Gorham marchers ‘take back the night’
Annual event aims to increase awareness of violence against women

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.

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.

“We will 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 for financial support.

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“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 general manager for the past four years feels that the senate hasn’t made it clear enough that representation of the future of the student organization.

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Senator John Finison

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 Santeusanio, 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 formed the International Tribune of Crimes Against Women took to the streets of Belgium with candles and rallied against violence against women.

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See BUDGET on page 4

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We should be thankful that so far there are only two coping strategies. "We are the things that we are," she said. Amato says that all of TBTN services are available to men as well. According to the group, 13 in 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 12.800 unreported 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. SARSASS supports victims, survivors, and concerned others in order to promote a safer and safer campus. This campus is a safe place where women can feel safe going out after dark," Rock said.

Rock feels that USM's Gorham campus is already a place where students can feel safe, but that there is always room for improvement. "I do it for that same reason, " Rock said. "There's this idea that we are the protector of the community not the other way around. We want to be a safe place where women can feel safe going out after dark," Rock said.

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News
The Obama Years
A Free Press political primer

Call it naval-gazing, or a juicy topic for this time of year, the story of the biggest (and smallest) names in news going belly-up is an easy headline-grabber. Nor can it be unexpected, given that the industry that tethers 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 tied itself to the ups and downs of the money-hemorrhaging medium: newspapers. It took nothing short of a dire straits for the industry to understand that they couldn’t treat the internet as an afterthought within 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. Ben Cardin, Democrat of Maryland, would allow newspapers to become tax-free nonprofits, enjoying the same off limits to income and dwindling patronage as your neighborhood church.

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

But the bad news is that democratic government could be a bit vulnerable without local media. Simon told The Guardian newspaper: "Oh, 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 reinstalled by student senate

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 of 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’s 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 after all. Marie Follayttar, student representative to the UMS board of trustees, stated the group’s charter.

“It was bad management on our part,” he told the senate. The Board of Student Organizations revoked their membership as an official USM student organization, Tetreault said.

“It was management on our part,” he told the senate. The Board of Student Organizations revoked their membership as an official USM student organization, Tetreault said.

“Maybe we didn’t spell it out loud enough,” Grennie said. “It’s definetly overwhelmingly liberal.”

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.

“At that point, it’s just me—I didn’t try to get it created and then build up a huge base. I just wanted to get it created and then build up support. So 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 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 uncertain as to whether or not the group would be able to form, Senator Alex Sargent volunteered to join the USM Student Republicans.

“Senator steps in”

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 light 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 Board of Student 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 representative to the UMS board of trustees, noted that a group technically needs to have two members.

“Meet with them several times and was never made aware of that,” Grennie said.

“I’ve had a lot of interest [in the group],” he said last Saturday. “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... 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

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“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 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.”
Money, Money, Money

Use your camera for more than just your facebook photos...

You're not the only one who's made a New Year's resolution to get your financial act together. Maybe you've pledged to pay off your student loans, or to save a little more for your rainy-day fund. Whatever your goal, you're not alone in your financial New Year's resolve.

But even if you're not actively trying to reduce your debt or increase your savings, there are still ways to make sure your money goes further. Consider these tips:

1. Pay Attention: Make sure you're paying attention to your bank statements and credit card statements. It's easy to miss charges or see fees you didn't authorize.
2. Check Your Credit: Review your credit report to make sure there are no errors or fraudulent activity.
3. Shop Smart: Look for sales and discounts, and always compare prices before making a purchase.
4. Cut Costs: Consider cutting costs by canceling subscriptions you don't use or shopping for cheaper alternatives.
5. Budget: Create a budget to help you track your expenses and see where you can cut back.

Remember, financial planning is a long-term commitment, but the rewards are worth it.
A 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. The Euphorbia polyacantha, or “pencil tree” has 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 carrion 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 biology 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.

While 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 stupid-ity”.

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.

USM has 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 flourish- ises in her absence.

“It’s just a great place to come up and get away from it all,” Farrington says.
GUEST COLUMN

Shouldn’t USM go solar electric—for free?

Michael S. Hamilton

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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 photovoltaic 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 use with 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, Sungevity.com, or 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.
I am writing in response to the letter to the editor in the March 9th Free Press by "Hour2Employees." 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 funding for work-study positions, and the cost of wages and benefits.

I wonder how many other departments are facing the same compensation costs or whether USM C&FC's deficit taken out of context can be 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 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 of the Education of Young Children. Only 70 centers in Maine are accredited and only 8 other centers 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 insurmountable. Family child care is not like choosing store-bought peanut butter.

USM C&FC has a DHHS subsidy program for Marriages and Family Scholarships that supplies financial aid to families. Parents also have the opportunity to work-study at USM for many years, again, defying the norm for the industry. This high level of work-study is due to the high cost of excellence. In fact, many of our teachers have worked at USM for over $867,000 in revenue, but that does not cover the cost of wages and benefits. 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 marriage. These are 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, 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 advocates for the repeal of same-sex marriage in California, has spent a supposed $1.5 million on airing their very anti-gay advertisements (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, and instead of a storm, the ad is captioned "the storm" being acceptance of same-sex marriage, which is what it is on everyone's body and rights (and 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 not acceptable, but so is its credibility. Advertisements for the ad were leaked and put on YouTube, and it was discovered that the so-called "success" of the ad was illogical—people who watch the ad are more likely to be anti-discrimination movement; the U.S. looks like it might be slowly emerging. Although there are always going to be hateful attempts to counter anti-discrimination movement, the U.S. looks like it might be moving in a more accepting direction, with more people who are capable of thinking 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? How 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? Apparently separated?

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莫斯
Director
USM Child and Family Centers
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. “I 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.

“I’m going with you” Mint Films’ “The Transition of Minor Skies” screens at SPACE
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 music 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 everywhere 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 seamlessly 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 the giggles.” 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 the giggles.”

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 clutter waiting 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 BritSpe 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.

Jem: The Movie

Like HanMo, JEM is the super-ego 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, legier Barbie with some seriously new-wave eye makeup. It’s my gier Barbie with some seriously 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 BritSpe 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 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.
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 get 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 slivers 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 ham bone.

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.

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 Eppard 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.

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.

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.

Another thing 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.

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Other favorites of mine on this album are "Behind, Choose Your Words Poorly", "Peas and Carrots", and "No Child Left Behind".

Epicurean Epics
by Anne McCormack

Pea soup from leftover Easter dinner

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Let’s Get Bromantic

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

Kaitlyn Creney
Staff Writer

The 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 Brady 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, starring Jason Segel, where he was to make a solo album, I find incredibly annoying). I like the voice of their bass player. If he were to make a solo album, I would probably look for that, but these people’s voices don’t complement 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 might be something that you might regret right away, but don’t let it discourage you. I promise that you will find some excellent music out there, and that music will lead you to another artist.

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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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
Transamericana
Take part in USM’s Multicultural Film Forum as they screen the 2005 film, “Transamericana.” Felicity Huffman gives an Oscar nominated performance as a transsexual man on the verge of a sex-change operation who becomes reacquainted with his son, to whom she must tell he 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

Thursday, April 16
Caress 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

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!

To Do List Before Graduating
1. Go to my campus Computer Store.
2. Get my educational discount on a new computer, software, & accessories.
3. Save money!
   Leave Happy ;)

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

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 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 has always been a dream of mine and this trip represented a sort of personal pilgrimage to the skiing holy land. Yes, Utah might have 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 still staying in by train at night, so it wasn’t until the following morning and stepping 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 America, and they could not hold a candle to the landscape I found myself waking up to. 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 a smaller peak, then skied down to a lodge nestled into a valley at the bottom of glacier called Tortin, elevation 7,626 feet (for comparison, Sugarloaf, Maine’s tallest ski mountain measures 4,237 feet). From Tortin up we packed ourselves like upright gargoyles into a tram with ninety smelly French-speaking Europeans and Americans. Then I proceeded to look down past your feet to a dauntingly steep mountain slope. I looked across the valley and saw the venue for the World Extreme Free Ski Championships, and at this point started to become a little 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 overwhelming feelings I’ve experienced followed: snapping into my ski bindings. Suddenly the nerves faded and my dizziness disappeared. The mountain didn’t 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.

MEN’S TENNIS

Husky Highlights

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) and Zach Holt (North Conway).

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.

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL

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 hit a two-run single in the seventh inning to give the Huskies a 5-4 win.

The Free Press | April 13, 2009
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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 3 6 1 9 4
 8 2 7 5 1
 9 4 3 1 6
 6 5 4 8 1
 1 2 8 9 5
 4 3 5 7 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
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 they went to field-friendly Arizona, which, along with indoor facilities, has helped USM garner the success they’ve had this far.

USM’s home game schedule has gotten off to a slow start with the first game of the season 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 a 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 (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.
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 bangning 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 totting 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 Men’s 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 that rugby is for everyone.

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

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 goals 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.

Corsairs nip Huskies to gain conference edge

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.