Tensions over cuts linger into new semester

Faculty and administration clash on university’s direction going forward

Kirsten Sylvain
Editor-in-Chief

After the university cut over $5 million last year, the administration and many faculty members still do not see eye to eye on the direction the university is headed.

Last spring, Chief Financial Officer Dick Campbell projected that the university would be forced to make over $12 million in cuts over the next four years. During 2013-2014 school year, $3.1 million in cuts and reallocations came from wages, salaries and benefits, and the remaining $1.1 million came from savings on utilities, travel, supplies and other non-personnel areas. President Kalikow identified 22 positions that were to be eliminated from faculty and staff in April. Another round of position eliminations in May and June followed, leaving the USM in the black at the end of the fiscal year on June 30. In total, nine university staff were eliminated, and in August, the president also announced the elimination of three bookstore staff.

Among the cuts were decreases, and complete eliminations, of faculty research, travel and sabbatical funding, a point of contention between faculty and the administration. Since the cuts began last semester, faculty seem, as much as staff, to feel uncertain and threatened. In a faculty senate meeting last March, the tension between faculty and the administration over the cuts became clearer. At the meeting, faculty questioned the administration’s justification for the cuts and seemed dissatisfied with the explanations they received.

Despite Kalikow’s assurance that the situation is not as bleak as many believe it to be, many USM community members, from faculty and staff to students, are still ambivalent about the future of the university.

“Tensions over cuts linger into new semester. Faculty and administration clash on university’s direction going forward.”

USM’s admissions office projects that enrollment for the fall 2013 semester will drop four to six percent from last fall, a decrease of between 375 and 563 students.

This decrease comes in the aftermath of an announcement by the U.S. Census Bureau that 2012 saw a huge drop in national college admissions, with half a million fewer students enrolling in college than the year before – a break in a five year streak of increasing nationwide enrollment. However, during this time, USM has not followed national trends, with admission dropping gradually between 2008 and 2011.

The final numbers will not be calculated until the middle of October, but the projections are based on enrollment patterns in previous years, as applied by a projection tool which, according to Chief Student Success Officer Susan Campbell, is still in development. Campbell said that USM’s range of target demographics might make USM’s enrollment totals fluctuate for longer than most schools. “Adult students with families,” she said, “might take longer to enroll, and to show up in the figure.”

According to Campbell, there are a number of campuses in the UMS that are experiencing a decline in enrollment. However, she said, the University of Maine at Orono has gained a number of out of state students. Campbell said she thinks that was intentional. “From what I understand, that was a concentrated enrollment strategy.”

USM’s own strategy, Campbell said, also involved looking for students out of state, mostly in the surrounding New England states. Though, this strategy is not without its complications, Campbell admitted. Massachusetts, she said, has invested a significant amount of money in financial aid programs designed to keep Massachusetts high school graduates in the state, making out of state public schools a less attractive option to those students.

Bob Caswell, executive director of public affairs, outlined USM’s approach to boosting declining enrollment. To this, President Kalikow responded, “and they should be [afraid].”

“‘Everybody in the world here should be frightened about jobs,’ she said, ‘I need to think about what’s best for me professionally, and that is such a big change from where I’ve spent the last 15 years, and I’ve spent the last 15 years as a faculty member thinking about what’s best for my students, what’s best for the discipline [and] what’s best for USM.’”

In an interview with the Free Press, President Kalikow was asked how she felt about faculty and staff fear at the prospect of losing employment. To this, President Kalikow responded, “and they should be [afraid].”

“Everybody in the world here should be frightened about jobs,” she said.
The eighth floor of the Wood Tower of Dickey-Wood Hall is currently vacant, not unlike the top five floors of the Dickey Tower of Dickey-Wood.

“Part of the idea was to try and identify space for student leadership on the Gorham campus,” said Saucier. “We don’t have as much in our student center as the Woodbury Campus Center has.” Still, it was important to meet, or even exceed, the same levels of service. Delaney Kenny, Chair of the Gorham Event’s Board, confirmed that upper Brooks will be a student organization space managed by the Gorham Student Life.

“The idea was ‘Well, if we can consolidate to two operations, the

In my time at USM, we have seen it [lower Brooks] elevate from a tile oasis with old tables that didn’t match to what it is today with beautiful huskies on the wall and a constant buzz.”

- Dan Weiler, Coordinator of Student Activities for Gorham Student Life
From Cuts on page 1

continued, “not just at USM. This is higher education today. We’re in the middle of disruptive change. It’s never going to be the way it was. It’s happening everywhere.” Kalikow attributes this change to state and nationwide economic hardships, new technology’s role in higher education and demographic decline in the college-age population.

However, Professor Uzzi said that she is not afraid of these changes in higher education, especially the rising role of technology in the classroom. In fact, she claims that she’s excited to incorporate new methods of teaching into her classes. Uzzi’s greatest concern is what she perceives as the administration’s changing mission for the university, or more specifically, that there is less push from the administration for professors to produce research – a trait that Uzzi sees as putting USM in a different league.

“I think our administration thinks we should be more like SMCC, where as in my opinion, we don’t have to compete with SMCC,” she said. To Uzzi, the fundamental difference between USM and a community college or trade school is the emphasis on research.

“The expectation at USM is that faculty do research and that we engage students in our research,” With administration cutting research, sabbatical and travel funding for faculty, Uzzi argues, not only students but faculty and the entire USM community will get the raw end of the deal. Rather than just getting the perspective of someone who has a master’s degree and is well-read on a subject, she argues, students get to hear the perspective of a scholar who has researched, possibly translated and published on it.

One of Uzzi’s main concerns with many of these changes, she said, is that they act to exacerbate class distinctions, among faculty and students. Currently, if USM faculty members want to take a full year sabbatical for research, the university will pay only half a year’s salary to them while in previous years they have paid a full year’s salary. This change, many professors have argued, makes going on sabbatical less feasible financially for professors without access to independent funding. Uzzi explained that competition for funding in the humanities is exponentially greater than in the sciences, business and professional areas.

“Independently wealthy [professors] can say ‘Fine, I’ll pay for it myself,’ but I can’t do that,” Uzzi said. “Then you have a situation where if you’re a wealthy faculty member you can still provide your students access to the cutting edge in your discipline, but if you’re a poor faculty member, you can’t. So, then the class distinction trickles down to the students.”

When asked what she would say in response to Uzzi’s concern that USM is becoming more like a community college, Kalikow answered, “I mean, good forbid. We are so far from being a Kaplan or a trade school that it’s not even funny.” She did not, however, mention research in what distinguishes USM from community colleges.

Uzzi also explained that she believes many of these new changes are harmful especially to the humanities. “Our president doesn’t really seem to believe that humanities degrees are marketable,” she said. She said that she’s concerned that the administration is supporting research that is geared toward corporate or political interests.

To that, President Theo Kalikow responded, “That’s a lot of horse sh-t. That’s baloney. The faculty might think that because they’re used to feeling bad.” She continued, “because everyone in the world has been telling everyone in the humanities that there are no jobs, but actually English majors rule the world.” After this complicated back and forth, the only question left seems to be, “So what do the students think?”

One student, Tai Infante, an undeclared sophomore and April Corbo, a freshman social work major, described feeling confused by the news of the cuts. “It’s so high school. Can I get a direct answer?,” Infante said.

Corbo admitted that her first impression of USM was that it was well-off. “Everything seems like it’s running smoothly,” she said.

Another student, sophomore history major Lou Arseneault was affected by the cuts last year when European history professor David Kutcha’s position was eliminated, leaving the university’s history department without a single specialist in that area. “I was actually pretty upset about that,” Arseneault said. As a history major, he said, he would have liked not to have seen that change carried out.

President Kalikow plans to engage students, faculty, staff and the community in the conversation on changes at the university in a series of university-wide meetings planned for the end of September and early October. The “direction package for USM,” Kalikow said, is in its final stages, but she would like the rest of the university community to weigh in, and she hopes that the students will join in the conversation as well.

at 7 a.m., so that allows students to just go through and grab a cup of coffee, or a breakfast sandwich, and hit the road,” said Saucier. “If they’re heading for the bus stop they can do that, and not have to actually go down to a sit-down breakfast.” Earlier hours, he hopes, will expand usage.

One student, sophomore Sebastian Taylor, praised the new Husky Hideaway convenience store located in the lower Brooks student commons. “In my time at USM, we have seen it [lower Brooks Student Center] evolve from a tile oasis with old tables that didn’t match, to what it is today with beautiful huskies on the wall and a constant buzz around,” said Welter. “I think that things will certainly continue to get better and better!”

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@USMFreePress
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.

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

Word Search

Search for the list of words in the grid of letters. Grab a pen and circle each word as you find them.

Theme: Las Vegas

The solution to last issue’s crossword

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Aries
March 21-April 19
You may be feeling a bit frustrated today if you are thinking only of what you don’t yet have. Face reality, while working to improve it.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
You feel more vulnerable today. Spend time with people who are supportive and avoid those who are harsh or critical.

Gemini
May 21-June 20
Face facts about your love life today and take actions which will reap results. Practicality is your best tool.

Cancer
June 21-July 22
A new viewpoint or idea could bring pleasure to the family if you do not react with automatic denial. Be open to what may occur.

Leo
July 23-August 22
A day to be with people. Friendships, partnerships, face-to-face interactions are more comforting today.

Virgo
August 23-September 22
You feel more vulnerable today. Spend time with people who are supportive and avoid those who are harsh or critical.

Libra
September 23-October 22
You may be feeling a bit frustrated today if you are thinking only of what you don’t yet have. Face reality, while working to improve it.

Scorpio
October 23-November 21
Financial matters arise with a friend. Don’t let money complicate your relationship.

Sagittarius
November 22-December 21
Shared recreational pursuits go well. Partners and friends contribute to the fun.

Capricorn
December 22-January 19
Follow the straight and narrow. Bending rules doesn’t work today; you’ll probably get caught.

Aquarius
January 20-February 18
Financial discipline is essential. If you make it a budget and stick to it, you’ll be pleased with the results.

Pisces
February 19-March 20
A day to be with people. Friendships, partnerships, face-to-face interactions are more comforting today.
In Brief...

Gas leak makes for delays

The area of Bedford Street connecting to the USM parking garage on the Portland campus sprung a leak on Tuesday, Sept. 3, just in time for the first day of school. “The first day of school is usually crazy, anyway,” said Lissa Luckey, a senior English major who left for USM 45 minutes early in anticipation of delays because of the gas leak. “It’s always a bit of a disaster, historically.”

Students had the chance to prepare for traffic delays for most of the day, due to an email alert from USM’s Executive Director of Public Affairs, Bob Caswell and the leak itself was, Caswell stressed, no danger to students. However, the repairs did prove disruptive to classes. Junior business administration major Delaney Kenny reported that there was booming on the wall of one of her classes. “It was really irritating,” Kenny said.

Muskie School partners with MYTC

USM’s Muskie School of Public Service announced on Sept. 3 that it will be partnering with the Maine Youth Transition Collaborative in a new initiative designed to bring together representatives from Maine’s educational system and the child welfare system and juvenile justice system in order to facilitate educational and employment opportunities for Maine’s youth. The Maine Youth Transition Collaborative is an organization designed to help in the transition of youth in the Maine foster system into adulthood. Around the end of August, the MYTC was one of 21 organizations nationwide to receive funding from the Aspen Institute’s Opportunity Youth Incentive Fund, which will be used to fund the initiative.

SMART announces tutoring program

The Southern Maine Area Resource Team for Schools at the University of Southern Maine announced on Sept. 4th that it will be unveiling a tutoring program for children in kindergarten through fifth grade in Gorham. The tutoring will be provided by graduate students from the USM School of Education and Human development. Heidi Parker, a student of the Certified of Advanced Study program in literacy at USM will be one of the tutors. “I thought it would be an excellent opportunity to provide community kids with a great resource for reading support,” Parker said in a statement to the Free Press. Melissa Moore-Josephs, another future tutor and participant in the School Psychology Doctorate program and USM went further than that, asserting, “Implementing these individualized interventions with struggling students will provide them with a needed boost in foundational skills, which will enable them to become successful members of their schools and communities.” The program is funded by a three year grant from the Reading Matters to Maine Fund of the Maine Community Foundation, and will provide reading tutoring to children. It will be free for students who are eligible to receive free lunch, and low-cost for others. FMI contact Dr. Alexis Kibursis, director of the SMART Learning Lab at (207) 780-3054.

Student program promotes cow health product

Campus Ventures, a USM inovation and commercialization acceleration program, has been working with a cow health monitoring startup to develop and commercialize a product which targets a $10 billion market. The technology being promoted is a device the size of a pill, which the cows ingest, and which then measures their vital signs.

Dinosaurs hit Southworth Planetarium

Friday, Sept. 6 was the opening of Dinosaurs at Dusk, a program at the Southworth Planetarium which features a father and daughter’s journey through various prehistoric eras, and a look at the creatures which inhabited them right up until the asteroid that was the dinosaurs’ downfall hit. The program will run through September. FMI, call (207) 780-4249.

Saturday, Aug. 31

Living on the edge
8:09 p.m. - Verbal warnings for stop sign violation and tail light out. - Bedford St.

Darker and darker
8:14 p.m. - Verbal Warning for operating with no lights issued to operator. - Brighton Ave. by 7-11

Can’t you read?
8:42 p.m. - Verbal warning for failure to stop at stop sign issued to operator. - Bedford St.

I feel like we’ve been here before...
8:58 p.m. - Warning for stop sign violation to operator. - Glickman Library, 314 Forrest Ave.

And the winner is...
9:08 p.m. - Kyle A. Baker, 25 of Kennebunk, arrested for operating under the influence. Warning for operating the wrong way on a one-way. - Brighton Ave. at Chamberlain Ave.

Sunday, Sept. 1

Where’s the fire?
5:13 p.m. - Fire Alarm activation. Gorham Fire Department responded. System malfunction. - Dickey Wood Hall.

Halt!
5:07 p.m. - Warning issued for stop sign violation. - Campus Ave.

Don’t be a dope
9:25 p.m. - Marijuana odor. Handled by officer. - Anderson Hall

“One if by land, two if by sea.”
9:42 p.m. - Attempt to locate a student. Person located and message was passed on by officer. - Anderson Hall

I.D. Please?
10:26 p.m. - Response for an intoxicated individual. - Upton Hastings Hall

Monday, Sept. 2

Again?
12:14 a.m. - Fire Alarm activation. Gorham Fire Department responded. System malfunction. - Dickey Wood Hall.

Don’t be a dope, take two
4:56 p.m. - Marijuana odor. Report taken. - Upperclass Hall

“Stop! In the name of love!”
8:50 p.m. - Verbal warning for stop sign violation. - 51 College Ave.

Vanishing act
11:03 p.m. - Odor of marijuana report. Unable to locate source. - Dickey Wood Hall

Tuesday, Sept. 3

Perfect timing
7:29 a.m. - Northern Utilities reporting a gas leak at Bedford St. near entry to garage. - 88 Bedford St.

Two car pileup
4:09 p.m. - Two car motor vehicle accident. - G6 parking lot, 13 University Way

No getaway car?
5:22 p.m. - Walk-in theft of an item. - 246 Deering Ave.

Strength in numbers
7:49 p.m. - Assistance provided to Gorham Police Department. - Gorham, Main St.

Hide and seek
10:53 p.m. - Marijuana odor. Unable to locate. - Upperclass Hall

Police logs are edited for grammar and style. They can be found at usm.maine.edu/police/campus-crime-log.
This past Thursday students were offered a Taste of Portland, and they ended up coming back for seconds. The Taste of Portland event was the first of its kind at USM. The event featured tables and food trucks from various businesses around Portland to showcase some of the city’s popular eats and students loved it. “Obviously I went to the Taste of Portland for the free food, but I think it turned out great,” said senior political science major and Student Body Vice President Marpheen Chann-Berry. “Fries, wings, wraps and pizza are things you find a lot in Portland, but waffles and breakfast with a twist? That’s something different and it stuck out.”

While most of the lines accumulated at the pizza vendors, all of the tables were very well received, with students often visiting more than one vendor. “I visited about four vendors so far and for now Gusto’s wins my vote,” said undeclared freshman Connor Hamilton. “I had my eye on their pizza cones because that is college food right there. You could easily take that pizza cone and enjoy while walking to school, or rushing to class in some cases, and still get a meal in.”

The event was open to the public and anyone who came by. “We heard from community members and alumni were also in attendance. “We heard that usually students don’t get the Portland culinary experience and hopefully this event will encourage them to check it out.”

Students got to sample delicious food and drinks from Gusto’s Italian Food, Portside Picnic, Hella Good Tacos, Aramark, Coffee by Design, Capt’n Eli’s Soda, Leonardo’s Pizza, Margarita’s, Wannawaf, Binga’s, Papa John’s and Black Bear Energy Drinks. Students, both new and returning, filled the lawn in front of Glickman Library to experience why Portland is a great city for foodies.

“The one thing we think about when we plan USM events is that students love free food, and Portland is known for this food truck phenomenon. Student love these food trucks so this year we thought ‘why not try something different?’ and it’s been widely more popular than we could’ve imagined,” said Chris O’Connor, the director of Portland Student Life. A few of the vendors had to leave early because it was so busy that they ran out of food. According to O’Connor Binga’s Winggas had 240 wraps that they went through in the first 40 minutes!

Taste of Portland was part of a series of events planned by Portland Student Life for USM’s welcome week. These events included a family day, a movie showing and of course Husky Fest which, according to O’Connor, was the biggest it’s ever been. Husky Fest had over 1,000 students visiting tables featuring 55 student organizations, 25 campus departments and 30 community vendors. Students also got the chance to vote for their favorites. Everyone who attended filled out a ballot where they voted for the best Taste of Portland. Students who voted were put into a drawing for a $50 gift certificate to the bookstore. There will also be a plaque made for the winning business.

“Wannawaf was my favorite,” said senior political science major and student body vice president Marpheen Chann-Berry. “Fries, wraps and pizza are things you find a lot in Portland, but waffles and breakfast with a twist? That’s something different and it stuck out.”

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The event was open to the public and anyone who attended was welcome. Community members and alumni were in attendance. “We heard this event from a student, and I was pretty excited about it,” said Portland resident Brooke Hayne. “I haven’t even heard of some of the businesses so I thought I’d come by and see what their food was like.”

The vendors also enjoyed the event and thought it was a great opportunity to interact with the community while promoting their products. The event was packed with student and alumni, jamming out to music, catching up with friends and sampling some great food.

"I didn’t think we’d give away this much pizza as fast as we did, lots of people have been coming by,” said Curtis Scott from Leonardo’s Pizza. “We’re getting the votes I think, people seem to be giving us the wink and nod as they come over.”

Students may be familiar with the coffee flavor Husky Blend from Coffee By Design. Tessa Storey, an employee at Coffee By Design had a table promoting a new blend called “Beans of Peace.” A dollar from every bag bought is donated to St. Elizabeth’s Essential Pantry, a local organization dedicated to feeding the needy in Portland.

“Students basically run on caffeine, and it’s great to give students one of their favorite drinks while letting them know about our special roast coffee,” said Storey. “If you buy here you’re buying local so all the money is going right back into the community.”

O’Connor believes that visitors of this event got a chance to see why Portland is an excellent destination for food lovers. It was an experience so popular that he’s planning it to be a USM tradition and it will surely be coming back next year.
New cinema studies minor aims to excite students and grow

Over the summer the communication and media studies department expanded, creating a brand new cinema studies minor. The department hopes that increasing its course offerings in cinema will contribute to Portland’s growing film community and help students understand the cultural significance of this media in their lives.

“Cinema is an exciting and crucial element of our world,” said Assistant Professor of Film Studies Ariel Rogers. “I would argue that in order to understand what it means to be engaging with your smartphone or watching videos on your computer, it’s useful to look at the way movies developed and how that reflects society.”

The minor requires a diverse range of cinema classes, with broad-based and specialized courses on the analysis, history, theory and the influential people of many different kinds of cinema. Because it is entirely new program, getting the word out and recruiting students to participate in the minor has been one of the first steps. The department has offered plenty of film classes in the past and those classes have been able to hook a few students.

“I’ve taken like, a billion film classes here – I swear,” said senior communication and media studies major Matt Becker. Becker has taken enough courses already that, when the minor was announced, he discovered he only needed to take two more courses to fulfill the minor requirements.

“I’m a senior now, so if I hadn’t already had the requirements, I probably wouldn’t have jumped in. But if I were a freshman, this would be my jam,” said Becker.

Cinema in general draws from all aspects of culture, and the department is looking forward to making connections with other student interests and academic departments at USM.

“A major goal this year is to begin collaborating with other departments,” said Rogers, “allowing students to include outside courses in the minor and having these classes be used in other ways. We want them to get as much as they can out of it.”

“I like to make movies,” said Becker, “so obviously I want to learn as much as I can about why I appreciate certain aspects of film. For example, Tarantino steals from everybody, and I want to learn who he steals from. You have to know where you came from or you’re going to make derivative crap.”

The department is using the minor to gauge the interest of students and considering creating a minor to gauge the interest of students and help students understand the cultural significance of this media in their lives.

“Almost unbearably self-consciously indie, Bishop Allen are self aware of their self-awareness, and it’s hard to tell how seriously to take them. They are exactly the band you would expect a mumblecore movie star to be in. Grrr... is a bright, whimsical album seems tailor-made for summer.”

Senior communications and media studies major Matt Becker has taken multiple film courses during his career at USM. Now he only has to take two more courses to fulfill the requirements for a cinema studies minor. He is set to graduate in May of 2014.
The Nationals hit close to home

The National’s latest release, Trouble Will Find Me, takes mournful lyrics and powerful arrangements to create a sound that is huge, but not overbearing.

Across their four albums, the band’s singer and lyricist, Matt Berninger, expresses complex human emotions with a unique touch. In “I Should Live in Salt,” the album’s opening track, Berninger sings “Don’t make me read your mind / you should know me better than that / It takes me too much time / you should know me better than that.” These lyrics show clear signs of an unhappy relationship and a writer who is frustrated with someone for not understanding.

When dramatic instrumentation and emotional lyrics come together in the way they have on Trouble Will Find Me, you get an album that will make you appreciate how beautiful music can be when unhappy feelings are expressed in the right way. This album will remind you of everything from a bad break-up to moving to a new town with no friends. Listeners can find comfort in Berninger’s lyrics that offer familiarity during a time of hardship.

This album will remind you of everything that someone understands.

Songs like “Heaven on their Minds” set the rock-style tone for the show and introduces a theme of uncertainty that flows throughout the entire show. Other numbers like “Jesus Christ Superstar” have a heavy rock influence, more upbeat, and lift the show during the later half of the performance.

Dunye was cast as the lead in the show and will be portraying Jesus Christ.

“I have always wanted to play Jesus and feel very fortunate to have been cast. It is a tremendous challenge, and I am enjoying every minute of it,” said Dunye.

While the show cannot avoid focusing in on religious traditions and stories, Dunye said it’s not necessarily a serious focus.

“I think the more important part are the emotional struggles, primarily those of Judas and Jesus, as they strive to do what they feel they must and what is right, while struggling to truly understand why. I think this is something we can all relate to,” said Dunye.

The show opens Sept. 13th and runs until the 29th on the Portland Players’ stage in South Portland. It shows on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

“I feel blessed to have a local community theater nearby which consistently produces professional-quality shows and provides an opportunity for amateurs like me to enjoy a bit of the spotlight,” said Dunye.

Caleb Lacy
Contributor

Jesus Christ Superstar

This Friday marks the beginning of the Portland Players 82nd season with the opening of Andrew Lloyd Weber’s Jesus Christ Superstar. The rock opera with lyrics by Tim Rice, composed by Broadway and West End powerhouse Andrew Lloyd Weber is a widely produced musical and a representation of the 1970’s. The show follows one of the most well known tales from the bible; the story of Jesus Christ in the last few days of his life from the perspective of Judas Iscariot.

While the show cannot avoid focusing in on religious traditions and stories, Dunye was cast as the lead in the show and struggles to truly understand why. I think this is something we can all relate to,” said Dunye.

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The show opens Sept. 13th and runs until the 29th on the Portland Players’ stage in South Portland. It shows on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

“I feel blessed to have a local community theater nearby which consistently produces professional-quality shows and provides an opportunity for amateurs like me to enjoy a bit of the spotlight,” said Dunye.

Dunye was cast as the lead in the show and will be portraying Jesus Christ.

“I have always wanted to play Jesus and feel very fortunate to have been cast. It is a tremendous challenge, and I am enjoying every minute of it,” said Dunye.

While the show cannot avoid focusing in on religious traditions and stories, Dunye said it’s not necessarily a serious focus.

“I think the more important part are the emotional struggles, primarily those of Judas and Jesus, as they strive to do what they feel they must and what is right, while struggling to truly understand why. I think this is something we can all relate to,” said Dunye.
Mayer Hawthorne / Superhumanoids
Port City Music Hall
504 Congress St.
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 10

STRFKR / Small Black / Feelings
Port City Music Hall
504 Congress St.
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

Dean & Jake Show
Blue
650 Congress St.
Doors: 8:00 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

Sister Sparrow and The Dirty Birds / Sly-Chi
The Big Easy
55 Market St.
Doors: 9:00 p.m. / Show: 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 11

Gad Elmaleh
Port City Music Hall
504 Congress St.
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 12

JJ Grey and Mofo / The Revivalists
Port City Music Hall
504 Congress St.
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

OC and The Offbeats
Dogfish Bar and Grille
128 Free St.
Doors: 7:30 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

Arbores / Tall Heights / Peter Bradley Adams
One Longfellow Square
181 State St.
Doors: 7:30 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

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

Friday, September 13

Black Joe Lewis / Murcielago
Port City Music Hall
504 Congress St.
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

Michael Franti & Spearhead / Kopecky Family Band
State Theatre
609 Congress St.
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

Darlingside
One Longfellow Square
181 State St.
Doors: 8:00 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

Soul Clap and Dance Off with Jonathan Toubin
SPACE Gallery
538 Congress St.
Doors: 10:00 p.m. / Show: 10:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 14

The Pubcrawlers / The Motor Creeps / The Pourmen
Asylum
121 Center St.
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Show: 7:30 p.m.

Local Top 5:
Places where your conversation is going to be overheard

Courtney Aldrich
Free Press Staff

The fall semester has begun. The campus is suddenly cluttered again, and there’s no chance of getting a seat to yourself on the bus. Best friends are moving back in together, and chemistry partners have suddenly reconnected. Between the multitude of questions freshman ask and the girlish screams from the quad down the hall, USM transitions in a week from the emptiness of the summer to the ‘hellos,’ ‘how are you’s’ and ‘I’ve missed you’ of welcome week. Knowing this, the fact that students are going to be catching up with everyone from the kid in last semester’s class to the Aramark staff is unavoidable. Just be advised that not every place you run into familiar faces is an appropriate location to disclose your private or well-known information.

1) The charter bus

The bus ride between Portland and Gorham has got to be one of the few spots where you can get away with politely ignoring the person sitting close enough to you to read all of your texts. More likely than not there are less than two or three conversations taking place at any given time during that awkward ride to class. So next time you slide in next to your best friend and divulge some sort of personal matter, be aware that everyone aboard is bored. As you stare out the window pretending to listen to an imaginary iPod, they have definitely learned more about your life in that 30 minute commute than your own mother.

2) Dorm bathrooms

No matter how loud that stream of water feels in the shower of a residence hall bathroom, the echo of the room guarantees that your off key voice is without a doubt heard four doors down. When congregating with a group of people, just one inappropriate remark about the roommates down the hall and that voice can be carried right to their door. Who knows who could walk out of a bathroom stall while you’re brushing your teeth and complaining about your roommate’s boyfriend who made out with some random guy on your floor last night. It’s best to keep those words in your head instead of the public bathroom.

3) Study rooms

Both libraries in Portland and Gorham have these great places called study rooms in the learning commons. The rooms can comfortably accommodate study partners, tutors and a whole bunch of your friends. The study spaces have windows, doors and for some strange reason once a somewhat rowdy crowd shuts the door behind them they act as if they have just jumped through a black hole outside of the library, USM, and very, very, very far from other students quietly at work. I’ve heard heated arguments, friends venting about other friends and private information about fellow students I only see once in a while. The study rooms aren’t as soundproof as most may think. Trust me. And honestly, no one really cares that you’re a virgin.

4) The line for breakfast at Brooks Dining Hall

If you live on campus, and you’re up early enough to make it to breakfast, you’re in the minority. When the line at the grill totals 10 or so people, strangers start to talk, and no one else in line can do anything else but listen. Suddenly a couple of friends hop in the back of the line and start chattering about how hard they partied the night before and instantly it is everyone’s business how poorly you’re in the minority. The bus ride between Portland and Gorham has got to be one of the few spots where you can get away with politely ignoring the person sitting close enough to you to read all of your texts. More likely than not there are less than two or three conversations taking place at any given time during that awkward ride to class. So next time you slide in next to your best friend and divulge some sort of personal matter, be aware that everyone aboard is bored. As you stare out the window pretending to listen to an imaginary iPod, they have definitely learned more about your life in that 30 minute commute than your own mother.

5) The dorms (seriously, we can hear you everywhere)

The courtyard of Upton-Hastings must have been designed to try and prevent gossiping. The architects probably thought that the students would never dare to open their doors and instantly it is everyone’s business how poorly you’re in the minority. When the line at the grill totals 10 or so people, strangers start to talk, and no one else in line can do anything else but listen. Suddenly a couple of friends hop in the back of the line and start chattering about how hard they partied the night before and instantly it is everyone’s business how poorly you’re in the minority. The bus ride between Portland and Gorham has got to be one of the few spots where you can get away with politely ignoring the person sitting close enough to you to read all of your texts. More likely than not there are less than two or three conversations taking place at any given time during that awkward ride to class. So next time you slide in next to your best friend and divulge some sort of personal matter, be aware that everyone aboard is bored. As you stare out the window pretending to listen to an imaginary iPod, they have definitely learned more about your life in that 30 minute commute than your own mother.

A&C Listings

Want to submit an event?
arts@usmfreepress.org

See a typo?
Come copy-edit for us. For more info e-mail:
editor@usmfreepress.org

Arts & Culture

September 9, 2013

Free Press Staff

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Our opinion: Student Life a bright spot at USM

Even though in recent months USM has lost manpower and some serious cash, welcome events showed that the fun will go on.

Everyone at USM could take a lesson from Student Life. They may have had to work a little harder to make Welcome Week a success, but they set an example in hard times that the student experience should be at the center of the university’s mission.

From a movie on the roof to the Gorham Student Involvement Block Party, it seemed that there were many more events for students to attend this year than in the past that actively pushed students to get more involved in the community.

Portland Student Life planned something different, an expansion of what they’ve done in previous years with a week-long series of events. Husky Fest was a vibrant experience that actively pushed students to get more involved in the community.

Students don’t usually see, nor is their experience really affected by the loss of a ‘vice provost’ or a reallocation, but they are directly reached by efforts like these that serve to make their experience at USM more engaging and worthwhile. The USM community should be reminded about what is important – rigorous education, the student experience, academic scholarship by faculty and service to the greater community.

Syria strike or education: Where to spend U.S. dollars?

For two years now, horrific images from a brutal civil war in Syria, have dominated mainstream news in the U.S. Our military is ready to strike at a moment’s notice, while President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry have made it clear that the “red line” has been crossed. It’s becoming increasingly clear that the U.S. will step in and use its wealth of military resources to intervene, which will ultimately become a costly effort for the U.S. Are we, as students, prepared to support that endeavor?

In an unclassified letter written by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Martin Dempsey, to Senator Carl Levin, that was released last month, the price for the prospective fight in Syria was advertised at over $500 million – a cheap price, relative to other wars the U.S. has fought in the Middle East, especially when you don’t take into account the inevitable loss of human life these strikes will have. What happens if the conflict spirals out of control? The isolated campaign that Obama is pursuing could quickly ignite a fuse in the Middle East, leading to something much more dire.

The lives of American troops, or Israeli civilians become endangered, the U.S. might be dragged into yet another prolonged war in the Gulf Region. With foreign fighters and aid flooding into Syria from Hezbollah, Iran and who knows where else, a war could be drastically different, more dangerous and costlier than Chairman Dempsey or President Obama have acknowledged.

Many students may not see how this issue could effect them personally, but the costs of war limit our nation’s ability to prosper, which certainly does affect you. I struggle as a college student every day. I go a few weeks at a time working harder than ever to de-

Our operation in Iraq has cost more than $810 billion since the initial invasion a decade ago. The war in Afghanistan has a price tag of over $650 billion to date and counting. The shorter intervention in Libya, which ran from April 1, 2011 to September 30, 2011 still cost the U.S. over a billion dollars.

Could this money have been spent elsewhere? On strengthening the middle class, providing an education to everyone who wanted one and even reforming health care in a way that actually benefited everyday Americans?

These are all ideas the Obama administration has peddled, but ideas that will not come to fruition when this much money is being pumped into needless wars around the world.

Dylan Lajoie
Contributor

Our Free Press? Write a submission and send it in!

Email us at editor@usmfreepress.org for more information.
Women's Cross Country
USM finishes second at Invitational

The USM cross country team finished second place among 11 teams at the Farmington University Cross Country Invitational on Saturday morning. The Huskies totaled 46 points to earn their second place spot.

Junior Hannah Damron finished in third-place with the time of nineteen minutes and 3.77 seconds. Junior Emily Panciera and Senior Abramson had eight kills, two blocks and an assist while freshman Kristina Rubico had nine kills, three aces, two blocks and a block assist while freshman Megan Nilson added fifteen digs and five aces. Sophomore Kelsey Abramson had eight kills, two blocks and an assist while freshman Megan Nilson added twenty five assists, eleven digs and two kills. The women's team will next face Husson this Tuesday at 7 p.m.

USM's Jennifer Poulin, #7 freshman midfield, vies for the ball against a University of New England defender.

USM's Jennifer Poulin, #7 freshman midfield, vies for the ball against a University of New England defender.

Field Hockey
Huskies lose to UNE

The women's field hockey team fell short against the University of New England, losing 1-4 in a non-conference match on Saturday afternoon in Gorham.

Junior Peyton Dostie made the only goal for USM, scoring in the 13th minute of the game. Freshman goalkeeper Amanda Kasbohm made four saves while senior Kayla Kennedy had two.

The women's team will next host University of Maine Farmington this Wednesday at 4 p.m. for a non-conference match.
The Student Government Association is kicking off the new school year with a new president, a smaller budget and ambitious plans.

President Kelsea Dunham, a senior marketing and women and gender studies major, is working with a budget that is, “smaller than it has been in the past because enrollment [at USM] is down.” The SGA receives their funding through the student activity fee each student pays as a part of their enrollment. Because of a drop in enrollment this year, Dunham and the SGA and other USM student groups may be dealing with constrained funding.

“I think there’s a recognition that we are going to have to do things differently this year [because of the budget],” Dunham said.

However, she believes that we can compensate for budgetary limitations by increasing communication between student groups. She explained that student groups often hold very similar conferences, and these conferences could be combined to save funds if student groups shared their plans with each other.

With open communication they could continue to foster the growth of student organizations. “We would love to see student groups created and thrive, and help students pursue their interests through the creation of clubs and organizations,” said Stephanie Brown, the chair of the student senate.

“One of Dunham’s immediate goals is to add to the “Dog Pound,” a wall of plaques located in the Woodbury Campus Center that recognizes students for their outstanding leadership. She strongly believes that recognizing students for their involvement and leadership is the best way to keep them involved on and off campus. Dunham knows first hand what a positive impact such commendation can have on a student. She became involved on campus herself after being recognized for her contributions, she explained.

Dunham and the SGA also hope to work on increasing student involvement this year by “working more closely with faculty and staff to make sure that students have the best experience possible,” Dunham said. If faculty help to spread the word about upcoming events to their students, Dunham said, more students would be likely to participate. Another part of Dunham’s efforts to engage students in the USM community is by maintaining a strong social media presence.

Dunham herself has her own “10th USM Student Body President” Facebook page where she engages students in university-related conversations. In one post, she entreated students to take part in a board that will discuss USM dining issues. In another post, she rallied student support for Welcome Week events.

Dunham also has some personal goals that she hopes to fulfill this year. “I am working on seeing if we can put a gender neutral bathroom in this building,” she said of the Woodbury Campus Center in Portland. As part of the LGBTQ community herself, she feels that it is important to give transgender students a safe and comfortable place to use the facilities, especially in a building that houses the center for sexualities and gender diversity.

The SGA encourages students to come to their office in Portland’s Woodbury Campus Center if they have any issues to address or questions about getting more involved in campus life. “I would love to see us be the people on campus that can answer questions and be a reference if students have concerns so that we can make sure that the concern is heard and action is taken to help them,” Brown said.

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

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