4-20-2009

The Free Press Vol. 40, Issue No. 20, 04-20-2009

Matt Dodge
University of Southern Maine

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Maine conservatives take to the streets
Tax Day Tea Party coverage on page four

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.

“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-
2009

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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 stud- ies and sports.

“When we recruit, we tell them that they can be students and they can be stars. 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 began at USM May 17. 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 any programs 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 – or 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 eliminated in the future.

The final results of this process will be shared with the communi- ty in early May, around the same time that the Maine system re- quires all 7 colleges to present their balanced budgets for fiscal year 2010.

Vickerson admits that slashing $4 million from a budget has already sustained significant cuts in a daunting task - especially when it has to be done in less than a month. He says that a deficit of this magnitude requires bold action rather than simply trimming de- partment budgets.

“Clearly, $4 million in cuts will necessitate renewed efforts to balance the size of the work- force 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.”

College deans, program directors, vice presidents and other USM administrators are currently examining their own programs to identify areas that can either yield more revenue, or sustain budgetary cuts.

From DEFICIT on page 1

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“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.”
Una Connors, a retiree from Brunswick who attended the rally wearing tea bags as earrings, said that the burden on the next generation 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 debt is 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.

“College students generally are not in the workforce and haven’t experienced the oppressive taxation yet,” he said.

According to Connors, young 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,” she said. “I think it’s important that the VISTAs welcome all whomever they are, 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 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.

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 mellower,” 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.”
Health insurance debate comes to USM
Nursing students discuss problems of health care coverage at symposium

Abigail Caffey
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, the problem of health care 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 Un insured?” was lead by three panelists, USM Muskie School of Public Service professors, Deborah Deatrick and Elizabeth Kilbreth, and Douglas Clopp, of Consumers for Affordable Health Care (CAHC).

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 nonexistent,” 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 health care system lacks transparency and questions: where are our dollars going?

“10,000 Americans die because they lack access to medical care,” he said. And if 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 37th 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 program that identifies and supports those who have access to health care. Clopp briefly exchanged views on Dirigo Health, which offers health benefits to eligible individuals, particularly the self-employed and small businesses (2-50 employees) in Maine. Deborah Deatrick rounded out the forum with a discussion on preventing high health care costs.

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

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 Deatrick. The solution? “It’s a simple thing to do,” she says. “Read the bill.”

During the question and answer period, one audience member asked, “What happens after 8 o’clock when CVS closes?” To prevent unnecessary visits to the emergency room, Deatrick says that nursing triage calls 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.

Drug paraphernalia. Police also served a summons for possession of a gun for safekeeping.

Police

April 11, 12:19 pm

A vehicle was stopped in front of Dickey Hall and given a verbal warning for registering current plates. No illegal drugs were found.

April 7, 1:02 pm

A complaint of odor of marijuana was detected and a summons was issued.

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 “Fumbul 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

To find out more facts about child soldiers in the world, check out the Human Rights Watch website: www.hrw.org

Catalyst for Peace web site: www.catalystforpeace.org

Illustrations

Randy Hazelton / Production Assistant
PRODUCTION EDITOR

F/o.sc/s.sc/t.sc/e.sc/r.sc, M/e.sc/g.sc/h.sc/a.sc/n.sc M/c.scC/a.sc/f.sc/f.sc/r.sc/e.sc/y.sc, J/o.sc/e.sc/l.sc N/e.sc/i.sc/l.sc/l.sc

from the Executive Editor.

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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 Your Enthusiasm" cast is like an avid lover of the show; and Michael Richards--will be featured alongside a tremendous cast including Hallie carsen, Ted Danson, Susie Essman and Lewis, Ted Danson, Susie Essman and Wanda Sykes. If you’re a big fan of "Seinfeld" don’t fret. The show is basically about Larry David’s life post-"Seinfeld". He plays himself, alongside a tremendous cast including Jerry Seinfeld, Cheryl Hines, Richard Lewis, Ted Danson, Susie Essman and Wanda Sykes. If you’re a big fan of "Seinfeld" don’t fret. The show is 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 he just wings it. What it creates is minutes of hilarity.

Granted, it will be difficult to top 6 incredible seasons, but if there’s anything that can do it, it’s David’s. So keep your ears and eyes open for the new season of "Curb Your Enthusiasm" to air, probably sometime this fall.
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 events 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, “The Portland City Council has declared the month of April as ‘Gun Violence Prevention Month.’” As part of this initiative, the Portland Public Schools have taken a number of steps to address gun violence in their schools.

On Monday, April 16, the Portland Public Schools held a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the Columbine shootings. This was followed by a presentation on gun violence prevention. The presentation included information on the history of gun violence in the United States, the impact of gun violence on communities, and the current state of gun control legislation.

It’s astonishing how Maine’s legislature has failed to pass gun control legislation. In 2018, the Maine House of Representatives and Senate passed a bill that would have required background checks for firearms sales, but Governor Janet Mills vetoed the bill. The legislature failed to override the veto, and the bill died.

In the wake of the Columbine shootings, Maine lawmakers have attempted to pass gun control legislation. However, they have been stymied by political gridlock and the influence of the National Rifle Association. This has led to a situation in which gun violence continues to be a problem in Maine.

As a graduating senior, I will not be around to see if this legislation is passed, 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 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

Want to be heard? Write a letter to the editor. E-mail our executive editor, Matt Dodge at mdodge18@gmail.com or go to our website 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 the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS), designated 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 past, the mechanism for determining 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 the software people have been using for years. UMS has had difficulties with it 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 peoplesoft 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 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 comprehensively 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 is one reason why 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 this legislation is passed, 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 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?

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Vice President

Want to be heard? Write a letter to the editor. E-mail our executive editor, Matt Dodge at mdodge18@gmail.com or go to our website usmfreepress.org

and click on “Letters to the Editor” to send us your thoughts
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
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 is, as Kermit tells us, a totally made-up story, a circus performing, after he’s kidnaped. Consequently, he eventually learned that this kind of thing only leads to non-consensual sex. So, he hitchhikes across the country and at one point squats in some guy’s barn. It’s Alright, because the lesson is clearly learned. Kermit the Frog wearing a fake mustache: Ed Kotch; 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.

All the right energy

Portland’s All the Real Girls performed live at the Empire

Tyler Jackson

Peter Donovan and Elijah Ocean of Portland’s power-pop outfit All the Real Girls performed an acoustic set down stairs 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 guitar were stripped away. It was a fitting tribute, suitable for both Halloween and Christmas, and good God that Death Muppet is no less cold and creepy than death itself.

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.

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The winner...

The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992)

Sacré bleu! 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 Caine takes the lead in a story that’s remarkably faithful to Charles Dickens’ original tale. Henson will not 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…

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 Kotch; 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.

The Muppets Take Manhattan (1984)

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Muppetational Edition

Muppet vs. muppet vs. muppet vs. more muppets

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…

andpeople were still finished upstairs later than expected and people were still...
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 Ouelllette, 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 fills and dances in one’s eardrums.

Ouelllette 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 Ouelllette. “Through their teachings and performances I learned about a deeper meaning of Classical music.”

Craig Ouelllette 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 Ouelllette 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 Ouelllette. “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 Schubert’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 Baermann will play the Clarinet solo in “Adagio for Clarinet and Strings” by Robert Wagner and Heinrich Baermann.

In the future, Craig Ouelllette plans to take on the challenge of performing and conducting Carl Orff’s “Carmina Burana,” a powerhouse concert event that consists 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 Creney
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 cursing manic 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.
Perfect picnic fare

Pre-dawn walks with Caleigh to the top Peacock Hill reveal a view from 250 feet above sea level. From that height, the student art gallery is clearly visible, surrounded by trees and shrubs. The horizon is divided by a ridge of mountains that could be mistaken for clouds 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 all of flavors, colors, and contrasts that work. Bites of roasted veggies and hot capicola are mellowed by smooth fresh mozzarella, and 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. I think the sculpture has a lot of resonance for tree frogs and the concept of what it means to be a woman.

For many of these graduating art students, the pieces in this 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.E.A. show—which is the biggest sculpture piece I’ve ever built (the biggest blow up in the kiln).”

Many of the graduating art students have mixed feelings about the graduation process. Some are ready to face life after college and move on to graduate 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 of territory. That is how I happened upon a perfect picnic area, prompting me to write on perfect picnic fare.

I think the thing that has made me want to create in the future. When I get my degree, I’m definitely going to take some time off. I’m exhausted,” says Davis. “After a short break, I’m considering grad school, or some residency programs, or maybe just some free time.”

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. 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.

For the music of the week, Peter will be joining the band live shows do them the most justice.
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 than 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 as 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 it 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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Apple promotions available at the store!
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.

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.
Husky Highlights

**SOFBALL**

**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.

**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.

**USM tennis wins two, loses two**

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 is first-year head coach John Parry and assistant Charlie Cianciale. And while new coaches can bring forth periods of poor performance, both Parry and Cianciale have been more than satisfied with their team’s success thus far. Cianciale 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.”

Cianciale says that the two have “really been puting 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 there 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 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 8-4, 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 mighty 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.

Sports

Got Experience with Children and/or Technology?

Apply to be a Robotics camp counselor!

Maine Robotics is a 501.c.3 non-profit that provides educational outreach programs in the State of Maine. We work closely with the Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology program on the USM Gorham campus and the position listed above is for camps that will run on the USM Gorham and USM Portland campuses in conjunctur with the ASET program. This position is ideal for teachers, graduate students (education, engineering, science, technology) or upper level undergraduates.

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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
USM wasted no time, though, as Hampden, Maine hit a solo St. Joseph's junior DH Ian Lee the top of the first inning when and my swing just feels really the other way with pitches better, well, and I'm as relaxed as I've solid performance on the hill.

record for RBI in a single game (13-4). The Huskies also a six-win week for the Huskies, in part by a 21-3 dismantling of and 21-12). The Huskies also on Thursday. The win was part of local rival St. Joseph's College in part by a 21-3 dismantling of of wins last week, highlighted by a 21-3 dismantling of pole vault.

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

Like some sort of Roman ostracizing 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 do you 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 advanced her the best of view of the competition that she’ll dominate: the pole vault.

"I 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 competition go 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.