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the free press

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USM officials weigh LePage budget cuts

Nate Mooney
News Assistant

Governor Paul LePage has formally presented his supplementary budget for the current fiscal year which outlines cuts to be made to specific state agencies and departments. He also presented his budget for the next two fiscal years along with formalized budget amendments for this year on Friday, Jan. 11. The legislature is currently reviewing the cuts for this fiscal year and the biennial budget before it opens for public review.

The new budget held good news for Ryan Low, executive director of governmental and external affairs for the UMS. One of his recent priorities has been to make the case against any cuts to the UMS in LePage's proposed budget for the next two years.

He recalled that the UMS Board of Trustees requested that state funding remain consistent over the next years in order to keep its commitment to maintaining an in-state undergraduate tuition freeze. Though it still must be approved by the legislature, LePage's budget for the next two years fulfills that request to hold

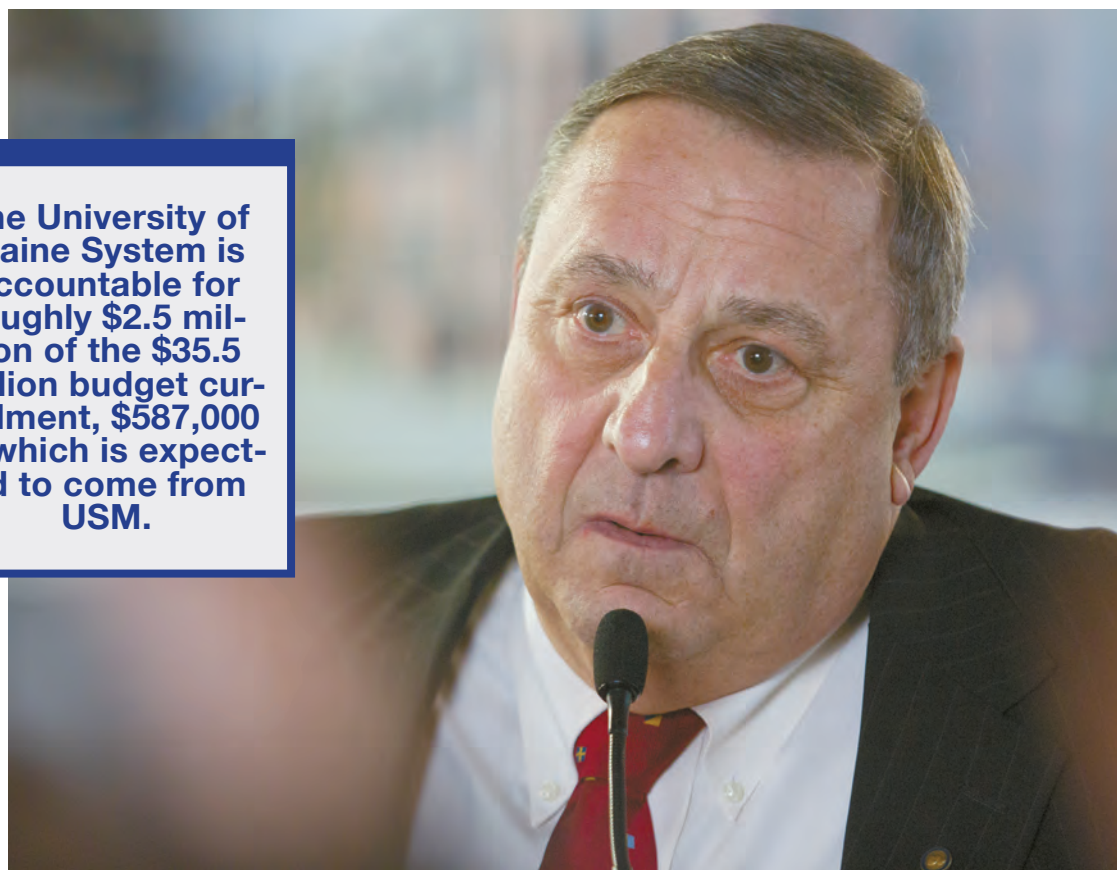
funding rates flat for the UMS.

"We're pleased with the governor's biennial budget proposal," said Low.

Dick Campbell, chief financial officer for USM, will be helping to decide how the almost \$600,000 in budget curtailment will be distributed over the current fiscal year ending June 30. Campbell is waiting for legislative approval of the curtailments to finalize USM's cuts. However, he outlined a short list of entities from which the funds will be likely to come. Some equipment upgrades, such as computers or snowblowers, will most likely be delayed. Funding for faculty projects, like research or conference travel, will also be curbed if the cuts are finalized in their current form.

The Capital Projects Fund is one part of the budget that might see a large portion of the cuts. The fund is designed to pay for projects that arise throughout the year, after the budget has been created. The fund is used to address projects that "meet

The University of Maine System is accountable for roughly \$2.5 million of the \$35.5 million budget curtailment, \$587,000 of which is expected to come from USM.



Alex Greenlee / Multimedia Editor

Maine State Governor, Paul LePage speaks at a press conference this month.

See **BUDGET** on page 2

Students question snow day policies: USM answers

A USM shuttle bus was involved in an accident Wednesday afternoon in Gorham.



Patrick Higgins / Free Press Staff

A student shuffles through the snow in Gorham last Wednesday, in front of Bailey Hall.

Kirsten Sylvain
Editor-in-Chief

Poor weather conditions Wednesday played a part in a USM shuttle bus fender bender and led to long and slow commutes, and now many students are questioning why classes were not canceled, delayed or let out early during the snowstorm.

Chair of the Student Senate Chris Camire quickly realized that student frustration was on the rise Wednesday, shuttle bus trips that normally take between 20 and 25 minutes reportedly lasted for more than an hour that day.

The senate quickly set up a poll

See **SNOW** on page 2

Contracts are yet to be negotiated

Sam Haiden
Free Press Staff

Some professors on campus can be seen wearing pins that read: "USM Works Because We Do," as the University of Maine system continues to negotiate UMS faculty on about negotiating a contract.

The release of an Associated Faculties of the Universities of Maine fact finding report this January has yet to produce an agreement between AFUM and University of Maine systems for full-time faculty contracts and pay increases.

AFUM's arbitration board released its fact-finding report to the public this month. The report is the second step in the Maine Labor Relations Board's three-step process to reach contractual agreements between the UMS and AFUM. The third step, should it be necessary, would involve interest arbitration through a third party, either jointly

selected by AFUM and the UMS or by the state Board of Arbitration and Conciliation.

The fact finding report explains the financial standing of the UMS and proposes that it would be reasonable for the faculty to request a two-year contract, recommending a 1.5 percent raise "retroactive to Sept. 1, 2011 for Unit members of AFUM as of the date any new successor contract is signed" and a three percent raise retroactive to Sept. 1, 2012.

"It's really a matter of respect," said Susan Feiner, professor of economics and women and gender studies. "Our faculty is very well qualified, and our salaries do not reflect that."

Feiner is also concerned about the faculty's standard of living, explaining that in recent years there have been few salary increases as

See **AFUM** on page 3

Some still smoke at USM



Alex Greenlee / Multimedia Editor

One of the new "no smoking" signs posted at Luther Bonney Hall.

Tom Collier
Free Press Staff

Students returned to USM last Monday to begin classes for the spring semester. For most students, that day also marked the first that the university's new tobacco policy would affect them. In spite of the ban, some students still light up between classes on university property.

Student response to the ban has been mixed. While many appreciate the cleaner air provided by a smoke-free environment, others question whether the policy was fairly implemented. Gabby Foster, a senior spotted dragging on a cigarette near Luther Bonney Hall, and her friend Abigail Felker, a senior and non-smoker, both believe that the policy is well-intentioned but poorly executed. Both Foster and Felker questioned the true intent of the policy.

Felker, who is herself an asthmatic and sensitive to smoke in close proximity, said that while she didn't smoke herself, she felt that a ban on tobacco infringed upon the rights of paying students.

Foster agreed. "[The new tobacco policy] is all about segregating smokers and trying to force them to quit. I'm not going to quit because someone tells me to — I'm going to quit when I want to quit."

The two students pointed out that there were no designated smoking areas on campus where smokers might congregate without having to worry about offending nonsmokers with second-hand smoke. Felker suggested the placement of a gazebo on the far end of the campus green that abuts Bedford Street and Brighton Avenue. Foster chimed in, "Yes, this campus needs a butt hut."

When asked whether she thought students would follow the new pol-

icy, Foster shook her head. "Nope," she said, "definitely not." She went on to cite her experience attending the University of Maine at Farmington, where she claimed that a similar policy had been implemented, only to be greatly ignored by the student body.

In a recent letter to students, President Theodora Kalikow said that the new policy was now "in a planned period of 'transitional compliance.'" This planned period is projected to run through Sept. 1, 2013, after which, failure to comply with university policy will incur disciplinary action.

Public Safety officer Jeffrey Soper, when asked how Public Safety is currently enforcing the tobacco ban, said that if he sees a student smoking on campus, he'll politely remind him or her that USM is now a tobacco-free university and encourage adherence to the new policy.

"Diplomacy," he explained, "has always worked well for me in my 30 plus years of being a police officer."

In regards to the effectiveness of the policy, Soper said that "for the most part," he believed it to be working. He did show potential concern, however, for the safety of student smokers living on the Gorham campus, who will be forced to smoke beyond university grounds and potentially close to busy roads, pointing out that his top priority has always been ensuring the continued safety of the students. "The students," said Soper, "that's who I work for."

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From **SNOW** on page 1 on its Facebook page asking students "should school have been cancelled today?" — and overwhelmingly, students who visited the page, voted "yes." The final tally was 113 to 2.

Camire explained that he intends to compile the responses to the poll and send them to President Theo Kalikow with the hope that she will issue a statement to students to help them better understand USM's decision process that day.

"We can go to work and continue with our lives despite whatever inclement weather there may be. However, we're part of an academic institution, and there are more parts of the whole that need to be considered," he said. "We're talking about over 10,000 people who are ultimately affected, and now we have students that are dealing with their insurance companies because they had a crash."

"We may be adults, but we're still learning. We're not all the best drivers around," he explained.

Chief Financial Officer Dick Campbell is the man who — with the approval of President Kalikow — decides whether classes should be canceled in case of inclement weather. He's had the job for 15 years between USM and the University of Maine at Augusta.

"Making this decision is my least favorite part of the job," he said.

He explained that the job requires that he call many external sources. Facilities reports to him, and he consults with school districts, neighboring colleges and universities and the state police for road conditions. He also consults with a meteorologist.

He explained that the timing of

the storm made it difficult for him to accurately assess its severity.

According to Campbell, since the storm started early Wednesday morning, there was no opportunity to get good information.

"We have to look at what seems appropriate for the general population that we serve," he said. Varying weather conditions between Portland and Gorham also make the decision difficult because classes can't be canceled at one and not the other.

Campbell cautioned that each driver needs to know his or her limits.

"Ultimately, students, faculty and staff must make individual decisions based on their perception of the driving conditions and the specific roads they will travel," he said.

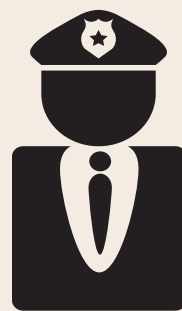
John Titus, 42, is a USM shuttle bus driver. He was working on Wednesday during the storm. He described seeing four accidents en route between campuses.

"It was dangerous," he said. "But I don't know what criteria or procedures exist for making that decision. I know that we could tell them that there were a lot of accidents."

Campbell admitted that making the decision is difficult, but retrospectively, he feels that USM and the many other universities and schools that did not decide to close acted appropriately and correctly.

For more information on the Wednesday bus accident, see www.usmfreepress.org. For an opinion, see page eight.

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Police Beat

Selections from the
USM Department of
Public Safety police log
Jan. 1 to Jan. 15

Tuesday, Jan. 1

Can't get it up?

12:08 a.m.- Report of damage to an elevator. - Upperclass Hall

Pour one out for Public Safety

12:55 a.m.- Report of loud gathering. Alcohol disposed of by underage subject in possession of it at officer's request. - Upperclass Hall

Thursday, Jan. 3

Revolt from your mechanical oppressors!

8:42 a.m.- University employee struck a mechanical unit outside a building with a university vehicle. Report taken. - 25 Bedford St.

Don't Panic.

10:15 a.m.- Panic alarm activation. Officer checked on it, appears to be a malfunction. - Law Building

Tuesday, Jan. 8

Control yourself!

11:13 a.m.- Report of a person causing a disturbance. Situation controlled. - Payson Smith Hall

Wednesday, Jan. 9

This doesn't look right...

7:50 a.m.- Report of a needle found on the ground. Appears to be a diabetic supply. - 126 Bedford St.

You're outta here!

11:15 p.m.- Three vehicles towed for impeding snow removal. - Gorham Lot 2B

Thursday, Jan. 10

Whole lotta hoopla

12:56 a.m.- Report of a loud party. Handled by residential life staff. - Upperclass Hall

How ya doin'?

1:43 a.m.- Wellbeing check on individual. All set. - Robie Hall

Saturday, Jan. 12

Heckler handled

11:40 a.m.- Subject giving staff a difficult time. Moved along by officer. - Sullivan Gym

Sunday, Jan. 13

I'm not sure I like him...

4:23 a.m.- Report of a possibly unwanted person in the room. Checked on the situation and everyone is all set. - Upperclass Hall

Monday, Jan. 14

Well I tried a bribe!

1:06 p.m.- Report of a subject upset about their grade and causing a disturbance. Report taken. - Bailey Hall

Tuesday, Jan. 15

It says PULL to open

8:25 a.m.- Report of damage to a door. - Upperclass Hall

They need backup!

7:28 p.m.- Officer standing by for a Gorham Police Department arrest. - Gorham off campus

Can't you see you're not wanted?!

9:06 p.m.- Unwanted person moved along by officer. - Sullivan Gym

Police logs are edited for grammar and style. They can be found at usm.maine.edu/police/campus-crime-log.

In Brief...



Nineteen STEM scholars at USM

Nineteen USM freshman and incoming transfer students received up to \$5,000 each in scholarships as part of the National Science Foundation's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics scholarships. The STEM scholarships are funded in large part by \$592,000 from the NSF with additional support from USM. The scholarships were awarded based on financial need and academic performance and will be available throughout the recipients' time at USM if they continue to meet the academic requirements. The scholarships are designed to increase academic opportunities in the fields of science and technology for those with financial need. The STEM program will be available to as many as 41 incoming freshman and transfer students when fully implemented in future years.

USM expands scholarships

There will be \$1.3 million in additional scholarship funds available for first-time USM students starting in the fall of 2013. The funding for the scholarships was reallocated from within the

existing university budget. The scholarships range between \$1,500 and \$12,000 and will be available to students who continue to meet academic requirements for all four years at USM. 356 freshmen received scholarships in the fall of 2012 and USM plans to award a similar amount for the 2013-2014 academic year.

USM Alum opens ink exhibit

A new exhibit entitled "Everything" by USM alumna and artist Astrid Bowlby will open on Thursday, Jan. 24 at the USM art gallery on the Gorham campus. Her exhibit will feature unfurled rolls of paper where she creates ink drawings of various everyday objects. There will be an opening reception from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 2, which will feature a talk by the artist. Bowlby will continue to appear at the exhibit on Sundays from 12 to 4 p.m. to add drawings by request through the end of the exhibit in early March. Bowlby received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from USM and is currently a visiting critic at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. For more information, contact Carolyn Eyer at the USM art gallery at 780-5008.

USM Red Claws night

Free tickets for the Portland Red Claws game against the Santa Cruz Warriors on Friday, Jan. 25 will be available starting at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 22 in the Student Involvement and Activities center in the Woodbury Campus Center. The tickets are sponsored by the

Portland Events Board, Portland Student Life and the USM Alumni Office. Tickets are limited and will go quickly, so get yours before they run out! Contact Julia Pond in the Portland Student Life office at 780-4787.

USM is Maine's 'safest college'

StateUniversity.com named USM as Maine's safest school based on frequency and severity of crime on campus. The ranking comes behind recent initiatives at USM like the Interpersonal Violence Prevention program that seek to make USM a safe campus. The website centralizes school reviews in a variety of categories. USM was also named one of the "Top 10" colleges in Maine.

Female Veterans Seminar

USM Veterans Services will host a web seminar for women veterans on Tuesday, Jan. 22 from 3 to 5 p.m. in room 327 of Portland's Wishcamper Center. The "webinar" will feature speakers from the Battered Women's Justice Project on issues facing female veterans as they reintegrate into civilian life. The BWJP is funded by the Office on Violence Against Women, the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services. Contact Michael Blaylock in Veterans Services at 228-8185 FMI.

From AFUM on page 1

inflation rates continue to rise. "Our purchasing power is going down," she said, "and we have nothing to compensate for it."

She also indicated that this trend is causing an increase in the number of part-time employees.

"The UMaine system has been building its reserves in recent years. Their unrestricted net assets have doubled. For them to turn around and say they simply don't have the money to provide their employees with a pay raise is disingenuous."

Since the recent downturn in the economy, state appropriations for the UMS have been reduced by 3.3 percent, from about \$185.7 million to \$179.5 million. However, the recently released fact finding report claims that, "Of the UMS's \$787 million in net assets at the end of FY2011, \$166 million were unrestricted liquid (non-capital) assets." That number is the result of a huge increase from FY2007 to FY2011 in which those non-capital assets doubled — from \$76 million to the \$166 million.

Chief Human Resources and Organization Development Officer Tracy Bigney insisted that the numbers are not quite so simple. "Think of those unrestricted net assets as a birthday gift," she said. "They are funds for one-time use. They are not a recurring source of funds, and those funds that are recurring have taken a dive in value," she said. "You wouldn't take your birthday money and buy a house because you have to pay for a house year by year."

"Although these funds are not legally restricted, they are largely committed," Bigney said. She explained that these funds will be redirected toward infrastructure maintenance and repairs that could

not be included in the budget and unexpected expenses. She also stated that the savings were spurred by fear of economic downturn and act as a safety net in case of emergency. "The only other source of long-term revenue for the UMaine system would be to increase tuition costs, which is a unanimously rejected option." Bigney stated that the contribution of USM professors is indispensable, but also stresses that the budget is a delicate balancing act.

Most recently, AFUM sought resolution to the conflict by moving to "work to rule." Ed Collom, associate professor of sociology and president of the USM branch of AFUM, explained that "work to rule is a slowdown tactic in which employees attempt to perform only the minimum amount of labor required by the collective bargaining agreement." The tactic allows faculty to be able to focus more on the core of their employment — simply teaching the students. "While work to rule has few clear lines, the key is to hold students harmless in the process," he said. "Indeed, students may actually benefit since faculty will have more time to spend on their teaching and scholarship."

"USM AFUM is standing up against the trustees' refusal to accept the recommendations from the fact-finding report and their larger dismantling of public higher education," Collom said.

A decision on employment contracts is pending. However, Bigney did not make a statement on how she expects the issue will be resolved.

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Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20						21			22			
		23		24	25		26					
27	28	29					30	31				
32				33					34	35	36	37
38			39		40				41		42	
43				44		45			46		47	
		48		49					50			
51	52	53					54					
55						56	57		58	59	60	61
62					63		64	65				
66					67				68			
69					70				71			

Across

- 1. Fem.'s opposite
- 5. "___ of robins..."
- 10. Sch. where Bill Walton played
- 14. "Two guys walk into ___"
- 15. Good earth
- 16. Negative votes
- 17. Mall map sentence
- 19. Many mgrs.' college degrees
- 20. Unravel
- 21. "Candide" author
- 23. Russian vehicle
- 26. Layouts
- 27. Place for keepsakes, perhaps
- 32. German first person
- 33. Made holes
- 34. It's in the air
- 38. Sporty auto roof
- 40. ___ Nast
- 42. Chance it
- 43. Hebrew holy text
- 45. Sloping type: Abbr.
- 47. "The most trusted name in electronics" sloganeer, once

Down

- 8. Orderly
- 51. Thick smog, say
- 54. Like a bug in a rug, according to an expression
- 55. Imperil
- 58. Incursion
- 62. Carp kin
- 63. Wharton novel
- 66. Hoosgow room
- 67. What a lumberjack leaves behind
- 68. "Man, that hurts!"
- 69. Johnson of "Laugh-In"
- 70. Bronco buster
- 71. ___ Trueheart, Dick Tracy's love
- 9. Rules from Moses, collectively
- 10. Opened, as a door
- 11. Sergeant fish
- 12. Timothy who preached, "Turn on, tune in, drop out"
- 13. Dummkopfs
- 18. Hold up again
- 22. "Jurassic Park" predator, briefly
- 24. U.C.L.A. quarterback, perhaps
- 25. Skillful
- 27. Ballard's relative
- 28. Eight: Comb. form
- 29. God with a magic hammer
- 30. Income: Fr.
- 31. Morticia's creator
- 35. Drug buster, for short
- 36. Predator of the sea
- 37. "Hud" actress
- 39. Okay
- 41. Distinctive style
- 44. "Rock of Ages," e.g.
- 46. Belongings
- 49. Most Solomonic
- 50. Luzon native
- 51. Hajj goal
- 52. "Devil ___ Heart": Beatles
- 53. Like blue movies
- 56. Old comic strip character Kett
- 57. Baba au ___
- 59. "Tamerlane" playwright Nicholas
- 60. Singer Tori with the album "Little Earthquakes"
- 61. Some coniferous trees
- 64. Soul, in St.-Lo
- 65. 'All Things Considered' broadcaster

Cryptogram

Every letter in a cryptogram stands for another letter. Use the hint to crack the code.

**QVN DWWP HNZZWB
BMU HOPNK HPWI
QVN WPMGEN XFOAN
HMAQWPJ HWP ZMAS
WH AWGANGQPMQOWG.**

And here is your hint:

I = M

Sudoku

A sudoku puzzle consists of a 9 x 9-square grid subdivided into nine 3 x 3 boxes. Some of the squares contain numbers. The object is to fill in the remaining squares so that every row, every column, and every 3 x 3 box contains each of the numbers from 1 to 9 exactly once.

7			1	8				
8		9	2	1				
	3	7	5					
3								
1	5				4	3		
						6		
			7	9	8			
	7	4	6	2				
2	8							4

The solution to last issue's crossword

I	B	I	S		S	T	A	M	P		L	A	K	E				
T	A	R	T		B	O	H	E	A		U	N	I	V				
T	H	I	N	K		A	G	A	I	N		C	I	T	E			
Y	A	S	I	R							T	R	A	C	K	M	E	N
			C	A	S	A					M	O	Y	E	R	S		
			M	O	C	K					U	M	E	N	T	A	R	Y
			O	F	A		T	O	N	I	O		K	O	O	L	S	
			M	O	T	A		G	E	O	D	E		U	H	U	H	
			A	Z	O	T	H		A	B	A	F	T		M	D	A	
						L	O	O	S	E	Y	G	O	O	S	E	Y	
			A	N	D	A	L	L			S	H	A	M				
			T	O	E	N	A	I	L	S			D	E	L	T	A	
			T	H	A	T		V	A	L	L	E	Y	G	I	R	L	
			H	O	N	I		E	T	U	D	E		A	F	I	T	
			E	W	E	S			R	E	G	L	E		S	O	P	S

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Southern Maine Outdoor Recreation (S.M.O.R.)

Spring 2013 Semester Program Schedule

Space on trips is limited and pre-registration is required for all S.M.O.R. programs, Inquire early. Call 780-4939 or stop by the office at 104 Sullivan Recreation & Fitness Complex on the Portland Campus. Payment is taken at time of registration for all programs.

A 72 hour cancellation notice is required for refunds.

For more information & additional trip details visit:

<http://usm.maine.edu/sullivancomplex>

Snow Tubing

Let's celebrate the snow! SMOR is heading to Seacoast Fun Park for an evening of tubing! A short distance away, this is a really fun trip to connect with your friends from school and celebrate being back in the swing of the semester after a couple weeks. Cost includes transportation for the first 18 who sign up, inner-tube, and lift ticket.

Dates: Saturday, Feb. 2nd
Cost: \$10 students, \$15 faculty/staff, spouse/DP.

Estimated time frame:
3:30pm - 10:30pm
Leave Portland: 3:30 pm
Leave Gorham: 4:00 pm

Snowshoeing Trails at Wolfs Neck Farm

SMOR wants to explore some local trails this semester. This short afternoon hike is a great way to start your weekend right. We'll be heading to Freeport to explore Wolfs Neck farm. This is a great pathway on the shoreline and has some spectacular ocean views. Snowshoes can be provided if needed or bring your own!

Dates: Friday, February 8th
Cost: \$5 students, \$10 faculty/staff, spouse/DP.
Est. time frame: 12:00pm-4:00pm
Leave Portland: 11:30am
Leave Gorham: 11:00am

Ski/Snowboard Weekend

Once again we'll be hitting the mountains for a weekend in the snow. This is always a really fun trip where we arrive early Saturday morning and spend the day on the mountain, then travel to a hostel for the night and wake up to do it all over the next day. The cost includes lift tickets, transportation, dinner and accommodations. This is a great deal to hit the mountains right before winter break!

(Lessons and/or rentals on your own)
Dates: Saturday/Sunday, February 16th - 17th
Cost: \$75 students, (\$30 N.E. College Pass holders), \$115 faculty/staff, spouse/DP.
Est. time frame:
6:00am on 16th - 8:00pm on 17th
Leave Portland: 6:00am
Leave Gorham: 6:30am

Ski/Snowboard Day Trip

If you can't manage to get away for a weekend in the snow, come along for this one! We're hitting the mountains for the day and will be home in time for a late dinner. The cost includes your transportation and lift tickets!
Date: Saturday, March 16th
Cost: \$35 students/\$60 faculty/staff, spouse/DP for lift ticket & transportation,

\$55 student/\$90 faculty/staff, spouse/DP for lift ticket, transportation & rentals
\$10 transportation only for N.E. College Pass holders
Est. time frame: 6:00am - 7:00pm
Leave Portland: 6:00am
Leave Gorham: 6:30am

Black Mountain Cabin Hike and Camping

This is a fun weekend trip to the White Mountains where we will stay in a small cabin on the side of Black Mountain. If there is snow, we will be snowshoeing otherwise it's a short two miles up Black Mountain to a cabin where we will stay the night! Outfitted with bunk beds and a woodstove, the cabin is quite cozy. The weekend includes meals, transportation, and some equipment can be provided. No experience is necessary

Dates: Saturday/Sunday, March 23rd - March 24th
Cost: \$25 student, \$40 faculty/staff, spouse/DP.
Est. time frame:
6:00am on 23rd - 3:00pm on 24th
Leave Portland: 6:00am
Leave Gorham: 6:30am

Disc Golf Series on Friday afternoons
Cost: \$10 student, \$15 faculty/staff, spouse/DP
Per week, includes game fee and transportation

Est. time frame: 12:00pm-5:00pm
Leave Portland: 12:00pm from Sullivan Complex
Saco Disc Golf is an 18 hole course designed for beginners, with some technical and long shots this will be an enjoyable Friday afternoon.
Date: Friday, March 8th

The Beauty in Brunswick is a course of 27 holes all short range technical shots, which will help players improve their short strokes.

Dates: Friday, March 15th
Windham Seacoast Fun Park Disc Golf is half hike half disc golf. The holes start at the base of a mountain and as you play you progress to the top. This is a great place for beginners to work on technical skills.
Dates: Friday, March 22nd
Gorham Disc Golf. There are several open ranges allowing for long drives that will not get stuck in trees. If you want to work on your tee shots this is the place to do it.

Dates: Friday, April 5th
The Beast in Brunswick is a course with 18 holes of technical, long shots. Not to be mistaken for the Beauty, the Beast will challenge even experienced disc golfers.

Dates: Friday, April 12th
Disc Golf and Camp Trip
Troll Valley, in Farmington, Maine is a technical long course with lots of twists that will challenge us all. We will be leaving the campus Friday afternoon, driving to Farmington and setting up camp. We will provide a campfire Friday night with S'mores and Saturday breakfast at camp. Campers need to bring Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, any snacks and drinks for the weekend. We will be departing Friday at 4:00pm and arriving back on campus Saturday around 6:30pm. Troll Valley is a really fun course that will take most of the day to play.
What better way to end our Disc Golf series & semester!

Dates: Friday, April 26th - Saturday, April 27th
Cost: \$20 student, \$25 faculty/staff, spouse/DP.
Est. time frame:
4:00pm on 26th - 6:30pm on 27th
Leave Portland: 3:30pm
Leave Gorham: 4:00pm

Ski Pass Discounts for Students, Faculty & Staff

Lost Valley, Mt. Abrams, Shawnee Peak, Sunday River, Sugarloaf, and Loon Mtn., NH all have student & faculty/staff & family member day pass discounts available. For a complete list visit:
<http://usm.maine.edu/sullivan-complex/university-community-recreation-fitness-discount-offerings>

Southern Maine Outing Club FMI email:

usm.outing.club@gmail.com
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Your safety is important to us, as is the quality of your experience. This is why all of our trips are led by a Registered Maine Guide. As always with our S.M.O.R. sponsored events, our trips are tobacco and alcohol free.
All activities may be subject to change dependent on minimum participants, weather conditions, etc.
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR S.M.O.R. OUTDOOR PROGRAMS 72 HOURS IN ADVANCE.

Receive additional information at the Sullivan Recreation and Fitness Office on the Portland Campus, Room 104 Sullivan Complex or call 780-4939.

Connect with us!
<http://usm.maine.edu/sullivan-complex/southern-maine-outdoor-recreation-smor>

USM Sullivan Recreation & Fitness Complex, Portland



Hours of Operation

Sunday	9:45 am – 6 pm
Monday-Thursday	5:45 am - 10 pm
Friday	5:45 am - 7 pm
Saturday	6:45 am - 6 pm

All Activities end 15 minutes before closing.

Schedule is subject to change.

Call 780-4169 or visit our website for details.

Check with Sullivan Complex Fitness Centers and Body shops time close for Academic class times in either area.

The alternate room may be used during these class times.

Memberships

If you're a current USM Student, you're already a member!

ID's: Every person who enters Sullivan Complex must show a valid USM Photo ID or a government issued ID for entrance. No exceptions!

Risk Release Forms: An assumption of Risk and Release is required to be completed at the time of purchase by each member for participation in all activities and programs held within the Sullivan Recreation & Fitness Complex.

Minimum Age: Must be at least 18 years of age for access.

Services

Towel Service: Clean towels for showering after your workout. Cost: 3 months \$7, 6 months \$ 12, 12 months \$20

Lockers:

Half Locker Cost: 3 Months \$7, 6 months \$13, 12 months \$24

Full Locker Cost: 3 months \$12, 6 months \$18, 12 months \$30

Laundry Service: Save time with our laundry service!

Cost: 6 months \$ 28, 12 months \$50

Saunas: Saunas are available in women's and men's locker rooms.

Connect with us

www.usm.maine.edu/sullivancomplex

Sullivan Recreation and Fitness Complex

Southern Maine Outdoor Recreation - USM Outing Club

Information Desk: 207-780-4169

Office: 207-780-4939

E-Mail: wsargent@usm.maine.edu



Body shop & Fitness Center Programs

Fitness Programs can be found on the web:

www.usm.maine.edu/sullivancomplex

Registration information

To Register: Go to the USM Sullivan Complex Recreation & Fitness Office, 104 Sullivan Complex with your USM student photo I.D card beginning January 14, 2013. Classes are subject to change.

Stop in or view website for updates on program offerings.

<http://usm.maine.edu/sullivancomplex>

Fitness activity programs

All programs require pre-registration.

Schedule is subject to change.

Ball - On The Ball (Fitball):

Improve strength, flexibility, and balance using fit ball for resistance with a little hula hooping on the side.

Schedule:

M-W-F 4:15pm warm up

4:30pm-5:15pm

Cost: \$10 Students per semester, \$5 drop-in day fee,

Included with membership

Bootcamp:

Advanced level fitness class using many different programs including kettlebells, training ropes, circuit training etc..

Schedule:

M-W-F 5:15pm-6:15pm

Cost: \$10 Students per semester, \$5 drop-in day fee, Included with membership.

Indoor Walk/Jog Drop In:

Open gym time for walk jog. The main gym is 12 laps to a mile.

Schedule:

M-W-F 6am - 9am

Cost: \$10 Students per semester, \$5 drop-in day fee

Step Aerobics:

To include: Circuit training, Step 'n Sculpt, Step 'n Tone, and more.

Schedule:

M-W-F 6:15am-7:15am

Cost: \$10 Students per semester, \$5 drop-in day fee,

Included with membership

Zumba:

A fusion of Latin & International music and dance themes that creates a dynamic, exciting and effective work out system. Wear loose comfortable clothing!

Schedule: T-TH 5pm-6pm

Begins: 1/29/13 **Ends:** 5/2/13

Cost: \$10 Student, \$50 Member, \$90 Faculty/Staff non-member, \$100 public

Spinning:

Group fitness workout on spinning bikes. Limited to 12 participants.

Schedule: T-TH 12pm-1pm

OR 5:30pm-6:30pm

(2 days a week)

Begins: 1/29/13

Ends: 5/2/13

Cost: \$10 students, \$90 Faculty/Staff non-member, \$100 public

Sunday Express Spin and Stretch:

Moderate workout that will include 30 minutes of spinning followed by 30 minutes of core exercises, light weights and cool down stretching. Limited to 12 participants.

Schedule: Sunday 4pm-5pm

Begins: 1/27/13 **Ends:** 4/28/13

Cost: \$10 Students, \$65 Public

Women's Strength & Power Hour:

Cardio and interval training to maximize weight loss, strength training for bone density, core stability for toning, and flexibility for balance and joint mobility. Get all the benefits of a good balanced work-out. Modifications can be made to meet different fitness levels. Limited to 12 participants.

Schedule: T-TH 1:30pm-

2:30pm

Begins: 1/29/13 **Ends:** 5/2/13

Cost: \$10 Student, Included w/ Membership

Yoga:

Pre-registration for yoga class offerings is a must. If you are signing up for this program, you should be prepared to make a 12 week commitment to one class per week.

Begins: week of 1/28/13

Ends: week ending 5/3/13

Cost: \$20 Students, \$40 members, \$75 faculty/staff or non-member, \$85 public

Classic Yoga:

Schedule:

Tuesday 12pm - 1:15pm

OR

Thursday 1:15pm - 2:30pm

Vinyasa Yoga 1:

Schedule:

Vinyasa-Tuesday 7pm-8:15pm

Gentle style for Wellness:

Schedule: Monday 12pm-1pm

Basketball & Racquetball Court

Basketball:

Drop-In hours vary.

Please check our website for an updated schedule.

Call 780-4169 to confirm availability.

Bring your own basketball for play, basketballs are limited in availability

Racquetball/Squash/

Wallyball:

Courts can be reserved up to 1 week in advance.

Cost: Non-Members: \$5 day

fee and \$2.50 court fee.

Bring your own racquet for play as racquets are not available.

Group activities in the main gym

Commuter Open Gym:

Bring your own group or join with others! Badminton, Dodgeball, Floor Hockey, or Volleyball equipment available for sign out.

Schedule:

Tuesday & Thursday 2pm-4pm

Cost: Free for students and members, \$5 public

Fencing:

Schedule: Tuesday 6pm-9pm

Fee: Free for students and members, \$5/day public

FMI: E-mail the Blade Society

usmbladesociety@gmail.com

Indoor Soccer:

Schedule: Thursday 7:30pm-

9:30pm

Free: first 20 students

Ultimate Frisbee:

Schedule: Tuesday 7pm-

9:45pm

Fee: Free for students and members, \$5/day public

FMI: Visit the Portland Ultimate Frisbee website at

www.portlandultimate.com

Massage

Therapeutic:

Appointments available with a Licensed Massage Therapist.

FMI: <http://usm.maine.edu/sullivancomplex/therapeutic-massage>

Cost: \$45 for 60 minutes or

\$65 for 90 minutes

Schedule: Appointments made

in advance by calling 780-

4939.

Seated massages available:

Come to 104 Sullivan Complex or visit the Sullivan Complex

website for additional information.

Racquetball Leagues and Clinics

Come to 104 Sullivan Complex or visit the Sullivan Complex

website for additional information.

Skating & Swimming

Must register at USM Sullivan

Complex Recreation Office,

Rm. 104. Offered to current

semester students only. Come

to 104 Sullivan Complex for

additional information.

Ski Pass discounts

Lost Valley, Mt. Abrams,

Shawnee Peak, Sunday River,

Sugarloaf, and Loon Mtn., NH

all have student & faculty/staff

& family member day pass

discounts available. For a

complete list visit:

<http://usm.maine.edu/sullivancomplex/>

USM Community discount offerings

Discount Program offerings

through University Community

Recreation & Fitness for Students,

Faculty, Staff, and University

Community members. Dine

Around books, Amusement

park discount tickets at

Funtown/Splastown USA, Six

Flags, Water Country, Canobie

Lake & More! For a complete listing of all ongoing specials visit the following website:

<http://usm.maine.edu/sullivancomplex/university-community-recreation-fitness-discount-offerings>

USM Outing Club

FMI E-Mail:

usm.outing.club@gmail.com

or find us on Facebook

Southern Maine Outdoor Recreation S.M.O.R.

A sample of our outings include: Canoe & Camping on the Saco River, Cross Country skiing, Disc Golf Series, Learn to ski days, New Moon evening hike Pleasant Mt. Day hike, Sea Kayaking, Ski & Snowboard overnight weekends trips, Snowshoeing, Snow tubing trip, Tumbledown Mtn. Camping, White Mt Hikes, Winter Camping & Hiking Weekends.

Transportation for students is available on both the Portland and Gorham Campus for all students attending any of our trip offerings.

Come to 104 Sullivan Complex or visit the Sullivan Complex

website for additional information

on our SMOR offerings.

www.usm.maine.edu/sullivancomplex or

[Find us on Facebook](#)

Self defense series

Raise your awareness, enhance safety skills, gain strength and inner confidence.

Take on every day interactions at work, home, and in

public. Learn about violence

against specific groups

and address your own safety

concerns. Physical and verbal

self defense skills taught are

practical, effective and fun.

Accessible to all regardless of

fitness or ability. This class is

both serious and fun, with lots

of movement! Open to all.

Schedule:

Wednesdays, 12pm- 1:30pm

(beginning 2/13—ending

3/20/13)

Fee: Free for Students, Faculty

& Staff, \$15 for Public with

Pre-Registration for 5 weeks,

\$5 Drop in fee per class if not

Pre-Registered

Instructor: Clara Porter, Co-

ordinator of USM Campus

Safety Project, is a certified

self defense instructor with the

National Women's Martial Arts

Federation.

Sullivan Recreation



& Fitness Complex
University of Southern Maine

Arts & Culture

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From Greece to Gorham: A look at one man's 'destiny'

POOH BOY	6.49	6.99	6.49	BUFFALO CHICKEN	6.99	7.99	6.99	DOUBLE CHEESEBURGER PLATE	9.99	CHICKEN	2.99	SIDE
RICH BOY	6.99	7.49	6.99	CHEESEBURGER SUB	6.99	7.99	6.99	LOADED DOUBLE CHEESEBURGER PL	10.49	SALADS		
ROAST BEEF	6.99	7.99	6.99	CHICKEN FINGER	6.99	7.99	6.99	CHICKEN FINGER PLATE	9.99	ANTIPASTO		
SALAMI	6.49	7.49	6.99	CHICKEN GYRO	6.49			CHICKEN SANDWICH PLATE	8.99	CHEF		
SPECIAL SUB	7.49	8.49	7.99	CHICKEN SOUVLAKI	6.99	7.99	6.99	BROILED SANDWICHES				CHICKEN
TUNA	5.99	7.49	6.99	FRIED CHICKEN	6.99			CHEESEBURGER	3.99	BUFFALO CHICKEN		
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Grinder/Wrap Toppings				HAMBURGER SUB	5.99	7.49	5.99	DOUBLE CHEESEBURGER	5.49	TOSSED		
ONION, GREEN PEPPER, PICKLE, GREEK OLIVE, TOMATO, MUSHROOM, LETTUCE, PROVOLONE CHEESE, MAYO, SALT & PEPPER, OLIVE OIL (Some Grinders Do Not Include All Toppings. See Take-out Menu For Details)				HOT PASTRAMI	5.99	7.49	5.99	HAMBURGER	2.99	TUNA		
				EGG & CHEESE	5.99	7.49	5.99	HOT DOG w/FRIES	3.99			
				STEAK ~N~ CHEESE	5.99	7.49	5.99					
				ADD VEGGIES	.35	.65	.35					
				ADD MEAT	1.00	1.25	1.00					
				LOADED STEAK	6.99	8.75	6.99					



Last spring, Angelo Sotiropoulos thought his life was over. Gorham House of Pizza was boarded up and he was diagnosed with cancer at age 63. But with generous support from the community and some time to rest, he is back on his feet and back in the kitchen, continuing his journey here in Maine.

Sam Hill
Arts & Culture Editor

Gorham House of Pizza reopened its doors this December, eight months to the day after it was shut down by a fire. With a renovated kitchen, a new look in the diner and school back in session, owner Angelo Sotiropoulos says he's glad to be back in business.

"There's definitely been an increase in business since we've been back," said Sotiropoulos, "and everyone working here is giving a 110 percent effort. It's amazing."

Sotiropoulos is known locally for his busy pizza joint, but there's more to this man than a delicious pie.

"Coming here to Gorham, Maine was my destiny," said Sotiropoulos. "That's the only way I know how to explain it."

Sotiropoulos immigrated from Greece to the United States around 40 years ago, arriving in Massachusetts. Not knowing the country well or the local area, his goal was simply to make a paycheck. After a few

months in the states, his brother suggested they move to Maine. Sotiropoulos's reaction was that of many outside of New England — "Where is Maine?"

Soon after, he relocated to Falmouth, Maine and began working at Falmouth House of Pizza. In 1980, he was approached to travel again, but this time it was just a short drive over to Gorham to look at the pizza place that everyone now knows as GHOP.

"I've worked eight in the morning to eleven at night almost every day since I've been here. For the first seven or eight months, business wasn't exactly great. Sometimes there would just be no customers. But I kept on working just the same," said Sotiropoulos.

The business lull didn't last. GHOP soon became the local hotspot for Gorham residents and USM students.

"I've met so many wonderful people working here. Thousands of students and teachers from the university along with everyone who lives in the area," said Sotiropoulos. "The mix of culture here is wonderful, and I love being a part of it."

Business went well from there on out, until the night of the fire.

"I truly believed that it was the end of my life," said Sotiropoulos.

The building had gone up in flames because of a small electrical fire started in the ceiling of a second floor apartment.

"I remember standing out in the street and watching my life go up in flames," said Sotiropoulos. "I was in shock. I didn't sleep

at all that night. I remember my prayers being for the building not to be burned to the ground."

His prayers were answered. The fire damage was surprisingly minimal. But the water damage done to the restaurant enough that he was forced to barricade the windows and close down his business.

"I've had an amazing journey here in Gorham. It's like a dream come true."

-Angelo Sotiropoulos
Gorham House of Pizza owner

Soon after, Sotiropoulos had another issue on his hands even more serious than his damaged business. About a week later, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Fortunately, the cancer was at an early stage, and Sotiropoulos was able to be treated in the summer of 2012, at age 62.

"It was then that I began to think of the fire as a blessing. Because if I hadn't had to close up shop, I would've been right back in there the morning after my diagnosis, working like I always have," said Sotiropoulos. "I knew that it had happened for a reason."

As Sotiropoulos recovered, he began to rebuild and renovate his building. The property was insured, and he was able to cover most of the costs of repair through Gorham Savings Bank. The re-opening was not the work of just Sotiropoulos, but of an entire community. People rallied around the owner and his employees, offering support and holding fundraisers.

"The money that was donated was a nice gesture, but even more so was the emotional support I received. The thoughts and prayers for my well-being from the people in the community were very heartfelt," said Sotiropoulos.

Sotiropoulos is grateful for the support he received, and now he is working to set up a special Gorham Community Fund to help those in need.

Opening GHOP in December was an early Christmas present for Sotiropoulos. The diner has a new look, but he made sure that people knew they were still coming back to the same staff and environment. It's still the same ole GHOP. It just has a new look.

"I've had an amazing journey here in Gorham. It's like a dream come true. Like a movie, almost. I'm so thankful to the world, to everybody," said Sotiropoulos. "There's no better feeling than this. I came here 40 years ago, and I had no clue. I got no respect. But now here I am, with all the love and respect in the world."

sam@usmfreepress.org
@SamAHill

Patrick Higgins / Free Press Staff

Gorham House of Pizza owner Angelo Sotiropoulos poses at the register with employees (from left to right) Lindsay Chapman, Abigail Hayes and USM Media Studies & Communication major Ayrie Calhoun.

A&C Listings

Tuesday, January 22

Biggz General & Redlyte / Bg 'Ol Dirty Bucket
The Big Easy
55 Market St.
Doors: 8:30 p.m. / Show: 9:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 24

Pete Witham and the Cozmik Zombiess
Empire Dine and Dance
575 Congress St
Doors: 9:00 p.m. / Show: 9:30 p.m.

The Portland jazz Orchestra
One Longfellow Square
181 State St.
Doors: 8:00 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

Samuel James / Dana Grass
Blue
650 Congress St.
Doors: 9:00 p.m. / Show: 9:00 p.m.

Heart Shaped Rock
Brian Boru
57 Center Street
Doors: 9:00 p.m. / Show: 9:30 p.m.

Friday, January 25

Martin Sexton / The Alternate Routes
State Theatre
609 Congress St.
Doors: 7:00 pm / Show: 8:00 pm

Chad Hollister Trio
One Longfellow Square
181 State St.
Doors: 8:00 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

Cokeweed / Aneveningwith / Micah Blue Smaldone
Empire Dine and Dance
575 Congress St
Doors: 9:00 p.m. / Show: 9:30 p.m.

Trapparatus
Blue
650 Congress St.
Doors: 10:00 p.m. / Show: 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 26

Sly-Chi
The Big Easy
55 Market St.
Doors: 7:30 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters
One Longfellow Square
181 State St.
Doors: 8:00 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

Electrovangogh
The Flask Lounge
117 Spring St.
Doors: 8:00 pm / Show: 8:00 pm

All Good Feel Good Collective / Eight Feet Tall
Empire Dine and Dance
575 Congress St
Doors: 9:00 p.m. / Show: 9:30 p.m.

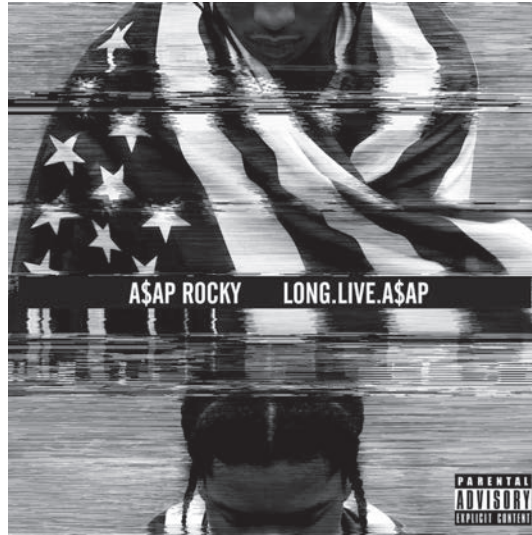
Wurlibrd
Blue
650 Congress St.
Doors: 10:00 p.m. / Show: 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 27

They Might Be Giants
Port City Music Hall
504 Congress St.
Doors: 6:30 pm / Show: 7:30 pm

National Review

A\$AP debut has been worth the wait



A\$AP Worldwide, Polo Grounds, RCA

Sam Hill
Arts & Culture Editor

It's official: Long.Live.A\$AP has been worth the wait.

New York rapper A\$AP Rocky was signed to the majors almost two years ago, and a road of scrapped projects and delayed release dates was all that followed. Everyone was ready to write him off before the spacey single "Goldie" was released last April, just in time to remind the world why they ever listened to him in the first place.

Rocky sounds charismatic and confident in his debut, successfully creating an album that only amplifies his already odd persona. He wasn't scared off by the spotlight. His work on Long.Live.A\$AP shows that he is evolving as a rapper and lyricist without deviating from the path he set with earlier mixtape, LiveLoveA\$AP.

"Hell" sticks out as a typical "I made it" track. "We

used to wear rugged boots, now it's all tailored suits," he raps. But it's not as cliché as most hip-hop debuts, especially with his collaboration with Santigold for the hook and a subtle shout out to Socrates. Every rapper deserves the right to make at least one track like this.

To hear Rocky at his most serious moment, listen to "Suddenly" as he describes his seemingly overnight rise to fame and his rough upbringing in Harlem. The song has no distinct beat, but rather a collection of distorted samples and sound effects that weave together, fading in and out as the song progresses. He delivers quite the message that easily makes one think of a rapper such as Common or Nas instead of Rocky, rapping, "I only got one vision, that's for kids in every color, religion / That listen, that you gotta beat the system, stay the f--- out the prisons." But he quickly clears up this quick-lived moment of seriousness by rapping, "Don't view me as no conscious cat, this ain't no conscious rap" — rapper first, activist second.

The only mistake made on Long.Live.A\$AP is the track featuring the two biggest stars. "F----- Problems" features Drake and 2Chainz, both well-established mainstream rappers. This track is absolute garbage. This is what happens when rappers try to go mainstream. They dumb it down for the radio and Top 40 charts. They could have written these simplistic verses in their sleep, and the hook is one of the least imaginative of the decade, reminiscent of 50 Cent's "I Get Money" from 2007. Even Kendrick Lamar delivers a lazy verse. It's like their goal was to create an awful song.

That one track aside, Long.Live.A\$AP is a well-crafted debut album, a must-listen for any hip-hop heads and one hell of a start to 2013.

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@SamAHill

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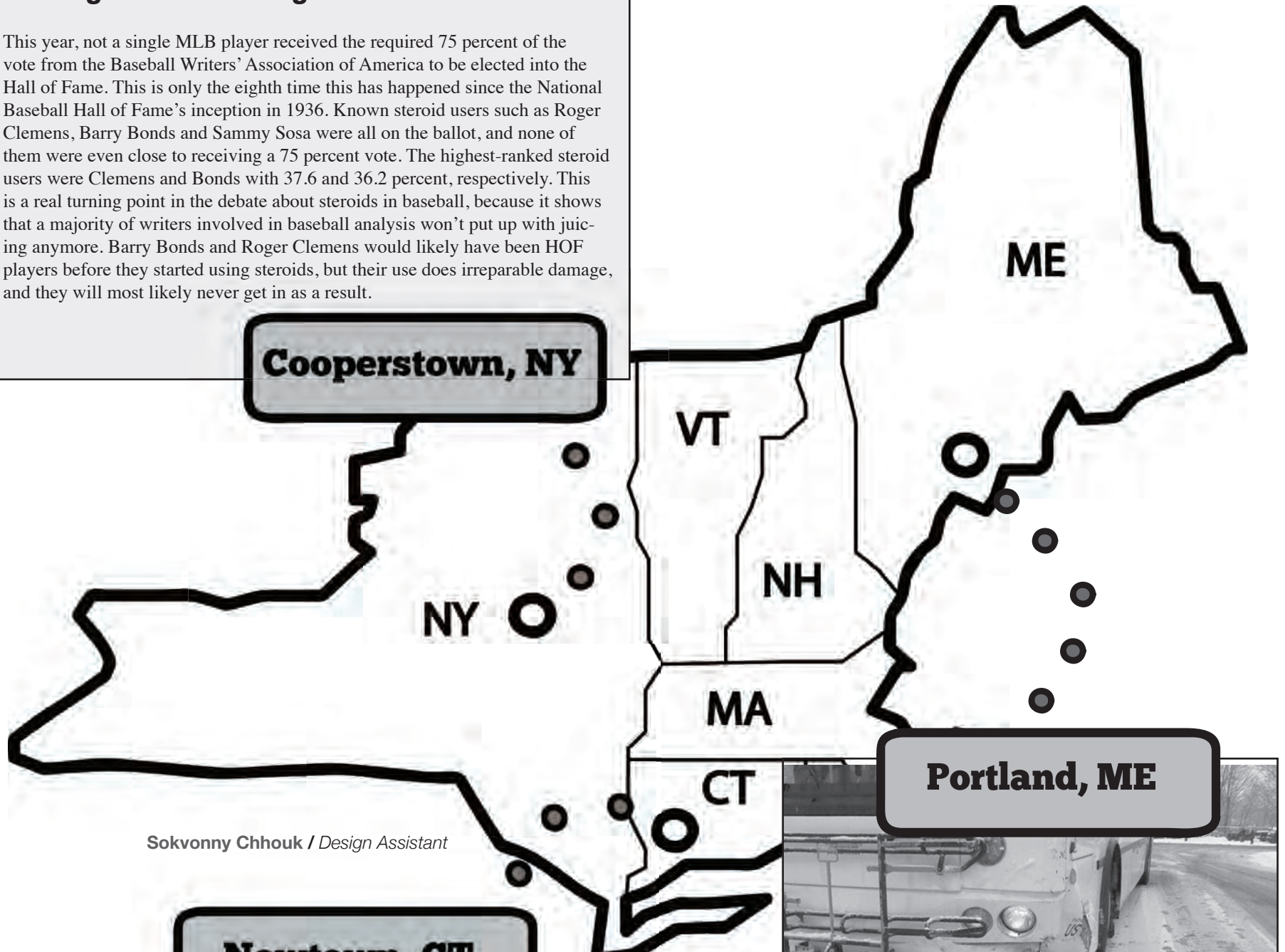
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Things of the week

Juicing leads to losing – in baseball

This year, not a single MLB player received the required 75 percent of the vote from the Baseball Writers' Association of America to be elected into the Hall of Fame. This is only the eighth time this has happened since the National Baseball Hall of Fame's inception in 1936. Known steroid users such as Roger Clemens, Barry Bonds and Sammy Sosa were all on the ballot, and none of them were even close to receiving a 75 percent vote. The highest-ranked steroid users were Clemens and Bonds with 37.6 and 36.2 percent, respectively. This is a real turning point in the debate about steroids in baseball, because it shows that a majority of writers involved in baseball analysis won't put up with juicing anymore. Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens would likely have been HOF players before they started using steroids, but their use does irreparable damage, and they will most likely never get in as a result.

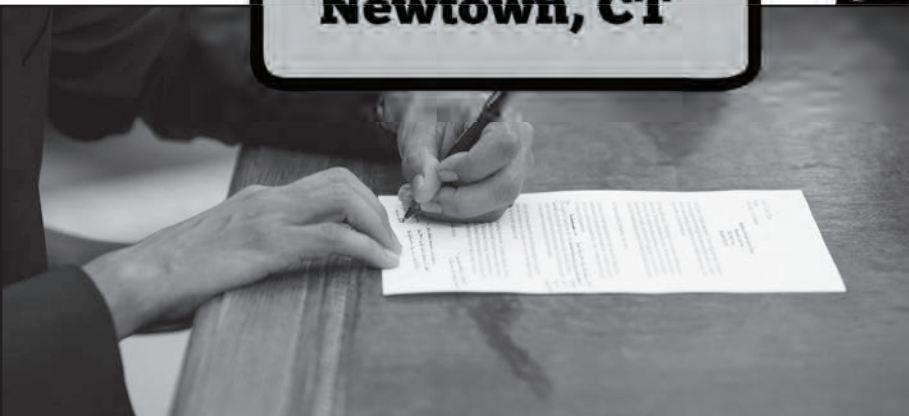
Cooperstown, NY



Sokvonny Chhouk / Design Assistant

Portland, ME

Newtown, CT



Obama's proposed gun control laws

President Barack Obama launched a massive proposal to overhaul gun control on Wednesday, Jan. 16. He called for a ban on assault rifles, as well as mandatory background checks for all gun buyers. The controversy of this can't be overstated. Obama will have to fight masses of gun lobbyists in Congress for this to pass. As someone who comes from a family that owns roughly zero of them, I don't know a lot about guns, or for that matter assault rifles. But I do know that there's no tangible way to escape gun violence, whether it comes from an assault rifle or a handgun. As far as the mandatory background checks go, I think that waiting a few days for a background check to be performed and then being able to purchase your gun is fine. If you have nothing to hide, then everything should be fine, right? All I know right now is that I should have opened up a gun store a long time ago, because I could pay off my loans in a day with the money to be made in gun sales right now.

Back to school fenderbender

Students at USM started classes for the spring semester last week with a snowstorm on Wednesday. But instead of canceling classes, USM decided to proceed with the day (individual professors did cancel some classes, but it was their own choice). During the middle of the day, a USM shuttle bus was hit by a car on the way from one campus to another. People on the bus didn't receive any injuries and there was minor damage done to the bus, but it prompted strong reactions from students, who called out USM on its class canceling policies. The problem, though, is the judgement in severity of the storm. We live in Maine, and as such, we get plenty of snowstorms. We can't and shouldn't cancel class every time it snows. It's hard to judge how severe a storm will be, so I can see why USM would wait it out. I think this is one time where classes most certainly should have been canceled. On the upside, the next snowstorm should prompt a quick response on behalf of the university.

ahenry@usmfreepress.org
@USMFreePress

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Write a column for the Freepress.
Contact editor@usmfreepress.org



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Peace in Gaza is possible



Maruis Arnesen / Wikimedia Commons

A housing district destroyed by bombings on the Gaza strip.

Mohamed Mohamed
Contributor

The recent escalation of violence in Gaza seems to have arisen out of nowhere, and although it coincides with the ongoing narrative of the Israeli Palestinian conflict, I refuse to be desensitized to these recent developments in another episode of this perpetually heartbreaking drama. There have been countless atrocities committed by both sides in the Gaza crisis over the years; however, I do believe that peace between Israel and Palestine can become a reality. In order for this to happen, U.S. foreign policy must set aside its unwavering support for Israel and take a more equal approach to both parties. It is my belief that doing so would ease the increasingly strained relations we have in the Middle East and would give no more reasons for Muslim nations to feel aggrieved for the plight of the Palestinians.

It was around this time a year ago that the Palestinian authority under Mahmoud Abbas made leaps and bounds toward establishing a Palestinian state through peaceful and diplomatic channels, working toward membership in the U.N. At that time, the progressive unilateral actions taken by Abbas yielded hope for a promising solution to the age-old question of Israel and Palestine. What is perplexing to me is that instead of joining the rest of the international community in supporting the diplomatic path to peace that Abbas strived for, Israel and the U.S. effectively blocked this path. The U.S. in particular threatened to veto any membership vote that was likely to pass, stating that in order to achieve lasting peace, Palestine and Israel should return to the negotiating table.

The U.S. was right in some aspects -- negotiations have to be held to hash out the many challenges of a two-state solution. These challenges are complicated to say the least. The current situation in the

region is that the Israeli government controls the airspace, all the borders, the public land and the resources, with each expansion of settlements encroaching in what would be the future Palestinian state. Compromise between the two is constantly facing obstacles. This is due to Israel's current political dynamic. The Likud party is the current ruling party in Israel, as well as the party that Prime Minister Netanyahu hails from. This party has time and again conveyed that it is against their policy to engage in the two-state solution, through actions such as continuing the occupation in Gaza and parts of the West Bank. It is clear that Israel is unwilling to relinquish control over these areas and plans to expand on them. Although the U.S. had honorable intentions for the two opposing sides to seek dialogue and return to negotiations, it is evident that the right wing Likud party and Prime Minister Netanyahu are unwilling to do so.

The incessant violence and airstrikes following Nov. 14 resulted in the deaths of 158 Palestinians, 102 of whom were civilians, 55 militants, one policeman, 30 children and 13 women. This was part of a military operation code-named "Pillar of Defense," which was enacted in retaliation for the four Israeli civilians and one soldier that had been killed by Palestinian rocket attacks. This recent flare up is a testament to the failure of forcing the adversaries to negotiate on an uneven table. We're seeing a similar imbalance in bloodshed this time around: "More Palestinians were killed in Gaza [in Nov.] than Israelis have been killed by projectile fire from Gaza in the past three years," wrote Palestinian-American activist Yousef Munayyer. Obama has said that America is "fully supportive of Israel's right to defend itself." However, it is easily discernible that it was a disproportionate response to the largely ineffective rocket attacks.

These attacks have emboldened the Palestinian Authority's recent attempt to elevate their status in the U.N. once again, from a non-voting observer "entity," to that of a nonvoting observer state. This was passed through successfully on Nov. 29, with 138 member states in the U.N. general assembly voting "yes," nine voting "no" and 41 abstentions. The change will pave the way for the Palestinians to join dozens of U.N. bodies and conventions, and it could strengthen their ability to pursue cases against Israel at the International Criminal Court. In a statement made by President Abbas in November, "Our people have witnessed, and continue to witness, an unprecedented intensification of military assaults. The blockade, settlement activities and ethnic cleansing, particularly in occupied East Jerusalem. This Israeli occupation is becoming synonymous with an apartheid system of colonial occupation, which institutionalizes the plague of racism and entrenches hatred and incitement." Perhaps the negotiation table will be even now, with the world acknowledging the rights of the Palestinian people. Once again, the future looks promising for a two-state solution.

I'm not anti-Israel by any regard. I have merely chosen to objectively analyze the conflict, and it has become increasingly evident that the plight of Palestinians is in many ways reminiscent of the treatment of the Jews leading up to the Holocaust, which is a tragic irony that the ones who have a miserable history of oppression and victimization are the very people prolonging this ill-fate onto another. Just as we asked our teachers and parents why didn't anyone stop the holocaust, we may have a different question to answer for the future. It's time for a change.

Mohamed Mohamed is an international studies major in his senior year at USM.

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Home Games

Tuesday

Women's Basketball vs. Plymouth St. 5:30 p.m.
Men's Basketball vs. Plymouth St. 7:30 p.m.

Friday

Men's Ice Hockey vs. St. Michael's 7 p.m.
Women's Ice Hockey vs. Salve Regina 4 p.m.

Sports

Women's Basketball

Lady Huskies remain undefeated



Justicia Barreiros / Free Press Staff

Sophomore guard Taylor Flood drives the ball past a defender.

Alan Barker
Staff Writer

The women's basketball team remains unbeaten after a 18-4 run in the second half of the game on Tuesday evening, securing the win against the UMass Boston Beacons 70-54 at Hill Gymnasium in Gorham. The win adds to their untarnished record, which now stands at 16-0 and 6-0 in the Little East Conference.

The Huskies took control of the game early, winning the tip-off and opening a small lead, scoring the first five points of the contest. UMass closed the gap to 5-4 before the Huskies used a 10-4 run led by Nicole Garland to open up a ten point lead about midway through the half.

The Beacons did not go quietly, however, as Teresa Pina and Olivia Murphy keyed a 14-2 run of their own over the next six minutes to take a 22-20 lead with 3:51 remaining in the half. USM tied the score with a layup by Rebecca Knight and Garland's four points to close out the quarter. UMass's Kirsten Morrison and Pina each converted layups to tie the score going into the locker room, 26-26.

Knight opened the second half for the Huskies much like she closed

out the first, scoring a quick bucket to give USM the early lead. Garland added a three pointer, but seven consecutive points from UMass's Murphy gave the Beacons a 33-31 lead. This would be their last lead of the game, as USM went on an 18-4 run over the next six minutes, giving the Huskies a comfortable 12 point lead. UMass cut the lead to seven on three occasions, but USM used a 16-3 run over a four minute span to put the game out of reach.

Leading the Beacons with a double double was Murphy with 18 points and 11 rebounds. Other contributors were Pina (13 points, six rebounds), and Kirsten Morrison, Brittany Moore and Andrea Suffredini with six points each.

The Huskies were led by Jordan Grant's 21 point, five-rebound, five-assist effort. Also contributing to the win were Garland with 15 points, Knight with 14 points and nine rebounds, and Haley Jordan with 10 points.

This is the 62nd time the two teams have matched up, and the Lady Huskies have won each meeting.

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Men's Basketball

Huskies win by a narrow margin

Alan Barker
Staff Writer

The men's basketball team used their strong shooting performance in the second half of the game to take a narrow victory over UMass Boston on Tuesday night. The Huskies remain in a three-way tie with Rhode Island College and Eastern Connecticut in the Little East standing after beating the Beacons 64-58. The win improves the team's record to 10-6 overall and 5-1 in the Little East Conference.

The Huskies started the game with an 8-2 run with just under six minutes played with a steal by Alex Kee and pass to James Odneal for a monster dunk to give USM a 14-6 lead. The Beacons battled back with a 15-2 run of their own to take a 21-16 lead over the next four minutes, keyed by Kadeem Coulter and Rahshjeem Benson.

Huskies Connor Sullivan and Sean Bergeron scored on the next three possessions to regain the lead at 22-21, but UMass scored eight quick points to take a 29-24 lead with 35 seconds to play in the half. Kee knocked down a jumper with four seconds left in the half to cut the UMB lead to three points. The 29-26 Beacon lead held into the half, as a last second shot from beyond half court from UMass's Vinny DeLucia banked in, but was waved off as the red light around the backboard lit up before the shot was released.

The Beacons appeared to be on

cruise control at the beginning of the second half, as they scored the first six points to extend their lead to nine points. Brandon Tomah and Sullivan made an 18-6 run to reclaim the lead at 44-42 at the midway point of the second half. UMass's Jerard Mayes converted an offensive rebound to tie the score, but on the ensuing possession, Brian Alexander threaded the needle with a pass from beyond half court that snuck through three defenders to a streaking Sullivan for the layup and the lead, a lead which the Huskies would not relinquish. USM used that play to spark an 11-4 run to push the lead to 55-48 with just over six minutes to play, and the two squads traded points down the stretch.

Leading the Beacons was Benson, who had a double double with 14 points and 15 rebounds. Brian Clarke had eight points and 11 rebounds while Carl Joseph had eight points and seven rebounds.

The Huskies were led by Sullivan's 16 points, six rebounds and four steals. USM also got solid efforts from Kee with 13 points, Odneal with 11, Bergeron with nine points and five rebounds, and Tomah with nine points. Also contributing significantly was Alexander who dished out five assists in the victory.

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Justicia Barreiros / Free Press Staff

Senior guard Mike Poulin drives a layup against a defender to help seal the victory against UMass.

Upcoming

January 22

Women's Basketball
Plymouth St. @ USM

Men's Basketball
Plymouth St. @ USM

Men's Ice Hockey
USM @ Bowdoin

January 25

Men's Ice Hockey
St. Michael's @ USM

Women's Ice Hockey
Salve Regina @ USM

January 26

Women's Basketball
USM @ Western Conn. St.

Men's Basketball
USM @ Western Conn. St.

Men's Ice Hockey
Norwich @ USM

Women's Ice Hockey
Holy Cross @ USM

Scoreboard

January 15

Women's Basketball
USM 70
Mass.- Boston 54

Men's Basketball
USM 64
Mass.- Boston 58

Women's Ice Hockey
USM 1
Bowdoin 4

January 18

Men's Ice Hockey
USM 3
Skidmore 8

Women's Ice Hockey
USM 1
St. Anselm 4

January 19

Women's Basketball
USM 69
Eastern Conn. St 55

Men's Basketball
USM 71
Eastern Conn. St. 87

Men's Ice Hockey
USM 1
Castleton 3

Women's Ice Hockey
USM 1
Mass.- Boston 2

USM COMMUNITY PAGE



Community Spotlight: The USM Learning Commons



Casey Ledoux / Free Press Staff

USM Coordinator of Academic Support and a founder of the Learning Commons, Paul Dexter explains the many services that the Commons offers students.

Skyla Gordon
Staff Writer

The USM Learning Commons, located in the Portland and Gorham libraries, is celebrating one year of success this January.

Since the beginning of its first year, the Commons has noticed an increase in the number of students using its services, especially in tutoring and reference services. This November, they saw a 147 percent increase in the number of their students receiving tutoring in math.

The Commons workspace is meant to allow for collaborative and individual study time and to help students improve in all areas of their education. The Commons provides tutoring, IT support, academic counseling and seminars.

Paul Dexter, coordinator of academic support and one of the founders of the Learning Commons, explained why he believes the space is so important. "The Learning Center is about getting students excited about the notion of collaborative learning. Students are making it an academic home on campus," he said. "It's about removing barriers and creating opportunities to maximize student learning."

Dexter's goals for the future of the Commons include getting more students to come in earlier on and more regularly throughout their college experience. David Nutty, the director of libraries at USM and a founder of the Learning Commons, explained further what the Commons hopes to do to improve its services. "We're hoping to see continued growth," he said. "We've already begun carving out new spaces on the third floor. We'd like to have additional spaces for students

and faculty."

A dozen other Maine schools have come to see the Learning Commons, hoping to learn about and replicate the spaces. According to Dexter and Nutty, USM is among the first to integrate so many aspects of learning, such as library services, reference services, peer coaching and tutoring in different subjects, and because of this, the Commons has become a model for other schools.

"The Learning Commons is about getting students excited about the notion of collaborative learning. Students are making it an academic home on campus."

-Paul Dexter
Coordinator of Academic Support

The Commons also hosts seminars meant to teach students how to start research for academic papers using the library and its online databases. They also hold seminars instructing students how to use programs like Adobe Connect.

The Commons offers peer academic coaching to help students learn good academic habits from their peers. This service and others offered teach students how to become effective note takers, how to read textbooks and how to manage their time. Overall, the goal of the staff at the Commons is to help students figure out how they can become the most effective learners. They currently have three peer coaches. Except for Dexter, the en-

tire Commons staff is comprised of about 40 work study students.

Dann Stankiewicz, a social work major, frequents the Learning Commons located on the LAC campus. "I find it provides a better environment to focus on my studies, free of the typical distractions." Stankiewicz also takes advantage of the Commons research staff. "I can't even begin to express how valuable the staff has been in narrowing topics, filtering unnecessary content and drilling down topics."

"I really like the atmosphere. It's a good environment for studying."

-Martha Smith
USM Student

The Commons continues to collect data from students about how their facilities and services help students, and they want to identify where they can improve their services in the future. Most of all, they want to help students succeed in their academic careers, and they are always looking for input about how to enhance their services.

The Commons collaborates with the business, biology, physics, English, math and ESOL departments, to ensure tutoring in a broad range of academic areas. Their tutoring services are free and are available online through AskOnline.com as well.

They also have group study rooms, a seminar room with 16 seats, private pods, comfortable seating areas, individual tables and a recording studio. They have plenty of equipment as well, including projectors, flat screen TVs, MacIntosh and PC computers and portable whiteboards. Some students just use the room for the comfortable and accommodating work space. USM student Martha Smith said, "I really like the atmosphere. It's a good environment for studying."

The Commons in Portland is located on the second floor of the Glickman Library and in the Gorham library on the first floor. There is also a small learning Commons on the LAC campus. All Learning Commons offer their services as long as the library is open, however, tutoring is available by appointment only. You can schedule an appointment through the front desk in the Commons or at AskOnline.com.

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Campus Events

Monday, January 21

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (No Classes)

Circle K International Weekly Meetings
8:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Upperclass Hall, Gorham

Tuesday, January 22

Women Veterans and Trauma Webinar
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Wishcamper Center, Portland

Wednesday, January 23

Table Talk
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Woodbury Campus Center, Portland

Accounting Society Weekly Meeting
2:45 PM - 4:00 PM
Payson Smith, Portland

Veteran Student Organization (VSO) Meeting
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Veteran Resource Center, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland

LGBTQA and Queer Straight Alliance Social
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Hastings Formal Lounge, Upton
Hastings Hall, Gorham

Thursday, January 24

USM Enactus Weekly Meeting
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM
Room 327, Luther Bonney Hall, Portland

Portland Events Board Weekly Meeting
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Woodbury Campus Center, Portland

Zen Meditation
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Office of Religious & Spiritual Life, Portland

Friday, January 25

USM Night at the Red Claws!
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Portland Expo Building, Portland

Open Mic Night
8:00 PM - 9:30 PM
Brooks Student Center, Gorham

Saturday, January 26

Rusty Rocket's Last Blast!
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Southworth Planetarium, Portland

Deal or No Deal
8:00 PM - 9:30 PM
Brooks Student Center, Gorham

Sunday, January 27

Fireside Chat: Cocoa and Campus Couples
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Robie Andrews Hall, Gorham

For more events:
www.usm.maine.edu/events

Want your student group featured? Have a USM event for our calendar?
Send an email to events@usmfreepress.org.

Comments or questions?
Email us at editor@usmfreepress.org