mother
- 25 Diner list
- 27 Pioneer's vehicle
- 28 Side-to-side measure
- 29 Columbus Day mo.
- 30 Weeder's tool
- 31 Suffix meaning "resident"
- 33 Use a shovel
- 34 Winter driving quartet
- 35 Pig pen
- 36 Little Rock's state: Abbr.

- 37 Color Easter eggs
- 39 At a distance
- 40 Child actor's parent, perhaps
- 44 Not impartial
- 46 Bumbler
- 47 Originates (from)
- 48 Dutch bloom
- 49 Spot for some bracelets
- 50 Tot in a kiddie pool
- 51 Piano-key wood
- 53 Sidestep
- 54 Geeky ones
- 55 Lock of hair
- 57 Golfer's transport
- 58 Small salamander

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## GUEST COLUMN

# Bad weather can't cool down USM baseball

**Joel Neill**

*Guest Columnist*

For anyone who has grown up playing baseball in the spring in New England, they can tell you that it's not the most ideal weather for America's favorite pastime.

With ball fields covered in late winter snow and beaten up by early spring rain storms, it's difficult for the northern high school and college baseball teams to practice on their normal playing surfaces before the season kicks off. USM and other local teams have been no exception to this rule, but they seem to be coping well.

Many high school teams resort to their gyms and even parking lots to hold their pre-season practices, with some scrimmaging other high schools indoors. The USM baseball team has the luxury of the multipurpose field house on the Gorham campus which many of the players believe benefits them greatly every year in preparing for their season outside. While in the field house, coach Ed Flaherty and his squad can play games with a shortened field, which gets pitchers in shape and acclimated with throwing off a mound, and also gives the hitters a chance to face their own team's live pitching.

Another huge factor in preparing the team for the season outdoors was their three game stint in Long Island before heading out west to field-friendly Arizona, which, along with indoor facilities, has helped USM garner the success they've had thus far.

USM's home game schedule has gotten off to a slow start with the first game of the year at USM Baseball Stadium being played just last week. Considering the harsh weather from this past winter and the beginning of this spring, the USM baseball field is in excellent shape and the grounds crew is doing anything and everything they can to maintain it for the best possible playing surface for the team. USM has one of the best baseball complex's in the Little East Conference, and the staff here has put in a lot of hard work to sustain its quality.

Even though USM's field is top-notch facility, it's still can't make up for Maine's longer winter, often leaving USM waiting until early-mid April without a legitimate home field. Many Division III teams, especially teams from the southern and western parts of the country have a huge advantage as they are already outside practicing two months before the Huskies even see green grass. Nationally ranked foes like Millsaps College (Mississippi), and

Texas-Tyler had already played 10 games outside games and had numerous practices while USM was still indoors. Not many people may acknowledge it, but this is a significant advantage that warm climate schools have over their foes in colder parts of the country.

Despite not having the luxury of playing outdoors all winter, USM and other northern teams are preparing themselves well with what they have, as evidenced in the national rankings. Currently four of the top 10 teams in the country (Eastern Connecticut, Wheaton, Trinity, and USM) have to deal with practicing indoors until March and still manage to compete at the highest level in Division III baseball.

Of course, being able to play outside year round is a huge recruiting tool, but northern teams such as USM still seem to bring in talent from all over New England due to the hard work and pride of the people within their institutions. USM's perennial success is a testament to how well many northern teams prepare themselves despite their climatic disadvantages.

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## Got Experience with Children and/or Technology?

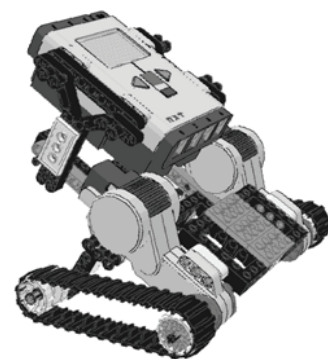
*Apply to be a Robotics camp counselor!*

Maine Robotics is a 501.c.3 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 and the position listed above is for camps that will run on the USM Gorham and USM Portland campus in conjuncture with the ASET program. This position is ideal for teachers, graduate students (education, engineering, sciences, technology) or upper level undergraduates.

## Responsibilities:

- secure camp room
- Portland and Gorham
- give short presentations
- resolve equipment problems
- Work with campers and staff
- provide mentorship for the campers.
- Responsible for day-to-day operation of the day camp.
- Experience with children and/or technology IS required.

Each camp consists of 16 campers, ages 9 to 14. Camps run July 6th to August 14th (6 weeks) plus June training in Orono.



**\$400/week**

Call 866-4340 or send resume with 3 references to

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BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

# Head-to-head

## Local rugby club offers friendly competition

**Mike Tardiff**  
Sports Editor

When Alex Stigas moved to Portland she didn't know many people, so she decided to find an activity that would get her out of the house and into the company of new friends.

Now she spends every Tuesday and Thursday doing just that. Except, instead of joining a book club or social network, she spends two nights a week banging heads with fellow Portlanders in the often misunderstood sport of rugby.

"There's only so much time you can spend in the house with

your boyfriend," Stigas says. "I needed to get out and do something."

Stigas is a member of the Portland Women's Rugby Club along with 30 fellow Mainers whose thirst for the physical has led them to what many consider the roughest and toughest game in the world.

But she's no pro.

In fact, she's just getting to know the basics, but that doesn't deter her interest one bit.

When I met with her, she was toting a spiral notebook with notes about the sport so that she'd be able to answer my questions. The notebook reminded her how many people were on the field at

once, how long the halves were and other basics of the game.

"It's a little overwhelming at first," she explains. "There's just a lot going on. It's organized, but it's organized chaos."

The Portland Rugby club is no novice organization, though. They've been around off and on since the 1970's. Right now they're back at full strength.

With practices every Tuesday and Thursday during their two main seasons, the spring and fall, the team also plays a game a week.

But Stigas is quick to point out

See **RUGBY** on page 13

Left: Women from the Portland Rugby club send a teammate into the air. The club is always recruiting new women of all abilities. Currently the team ranges from high school girls to their mothers and everywhere in between.

# Men's LAX much improved from last year

Bryant, Gilbert leading USM

Corsairs nip Huskies to gain conference edge

**Mike Tardiff**  
Sports Editor

Last year at this time the USM men's lacrosse team had mustered only two wins against eight losses. But this year has been a much different story. Led by a senior Preston Gilbert (Saco) and sophomore Tim Bryant (Peterborough, NH), the Huskies have settled to a respectable 5-5 mark on the season following Saturday's heartbreaking loss to UMass Dartmouth 9-7.

The Huskies have been much improved on the offensive end. And it shows.

Through ten games last season, USM had been outscored almost 2-to-1 (102-59). But this year, with the help of Bryant and Gilbert's prolific scoring, the Huskies have closed that offensive gap to 108-99, a drastic improvement over a year ago.

Gilbert and Bryant have been virtual carbon copies statistically, both posting impressive numbers through the early stages of the season. Gilbert has recorded 25 goals and seven assists, while his sophomore counterpart has tallied an equally impressive 24 goals and seven assists.

Collectively, the tandem has contributed to 63.6% (63-of-99 points) of the Huskies' goals this season, which means that Bryant and Gilbert alone have produced as much offense in their first ten games as the entire 2008 team.

And some of those points have been crucial.

Most recently, Gilbert netted five goals in an important 14-12-conference win over Western Connecticut. And, earlier in the season, Bryant gave the Huskies an overtime, game-winning goal against New England College in their 9-8 win.

The Huskies, currently 1-2 in Little East Conference action, will need Gilbert and Bryant to continue their offensive fireworks if they hope to make a run into the conference playoffs.

**Brian Slagle**  
Sports Intern

UMass Dartmouth put up an early two goal lead against USM in Little East Conference lacrosse action and never looked back. The Corsairs maintained their lead despite the best efforts of the Huskies to post a 9-7 victory Saturday.

The Huskies climbed to within one goal four times in the match, including the final moments of the third quarter, but couldn't get over the hump.

"We played solid defense overall, but our offense just wasn't clicking like it usually does," sophomore Chris Gassman said of the effort.

The Huskies didn't live up to their 10 goals per game average, but did allow less than their 10.8 goals against average.

The tandem of senior Preston Gilbert (Saco) and sophomore Tim Bryant (Peterborough, NH) continued to pace the Huskies, combining for five goals and two assists. Bryant scored four of those goals including three straight in the third quarter, which brought the Huskies to within a goal heading into the fourth. Gilbert added a goal and two assists.

"We had moments of brilliance," said Gassman. "But we just couldn't put it together for all four quarters."

Prior to the game, both teams sat at 1-1 in conference play. Following the contest, they switched places in standings, USM dropping to fifth in the conference.

"We look forward to a playoff opportunity to pay Dartmouth back for the great game they gave us," Gassman said.



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

Senior Preston Gilbert (Saco), left, and sophomore Tim Bryant, right, are doing yeoman's work for the USM lacrosse team. Together, the pair has combined for 49 goals in ten games. Unfortunately, the two couldn't muster enough offense to push USM past UMass Dartmouth on Saturday, as the Huskies lost 9-7.