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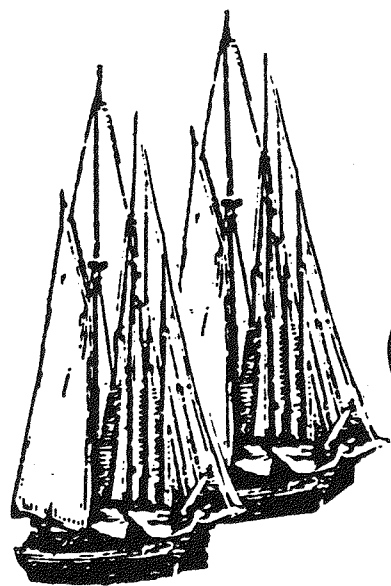
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# University of Southern Maine CURRENTS

Volume 5, Number 13

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## Cohen Honors USM Program



(Caswell photo)

U.S. Senator William S. Cohen was on hand on Friday, March 13 to announce that USM's year-old Honors Program has again received recognition from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in the form of a \$54,000 competitive grant.

It was the second such grant award made to the USM Honors Program in the past year. John Agresto, acting chair of the NEH, and then U.S. Representative John R. McKernan were on campus in March of 1986 to announce the award of a similar grant.

"This latest grant demonstrates the high level of support that this Honors Program enjoys from NEH officials in Washington and from your university community," said Cohen at an afternoon reception for faculty and students.

Frank Frankfort, a program officer at the NEH Washington headquarters, said, "These are prestigious grants. Only a small minority are funded, selected not on the basis of need but because they are intellectually sound and academically rigorous."

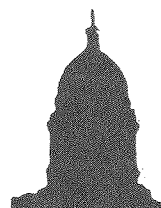
The grant — awarded through NEH's "Promoting Excellence in a Field" program—will allow USM faculty and staff to plan new Honors Program courses in the humanities.

Funds also will be used to bring distinguished scholars to campus (see page 2). Six guest speakers with national reputations were brought to USM by the Honors Program during the past year.

"The success of the USM Honors Program in the rigorous national competition for NEH support represents a tangible symbol of the educational quality here at USM and in the entire University of Maine System," said Martin A. Rogoff, director of the USM program. Rogoff also chairs the Council of Honors Directors of the University of Maine System. Six of the seven campuses now have honors programs. The University of Maine at Machias is developing one, said Rogoff.

Our Honors Program, which opened to students in the fall of 1986, offers special interdisciplinary courses, independent research projects and an advanced seminar on a current topic to high-achieving students. In its first semester, it enrolled some 15 students. Honors courses are designed to promote skill development while exploring subject content of the course. This duality of function impressed NEH officials and makes the program a model to faculty throughout the institution.

U.S. Senator William S. Cohen, left, above, announces the award of an NEH grant to the USM Honors Program. Martin A. Rogoff, program director, is also pictured. Cohen recalled his father's skeptical remark when he learned that Cohen was studying Latin poetry at Bowdoin: "I'm working to send you through college and you're majoring in what?" Nevertheless, Cohen said he found a background in the classics to be valuable in his legal and legislative careers. He praised USM Honors Program in grounding students in the humanities, saying, "I've always felt that we must ring the bells of the future with the ropes of the past."



## USM Wins AT&T Grant

Edging out hundreds of competitors nationally, USM won the largest gift of computer equipment granted by AT&T Company in northern New England for the past year. The state-of-the-art equipment, valued at \$500,000, provides new scope to our computer science program, which enrolls 250 undergraduates and 35 graduate students.

The gift was made to the university as the result of a proposal submitted by computer expert Roger Schroff, associate professor of computer science and author of SMART Software, used by corporations nationwide. "AT&T is pleased to recognize the quality of the proposal and the talent of USM's computer science faculty," said Donald Bonoff, AT&T branch manager for Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Bonoff noted that Schroff's work is known and respected at Bell Labs, where final evaluation of proposals was made.

The grant supplied 24 terminals, located in Room 103 of the Science Building on the Portland Campus, and six additional terminals for faculty use. But the core of the donation is the 3B15, a computer offering the UNIX operating system and four times the computational support of hardware previously in use in the program. "The new equipment provides greatly expanded instructional capability," Schroff said. "We can offer more sophisticated courses to more students, and have room for growth. What's more, students will receive the very important advantage of becoming familiarized with the UNIX system, which is fast becoming central to all computer operations." Schroff explained that as industry and government increasingly shift to a UNIX base, graduates will need to gain valuable hands-on experience in UNIX for future employment.

An additional benefit of the 3B15 system is that the terminals can be linked through the computer so they can "speak to each other" and can draw on the memory capacity of the 3B15.

The 3B15 also makes possible a sophisticated course in computer graphics and provides a foundation for additional donations, such as the re-

## • AT&T Gives Equipment (cont. from p.1)

cent gift of \$20,000 in software from Innovative Software.

"The AT&T grant supports efforts at USM to respond to the needs of the corporate/industrial community with applicable course offerings," said President Harlan Philippi.

Room 103 in the Science Building, Portland was officially opened for student use on March 18 by President Philippi. Computer science faculty members, students and University officials Helen Greenwood, provost, and Brian Hodgkin, dean of the School of Applied Science, were present along with AT&T representatives Donald Bonoff and Brad White. Other guests included Terry King, manager of Human Resources, and Justin Harlow, manager of the computer-aided design unit, from Fairchild; Rick Vreeland, director of research and development for Innovative Software; and Ted Tinson and Claudia Stepke from UNUM. Ken Nelson, president of Nelson & Small, Inc., commented on the benefits to be gained by area industries as employers of USM graduates trained on this new state-of-the-art equipment, saying a new partnership must be forged between the university and the corporate world "to prepare students with and for the technology of the 21st Century."



Roger Schroff, left, assoc. prof. of computer science and author of the grant proposal, and President Harlan Philippi cut ribbon during ceremony officially opening Room 103 for student use. (Caswell photo)

## Adler to Visit USM

Mortimer J. Adler, the nationally known philosopher, author, editor, lecturer and teacher, will be the keynote speaker at the annual Honors Program Dinner, scheduled for Tuesday evening, April 14.

Throughout his career, Adler has worked to bring philosophical ideas to the general public. He is associate editor of the "Great Books of the Western World," and coeditor-in-chief of "Gateway to the Great Books" and "Great Ideas Today." Encyclopaedia Britannica publishes all three series. In 1981 Bill Moyers hosted a Public Broadcasting System television series on Adler's book *Six Great Ideas*.

A lifelong proponent of liberal education, Adler is now director of the Institute for Philosophical Research.

More information on Adler's visit will be published when details are finalized.

## Classified Breakfast Scheduled

The annual Classified Staff Recognition Breakfast is scheduled from 8 to 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 31 in the Dining Center, Gorham. In the event of inclement weather, the breakfast will be held on Thursday, April 2.

All classified staff are encouraged to attend. Buses will be provided for those who need transportation. The buses will leave Portland at 7:30 and leave Gorham for the return trip to Portland at 10 a.m.

by Karen Erickson

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** You've undoubtedly read numerous opinions on how the Iran-Contra affair has tarnished the presidency. Yet in the following piece, USM political scientist Karen Erickson takes a different tack: the scandal could strengthen the office for the better if the administration can steer clear of more foreign policy blunders.

The Iran-Contra affair marks one of the century's more stunning turning points in the politics of the presidency and the very nature of the office itself.

The events of the last four months mark three changes in the growth of the presidency: (1) a quantitative change in the sheer size of the Executive Office of the president; (2) a qualitative change in the representational, responsive, and reflective aspects of the domestic executive function; and (3) a change in the role of the U.S. presidency in the international arena.

### BATTLE FATIGUE

The U.S. presidency has increasingly suffered from battle fatigue over the proliferation of tasks and responsibilities. The presidential staff and the councils, agencies and committees of the Executive Office have pushed beyond the large stones of the Old Executive Office Building that sits next to the White House in Washington. Each new decade brings an algebraic increase in size.

On the domestic side alone the president must now deal with problems that range from pollution to terrorism and from saving helpless monster cities to integrating a population of greater ethnic diversity than any nation the world has ever known.

### A UNIQUE OFFICE

While democratic theory recognizes that "to lead is to follow," the U.S. presidency is somewhat unique among

democracies of the world in that the same individual is responsible both to the legislative body and to the people. Even in countries where there is a tradition of strong centralized government and a chief executive, there also exists a prime minister who is responsible to a parliament.

In America, however, political cleavages have emerged on the basis of an upheaval in values and attitudes, increases in ethnic groups, a whole new population segment of seniors, and growing fears with respect to resources, the environment and health. In short, it is increasingly impossible for a president to relate directly to the people. Congress, not the president, represents the people, while the president is supposed to focus the energies of government to make the entire system work. It is essential that the political parties of Congress be strengthened as the people's brokers and that the president become, in turn, more responsible to the Congress.

Added to the long list of job specifications of the U.S. president is his role in international affairs. No country has a greater responsibility for the direction of global order than America. It requires knowledge and understanding in dealing with the rest of the world that can only come through experience of past decades and insight into future times.

### OVAL OFFICE OVERLOAD

The Iran-Contra affair is not an aberration of presidential politics. It is an outgrowth of the long course of overload problems that the presidency would have sooner or later confronted. As early as 1937, the report of the President's Commission on Administrative Management began with the words, "The President needs help." The crisis of growth and change in the presidency might be postponed

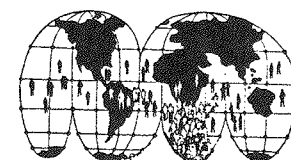
for a while but not averted forever; a postponement could occur under conditions of an exceptionally effective individual and/or staff in the chief executive office. The Reagan administration has had neither.

However, in a recent work on the changing presidency, Theodore Lowi maintains that presidents of the current era have to achieve "so much more" than past presidents and have to use "so much more deception" to cover their failures that the fault lies with the presidency and not with the president.

Thus, if the Iran-Contra affair leads to the recognition of needed change in the presidency, it will have had a positive effect on the workability of the American political system. Much will depend on the way in which new Chief of Staff Howard Baker exercises his role as the chief advisor with the critical liaison function to Congress.

On the other hand, the foreign policy consequences of the Iran-Contra events may not be as fortuitous. If the administration seeks to divert attention from the confusion and self-examination going on in Washington, it may head pell mell into accords with the Soviet Union that are not well considered.

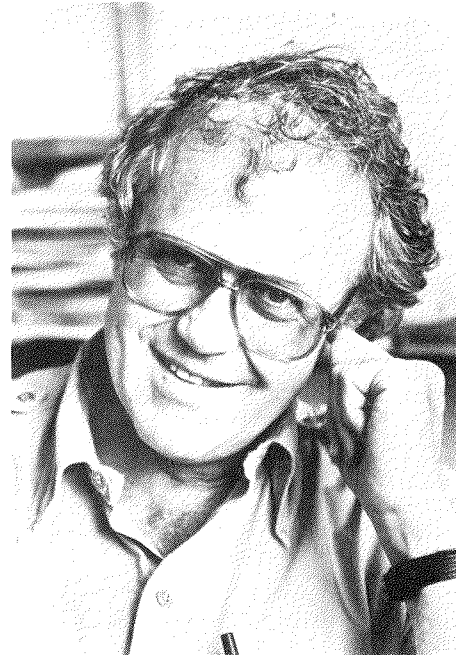
In the final analysis, however, the events of the past several months are of basic importance in providing the opportunity to strengthen and modernize a U.S. presidency that can meet the challenges of the upcoming century.





## A Gripping Reading

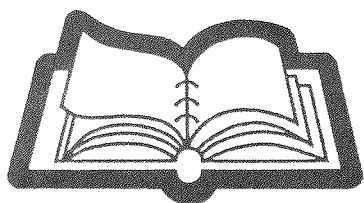
Theodore Weesner, author of *The Car Thief*, will read from his gripping new novel, *The True Detective*, at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 25 in the Campus Center, Portland, as part of the 1986-87 Convocation, "The Arts In Our Lives."



Weesner, already known to the University community through his participation in the Stonecoast Writers' Conference, in which he taught a novel writing course for two years, has set his latest novel in Portsmouth, New Hampshire although the story moves to the Portland vicinity also. This just-published book centers on the kidnapping of a 12-year-old boy by a college student at University of New Hampshire and tells the story from the points of view of the victim, the criminal and especially the investigating detective. It is the detective who, in his search for the truth, raises the complex and disturbing questions which are at the heart of this chillingly real novel. Is violence the inevitable cost of Portsmouth's new growth and development? Is there a new pathology at the core of modern America? The book is more than a thriller, it is a moving and insightful drama of our times.

Weesner, a faculty member at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, has published short stories in *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *Atlantic Monthly* and *Best American Short Stories* and has received awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Guggenheim Foundation. His highly regarded first novel, *The Car Thief*, won great critical acclaim, called by the *New York Times Book Review*, "movingly inevitable." *The True Detective*, his third novel, will surely be one of the most talked about books of the year.

A reception will follow the reading.



## Hall of Fame Honors Six

The USM Husky Hall of Fame boasts six new members, among them a well-known former sportswriter and a retired university administrator.

The six new inductees were honored at the second annual Husky Hall of Fame ceremony, held Saturday evening, March 21 in Gorham. The Hall of Fame was established in 1986 to recognize outstanding accomplishments by USM student-athletes and friends of USM athletics.

The 1987 inductees are:

- Clifford O.T. Wieden of Presque Isle, the first coach and administrator to be inducted. From 1924 to 1940 he served Gorham Normal School (a predecessor of USM) as athletic director and coach of the baseball, basketball and cross country teams. He retired in 1969 as president of the University of Maine at Presque Isle. The year preceding his retirement, Wieden was acting chief administrator of the then newly formed University of Maine System.

- Longtime sportswriter Carroll Rines of Portland is the second inductee. A 1938 Gorham State Teachers College (now USM) graduate, he was a Guy Gannett Publishing Company sportswriter for 38 years and an active umpire for 45 years. Known to many by his nickname "The Eye," Rines was inducted into the Maine Baseball Hall of Fame in 1975.

- John Ham Jr. of Falmouth, another 1938 graduate of Gorham State Teachers College, played basketball and baseball for four years, and was captain of the hoop team in 1936. He also played four years of tennis and

ran track for the 1938 squad. Ham, a former assistant principal at Deering High, was secretary of the men's athletic association at GSTC, served as class president and was president of the student council.

- Tony Wedge of Gorham, a 1956 GSTC graduate, enters the Hall of Fame for his prowess on the basketball court. In just 70 games from 1952 to 1956, Wedge scored 1470 points, or an average of 21 per outing. He still holds fifth place on the all-time scoring list and is among the top ten in the career field goal category.

- Clifford MacWhinnie of Stan-dish was one of USM's original soccer players. A 1960 GSTC graduate, he played four years of soccer and basketball, and ran track in his senior year. He captained the soccer team in 1959 and was selected the squad's most valuable player in 1959 and 1960. His daughter Lucinda, a 1984 USM graduate, also played basketball for the Huskies under Coach Richard A. Costello.

- A 1973 graduate, Donna McGibney, is the final inductee for 1987. While at USM, McGibney played four years of field hockey, three years of basketball, two years of lacrosse and one year of volleyball. Her career goals in field hockey total 25, a tie for first with one of last year's inductees, Debbie Higgins.

The Hall of Fame selection committee—comprised of USM staff members, alumni, a sportswriter and Hall of Fame members—selected the 1987 inductees from a pool of 30 candidates.

## Elmer Iseler Singers

If you saw the film, "Agnes of God," you've already heard the Elmer Iseler Singers, the leading chorus in Canada and an ensemble of international reputation. The Singers will be on concert tour in southern Maine from March 25 to 28, sponsored by the Portland Concert Association. The University of Southern Maine Music Department will participate.

The USM Chorale will perform with the Singers and the Choral Arts Society at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 26, in Portland City Hall Auditorium. The program will include selections from Bach cantatas, a suite of Canadian music, recent avant garde music, spirituals, a jazz suite by George Shearing and a finale of hymn arrangements and motets which will feature Gerry McGee on the massive Kotschmar Memorial Organ.

Then on Friday, March 27, the USM Music Department will be host to a choral music workshop led by Dr. Iseler from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Corthell Concert Hall on the Gorham campus.

For more information contact Mary Snell, concert manager, at 780-5256 or 780-5265, or Dr. Robert Russell, director of the USM Chorale, at 780-5272.

## Blues Legend at USM

Grammy Award-winning blues singer Koko Taylor will perform at 8 p.m., Saturday, April 11, in our Portland Gym. Admission is \$5 for the public, and \$4 for students and seniors.

Since Taylor started performing and recording professionally, she has recorded 10 albums and has received a host of music awards, including a 1984 Grammy for best traditional blues recording. The *New York Times* said "Koko Taylor is the most impassioned and exciting of women blues singers."

Taylor's vocal style was born of a potent mixture of gospel and blues influence, although it was blues that captured Taylor's heart. For years, she apprenticed with Chicago's biggest name blues acts, but has been performing with her own band — The Blues Machine — since 1972.

Taylor began her successful career performing weekends at the numerous blues clubs that dot Chicago's South Side. In 1965, she made her first professional recording. Since then, Taylor has played venues ranging from Carnegie Hall to the biggest name blues clubs in America.

This event is sponsored by the Student Activities Department, Speakers and Cultural Events, Portland Events Board and WMPG-FM. Call 780-4514 for information.

## Nobel Peace Laureate at USM

Adolfo Perez Esquivel, who won the 1980 Nobel Peace Prize for his work on behalf of human rights in Latin America's most oppressive societies, will speak at the University of Southern Maine later this week.



Esquivel's speech is scheduled for 3 p.m., Wednesday, March 25 in the Portland Gym. He is believed to be the first Nobel Peace Laureate to speak at USM. Portland Pax Christi, USM student groups, the USM College of Arts and Sciences, local service organizations and various Portland businesspeople are sponsoring his visit.

An outspoken critic of U.S. policies in Central America, Esquivel won the Nobel Prize for his work as coordinator of the Peace and Justice Service. The group works with youth, labor and Indian movements as well as with church organizations in support of human rights. The Service has persuaded military regimes to surrender power to civilian governments in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay; has campaigned against torture in Chile; has worked for the rights of urban workers in Brazil; and organized the famous Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo protest in support of kidnapped Argentine children.

Esquivel was tortured and imprisoned for 14 months following his arrest in 1977. One South American bishop calls the Service's acts of courage, "a firebreak to prevent the forceful fire of violence from destroying our world."

Esquivel accepted the Nobel Peace Prize "in the name of the people of Latin America...especially the poorest and smallest" who are the focus of the non-violent movement on that continent. He criticizes U.S. policy in Central America as misguided, reflecting a long tradition of intervention in the region. He explains that "for us, the problem is not Marxism. (It) is malnutrition for children and adults, and to have a life with dignity for all people." In 1984 he joined with other Nobel Prize winners to transport large quantities of humanitarian supplies to Nicaragua on a "peace ship."



Student Theatre Ensemble members John Philbrick and Andrea Booker as John and Nanny in "Baby With The Bathwater."

(Kramer photo)

## Baby With the Bathwater

The University Student Theatre Ensemble invites you to attend its production of Christopher Durang's scathing two-act comedy "Baby With the Bathwater."

"Baby With the Bathwater" will be presented at 8 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday, March 25, 26, 27 and 28 in Luther Bonney Auditorium, Portland.

The play is described as an absurd look at the hilarious effects of parental infantilism. The central character, Daisy, struggles for answers to life's important questions, like which sex she is and whether to change her name to Hillary, Marion, or... Rocky.

Tickets are \$6 for the general public, \$4.50 for USM faculty and staff, and \$3 for students.

For reservations and group rate information, please call 780-4089 Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



## First Annual Health Fair

As health care costs continue to soar, take advantage of the free screenings available at the first annual Community Health Fair, sponsored by the Student Nurses' Organization. On Thursday, March 26 you'll discover new ways of staying healthy as you sample health foods, explore the resources of more than 30 area health organizations and join a team competition in the Lifeline aerobics program. Don't forget to be screened for skin cancer and osteoporosis. Music and entertainment for children round out the day — 9 to 4 at the Portland Gymnasium.

## Call for Convocation

Interim President Harlan A. Philippi hopes to announce upcoming Convocation themes by the end of the month, but he can't do it without our help.

Members of the campus community are invited to submit their ideas for themes that "incorporate issues of a serious intellectual nature, lend themselves to consideration by a wide variety of disciplines, bring together different constituencies within the University and are accessible to the larger community outside the University."

Past themes have included, "The City," "Changing Roles of Women and Men," "Peace and War in the Nuclear Age," "The Aging of America," and this year's Convocation on "The Arts in Our Lives."

Please submit your ideas on a theme for the 1987-1988 academic year and the 1988-1989 academic year. Announcement of themes for the next two years will allow more time for planning.

Ideas should be submitted to the Office of the President, Deering Avenue, Portland Campus.

## JOB OPENINGS

*Assistant professor*, applied immunology, revised deadline — April 24, contact Neal S. Rote, 780-4427.

*Visiting position*, women's studies, deadline April 10, contact Jo Anne Preston, 780-4289.

*Laboratory associate*, chemistry, deadline, April 3, contact Richard G. Stebins, 780-4232.

## What We're Doing

PIERS BEIRNE, professor, sociology and legal studies, published his recent work on crime and penalty in the "International Journal of the Sociology of Law," "Contemporary Sociology," the "American Journal of Sociology," and the "Journal of Criminal Justice."

MONIQUE Y. CROCHET, associate professor, French, will present a paper entitled "Christiane Rochefort: platonicienne?" at the Fourth Annual Wichita State University Conference on Foreign Literature Continental, Francophone and Latin American Women Writers in April.

MICHAEL S. HAMILTON, assistant professor, political science, is the author of a book chapter, "Deregulation and Federal Land Management in the 1980s: Inducing Atrophy in Bureaucracy," in "Federal Lands Policy," published by Greenwood Press in February, 1987.


CARL H. HELMS, assistant director, Learning Assistance, and ROBERT LEMELIN, director, Learning Assistance, presented a paper "Word Processing and Developmental Writing" at the Eleventh Annual Conference of the National Association for Developmental Education this month in New Orleans.

WILLIAM A. PHILLIPS, associate professor, economics, appeared on WCBB-TV's "Maine Watch," February 19 to discuss the recent Health-Tex plant closings.

GALE W. RHODES, associate professor, chemistry, has received a Research Opportunities Award of \$12,600 from the National Science Foundation to support his work on interpreting data from X-ray diffraction studies on an enzyme that is essential to the proper breakdown of dietary fats in animals which will be done at Washington University in St. Louis.

WILLIAM STURNER, professor of management, gave a presentation on "Personal and Professional Risk and Change" to the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching in Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, N.C.

L. KINVIN WROTH, dean, School of Law, presented recommendations of the Maine State Bar Association's Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission at the Association's January meeting. He has been appointed by Barry Mills, president, Maine State Bar Association, to a second three-year term as a director of the Maine Bar Foundation, Inc., and at the Foundation's January meeting was elected vice president of the Foundation. The Honorable Conrad K. Cyr, chief judge of the United States District Court for the District of Maine appointed Wroth to serve as a member of the Court's special committee to celebrate the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution and the establishment of the Court. He will also serve as chairperson of a committee to review and make recommendations upon the reappointment as United States Magistrate of Honorable Edward H. Keith.



University of Southern Maine  
**CURRENTS**

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Materials should be submitted no later than Thursday noon, 11 days prior to publication to: 209 Deering Ave., Portland. Distribution is free. Third class postage is paid at Portland, ME 04103.

## Campus Notes

- As part of Women's History Month Patt Franklin, professor of art, will present a slide/lecture, 12-1 p.m., Wednesday, March 25 in Hastings Lounge, Gorham.

- USM's Nontraditional Commuter Student Board is sponsoring a spring bus trip to Boston on Saturday, March 28. Tickets are \$10 for USM students and \$20 for the general public. Call 780-4079 for more information.

## Dads Take Note

An all-day workshop which will explore concepts of fatherhood is being offered by the UM Cooperative Extension Service on Saturday, March 28 at the USM Campus Center. The workshop will focus on the connections men have with their own fathers and the impact of those relationships on their behavior as fathers today.

Titled, "The Father's Workshop: Old Patterns and New Choices," it will incorporate group discussion, personal reflection and sharing stories. Participants will be encouraged to draw upon their personal experiences as sons and fathers to support one another in looking at past father-son patterns and the choices available to them now as parents.

Cost for the workshop, which includes food, is \$15. Additional information is available at the Extension office at 780-4205.