

# the free press

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

## Former child soldier shares ‘the reality of war’

*Ishmael Beah imparts experience and hope in rehabilitating child soldiers*



Ishmael Beah, a former child soldier in Sierra Leone, speaks about his experience and the human rights activism he has since undertaken at Hannaford Lecture Hall in Portland.

BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

## USM scrambles to shore up deficit by early May

*Pattenaude: ‘more tough decisions are coming’*

**Daniel MacLeod**

News Editor

At last Tuesday’s biennial “State of the University” address, UMaine system Chancellor Richard Pattenaude said that the University of Maine will likely layoff more employees to balance the projected four year budget deficit of \$42.8 million.

“More than 150 positions have or will be eliminated during this fiscal year though layoff notices, attrition and position eliminations,” he said in his address before a joint session of the Maine state legislature.

“I regret to say that many more will occur over the next year and beyond.”

“More tough decisions are coming,” he said. “Some of these decisions will be noisy; you will hear from some of your constituents about some of these. Please be confident that no decisions are being made casually or callously.”

Pattenaude asked for the continuing support of Maine lawmakers, but emphasised that, “we may have reached the tipping point – the point at which Maine has to decide whether it’s willing and able to make the commitment to higher education,” that many lawmakers have advocated.

Bob Caswell, USM’s executive director of public affairs says that USM does not plan to eliminate

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**Charlie Nickell**

Staff Writer

Ishmael Beah spent his early years playing soccer, listening to hip-hop and attending school in his village of Mogbwemo, Sierra Leone. But by the age of 13, he was fighting alongside other children in a bloody civil war that would claim the lives of thousands.

Last Tuesday, Beah told his story of survival to a packed house at USM’s Abromson Center as a guest speaker for the annual Douglas M. Schair Memorial Lecture on Genocide and Human Rights.

“Children were used to perpetuate violence,” Beah said. “We lost the ability to exhibit any human emotion.”

The civil war that tore the West African nation of Sierra Leone into rival factions in the early 1990’s left many youths parentless and on the run from army groups who recruited young boys to fight for them, controlling them with revenge rhetoric and combinations of powerful narcotics.

Beah’s own life changed forever as fighting broke out in his village and he was forced to flee

into the jungle, constantly on the move, trying to stay clear from the bullets that destroyed his family and friends.

“People don’t understand the reality of war,” Beah told the audience, estimated at over 1,000. “If you only see a war in the way the media presents it, you are getting a skewed view.”

Human Rights Watch, the world’s leading non-governmental research group, estimates that currently tens of thousands of children are involuntarily recruited into military service to fight in civil wars across the globe.

Beah’s effort to spread awareness has taken him across the U.S. and to parts of the globe, speaking in front of audiences to show how there is hope for former child soldiers. The popular view that child soldiers will never be able to reintegrate as functioning members of society is a myth that he has been working to disprove.

“It is possible to regain one’s humanity,” Beah said. And he is proof that it is possible to go from being a indoctrinated child sol-

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## Maine conservatives take to the streets

*Tax Day Tea Party coverage on page four*



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

A protestor holds a ‘Don’t Tread on Me’ flag while listening to a speaker at the ‘Tea Party’ protest, last Wednesday, on the Maine State Pier in Portland.

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# Student athletes get priority in registration

Policy accommodates hectic schedules

Charlie Nickell

Staff Writer

Student athletes have priority registration for the Fall '09 semester, as part of a pilot program initiated this spring.

The program allows student athletes to register for classes in advance of regular appointed scheduling so that they will have more time to focus on their studies and sports.

"When we recruit, we tell them that they can be students and they can be athletes. We want them to be successful at both arenas. But USM makes this difficult for them," said USM Athletic Director Al Bean at the Student Senate meeting last Friday.

Priority registration for athletes is not unique to USM. Many of the colleges and universities in the Little East Conference allow athletes to register ahead of regular students.

"Early registration privileges for athletes actually exist at a significant amount of institutions around the country," said Bean.

The pilot program has run into some criticism from students. Senator Morgan DeBlois said, "Being a student is the priority. The athlete chooses to participate

in the extra curricular activities. It is their choice, and their responsibility to make sure they can make their schedule so they can make class."

"Tuition is the same for all students," Secretary Julie Brewer said. "They deserve equal chances to get into a class that is filling up."

Though the pilot faced some criticism at the Senate meeting, many senators showed support for the initiative.

"It is important to serve our athletes because we want to make sure our university is marketable to future athletes looking to attend USM," said Public Relations Chair Maggie Guzman.

According to Bean, the percentage of athletes who are also full time students is between 9-10%. 325 student athletes are considered in the pool, and so far 178 students have actually completed the process.

"We promote athletics and student life," Senator Rose Winegarden said, "I think it is very important for people to also succeed outside the classroom. The athletes are giving back to the school, so we should give back to them."

Additional reporting by Chanel Smith

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any positions this fiscal year – a pronouncement first made by President Selma Botman when she announced USM's 2010 budget deficit in February.

"What Selma said still holds true," Caswell said. "There will be no more layoffs for the rest of fiscal year 2009." USM's fiscal year 2009 ends on June 31.

The university administration is currently in the process of identifying exactly where to make cuts, or boost revenues – a difficult task given that some necessary information is not yet available.

"The state budget hasn't been finalized, we don't have our enrollment figures, we don't know what the tuition increase will be," Caswell said.

"Based on the best information available right now, we're projecting that USM's expenses [for fiscal year 2010] are exceeding revenues by more than \$4 million. People ought to bear in mind that that's a projected figure. It's going to change several times before all is said and done," he said.

College deans, program directors, vice presidents and other budget managers are currently

examining their own programs to identify areas that can either yield more revenue, or sustain budgetary cuts.

"Those proposals are going to...start to be evaluated in a few days to make sure that they will be able to produce the needed savings for 2010," Caswell says. Some of these proposals may be modified or rejected.

The final results of this process will be shared with the community in early May, around the same time that the UMaine system requires all 7 colleges to present their balanced budgets for fiscal year 2010.

Caswell admits that slashing \$4 million from a budget that has already sustained significant cuts is a daunting task – especially since it must be done in less than a month. He says that a deficit of this magnitude requires bolder action than simply trimming department budgets.

"Clearly, \$4 million in cuts will necessitate renewed efforts to balance the size of the workforce within the constraints of the budget," he said.

"The question that is on everybody's mind is, how many positions are we going to have to eliminate? The short answer is: we don't know yet."

# Join the service

AmeriCorps volunteers help USMers get involved off-campus

David O'Donnell

Staff Writer

USM should be "indispensable to the community in which it sits."

That line has been a staple in speeches by President Botman regarding her plans to restructure the university over the next several years. But it could just as easily serve as the motto for a foursome whose time on campus is dedicated to forging stronger ties between Huskies and the un-enrolled.

They're not students. They're not staff. But they're impressed with what they've seen so far.

"This school has some of the busiest students I've ever met, and it's amazing," says Amanda Vickerson, a Colby graduate. "A lot of them have three jobs, some have families, and then so many still find time to do community service work."

Vickerson is one of four AmeriCorps VISTAs - Volunteers in Service to America - who operate out of the renovated white farmhouse shared by USM's interfaith chaplaincy on the Portland campus. It was chaplain Andrea Thompson McCall who established the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement in 2006.

"I'm just here to offer guid-

ance and support," says McCall, who coaches VISTAs in their pet projects while helping bring in faculty and students who might integrate class work with volunteer work.

AmeriCorps was founded through legislation signed by President Clinton in 1993, and envisioned as a domestically focused version of the Peace Corps.

But the VISTA program has been around much longer, beginning as an arm of Peace Corps itself back in 1965.

"It's about 80% capacity-building," says McCall. Whereas the majority of AmeriCorps volunteers would be deployed for hands-on service, VISTAs are charged with actually expanding and overseeing volunteerism.

"We're matchmakers. We're Yenta in Fiddler on the Roof," says Michael Wilson, who has been stationed at USM longer than anybody else in the current crop, going back to fall of 2007. "We make ourselves aware and network as well as we can."

Wilson, a Bates alumnus, spends much of his time working with organizations that serve neighborhoods – such as the west-end Portland group formerly known as Portland West, recently re-branded as Learning Works, which specializes in help-

ing at-risk youth and low-income families, particularly through educational services.

Vickerson, for her part, has been charged with bolstering USM's student mentoring program since she arrived last July.

"When I got here, I had to figure out how mentoring was happening at USM," she recalls. "And I found that the program, as it was, was great – just not sustainable."

Thus began months of research and outreach that last fall yielded a substantial grant, and a shot at replicating her alma maters' own successful program, Colby Cares About Kids, which allows college students to act as tutors and role models for selected area middle schoolers.

And Vickerson's research only continues from there.

"We can pick which outcomes to track – absenteeism, grade point average, self-esteem – as many as we want," she says. "And we get to define, as part of statewide effort, how mentoring really impacts the well-being of these kids."

Mentoring is something of a motif in the VISTAs' work. Alicia Sampson started at the same time as Vickerson, though she often finds herself in slightly more hands-on roles in isolated

See **SERVICE** on page 4



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# Tax day tea party draws 'irate minority'

## Crowd assembles on state pier to protest stimulus package, deficit spending

**Daniel MacLeod**

News Editor

On tax-day last week, several hundred people holding signs on the Maine State Pier watched as Fred Staples opened a box wrapped with brown paper and string.

"This is the federal stimulus package," he said, as he reached into the box and pulled out a length of rusty chain, the crowd erupting in approval.

"This is the 'chains' you can believe in."

On April 15, 750 groups across the country held "Tax-day Tea Parties" protesting governmental spending and what attendees deemed excessive taxation.

The protests were aimed at President Obama's \$787 billion federal stimulus package and \$3.5 trillion federal budget, expenditures that were mocked at the Portland event with signs reading: "stop making me pay for the irresponsible," and "social programs are not a career choice-I work for a living."

Staples, the executive director of Maine Taxpayer's United and an organizer of last week's Tea Party, held to the long-running conservative viewpoint that the federal government should stay out of the affairs of private enterprise, and spend as little as possible.

"The stimulus was the straw that broke the proverbial camel's back... government has gotten too big, too intrusive, too expensive," he said.

**From SERVICE on page 3**

projects. One recent venture had her working alongside the Somali Student Association to improve the ability of local High Schools' to prepare immigrants for the transition to college.

"They did the legwork, and identified a gap where those students weren't getting the support they needed to make them desirable to universities," says Sampson. "And I helped them to connect with the right facilities."

It's one of several projects she's embarked on with the help of USM's multicultural center and faculty such as political science professor Lynn Kuzma, focusing on collaboration with Portland's sizable immigrant population. A previous program teamed her with members of the Sudanese Fur tribe to raise awareness about the genocide in Darfur that has driven so many refugees to Maine.

As the recession drags on, the VISTAs have found economic trouble to be a mixed blessing to their work. On one hand, the need for public service and volunteers has expanded, leading to a surplus of organizations that seek the office's help in connecting with students who would like to help out in the community - perhaps to the benefit of their educational goals.

On the other hand, USM is in the midst of a spending freeze. It

Una Connors, a retiree from Brunswick who attended the rally wearing tea bags as earrings, said that the burden on the next generations of taxpayers was a prime cause for her presence at the tea party.

"We're talking about 3-4 generations after me who are going to be paying for this huge stimulus bill," she said.

Concern over the next generation's share of repaying the federal deficit was a major concern among those who attended. One protestor held up a sign featuring a large photo of a young girl in a pink dress, the slogan below it reading, "Obama- Thanks for ruining her future."

Despite the anxiety over 'generational theft,' relatively few protestors at last week's rally were representative of future generations of taxpayers. By one speaker's estimation, the average age of those in attendance was 40.

"There weren't a lot of college students there," Staples said last Friday.

The reason for a lack of young people is simple, he says: they don't pay enough taxes yet.

"College students generally are not in the workforce and haven't experienced the oppressive taxation yet," he said.

According to Connors, younger people have never been that involved in discussions about tax policy.

"Young people concern themselves with a lot of other things besides politics; it's just the way it is. They're trying to establish themselves, grow, and the VISTA presence grows wholly supported by AmeriCorps, and that organization has plenty of support in Washington at the moment."

The newest recruit, Janice Tong, came to USM in February, and spends most of her time poring over data from oversight of mentoring and other programs. And coming from China, she's still taken aback by the work - and the notion of AmeriCorps itself.

"I feel like in American culture, community engagement is very big," says Tong. "In China, it's not something that's promoted in our culture - and to consider it part of citizenship, I didn't learn that until I came here."

Last month, Democratic Senator Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts made a rare appearance at the capitol - in the midst of his battle against brain cancer - to introduce the Serve America Act, which seeks to more than triple the amount of AmeriCorps volunteers. The bill has passed both chambers and awaits President Obama's signature.

"It's a great time to be a VISTA," says Wilson.



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

Protestors hold signs during a 'Tea Party' protest on Tax Day which was held on the Maine State Pier in Portland.

"I wasn't [involved] when I was young, it was just background noise."

Kyle Hodgkins, a Junior Business Administration major at USM, was one of the few college-aged attendees.

"I wanted to come down to this event to show my disapproval of the current taxes of the Obama administration," he said. "America wasn't founded upon the fact that you can be taxed. It was founded on free market principles."

Although the event borrowed the name of the original Boston Tea Party, last week's event lacked the fervor of the infamous 1773 uprising against British colonial taxation. Tea bags were worn as jewelry, not dumped in mass quantities in Casco Bay.

"We're more civilized now," said Connors.

"The type of people who come out aren't the 'rough' type, they are a lot mellowier," said 18-year-old Portland resident Matthew Scribner.

One of the speakers at the rally, Ray Richardson, a talk show host for WLOB, said that the event was not about demonstrating anger.

"The Press Herald called it an angry mob," he said, referring to Bill Nemitz's column on April 14, which referred to the Tea Party as

a "full-blown temper-tantrum."

"I haven't heard anger, I've heard concern," Richardson said.

Richardson told the crowd that being angry at Obama's policies isn't the way to enact change.

"President Obama has not lied to us... he said what he was, and he is what he is," he said.

According to Richardson, the way for conservatives to get involved and make a change is to start at the grassroots level.

"All politics is local," he said.

"If we can't win the little battles, we're not going to win the big battles... let's get 'em."

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# Health insurance debate comes to USM

## Nursing students discuss problems of health care coverage at symposium

**Abigail Cuffey**

Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, the problem of health care coverage in the U.S. was debated at the Woodbury Campus Center by USM graduate nursing students as part of National Public Health Week. Nursing and non-nursing students, professors, health care providers and members of the public were all in attendance.

The forum, “45.7 Million: Can and Should America Cover the Uninsured?” was lead by three panelists, USM Muskie School of Public Service professors, Deborah Deatrack and Elizabeth Kilbreth, and Douglas Clopp, of Consumers for Affordable Health Care (CAFC).

In 2006, the Federal Government estimated that 47 million Americans lacked health insurance. Among those, nearly 20 percent were children, and a disproportionate number of minority groups. Citing high medical costs, about 1.5 million families will lose their homes to foreclosure each year.

Bankruptcy is also a leading factor in the health care issue. One study found that 50 percent of all filings were partly the result of medical expenses. Every 30 seconds someone in the U.S. files for bankruptcy after a serious health problem.

“We need to curb the rate of growth of health care spending at a slow rate, otherwise it’s not sustainable,” said Kilbreth. Comparing differing health care plans in countries like Germany and the Netherlands, Kilbreth says that their alternative plans are based on multiple insurers.

“Before President Obama, universal health care was non-existent,” Kilbreth said speaking about discussion of coverage for all Americans.

The second speaker was Douglas Clopp, from CAHC, a program that was founded 20 years ago aimed at providing coverage to everyone in Maine.

“Maine is one of a handful of states that has managed to cover 90% of residents,” said Clopp on the increased efforts in Maine.

According to Clopp, 17 percent of the United States’ Gross Domestic Product is spent on health care. He suggests that the current plan lacks transparency, and questions: where are our dollars going?

“10,000 Americans die because they lack access to medical care,” he said. If and when they do seek medical care, it’s either too late or too costly.

Total spending for health care in 2007 was \$2.4 trillion, or \$7,900 per person. The U.S. spends more on health care than any other industrialized nation, and those countries provide health insurance to all citizens. Proposed reasons for this are the high cost of health insurance, having a job that does not guarantee access to insurance, and employment-based health insurance. According to the World Health Organization, the United States is ranked #37 out of 191 countries in terms of health care.

“Health care costs are going through the roof, and many people are looking to Obama to answer their questions,” said Clopp. He projected that we need health care coverage to match the money we’re putting in, in order for the plan to sustain.

CAHC is also part of Maine Voices for Coverage, a statewide campaign to bring the views of “everyday people” to policy makers, to ensure that all Mainers have access to health care.

Clopp briefly exchanged views on Dirigo Health, which offers health benefits to eligible indi-



ILLUSTRATION BY

RANDY HAZELTON / PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

viduals, particularly the self-employed and small businesses (2-50 employees) in Maine.

Deborah Deatrack rounded out the forum with a discussion on preventing high health care costs.

According to Deatrack, the three main factors determining how healthy someone is are income/economic status, education, and biology/genetics. Although 17 percent of national spending that goes towards health care, Deatrack says only 2 percent of that goes towards prevention.

Deatrack emphasized that one of the biggest issues facing our nation today is a disproportionate use of emergency rooms. With none or limited street and rural clinics, patients often turn to emergency rooms for a quick fix.

The majority of people who use emergency rooms are five year-olds and the elderly, 65 years and older, for nonspecific symptoms, she says.

One program that is working to help offset the health care problem is CarePartners, which gives health care to roughly 10,000 Mainers. Through this program, doctors provide service to 10 individuals for free. CarePartners offers regular checkups and care, affordable prescription medication, lab, x-ray, and hospital services at no cost, and referrals to other services and resources. “They provide free and low lost medication through the goodwill of providers,” says Deatrack.

Another problem is that people don’t understand their health care plan; they need to know what’s

included and excluded. Mistakes can happen, says Deatrack. The solution? “It’s a simple thing to do,” she says. “Read the bill.”

During the question and answer period at the end of the event, one audience member asked, “what happens after 8 o’clock when CVS closes?” To prevent unnecessary visits to the emergency room, Deatrack says that nursing triage call systems should be in place, since “private practice physicians are a vanishing breed.”

According to Kilbreth, nurses can make a difference by taking health care where the people are. “We need to band together and use the power of teamwork,” she said.



## POLICE LOG

### ‘One toke over the line’

April 14, 7:52 pm

Officer responded to report of marijuana odor in Robie Andrews Hall but was unable to determine where odor came from.

### ‘Last Dance With Mary Jane’

April 11, 12:19 pm

Campus police assisted Gorham PD in locating a subject with bail conditions involved in a large party. Subject was located in Philippi Hall and issued a summons for possession of drug paraphernalia. Police also took possession of a paintball gun for safekeeping.

### ‘Rainy Day Women #12 & 35’

April 9, 11:49 pm

Complaint of marijuana odor in Wood Hall. Officers responded and checked the area but nothing found.

### ‘Because I Got High’

April 9, 11:07 pm

A vehicle was stopped in front of Dickey Hall and given a verbal warning for registration and headlight out. Odor of marijuana was detected and a vehicle search was conducted. Summons issued to the vehicle operator for: 1) Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, 2) Illegal Transportation of Drugs, 3) Illegal Transportation of

Alcohol, 4) Trafficking in Dangerous Knives. All items were confiscated.

### ‘Don’t Bogart Me’

April 7, 1:02 pm

An employee found a baggie containing a green leafy substance in Payson Smith Hall. Officer took possession and contents were destroyed.

### ‘Reefer Madness’

April 5, 10:58 pm

Complaint of odor of marijuana in Upton Hastings Hall. The RA and RD knocked on the door and no odor was detected - the call was canceled.

### From SOLDIER on page 1

dier, to having a normal, happy life.

His 2007 memoir, “A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Child Soldier,” details his harrowing experience of being torn from his family, his escape into the jungle, and his forced integration into the government army.

After being rescued by UNICEF at 16, Beah moved to the U.S. in 1998, finishing his last two years of high school in NYC at the United Nations International School. He graduated from Oberlin College in 2004 and currently lives in New York.

Seven years have passed since the civil war in Sierra Leone ended, yet the effects are still having a dramatic impact on how the country functions. Libby Hoffman, founder and president of Catalyst for Peace, a Portland, ME based foundation that identifies and supports

community based peace building around the world, introduced the film “Fambul Tok” – Creole for ‘family talk,’ which was shown after Beah spoke.

The film, still in rough-cut, focuses on the work that’s currently being done in Sierra Leone, bringing victims and perpetrators of the war together to reconcile and reunite.

“The idea that there is nothing that can be done for child soldiers is a misconception,” Beah said. “We are not a lost generation.”

More information about Beah and his memoir can be found at: [www.alongwaygone.com](http://www.alongwaygone.com)

To find out more facts about child soldiers in the world, check out the Human Rights Watch web site: [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)

Catalyst for Peace web site: [www.catalystforpeace.org](http://www.catalystforpeace.org)



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PERSPECTIVES

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Crashing the tea party

*Liberal media provokes Maine's conservative minority*

Around the Free Press office, terms like “uncertain economic times” and “excruciating decisions” have been popping up with such startling frequency that we started to keep a list of these and other economy related clichés on the white board in our production room.

Covering the financial distress of a state-funded university can leave one feeling awash in a wave of PR buzzwords sometimes, but there is no denying the murky future that lies in front of us.

The job market doesn't look much better. A job fair a few weeks ago at an Arizona Target store saw thousands turn up in hopes of landing any sort of steady employment, even at a relatively low-paying big box retailer.

So what do you do when the economy is a smoldering shadow of it's former self? Well, bust out the teabags, scrawl some catchy slogans on poster board, and take to the streets of Portland, naturally. At least, that seemed to be the mindset at last week's “Tax Day Tea Party,” a nationwide demonstration that – at the encouragement of conservative radio and talk show hosts - drew around a quarter million people out in opposition to the Obama Administration's tactics for combating the faltering economy.

I should also mention that a far more objective and newsy account of this same event written by our news editor can be found on page four of this issue.

Let me begin this account of my experience among the teabag-festooned demonstrators by making something clear; this is not meant as an attack on the political right. More than anything I admire these folks for putting on such a public exhibition of their discontent in this most unwelcoming (read: liberal) of settings.

However, this event, and all the

media hoopla leading up to it, made me annoyingly aware of a sad truth in our modern practice of political discourse. Too often, it seems, people fervently fight along arbitrary lines, as opposed to submitting to an open discourse on the issues at hand.

This practice that boils down what should be a serious and frank discussion about our nation's anemic economy into a three-ring, mud slinging motto-fest of silly protests signs and intolerance.

Tuesday's edition of the Press Herald featured a column by Bill Nemitz previewing the tax-day demonstration that embodied this brand of intolerant rhetoric as succinctly as any of the home-made posters depicting a Hitler-stached Obama flown by the conservative crew.

In his column “The mad Republicans' tea party?” Nemitz characterizes the protest as a “full-blown temper tantrum” of the right, and proceeds to systematically defame each of the conservative speakers set to take the stage the next day.

The article, which ends with the implication that Maine's Republican's are “going off the deep end” was cited during the tea party by WLOB talk show host Ray Richardson, giving the conservative corps just the ammunition they needed to victimize themselves, and further divide the public opinion.

Nemitz's preemptive attack had all the subtly of a sledgehammer – in a city as overwhelmingly liberal as Portland, do well-respected columnists really need to be quashing conservative dissent so aggressively?

It's not as if the liberal majority of the state can justifiably feel threatened by a crowd of 250 – our way of life is not in danger from a group of teabag-wielding demonstrators, so why not just let the people have their day?

Of course a passionate conservative is going to feel slightly peeved on

April 15th. As proponents of limited government and free-market economics, sending away a sizeable chunk of their income to support the social and economic policies of a distinctly liberal government must be a difficult exercise.

The U.S. tax system is an understandable bone of contention within the conservative camp, but through characterizing their outrage as “entertaining,” and quoting only the most accusatory and intolerant sound bites from the event's speakers, the columnist dropped a firebomb when an olive branch might have been more fitting.

This Fox News vs. MSNBC culture we find ourselves steeped in has us all believing that there are only two sides to an issue, and no room for anything in between. When a conservative minority is brave enough to speak up and voice its displeasure, do we really need to actively discredit their cause, and go on the offensive?

Sure, this tactic has become somewhat commonplace, with actions and reactions scrawled all over the internet, broadcast on the 24-hour news networks, and spewed from countless talking heads.

As fun and entertaining as this debate can sometimes be, it packs a hidden toll not often recognized: dividing a country that –especially now – needs to stand together to weather a time of unprecedented challenges.

Thanks for reading,

Matt Dodge

Curb My Enthusiasm

*Seinfeld cast to make cameos in new season*

Dave Murphy

Contributing Writer

It's difficult to not be enthusiastic while waiting for the seventh and final season of “Curb Your Enthusiasm.” I find myself scouring discussion boards for hints on what to expect; but no dice. It's been kept so top secret that Shelby Woo would need to team up with Harriet the Spy to find out some sort of plot line for this season.

However, when I was about to call it quits and just wait for the season to begin like every other loyal HBO subscriber, I stumbled upon something amazing. It's something that's kept me awake night after night thinking about the hilarious possibilities that could ensue. Entertainment Weekly reported that the “Seinfeld” cast--Jerry Seinfeld, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Jason Alexander, and Michael Richards--will be featured in a multiple-episode story arc on HBO's “Curb Your Enthusiasm” this fall.” The cameos will mark the first time that all four actors have appeared together in a TV show since “Seinfeld” went off the air almost 11 years ago. After I found out the news I called my dad who's also an avid lover of the show;

“Dad you won't believe it! The entire

Seinfeld cast is going to be on the new Curb!”

“David, I've known that for a week.” “A week? What? Why wouldn't you tell me this?”

“Because I didn't want you to know that I've been reading Entertainment Weekly.”

Throughout the past 6 seasons of Curb, Julia Louis-Dreyfus has appeared in 4 episodes and Jason Alexander has appeared in 2. Jerry Seinfeld even appeared very briefly in the season 4 finale, but had no dialogue. Michael Richards has not been on the show. Richards' appearance on Curb will be his first on screen performance since his 7 episode flop, “The Michael Richards Show” in 2000. I'm curious to see how people react to him after his controversial outburst at The Laugh Factory in Los Angeles.

Combining the “Seinfeld” cast with “Curb Your Enthusiasm” cast is like combining the best peanut butter in the world with the best jelly in the world. It's like Palmer vs. Nicklaus at Augusta. And I'm assuming it's what graduating from Harvard med feels like. Mark my words; this will be comedy at its finest. Forget “The Office” (unless it's the British one), forget “Scrubs”

(which shouldn't be hard to do), and forget the once promising “Flight of the Conchords,” because television comedy relies solely on two words; Larry David.

He's the genius behind both “Seinfeld” and “Curb Your Enthusiasm.” He made about 200 million dollars alone when he sold the syndication rights to “Seinfeld.” If you don't watch Curb, the show is basically about Larry David's life post-“Seinfeld.” He plays himself, alongside a tremendous cast including Jeff Garlin, Cheryl Hines, Richard Lewis, Ted Danson, Susie Essman and Wanda Sykes. If you aren't a big fan of “Seinfeld” don't fret. This show is shot very different. There is no laugh track, and most incredibly, no script. The show is almost all improvisation. David writes a loose story line that sets up the plot, and then when the red light goes on, he just wings it. What it creates is 30 minutes of hilarity.

Granted, it will be difficult to top 6 incredible seasons, but if there's anyone that can do it, it's David. So keep your ears and eyes open for the new season of “Curb Your Enthusiasm” to air, probably sometime this fall.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Want to be heard?  
Write a letter to the editor.  
E-mail our  
executive editor,  
Matt Dodge  
at  
[mdodge18@gmail.com](mailto:mdodge18@gmail.com)**

**or go to our website**

**[usmfreepress.org](http://usmfreepress.org)**

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

## Honor society selection

As President of Pi Sigma Alpha, I look forward to each spring. Not only does it mean the end of the oppressive and long winter, but it also signals our annual induction ceremony. For those of you who don't know, Pi Sigma Alpha (PSA) is the only honor society for college students of political science and government in the United States. PSA is a member of an Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS), designed as a “specialized, upper-division society” by the ACHS. USM is home to the Psi Xi chapter, and is one of three chapters in the state. Membership and qualifications vary by chapter, and since our inception in the year 2000, we have not missed an induction ceremony.

That is, until this year.

You can imagine my surprise when I walked into the political science department a few weeks ago and was informed by my faculty advisor that we wouldn't be having a ceremony this spring, due to a computer glitch. In years prior, the mechanism for determining the eligibility for students was as simple as consulting Web DSIS. DSIS would print out a list of students that had taken at least 10 credits in political science, maintained a grade of a “B” or higher in those courses, and had received good standing within the upper third of their class. That same computer system also audits students' degrees as they approach graduation, including students within the law and public policy schools.

The University of Maine System (UMS) switched from DSIS to Mainestreet, which is essentially a new name for Peoplesoft, a frighteningly similar version of Mainestreet that UMS has had difficulties with for the past ten years. However, changing the name did not mean a departure from those same problems they encountered originally. A source within the administration informed me that Mainestreet was originally designed to be an “off the shelf” software package, designed for a broad range of educational institutions that required little maintenance or customization when implemented. This was not the case. UMS ultimately employed full-time consultants to tackle different parts of the system upon its inception, and they are still working on it. Meanwhile, Peoplesoft not only ended up being sold to a third party, but its production ceased. Despite their contractual obligations, the new company does not seem to be willing to service the product, or spend any time or resources to fix it. Other schools that bought the system encountered the same problems and have since abandoned it.

The same process that DSIS applied in determining eligibility requirements for honor societies on campus (not just PSA, I'm told) did not comprehensibly transition to Mainestreet. Students enrolled in the University prior to the transition effectively have two transcripts, making the auditing process a time consuming and costly process. I suspect that this is one reason they are not being helpful in assisting our organization to induct

new members. Numerous calls placed to the registrars office and the IT department have heralded no results. So begs the question, can they do anything about the problem, or are they just not willing to help? Worst of all, I do not see the possibility of the school fixing the problem at any time in the distant future.

Pi Sigma Alpha's induction ceremony is typically held in the last few weeks of April. We need ample time to generate lists of eligible inductees, send them information, send their information to headquarters in DC, and then receive their certificates. Because the society is not limited to just political science majors, it is not as simple as laboriously sifting through the thousands of possible applicants in time for the ceremony. As President, I feel tremendously responsible for the inability to recognize the people that have worked hard to get the recognition they deserve. Pi Sigma Alpha is a prestigious honor society that is not easy to join, and there are candidates on campus that deserve to be a part of this prestigious honor society.

As a graduating senior, I will not be around to see if the problem gets fixed, and I fear that without new members, Pi Sigma Alpha won't be either. Although President Botman has just been elected to inherit this mess, she needs to be informed that these seemingly small ‘glitches’ cannot not be tolerated. If the University spends money purchasing software that doesn't work, accountability must be determined, or it will cost them much more in the long run. After all, if you were a graduating senior looking to study at a four year college, would you choose a school that recognized your scholastic accomplishments, or decide to attend a school where computer glitches hinder those achievements?

signed,

*Eric C Talbot*  
President

*Jennifer Willard*  
Vice President

# Maine legislature fails to pass gun law

## On 10th anniversary of Columbine shootings, what have we learned?

**Jacob Cowan**  
Staff Writer

Some anniversaries can't be celebrated. Monday, April 20 is one of these days. It marks the tenth anniversary of the Columbine shootings. Last week, April 16, was the two year anniversary of the Virginia Tech massacre. These highly publicized tragedies have spurred change around the country, but how has Maine been affected?

Because of these harrowing events, the city of Portland has taken initiative and declared April, “Gun Violence Prevention Month.” According to the resolution - which passed on March 2 - 30,000 Americans die each year due to gun violence. In Maine, suicide is the second leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds. An average 21 people in Maine die by their own hand. Of those who attempt suicide with a gun, 78-90 percent end in a fatality.

Recently, Portland has been affected by the loss of James Angelo, a security guard at Mercy

Hospital who was shot on duty. Hundreds of people marched towards Monument Square for a candle light vigil in remembrance of Angelo and in hopes that this type of mindless violence ceases. Although Maine is making improvements in awareness, they recently took a step back.

Last week, the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee of the Maine Legislature failed to abolish a ridiculous loophole in the selling of fire arms at gun shows. This loophole allows private arms dealers to sell guns to anyone and everyone without performing an instant background check. Licensed dealers must perform background checks before distributing guns to their customers. It is this same loophole that the murderers from Columbine took advantage of when planning their attacks. Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold sought out private dealers at a Colorado gun show in order to purchase the weapons used during the shootings.

Tom Mauser, father of Daniel Mauser, victim of the Columbine shootings, flew to Maine to plead with government officials to

end this deadly loophole just as Colorado, Oregon, and Florida have.

Mauser has become one of the nation's leading voices in gun violence prevention by traveling throughout America; sharing the anguish he felt after his son's death and his hopes of preventing other families from experiencing the pain of losing a loved one from gun violence. But not even his plead before the hearing could alter Maine's Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee decision to uphold this dangerous technicality.

Supporters of the loophole believe it's eradication would be an attack on the Second Amendment; the right to bear arms. In actuality, closing the loophole would prevent attacks such as Columbine and Virginia Tech from, by prohibiting those with criminal records from purchasing guns freely. There is a major difference between protecting one's right to bear arms and protecting our friends and family.

Maine Citizens Against Handgun Violence (MCAHV) - the state's leading organization

for the prevention of handgun violence and parent organization to USM's Maine Students Against Handgun Violence - was disappointed by the state's decision, but not entirely surprised. According to Bonnie Blythe of MCAHV, the National Rifle Association (NRA) has a stronghold on Maine's politicians.

“Until many more of us make this a priority and put pressure on these people (like the gun lobby does) not much will change in terms of common sense gun policies,” she says.

It is a shame that Maine did not take advantage of this opportunity to enact change and remove an obvious loophole that has enabled the deaths of so many.

It's astonishing how Maine's legislature chooses ignorance over safety. What will happen before this obvious discrepancy in the judicial system changes? Another Columbine? Maine's Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee have decided to play the “that could never happen to us” game. American pride gets in the way of making rational life saving decisions. Citizens of the

U.S. still obtain their right to bear arms. But where in the constitution does it say that Americans are permitted to abuse this amendment for the enjoyment of trigger-happy sociopaths? It is a shame that Maine had the chance to make a difference and become a positive influence in the reform of gun laws that currently assist in killing sprees.

In honor and remembrance of the Columbine shootings, Maine Students Against Handgun Violence will be screening “Bowling for Columbine” in the Brooks Student Center on Monday, April 20 from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Michael Moore's 2002 film still holds uncanny relevance seven years later. It is a poignant documentation of the faults that plague our gun-obsessed society and the dangers of continuing on this path. Come show your support, and if you'd like, share a story of how gun violence has affected your life.

Visit [mcahv.org](http://mcahv.org) for information on upcoming events and how you can help in preventing handgun violence.



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Showing off their stuff

*B.F.A. exhibit displays work of 15 graduating art majors*

**Danica Koenig**

*Arts & Entertainment Editor*

A question many college grads ask themselves is: four years in college and what do I have to show for it (besides loans)? The graduating studio art majors get a chance to show the public what exactly they have to show for college at the B.F.A. exhibit at USM's art gallery in Gorham.

There is a wide range of art major concentrations on display,

including ceramics, digital art, drawing, painting, printmaking, photography and sculpture.

There was a reception to mark the opening of the exhibit on Friday, April 17th from 6-8 p.m. The artists got a chance to represent their work at the gallery while the public, family and friends had a look at their art.

The range of concentrations makes the exhibit very diverse with many different

mediums. There is everything

from traditional still-life paintings to digital video productions. Marc McCourt did a very original screen print on a scroll of the transformation between human and robot.

There were a couple of digital art exhibits; Colin Feeney did a work of computer graphics animation and Colby Walker Perrine did a piece of stop motion animation with a pile of wood.

See **BFA** on page 11



Counter-clockwise from top left: Brystle, Devin Platts, Chatfar Rodney, Colby Walker Perrine, Craig Carey, Colin Feeney, Brianna Bennett, Sarah Reece, Meredith Kendrick Davis, Monica Castaneda, Tom Placy, Marc McCourt, Nick D'Alfonso III, Andrew Coffin, "Untitled" by Andrew Coffin, Marie Rivard, "The Suit" by Marie Rivard.





# Muppetational Edition

*Muppet vs. muppet vs. muppet vs. more muppets*

**David O'Donnell**

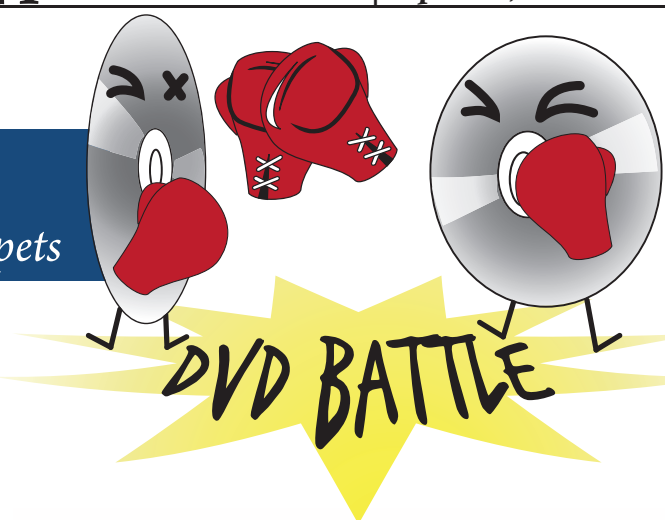
Staff Writer

Jim Henson. That's not a sentence, but dropping the name is a cheap and easy way to inspire goodwill at the top of your DVD column - at least for anybody 26 and older. I can't speak for kids today, and I know it's possible that a majority of those taking their SATs right now are only vaguely aware of Kermit the Frog, which seems like a damn shame. Or maybe it's liberating? For all

his inspirational humor, you could argue that Henson was a brutally monopolistic power over family entertainment for about three decades: First, they started you on "Sesame Street," just to make sure you could count the cash in your parents' wallets. In a few years, you were ready for the musical hippie vibe of "Fraggle Rock." Then, just when you're starting to learn the value of melancholy and double entendres, POW! They hit you with the classic "Muppet Show" and subsequent Muppet movies.

But I digress...for now...and

greet with warm enthusiasm the recent news that Jason Segel (currently starring in "I Love You, Man") has convinced the Walt Disney Corporation - who snatched the Muppets up back in 2004 - to let him script a revival for their foamy, felty careers in an edgy new movie. We're a year or two from knowing whether his plan will work, but it's only a short trip to your local independent video store to enjoy years of classic Muppetdom on VHS or DVD. Avoid buckling under the stress of picking one with this handy guide.



## The Muppet Movie (1979)

*"Opportunity knocks once, let's reach out and grab it/Together we'll nab it/We'll hitchhike, bus, or yellow-cab it."*

Totally. The first Muppet Movie is, as Kermit tells his nephew Robin at the start, "more or less" the story of how the Muppets got together. It begins as all good things do, with Dom Deluise wandering aimlessly in a rowboat through the swamp bandying about a trade publication. Kermit decides he wants more out of life, and travels the country in search of other talking animals and a career in Hollywood.

No Muppet movie has this many top-notch songs. And no Muppet Movie will get more dated every second of every day - if cameos from Bob Hope and Milton Berle weren't enough, it's now puzzling why Kermit and his friends don't just start a YouTube channel and twitter like mad.



## The Muppets Take Manhattan (1984)

The alleged inspiration for Segal's comeback effort, "The Muppets Take Manhattan" was the third and final film starring the Muppet Show gang before Jim Henson's untimely death six years later. It also came several years after "The Muppet Show" ended, so it was kind of a revival at the time. Now it's just an overly sentimental retread on the first movie.

That said, it does feature: Joan Rivers going insane; Kermit the Frog wearing a fake mustache; Ed Kitch; one culturally-insensitive joke by Rowlf the Dog; and the following rejoinder:

Ronnie Crawford: *But, Pop, I told you - I want to do something different!*

Bernard Crawford: *So put some Jell-O down your pants.*

## Sesame Street presents Follow That Bird! (1985)

The 'Street came first, and gave us Kermit, but it was 15 years in before it got a full-length feature all its own (though Big Bird has a key cameo in The Muppet Movie.) Nevertheless, this is another fine buddy road comedy, with several batches of buddies - Bert and Ernie among them - hitting the road in search of Big Bird, who is kidnapped by an evil, ultraconservative segregationist who believes he should be living with a bunch of giant Dodos.

Speaking of which, his clueless Dodo foster family is one of the funniest bits ever committed to celluloid. Big Bird was miffed enough after being ripped from his friends on Sesame Street, but five minutes with these folks provides him with the pure blind rage needed to ignore everything Gordon and Maria told him about getting into cars with strangers. So he hitchhikes across the country and at one point squats in some guy's barn.

It's alright, because the lesson is eventually learned that this kind of thing only leads to non-consensual circus performing, after he's kidnapped - again - by SCTV's Dave Thomas and Joe Flaherty.

Also, Cookie Monster eats a car.



## The winner...

### The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992)

Sacrilege, I know. How could the best Muppet movie have been made after Jim Henson's passing?! And the Muppets are role-playing here, not advancing the tight continuity and deep narrative arch of the original films!

But this is the best Muppet movie. It's funny, it's touching, it's even kind of spooky. Michael Cane takes the lead in a story that's remarkably faithful to Charles Dickens' original tale. Henson will not curse me for this choice, I think - he created these characters and his very own son directs.

Case closed. "The Muppet Christmas Carol" is a fitting tribute, suitable for both Halloween and Christmas, and good God that Death Muppet is no less cold and creepy than death itself.

# All the right energy

*Portland's All the Real Girls performed live at the Empire*

**Tyler Jackson**

Staff Writer

Peter Donovan and Elijah Ocean of Portland's power-pop outfit All the Real Girls performed an acoustic set downstairs at the Empire last Tuesday night. The seven-song set covered the bulk of their recent debut, "My Friends Are Going to be Strangers," in a stripped-down and overall quiet manner.

It took a moment for the crowd to focus. A loud rock band had just finished upstairs later than expected and people were still

shuffling around, finding seats and talking.

Their debut is loud and highly produced from start to finish, so the sparse instrumentation of this set required each song to rely on the songwriting alone. Some benefited from the simpler arrangement, while others sounded a bit empty without the volume of the full band.

The opening song, "Ogunquit '74," was one of the most dramatically altered tunes in the set, as tom-heavy drums, bass and

See **GIRLS** on page 11



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

Elijah Ocean and Peter Donovan of All the Real Girls play an acoustic set at the Empire Dine and Dance in Portland.



# Keeping it Classy

## USM student-run orchestra to debut at Corthell Hall

**Meghan McCaffrey**  
Staff Writer

Classical music, as an art form, has traditionally influenced developing musicians. But, it's easy to believe that young people today are less interested in Classical and more interested in contemporary genres such as alternative rock or pop music, due to the over-exposure of these types of music in the media.

Craig Ouellette, a senior music education student at USM, wants to sway musicians to develop a love for the challenge that classical music provides a musician. He wants listeners to delight in the soft or loud music that lulls and dances in one's eardrums. Ouellette has been playing classical music for a long time, but only began to really enjoy and appreciate it his sophomore year of college at USM.

"From watching many of the faculty here in the music department, I became inspired in the classical genre," says Ouellette. "Through their teachings and performances I learned about a deeper meaning of Classical music."

Craig Ouellette started a new venture to include performers of all ages into a new orchestra called the Southern Maine Chamber Orchestra in mid

February of this year.

The SMCO is comprised of 35 members, including USM students and community members, who share a commitment to classical music performance. Not only does Ouellette direct SMCO but he is also an assistant conductor for the Maine Youth Orchestra of Yarmouth, Maine.

"I wanted to start this ensemble so that I could include the community in some of our student activities," says Ouellette. "I also wanted more opportunities to perform and conduct as a young musician, while preparing myself for grad school."

The Southern Maine Chamber Orchestra will have their debut performance at Corthell Hall on USM's Gorham campus at 7:30 p.m. on Monday May 4. Admission is free and open to the public.

The orchestra will be playing Franz Shubert's "Unfinished Symphony"; and Leonore, the overture to Beethoven's only

opera, "Fidelio." The Orchestra will also feature two soloists: senior Sophie Flood will perform Mozart's "Horn Concerto No. 1" and graduate student Maria Wagner will play the Clarinet solo in "Adagio for Clarinet and Strings" by

Robert Wagner and Heinrich Baermann.

In the future, Craig Ouellette plans to take on the challenge of performing and conducting Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana," a powerhouse concert event that con-

sists of over one hundred singers and a full orchestra.

With more concert dates ahead the USM community should celebrate this student-run revival of classical music.



# "Rescue Me" Returns

*Denis Leary and others are back with the usual sarcastic and obscene humor*



**Kaitlyn Crenney**  
Staff Writer

For those ignorant to the powerhouse cable show called "Rescue Me," may your houses be adorned with immense shame.

The show focuses on a crew of New York firefighters that are forced to deal with the trauma of September 11th in both their professional and personal lives.

The crew is held together and lead by Tommy Gavin (Boston comedian Denis Leary in his Emmy and Golden Globe accredited performance) whose extreme self-destruction and manipulation has isolated him from his equally ill-tempered Irish Catholic family and close crew members in the fire house. Despite his weak attempts to reconcile, the show has been chronicling his constant and intense downward spiraling since 2004.

Such examples of the past seasons' troubles include: the death of his young son, being visited by the ghosts of people he couldn't save in fires, cheating on his wife with his cousin's widow, battling his addiction to alcohol and pills, and many others.

The show has recently begun its fifth season. It's sometimes hard to jump into a series this late in the game. However, "Rescue Me" is easily watchable, addictive, and hilarious enough to hook anyone. Racist, misogynistic, sarcastic and obscene humor is what makes the show not only popular but wildly successful. "Rescue Me" is violently worshiped by critics and fans for these

traits and the constant comedic drama that surrounds all the colorful characters.

I should also call attention to Michael J. Fox making his first television appearance on the show since his diagnosis of Parkinson's disease (besides his one-episode guest role on Scrubs). He will remain on the show for the rest of the season playing Dwight, a wheelchair-bound cussing maniac who is hooking up with Gavin's estranged wife. Judging from the first episode, when he and Gavin got into a fist fight and Dwight comments on his sporadic erection troubles, it is going to be a great season.

It is one of the few realistic, tension-filled, male soap opera that has really ever been on television. "Rescue Me" boasts a strong cast of characters, mostly raunchy comedians or Boston-based icons that Leary has been associated with over the years (Lenny Clark, Patriot's coach Bill Belichick, and many Bruins hockey players).

All star guest appearances are well noted and often turn into considerable lengthy roles (Tatum O'Neal and Susan Sarandon who was a wealthy cougar that stole children on the side).

"Rescue Me" depicts how vital firefighters are to society, how difficult their job is, and the overall inner workings of a male-dominated lady-chasing firehouse. More importantly though, it is by far the most hilarious and touching series I have ever seen.

"Rescue Me" is on every Tuesday at ten o'clock on FX. An encore episode follows in case you missed anything.

COURTESY OF FX  
*Denis Leary as Tommy Gavin in the hit FX primetime show, "Rescue Me."*



## EPICUREAN EPICS

by Anne McCormack

## Perfect picnic fare

Pre-dawn walks with Caleigh to the top Peacock Hill reveal a neglected orchard, with rows of apple trees, naked and gnarled, silhouetted against the inky sky. Deer are back on the move as is evidenced by distinct tracks on the side of the road and barely visible trails through the woods. Wild turkeys will soon begin their mating rituals with calls of gobbles and clucky answers.

Ambling down the hill, I think it will be one of the last mornings that vapor puffs from our mouths. Robins, sparrows, cardinals, and red-wing blackbirds herald the day with chirpy tweets and bird-song, in contrast with the deep resonance of tree frogs and the incessant peeper peeping which have just started to welcoming evenings.

Caleigh revels in spring smells of the earth that has been buried by snow since November. She loves rolling in things that I can't see or smell. Her brown eyes are alert, her nose moves in a constant twitch. She is an Anatolian Shepherd, strong, white, long, and always pulling towards new

territory. That is how I happened upon a perfect picnic area, prompting me to write on perfect picnic fare.

Secluded on top of the hill across from the orchard, this area is hidden from the road. A break in the tall, thick pines turns out to be a short dirt drive, long overgrown. Upon entering, I was struck by the serenity of the enclosure. Remnants of a stone wall border one side, with stands of cedars, oaks, and pines on the other. The open westerly view is of a ridge of mountains that could be mistaken for clouds on the horizon.

Turning east at the advent of sudden light, it is here that I caught the majestic sunrise, molten gold shimmering on the horizon. The next full moon will rise in approximately that same place, and Peter and I will be there appreciating a new season, renewed love, a bottle of wine from last year's harvest, and our picnic sandwich. Caleigh will lie peacefully by, picnicking on a big meaty bone.

This is a substantial feast with a

work much, so I'm glad people are finally seeing what I've been doing while hiding in the Robie-Andrews basement all these years."

For most of these artists, these pieces in the exhibition represent their growth, change and improvement over the years as an artist and student.

"I'm very proud of what I've accomplished as an undergrad. I feel that my ideas and my style have vastly improved since my freshman and sophomore years," says Davis. "I started out making small pottery. Now I have enough confidence and experience to build sculptures like the life-size figure displayed in B.F.A. show—which is the biggest surviving piece I've ever built (the biggest blew up in the kiln)."

Many of the graduating art students have mixed feelings about being done with college; some are ready to face life after college and move on to graduate school or work, while some are apprehensive about what the "real world" entails, as well as the pile of student loans waiting to be paid. Most of the students agree that college has overall been a wonderful experience, and a lot

medley of flavors, colors, and contrasts that work. Bites of roasted veggies and hot cappicola are mellowed by smooth fresh mozzarella, and

all is melded by the vinaigrette. Making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich or grabbing an Italian

## PICNIC SANDWICH

8 - 10 inch round crusty boule or a rectangular loaf  
1 lb. fresh mozzarella  
1 lb. fresh basil  
1 yellow and one red bell pepper  
1 eggplant  
1/4 lb. ham  
1/4 lb. salami  
1/4 lb. hot cappicola

Roast peppers along with sliced and peeled eggplant over grill, gas stove, or in oven. Slice mozzarella. Cut bread in half and hollow out crumb tossing out for birds or saving for stuffing. Generously brush insides of top and bottom with vinaigrette. Layer ingredients: ham, eggplant, salami, peppers, mozzarella, cappicola, fresh basil. Cover with top of bread.

## OREGANO LEMON VINAIGRETTE

1/4 cup fresh lemon juice  
1/2 cup fresh oregano leaves  
3/4 cup extra virgin olive oil  
2 cloves garlic  
2 tablespoons capers  
freshly ground pepper

Blend until smooth.

would be a lot less work, yet this is worth it, especially for the first picnic of the year.

Use this recipe as a guide, changing ingredients to suit your preferences.

From BFA on page 8

The art wasn't contained to 2-D art either; Meredith Kendrick Davis did two interesting sculptures of women, one almost life-size. Both of the sculptures have bare breasts, though one of the women looks angry and vindictive while the other is melancholy and crying.

Davis says the larger sculpture, which depicts a woman naked from the waist up, crying, smoking and surrounded by pills and empty beer bottles, is her favorite piece.

"It's about a sad housewife," says Davis. "It's an installation piece made mostly from clay, but also some other found objects."

For many of these graduating art students, this is one of the first times they have gotten to display their work in an exhibit such as this. Davis says she feels like the art she has been doing for the last four years has been somewhat of a secret, even to some of her friends, because she hasn't had many chances to show it off.

"The show is just a good chance to let everyone see what I've learned as an artist and a person, and what I've really been up to," says Davis. "I haven't shown my

tic rendition.

Throughout the entire set, Ocean's guitar was too quiet and his vocal was completely inaudible. That extra layer would have made the performance more engaging.

Though the nakedness of the songs suggested potential beyond the loud and hyper-produced pop-rock format, the energy and volume of All the Real Girls' full-band live shows do them the most justice.

From GIRLS on page 9

a falsetto vocal drive the album version. The lack of those parts left the song feeling bare.

The best performance of the evening was the album opener "The Night We First Met." Out of all the ways the band strives to manipulate catchy classic rock styles, the chorus of that song is the most successful, and it worked in this setting. Additionally, "Scenes from the Hotel Weatherford," one of the few quiet and restrained songs on the album, was right at home.

The final two songs of the night, "Teenage Sweethearts" and "Liquid Cure (The Way Life Should Be)," seem to be two of the band's most accessible tracks. Each of them calls heavily upon classic rock styles and structures in different ways. "Sweethearts" has the effect of early nineties Petty, while "Liquid Cure," the album's first single, is more of a late-eighties boozier rock anthem, which made for a peculiar acous-

*The B.F.A. exhibit will run from Friday, April 17 through Sunday, May 10 in the Gorham Art Gallery. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, and 1-5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free. For more information, call Carolyn Eyler at 207-780-5008 or visit [www.usm.maine.edu/gallery](http://www.usm.maine.edu/gallery).*

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# Don't stay home!

**April**  
20th - 26th

## Monday, April 20

### Bowling for Columbine!

April 20 marks the tenth anniversary of the Columbine shootings. Join Maine Students Against Handgun Violence as they screen Michael Moore's "Bowling for Columbine" in remembrance and to increase gun violence prevention awareness. Food and refreshments will be served. 6:30 - 8 p.m./ Brooks Student Center, Gorham

## Tuesday, April 21

### G.O.T. Balls!

Continue your push for the sexiest, most rock hard, summer body ever with the G.O.T. Balls workout session. This class utilizes physioballs, body weight and dumbbells in order to tighten your physique, build a solid core and improve your overall cardiovascular fitness level. Everyone will know that you got balls after enduring this workout session. 3 - 4 p.m./ Hill Gym, second floor exercise room/ Gorham/ Call Linda at 780-5430 for more info

## Wednesday, April 22

### Yummy, Earth Day!

Celebrate Earth by eating its delicious gifts prepared by The Local Sprouts Community Supported Kitchen (CSK). Portland's Public Market House will host CSK's tasting of local and organic saliva-inducing breads, soups, salads, entrees, side-dishes and desserts. Help CSK's mission to support local farms and the local economy. Free/ 4 - 6 p.m./ Public Market House/ 28 Monument Square, Portland/

## Thursday, April 23

### African Film Festival!

Immerse yourself in African art and culture during the last five days of the African Film Festival. The festival, which ends Friday, will be showcasing independent films, documentary features, short films, children's animations, lectures, music and photography all around Portland. The festival benefits Linkachild, a non-profit orphanage in Nigeria that pairs Nigerian children with foster parents. Visit TMAFF.org for all information pertaining to the festival.

## Friday, April 24

### Friggen Laser Beams!

No one really knows what lasers are or how they work, but they sure look pretty. If you enjoy lasers then it is highly recommended that you trip out at USM's Southworth Planetarium laser show set to the acidic tunes of Pink Floyd's "The Wall." Part of Laser Week at the Planetarium, this is the week's most popular show so reservations are highly encouraged. \$5/ 6 p.m./ USM Southworth Planetarium/ 96 Falmouth St., Portland/ 780-4249

## Saturday, April 25

### Portland in Fashion!

Get ready for the glitz and glam of WMPG's 5th Annual Fashion Show at the Space Gallery. The fashion show will be a showcase for locally created, all original clothing, jewelry and accessories. DJ Goober will set the mood while 50 plus products from over 20 local designers show off their goods. Support WMPG and get some much needed fashion sense! \$10/ 8 p.m./ Space Gallery/ 535 Congress St., Portland/ 828-5600

## Sunday, April 26

### I Prefer Unicycles!

USM's Sullivan Gym opens its doors for the annual Great Maine Bike Swap. The Swap is a perfect opportunity for those looking to buy or sell bike parts with other cycling enthusiasts. There will be hundreds of bicycles, test riding course, mini-workshops, exhibits and refreshments. Free with student ID and children under 12/ \$3/ 10 a.m. - 2 p.m./ Sullivan Gym, Portland Campus/ bikemaine.org



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## Upcoming Games

### April 21

**Men's LAX** @ UMass

Boston 3 p.m.

**Baseball** @ Bates 3:30 p.m.

**Women's LAX** v.

RHODE ISLAND

COLLEGE 4 p.m.

**Men's Tennis** v.

BRIDGEWATER

STATE 4 p.m.

### April 23

**Softball** @ Bridgewater

State 3:30 p.m.

**Women's LAX** v.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW

ENGLAND 4 p.m.

### April 24

**Baseball** v. UMass

BOSTON 3:30 p.m.

### April 25

**Men's Outdoor Track** @

LEC Championships @

Westfield State 11 a.m.

**Women's Outdoor Track** @

LEC Championships @

Westfield State 11 a.m.

**Baseball** v. RHODE ISLAND

COLLEGE noon

**Men's LAX** v. KEENE

STATE noon

**Softball** v. KEENE

STATE 1 p.m.

**Women's LAX** v. KEENE

STATE 2:30 p.m.

## HANGIN' WITH MR. TARDIFF

by *Mike Tardiff*

# Cutting the fat leaves slim chances for Maine athletes

The University of Maine dropped a bomb last week that has people all over the state reeling. Effective next year, the school will no longer offer varsity men's soccer and women's volleyball at the intercollegiate level.

And while some may chalk this up as a tale of the economic times, I happen to think the ramifications of this decision transcend dollars-and-cents cost saving.

Sure, the school's athletic department is trying to grapple with an \$800,000 shortfall, but that alone is no excuse for cutting the state's highest level of soccer.

By cutting soccer at UMaine, the state is left with a huge void. I can think of no other sport in the state that can rival soccer in terms of participation, save maybe basketball. And while soccer might not have the same spot in Maine lore that basketball does, its place in Maine's landscape is undeniable.

From Fort Kent to Kittery,

people hit the pitch during the fall, many of them hoping to take their skills to the next level. Unlike the regionalized nature of sports like ice hockey and football, soccer has the rare ability to be prominent across the entire state.

Just look at the recent rise of indoor sports facilities, which, more than anything else, appeals to Maine's robust thirst for soccer during all four seasons.

UMaine's latest cut leaves one less option for our state's best soccer players and it leaves the state without a high-level soccer team to rally around.

In total, five Mainers were part of the Black Bears team.

Maybe in any other state it'd be okay to axe soccer in lieu of other sports. There's no doubt that soccer's spot in the national sports landscape is shaded at best. In other states where football is a staple at every high school, soccer often finds itself on the back burner. But here in Maine

soccer is alive and well.

Maine should have disregarded the national trends and kept in mind the local implications. After all, UMaine — the state's flagship school — does have the responsibility of keeping the state's interests in mind.

Why not cut men's swimming and diving?

Or, better yet, why not market your sports in a more effective way? Why not try to increase revenues before taking down sports?

So far UMaine athletic director Blake James has done nothing by lead a totally inept athletic program, one that's seen UMaine be totally ineffectual on the field and on the books.

This is just another link in a chain of missteps.

I'm sure the decision wasn't easy, but that's no excuse. Someone should have contextualized the decision and employed their brains before their calcula-

tors.

Now, while Maine's not-so-storied swimming and diving team lives to see another day, its soccer program will have to wait for a not-so-probable budget surplus in order to be exhumed.

As for volleyball: that's a no-brainer. Volleyball has long been the most regionalized sport in the state with a fractional following compared to any other sport offered at UMaine.

On the bright side, USM will have a better chance of landing the next class of stellar soccer players from Maine since they'll have very few other options.

*Michael Tardiff is a long-time soccer hater.*

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# Huskies unphased by coaching change

## USM tennis wins two, loses two

**Ben Slagle**  
*Sports Intern*

If the USM men's tennis team had stumbled this year, it would have been understandable. Long time head coach Phil Cole retired this year, leaving the head coaching position vacant. But the Huskies have been anything but dormant, especially last week. The Huskies picked up a pair of victories and played well in losses to Salem State and Western Connecticut.

New coaches, no problems  
Replacing Cole are first-year head coach John Parry and assistant Charlie Ciancia. And while new coaches can bring forth periods of poor performance, both Parry and Ciancia have been more than satisfied with their team's success thus far. Ciancia points to his players' enthusiasm.

"We're new young coaches to these guys and I think it has really fired them up. It's given us a chance to make them work hard and they have risen to the occasion. These are strong kids who have been playing hard for us."

This positive performance did not go unnoticed by Head coach John Parry either.

"There's always a lot of unknown about how guys are going to respond to a new coach, but everyone has always been motivated. These kids are thriving in the competitive atmosphere within the team this year."

The team is led by its captains junior Josh Warren (Hermon) and senior Derek Stevenson (Raymond). Holding position one and two in singles, they are the top performers on the court. They even combine with each other in doubles to form one of the top-ranked tandems in the conference this year.

Ciancia says that the two have "really been putting out their best effort everyday and it works to fire the rest of the team up."

If proof of this is needed, look no further than the performance of younger teammates Zach Karen (North Conway, NH) and Terry Classen (Brownfield).

Parry has noticed that Karen has "really been out here motivated to work hard and play hard," remarking that Karen's motivation and work ethic has been a "pleasant surprise."

Freshmen Terry Classen has also emerged as a motivated player. He recently won his way into the #6 position through an inspiring intra-squad match.

Week in review  
The Huskies knew they'd have their work cut out for them last week, playing in four matches, with one coming against Salem State, the league's best teams. But, despite new coaches and a young team, the Huskies pulled through the week 2-2, asserting their power against lesser opponents Thomas and Rhode Island College (RIC), and falling in close matches to Salem State and Western Connecticut.

The Huskies routed both RIC and Thomas in decisive 9-0 style. Warren and Stevenson both picked up singles wins and teamed together for a pair of doubles victories, too. In their doubles match at RIC, Stevenson and Warren blanked their opponents 8-0, sending a strong message and setting a serious tone.

In their two losses, the Huskies held close, losing 6-3 in both contests. Against Salem State, Warren and Stevenson picked up a point in first doubles, while junior Steven Lent (Sharon, NH) and Stevenson snagged singles points.

USM's match against Eastern Connecticut, though similar in results, saw different Huskies pick up wins. On this day, Warren would be the only Husky to pick up a singles point, while his doubles team would lose in the first doubles match. The Huskies picked up second and third doubles matches to make things interesting, but it wasn't enough.

## Husky Highlights

### SOFTBALL

#### Softball splits with UMass Boston

Freshman catcher Jessica Hayden (Madison) had a career game, leading USM to a 10-1 victory over UMass Boston last week. The win earned USM a split in the double-header and their fifth win on the season. Hayden went 3-for-4 in the effort with a pair of singles and a two-run homer. She finished the day with four RBI. Sophomore hurler Sarah Deroche (Portland) went the distance for the Huskies, yielding just two hits in seven innings, while walking just one.

### MEN'S LAX

#### Men's LAX downs Salem State in 2OT

Freshman Dan Thomas (Shrewsbury, MA) scored with 38 seconds remaining in the

second overtime period, giving USM a 9-8 victory of Salem State last week. USM, who blew a 7-2 half-time lead, was led by Tim Bryan (Peterborough, NH) who scored a goal and assisted on three others, while Preston Gilbert (Saco) netted two goals and tallied an assist for the Huskies, who won their third straight game.

### MEN'S INDOOR TRACK

#### Vigeant set school records

Freshman Justin Vigeant (Wells) swept the 100 and 200-meter dashes at the Maine State Champions, while setting a school record in the 200-meter event. He broke his six-week-old school record by six-tenths of a second with a mark of 21.74. Vigeant's effort helped his team to a third place finish behind Bowdoin and Bates.

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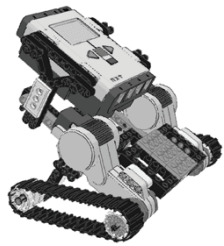
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7		6				3		4
	8		6		3			5
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3			7		4		1	
8		5				7		2
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## RANDOM FACT!

Bluetooth, the wireless communication standard, was named after Harald Bluetooth, a tenth century king who encouraged communication and unity among warring Norse and Danish tribes.

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

## Newsday Crossword

EDITORIAL by Gail Grabowski

Edited by Stanley Newman

[www.stanxwords.com](http://www.stanxwords.com)

## ACROSS

- 1 "Enough already!"  
6 Jury member  
10 Karate move  
14 Playground retort  
15 Rural land measure  
16 Sings without words  
17 Make the kids sandwiches  
19 Pub servings  
20 Have breakfast  
21 Wizard of Oz dog  
22 Apartment renter  
24 Vet's patients  
25 Ping-\_\_\_\_  
26 Crack, as a secret message  
29 Commanded  
33 Verbal exam  
34 Burgled  
37 Lacking color  
38 "Me neither"  
39 Tree with acorns  
40 Military group  
41 Poems of praise  
42 Watchband  
44 Hotel price  
45 Mold anew  
47 Membership list  
49 Flower part  
50 Slangy negative  
51 Words on a dirty car  
54 A few  
55 Race car's circuit  
58 Cincinnati's state

- 59 Physician's invoice  
62 Seep  
63 Historical times  
64 San Antonio landmark  
65 Salon liquids  
66 Nevada city  
67 Scarecrow stuffing

## DOWN

- 1 Bistro  
2 Soprano's song  
3 About to be served  
4 Oahu, for one: Abbr.  
5 Recommended  
6 Treaties  
7 Cave sound  
8 Before, poetically  
9 Make good as new  
10 Coin holder  
11 Luau dance  
12 Sign of the future  
13 Hushed "Hey!"  
18 Short messages  
23 Bring to a halt  
24 Spiff up footwear  
25 Oktoberfest music  
26 Charity supporter  
27 Eat away  
28 Is concerned  
30 Charged toward  
31 Privileged group  
32 Try to prevent  
35 Carved pole

- 36 Rowboat propeller  
42 One driving too fast  
43 TV spot  
46 24-hr. bank device  
48 Musical dramas  
50 Untrue  
51 Carpentry material  
52 Sailor's shout  
53 Small, medium or large  
54 Look over quickly  
55 Dishonest one  
56 \_\_\_\_ mater  
57 Farm implement  
60 Mine rock  
61 Crunchy sandwich

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

Bethany Dumas (Augusta) has been a constant force for the USM women's track and field team. The freshman is always a threat to win, whether it's in the javelin, the long jump, or her favorite, the pole vault.

# High and mighty

## Dumas dominating in her rookie year

**Mike Tardiff**  
*Sports Editor*

Looking through women's track results, it's easy to get the impression that Bethany Dumas is a seasoned veteran.

She's almost always an event winner and her prowess extends beyond a single event.

But if you think she's a familiar face, you're wrong. In fact, Dumas is new on the track scene, but she's making her presence known.

"It's kind of weird, you know, being the little freshman" she laughs. "A lot people will ask me like, 'hey how was this meet?' And I'm just like, 'Well, I've never actually been.'"

Despite her rookie status, Dumas is holding her own at the highest level.

Case in point: this weekend at the Aloha Relays, Dumas was the lone Husky athlete to pick an individual win, which came in the 400-meter hurdles.

But that's not all. She also posted a third place finish in the pole vault and a fourth place performance in the javelin.

Like some sort of Roman olympian, Dumas' talent transcends a limited skill set. More than just a sprinter or a thrower, she's a track and field athlete in the truest sense of the word.

But how does she do it? Hard work, dedication and a willingness to practice all of her events.

"My schedule is pretty crazy with practices. Trying to do everything at once is pretty difficult but I do the best I can with training for each specific event," she explains.

The two-time reigning Little East Conference Rookie Field Athlete of the Week, Dumas has shown incredible diversity, taking event titles in the pole vault, 100-meter and 400-meter hurdles. She's also had strong showings in the javelin and long jump.

But these seemingly unrelated events actually require a similar set of skills, which Dumas is evidently in the process of mastering.

"These events all have a similar technique, especially when you consider the take-off. The speed will get you the distance, but the take off is what gets you

the height."

Even though she's shown promise across the competitive gamut, Dumas does, in fact, have a favorite event. And, to no one's surprise, it's the event that affords her the best of view of the competition that she'll dominate: the pole vault.

"I just love heights and the sensation of flying. I think it's my best event," she says. "The event itself is just so unique."

And for someone who has already accomplished so much in her rookie season, Dumas still has one goal yet to be fulfilled. She wants to beat her personal best in the pole vault, which she set in high school: 12 feet, seven inches. Her best this year has been 12 feet, one inch.

Dumas isn't letting the success go to her head either. Instead, she's got a simple formula for success: "I just go out there and do my best."

Luckily for USM, her best - at least so far - has been more than good enough, especially for a so-called "rookie."

*Free Press staff writer Sarah Violette also contributed to this article.*

# Power streak

## Baseball routes rival St. Joe's, highlights perfect week

**Joel Neill**  
*Staff Writer*

USM's baseball team powered its way to an impressive stretch of wins last week, highlighted in part by a 21-3 dismantling of local rival St. Joseph's College on Thursday. The win was part of a six-win week for the Huskies, who pushed their win streak to 14 games after a double-header sweep of UMass Dartmouth (10-3 and 21-12). The Huskies also picked up wins against Plymouth State (19-4 and 24-6) and Colby (13-4).

### Against St. Joseph's

Ryan Pike (Saco) led the offensive machine in a record-setting performance. The senior went 5-for-6 with a pair of home runs and nine RBI, tying the school record for RBI in a single game and powering the Huskies to a resounding win. Freshman Ryan Yates picked up his first career win, piloting the Huskies with a solid performance on the hill.

"I'm seeing the ball really well, and I'm as relaxed as I've ever been at the plate. We've been doing some different stuff in practice and BP to help us go the other way with pitches better, and my swing just feels really good right now," Pike said.

The Huskies fell behind in the top of the first inning when St. Joseph's junior DH Ian Lee (Hampden, Maine) hit a solo home run off the scoreboard. USM wasted no time, though, as

they answered back in the bottom of the inning when Pike launched a three-run homer of his own, staking the Huskies to an early 3-1 lead. USM then caked on four more runs in their half of the inning, expanding their lead to 7-1 after the first.

The Huskies never relinquished the lead after the first. They amassed 19 hits in the game, continuing their recent offensive trend and warding off any attempt by the Monks to cut into USM's lead.

St. Joseph's shortstop Mike Burdin hit a solo homer off Yates in the top of the third, but the Huskies would answer with four runs in the bottom of the inning off a two-RBI double from junior Josh Mackey (Danvers, MA), an RBI single from senior shortstop Chris Burleson (Portland), and a passed ball that scored Burleson. After three, the Huskies were comfortably ahead 12-2.

The Monks scored their final run off Yates when catcher Travis Adams hit an RBI single in the top of the fourth.

"I felt like I prepared very well for this game, and it really paid off," Yates said. "Coach Smith and I went over what to expect from their hitters earlier in the week and I think my preparedness really benefitted me for this win. My slider was working well in the beginning of the game and keeping them off balance was key. I felt pretty good."

The freshman right-hander, who is now 1-0, pitched a solid five and a third innings while only

giving up four hits. He walked five and struck out four and got timely help from USM's defense to get out of dicey situations.

"This was a huge confidence booster for me to get this win for my team. I had the pre-game jitters but once I stepped onto the mound I felt comfortable and was ready to go," Yates said.

Andrew deBethune (St. Albans) came in to give an inning and two-thirds of relief before giving the ball to freshman Dustin Stanton (Cornish) who pitched a scoreless eighth and ninth.

Mackey added to his 37 hit season with 3 hits of his own, while seniors Ryan Gaffney (Salem, NH) and Anthony D'Alfonso (Westbrook), and freshman Pisani each had two hits to contribute to USM's offensive outburst.

Pike's nine RBI ties current USM coach Bob Prince's record. Pike added to his first inning slam with a two run shot in the eighth.

### By the numbers

Pike isn't the only Husky who is seeing the ball well at this point in the season. The Huskies have nine starters batting over .300 with D'Alfonso, Gaffney and Burleson all hitting over .400. As a team, the Huskies are batting at a .356 clip and put up, on average, 12 runs per game.

### Timely hitting

D'Alfonso is heating up at ex-



BRANDON MCKENNEY / PHOTO EDITOR

Junior third basemen Josh Mackey (Danvers, MA) scoops up a dribbler. Mackey and his fellow Huskies have been putting up unprecedented numbers at the plate, including a .356 team batting average and a 12 run per game average. But the Huskies have been getting it done in the field, too, as part of their 16 game winning streak.

actly the right time. The senior has racked up 54 RBI in 27 games heading into Sunday's make-up double-header against Western Connecticut. That's exactly two RBI per game - a seemingly unprecedented number.

Henry's offensive is also picking up steam. The 2006 Maine Mr. Baseball posted eleven hits and 14 RBI in four games spanning from Thursday's blowout against St. Joseph's to Saturday's double-header sweep of UMass Dartmouth.

### Putting up runs

The Huskies have scored in double-digits 20 out of 26 games,

including 10 straight games dating back to April 9. Coach Ed Flaherty's squad as eclipsed the 15-run plateau eight times and the 20-run mark five times.

The Huskies are undefeated when they score in double-digits.

A case for double-dipping Senior captain Andrew Stacy (Fryeburg) made back-to-back relief appearances in USM's sweep of UMass Dartmouth Saturday. The lefty pitched eight shutout innings over two games, helping the Huskies pick up to more conference wins. Stacy pitched three innings of one-hit relief in the first game and five more innings in the nightcap.