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.

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 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.

The senate quickly set up a poll 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.

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.

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.

Students question snow day policies: USM answers

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

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 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 to Sept. 1, 2012. A 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 SNOW on page 2

See BUDGET on page 2

Contracts are yet to be negotiated

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

See AFUM on page 3
Some still smoke at USM

By Alex Greenlee / Multimedia Editor

Felder, who is herself an asthmatic, is sensitive 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 said, “The new tobacco policy is all about segregating smokers and trying to force them to quit. I’m not going to quit because it is going to affect everyone else.”

The two students pointed out that there were no designated smoking areas on campus where smokers might congregate without having to worry about offending non-smokers with second-hand smoke.

Felder suggested the placement of a gazebo on the campus green that abuts Bedford Street and Bridge- ton Avenue. Foster chimed in, “Yes, this campus needs a butt hut.”

When asked whether she thought students would follow the new policy, Foster shook her head. “Nope,” she said, “definitely not.” She went on to explain how she misses 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 the enforcement of 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.”

From SNOW on page 1

On its Facebook page asking students “should school have been cancelled today?” — and over whelmingly, students who visited the page, voted “yes.” The final tally was 113 to 2.

Camire explained that he intends to write a letter to the editor 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 may be. However, we’re part 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.”

They may be adults, but they’re still learning, he explained.

Chief Financial Officer Dick Campbell is the man who — with a meteorologist. He explained that the job requires that he call many external sources. Facilities reports to him, and he consults with USM’s many other units.

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

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 decisions more difficult because classes can’t be canceled at one and not the other." "We are developed to make decisions in the best interest of the students. "It is important that we serve," he said.

Campbell confirmed 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 the route as en route between campuses.

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

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

For more info on the Wednesday bus accident, see www.usmfreepress.org. For an opinion, see page eight.
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 Eyler 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 5.3 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 $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 UM 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 Colliom, 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,” Colliom said.

A decision on employment contract is pending. However, Bigney did not make a statement on how she expects the issue will be resolved.
The solution to last issue's crossword

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Sudoku

A sudoku puzzle consists of a 9 × 9 square grid subdivided into nine 3 × 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 × 3 box contains each of the numbers from 1 to 9 exactly once.

Cryptogram

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

QVN DWNP HNZZZW BMU HOPNK HPWQ QVNP WPMGEN XFOAN HMAQWP HZW MAS WH AWGANGPQMOWG.

And here is your hint:

I = M
USM Sullivan Recreation & Fitness Complex, Portland

**Hours of Operation**

- Sunday: 9:45 am - 6 pm
- Monday-Thurday: 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 Recreation Complex and Body shops time close for Academic class times in either area. The alternate room may be used during these class times.

**Membership**

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 men’s and men’s locker rooms.

**Connect with us**

- www.usm.maine.edu/sullivanclass
- Sullivan Recreation and Fitness Complex
- Southern Maine Outdoor Recreation - USM Outing Club

Information Desk: 207-780-4169
Office: 207-780-4939
E-Mail: wsagent@usm.maine.edu

Visit us on Facebook

**Body shop & Fitness Center Programs**

Fitness Programs can be found on the web: www.usm.maine.edu/sullivanclass

**Registration Information**

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

Stop in or view website for updates on program offerings. http://usm.maine.edu/sullivanclass

**Fitness activity programs**

All programs require pre-registration. Schedule is subject to change. Ball - On The Ball (Fittball): 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

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

Schedule: T-TH 5pm-6pm
Begin: 1/29/13 Ends: 5/2/13
Cost: $10 Student, $50 Member, $90 Faculty/Staff 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)
Begin: 1/29/13
Ends: 5/2/13
Cost: $10 students, $90 Fac-
ulty/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, weight training, and cool down stretching. Limited to 12 participants.

Schedule: Sunday 4pm-5pm
Begin: 1/27/13 Ends 4/28/13
Cost: $10 Students, $65 Public

**Women’s Power & Energy 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
Begin: 1/29/13 Ends: 5/2/13
Cost: 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 2/18/13
Ends: week ending 5/3/13
Cost: $20 Students, $40 members, $75 faculty/staff or non-member, $85 public

**Classic Yoga**

Schedule: Tuesday 6pm-9pm OR Thursday 1:15pm - 2:30pm

**Vinyasa Yoga 1**

Schedule: 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 number.

**Racquetball/Squash/ Volleyball**: 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

**Ultimate Frisbee:**

Schedule: Thursday 7pm-9:45pm
Fee: First 20 students

**Indoor Soccer:**

Schedule: Thursday 7pm-9:30pm
Fee: Free for students and members, $5/day public

**Massage**

Therapeutic: Appointments available with a Licensed Massage Therapist. FM: http://usm.maine.edu/sullivanclass/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.

**Skiing & Snowboarding**

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/sullivanclass/

**USM Community discount offerings**

Discount Program offerings through University Community Recreation & Fitness for Students, Faculty, Staff, and University Community members. Offered to USM 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/sullivanclass or Find us on Facebook

Self defense service

Raise your awareness, enhance safety skills, gain strength and increase self-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 room to Open to all. Schedule:

Wednesdays, 12pm-1:30pm (beginning 2/13 — ending 5/3/13)
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.

Lake & More! For a complete listing of all ongoing specials visit the following website: http://usm.maine.edu/sullivanclass/center/uscuniversity-community-recreation-fitness-discount-offerings
From Greece to Gorham: A look at one man’s ‘destiny’

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 said 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 generosity in the community and some time to rest, he is back on his feet and back in the kitchen, continuing his journey here in Maine.

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’ 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 hill 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.

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 at age 62. But I kept on working just the same,” said Sotiropoulos.

“I’ve had an amazing journey here in Gorham. It’s like a dream come true.”

-Angelo Sotiropoulos
Gorham House of Pizza owner

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
A&C Listings

Tuesday, January 22
Biggz General & Redlyte / Big ‘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 Cozmiik 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: 9:30 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.
Wurlfird
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

Want to submit an event?
arts@usmfreepress.org

Arts & Culture Review

A$AP debut has been worth the wait

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 cliche 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.
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.

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.

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 and 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.
Have an opinion?

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

Perspectives

January 21, 2013

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Peace in Gaza is possible

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. 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 should be held to hash out the many challenges of a two-state solution. These challenges are complicated by the fact that the current situation in the region is that the Israeli government controls the airspace above all the borders, the public land and the resources, with each expansion of settlements encroaching at 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 air strikes 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 turn. 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 embodied the very worst of an administration who had attempted to elevate their status in the U.N.once again, from a non-voting status to “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 acnowledging 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, why didn’t anyone stop the holocaust, we may have a different question to ask our teachers and parents.

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

A housing district destroyed by bombings on the Gaza strip.

Maruis Arnesen / Wikimedia Commons

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Lady Huskies remain undefeated

Alan Barker
Staff Writer

The women’s basketball team recently won a narrow margin victory against UMass Boston on Tuesday night. The Huskies remained unbeaten after a 18-4 run 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 Janis Oodes 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 Rashheem Benson.

Huskies Connor Sullivan and Sean Bergeron scored on the next three possessions to regain the lead in the second half, as they scored their first six points to extend their lead to nine points. Brandon Tomah and Sullivan made an 18-2 run to reclaim the lead at 44-42 at the midway point of the second half. UMass’s Jerod Hayes 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 a three pointer, but seven seconds later, the Beacons knocked down a jumper with 35 seconds to play in the half.

The Huskies knocked down a jumper with 35 seconds to play in the half, as they scored the first six points of the contest. UMass closed the gap to 5-8 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 at 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. UMass 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.

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.

Leadering 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 14 points and nine rebounds. UMass closed the gap to 5-4 before the Huskies used a 20-6 run led by Grant to put the game out of reach.

The win adds to their untarnished record, which now stands at 16-0 and 6-0 in the Little East Conference. The win improves the team’s record to 10-6 overall and 5-1 in the Little East Conference.

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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. UMass also got solid efforts from Kee with 13 points, Oodes 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.

The win improves the team’s record to 10-6 overall and 5-1 in the Little East Conference. This is the 62nd time the two teams have matched up, and the Lady Huskies have won each meeting.

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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 unbeaten after a 18-4 run in the second half of the game on Tuesday evening, securing the win against the UMass Boston Beacons 50-54 at Hill Gymnasium in Gorham. The win adds to their unattained 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. UMass 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.

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The Huskies were led by Sullivan’s 21 point, five rebound, five assist effort. Also contributing to the win were Garland with 14 points and nine rebounds. UMass closed the gap to 5-4 before the Huskies used a 10-4 run led by Garland to extend their lead to nine points. Brandon Tomah and Sullivan made an 18-6 run to reclaim the lead.

The Huskies used that play to spark an 11-4 run over the next four minutes to reclaim the 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.

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Community Spotlight: The USM Learning Commons

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.”

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 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
- LGBTQ+ 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 237, 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

Wishcamper Center, Portland
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Brooks Student Center, Gorham
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Room 237, Luther Bonney Hall, Portland
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Hastings Formal Lounge, Upton
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Portland Expo Building, Portland
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM
Portland Events Board Weekly Meeting
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Zen Meditation
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Office of Religious & Spiritual Life, Portland
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Portland Events Board Weekly Meeting
7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Portland Expo Building, Portland
Open Mic Night
8:00 PM - 9:30 PM
Brooks Student Center, Gorham
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Southworth Planetarium, Portland
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Fireside Chat: Cocoa and Campus Couples
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Robie Andrews Hall, Gorham

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

Comments or questions?
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Casey Ledoux / Free Press Staff

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

Martha Smith
USM Student

“I really like the atmosphere. It’s a good environment for studying.”

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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 entire 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.”

“On the Commons campus, it is so quiet,” said Stankiewicz. “It’s a really good environment for studying.”

-Paul Dexter
Coordinator of Academic Support

The Commons collaborates with the business, biology, physics, English, math and ESOL departments, to ensure tutoring in a broad range of academic areas.

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