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Tar sands oil debate hits Portland campus

Garth Lenz, who spoke at “Canada’s Tar Sands Exposed,” held in Hannaford Hall last Friday, is a photographer for National Geographic who has made a career of photographing environments in trouble.

The event was sponsored by 350 Maine in partnership with the Natural Resource Council of Maine. 350 Maine is a grassroots organization dedicated to solving the crisis of climate change. Speakers at the event were Garth Lenz, a photojournalist for National Geographic who has received international recognition based on his photographs of threatened environments and the impacts of industry, Eriel Deranger, activist and member of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and Dylan Voorhees, Clean Energy Project Director of the NRCM.

One topic of conversation at the event was a pipeline leading from Montreal to South Portland that feeds crude oil north from South Portland for 60 years. Now oil companies want to reverse the direction and replace the crude oil with tar sands. Tar sands oil is thicker than crude oil and contains many more toxic chemicals, including large amounts of carbon. When asked why the oil companies would choose to switch to tar sands, Voorhees said “Why? Because Canada has it.” Lenz claimed that he was not there to pick a side as much as “to share information so people can have an informed discussion about it.” He said that tar sands are one of the most carbon intensive energy forms. It is also the third largest proven oil reserve in the world. The mining of tar sands is occurring in Alberta, Canada, where they receive about 1.8 million barrels of tar sands oil every day. According to Lenz, oil companies plan to expand the mining in Alberta, and this number will increase to five to six million barrels a day. On the subject of the impact tar sands will have on North America’s fresh water, Lenz said, “Clean water will always be worth more than dirty oil.”

Deranger spoke of the effect of tar sands on the Athabasca Chipewyan tribe and many others in Alberta. She described chemicals leaking into their water and polluting the meat of their food sources, which has led to a dramatic rise in the people’s cancer rates. Her actions to stop the harm being done to these people had an especially profound impact on sophomore nursing major and Native American student Sam Nicholas. “What she’s doing is very inspiring, being a woman and a mother.”

The 350 in “350 Maine” stands for the amount of carbon in the atmosphere measured in parts per million that it takes to be associated with climate change. Currently the earth’s atmosphere is at 400 parts per million, which is causing the climate to change.

The Portland Montreal Pipeline, a Jan. 16, 2013 press release on

See TAR SANDS on page 4
Officials discuss active shooter policies

The USM community has been thinking more about safety than usual in the aftermath of the armed standoff in Gorham on Wednesday, Jan. 22. The number of school shootings has been on the rise throughout the U.S., with approximately 10 incidents recorded in 2012 and 28 in 2013. A school shooting is an act of gun violence taking place on a high school or college campus on or near school grounds while students were present. In January alone, 2014 has already seen approximately 11 school shootings. While the recent incident at USM ended peacefully, it has more people at USM looking at how they can keep the community safe.

“Think Maimers sort of live in a bubble,” said undeclared freshman Christopher Wright. “A lot of people don’t think as much about dangerous situations, because they don’t happen as often up here.” The number of school shootings in the U.S. this month has opened the doors for conversation about USM’s emergency response plans and whether the community would be prepared for similar or worst-case scenario situations.

“Unfortunately, we live in a world where these things can happen anywhere and at any time,” said director of Public Safety Kevin Caswell. “It literally takes just a few minutes to sign up, and students can choose what kind of alerts they want to receive.”

Through e2Campus, anyone can sign up for alerts on emergency situations or serious weather conditions, and there is a separate storm line for the Lewiston-Auburn campus. Because alerts are sent to personal phones, students are required to sign up to receive these alerts. “I signed up for the alerts within the first week I was here at school,” said freshman psychology major Allison Tucker. “I totally forgot about it until there’s a snowstorm and get that text that says no school, then it’s back to bed for me.”

Usually that’s how the service is used, to inform students of dangerous road conditions due to the weather and sometimes of cancellations. But on the night of the standoff, three texts were sent over the course of the 5 hour event, telling students to avoid the downtown area. However, the text messages only informed students that there was an emergency situation and that they should avoid the downtown area.

“I didn’t really know what was happening from the university messages,” said Tucker, “but, obviously, I just jumped on the computer and looked up the local news coverage.”

“As dangerous as the situation was for the student inside the house and the law enforcement officers who responded, students in the surrounding area were safe, so we didn’t want to alarm anyone,” said Caswell.

“It wasn’t super concerning,” said sophomore pre-med major Joseph Walter. Cogner noted that it is important to remember that in emergencies, like a situation in which there is an active shooter on campus, the person causing the scene will likely have access to the information law enforcement is releasing, so they need to be discreet with what information they make available to the public.

“Our goal is to make people aware of a situation and aware that they need to avoid it,” said Cogner. “Not being journalists, we don’t have the need to get the story out there, [we] just need to relay information to make sure people steer clear so law enforcement can do what they need to do.”

Similar messages were sent out via email to resident students on the Gorham campus and students who were involved with Greek Life. Residential life staff spanned across campus, making sure that all students in the resident halls and campus public buildings were aware as well.

“It felt like it was being very well contained,” said sophomore biochemistry major Chris Fitzgerald. “Residential staff went into overdrive to make sure people felt like they were protected.”

According to coordinator of Student Activities Dan Welte, communication went as well as it could have, and the only minor issue was that the university did not know how to contact non-resident students who live nearby in the town of Gorham who would have benefited from the information. As the system is set up now, the university would have had to email the listserv for all students to contact that smaller selection.

“We’re currently looking into our mailing lists and how we can make them more efficient,” said Welte.

There is no way to contact just off-campus Gorham residents, and Caswell said they did not want to alert every USM student by sending out an alert to the all student listserv, so those students were left with local news coverage for information.

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See SAFETY on page 5
Students to urge Board to go green

Students have come together with the help of the Office of Sustainability at USM and support from the Student Senate to bring the issue of Divestment to the floor at the Board of Trustees meeting on February 27. In March of 2013, the Student Senate approved a resolution to express the student body’s desire to divest the University of Maine System endowment from any of the top two hundred publicly traded fossil fuel companies. The measure was passed by a 10 to two margin.

Divestment is the direct opposite of investment. In this case, it’s a call by the students of USM, for the immediate freezing of all new assets invested in top 200 fossil fuel companies and their remaining endowments with fossil fuel companies within the next five years. “We, as the students of UMaine school system, are demanding that the future which we our investing in be protected and that our universities take an active role in doing so,” said Iris SanGiovanni, a freshman political science major and one of the organizers of the small team of USM and Orono students heading this movement.

“Climate change is a political problem, that we need to address on a political level,” said junior women and gender studies and environmental studies major, Erin Railey. Students have come together with the help of the Office of Sustainability at USM and support from the Student Senate to bring the issue of Divestment to the floor at the Board of Trustees meeting on February 27.

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Heather Guaciaro
Contributor

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Students to urge Board to go green

Shaun Carland is one of a group of students who will be addressing the University of Maine System Board of Trustees at their next meeting to urge them to divest money from environmentally unfriendly companies.

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From TAR SANDS on page 1

protests over use of the pipeline, wrote: “Our commitment to public safety and the environment continues to be recognized by leading industry organizations in the U.S. and Canada.” They recognized that there would be debate over the use of the pipeline and that they would “welcome opportunities for open discussion that are fact based and transparent.” They said they would be doing this work with the pipeline, with as much caution towards the environment as possible.

Many students were at the event in support of 350 Maine. First year economics major Alanna Larri- vee and first year political science major Iris Sanioivanii both had comments to make about tar sands. “The environment is of utmost importance. You only get one, and if that gets tarnished, we don’t have a backup,” said Larriive. Sanioivanii- ni had been involved with the debate over tar sands since a meeting she attended last year. “It doesn’t bring about just environmental in- justice, but social injustice as well. We, as a society, can’t stand for it,” said Sanioivanii.

Not everyone except the PMPL is against the use of tar sands, how- ever. Many people can also see the benefits of using them. “Tar sands may cost a lot of money, but it’s not going to be our money, it’s going to be the company that is moving the tar sands,” said first year undeclared Stephen Colby. “When asked about the debate over damage to the envi- ronment that tar sands would cause, he said “The environmental dam- ages are going to happen. I would rather Portland benefit than lose out on an opportunity like this, if it can be called an opportunity at all. If it can bring in a bunch of revenue for Portland, it would be a beneficial outcome. Tar sands is not a good thing, but I would rather it be in our benefit,” said Colby.

Tar sands is no doubt a con- troversial subject with reasons for support on both sides. When asked why do we not turn to the use of alternative energy sources,” Voor- hees said, “in a lot of these forms of energy, they require a lot more money up front,” meaning that even though renewable resources pay off in the long run, they cost a lot of money to research and enact now, whereas oil is cheaper now, and we have it now.

From DIRECTION on page 1

When USM announced the roll- out of its new Direction Package in late September and the formation of the Direction Package Advisory Board in October, neither step was intended to continue indefinitely, and as January draws to a close, the scheduled Advisory Board meet- ings are nearing an end.

The advisory board has met twelve times since its creation, and is scheduled to meet five more times, with the last meeting tak- ing place on Feb. 28. However, as President Kalikow stressed during last Friday’s meeting, “I think it’s really important for everyone to know we’re not going to get there in a week.” The end of the advisory board’s meetings, will culminate in the creation of a report of what the advisory board has gathered and evaluated on enrollment patterns, state and national trends in higher education, and different ideas about working with the university’s limited bud- get, which will then be presented to the President’s Council for further consideration.

Since the advisory board set up sub-groups to focus on specific issues at the Nov. 22 meeting, a significant portion of the board’s meetings have been devoted to group work. Student Body Presi- dent Kelsey Dunham told the Free Press that in upcoming meetings, the smaller groups will make re- ports out to the group at large so the advisory board can make its recommendations to the adminis-
From SAFETY on page 2

“...I think there are always going to be circumstances where we might not be able to reach everybody,” said Caswell. “But if the situation had been different, and students outside the cordoned off area were in danger or might have been in danger, we would’ve contacted everyone.”

“The text messages [through e2Campus] are a good tool, but might be underutilized,” said Cogner.

In the situation in Gorham, no one was injured, but students have been asking what would’ve happened if the incident had occurred on-campus instead of in an off-campus location.

“Luckily everything ended up working out and no one was hurt,” said Wright. “It would have been terrible to have something like what happened at Purdue happen here.”

Cogner said that tactical information is sensitive and cannot be released, as law enforcement cannot risk anyone planning a crime being aware of law enforcement’s protocol for responses. There is a document on the Public Safety website listing what students should expect from them, as well as what a student should do in case an active shooter situation arises.

“It’s a lot of stuff that you’re going to read and go, ‘oh, that’s so basic,’ but it’s worth taking the time to read,” said Cogner.

Cogner also said that the department hopes to work with other departments at the university to include this information more regularly, specifically at student orientations, and are working to develop and release a short video to inform students of how to remain safe.

“We’re in a good place,” said Cogner, “and we’re working to be in an even better position.”

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In Brief...

UMF goes green, turns towards natural gas

As a part of a series of environmentally and financially motivated projects in heating an energy across the University of Maine System, the UMS Board of Trustees approved a proposal from the University of Maine at Farmington to enter into an agreement to have natural gas delivered to the town, and to enter into any other agreements necessary to make the school’s infrastructure able to run on natural gas instead of oil.

So far, the natural gas line only runs as far as a town nearby Farmington, and not into the town of Farmington itself, so it will take some time to implement the plan, said University of Maine System Public Relations Manager Peggy Leonard. According to the proposal document which was voted on by the board, however, the switch to natural gas should save the university $4 million over the course of 10 years, as appraised by outside energy specialists. The investment required to outfit UMF so that it can use natural gas instead of cost to between $2 million and $4 million. The environmental benefits of the switch to natural gas are also listed in the proposal, which says that, “the use of natural gas is estimated to reduce UMF’s carbon emissions by approximately 28 percent per every unit of heating oil that is displaced by natural gas. This is the equivalent of removing approximately 60 passenger cars from the road for every 100,000 gallons of heating oil that is displaced by natural gas.”

Police Beat

Selections from the USM Department of Public Safety police log. Jan. 24 to Jan. 27

Friday, Jan. 24

Not the university’s way
1:57 a.m. - Summons for marijuana possession issued to Amanda V. Balsmo, 18, of Gorham. – Robbie Andrews Hall, 39 University Way

Doubly possessed
2:24 a.m. - Summons for possession of alcohol by a minor and useable amount of marijuana issued to William D. Weaver, 20, of Gorham. – Robbie Andrews Hall, 39 University Way

Unusual verb activity
10:25 a.m. - Unwanted subject trespassed (added to a trespass list) from campus. – Dickey Wood Hall, 17 University Way, exterior.

“an injury to one is an injury to all!”
11:18 a.m. - Personal injury report taken. – Robbie Andrews Hall, 39 University Way

Science in action
1:30 p.m. - Reported fire in a classroom. Portland Fire Department responded. – Science Building, 70 Falmouth St.

Brains of the operation
4:13 p.m. - Motor vehicle warning issued to operator. – 98 Bedford St.

Impossibly criminal
10:09 p.m. - Report of a possible criminal trespass, unable to locate. – Upperclass Hall, 25 Husky Drive

Where the sidewalk ends
10:34 p.m. - Warning to operator for operating on sidewalks. – Payson Smith Hall, 96 Falmouth St.

Saturday, Jan. 25

Sharing is caring
1:04 p.m. - Multiple summonses issued for alcohol violations. – Upton Hastings Hall, 52 University Way

Be a star!
3:58 p.m. - Warning for failure to dim headlights. – Gorham Campus

Comedy of errors
8:04 p.m. - Warnings for plate light and failure to change address. – Bedford St. at Surrroen St.

An officer and a gentleman
9:05 p.m. - Wellbeing check handled by officer. - Brooks Student Center, 32 University Way

Sunday, Jan. 26

Cooperation staycation
10:24 a.m. - Provided assistance to Residential Life staff. – Dickey Wood Hall, 17 University Way

Happily ever after
12:23 p.m. - Reported missing juvenile, cancelled enrol. – Dickey Wood Hall, 25 Husky Drive

Unwell by default
2:53 p.m. - Wellbeing check on an individual, unable to locate individual. – Glickman Library, 314 Forest Ave.

Monday, Jan. 27

Who needs math anyway?
2:45 p.m. - Subject removed from library. – Glickman Library, 314 Forest Ave.

Police logs are edited for grammar and style. They can be found at usm.maine.edu/police/campus-crime-log.
Seven years after a car bomb exploded in Iraq, killing 30 people, wounding over 100 and destroying the entire perimeter of Al-Mutanabbi street, the cultural epicenter of Baghdad, a powerful art exhibition has arrived at USM entitled Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here that displays the significance of what happened on that day through visually impressive pieces of literary art.

The artists, which can include everything from poetry and stories to calligraphy-laden broadsides (a large sheet of paper printed only once), are all main focuses of the Al-Mutanabbi street. For centuries the street in downtown Baghdad was the book-selling center of the whole country and served as a hub for writers and literary artists to meet, exchange intellectual ideas and foster creativity. The suicide attack, for which no group has claimed responsibility, destroyed thousands of books, poetry and other literary works of art not just from Iraqi culture, but from around the world. Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here aims to bear witness to the attack and to create a sense of solidarity between creatives, writers and artists everywhere.

The exhibit includes over 130 letterpress-printed broadsides, an anthology of writing, and 260 artists’ books that make up a varied collection of personal responses to the attack on Al-Mutanabbi Street. The exhibit has made its way to USM’s Reading Room on the 7th floor of the Glickman library after being split into three parts, the other two of which are on display in London and Cairo and feature work from over 500 contributors in 20 countries.

The pieces themselves can be described as a whole as imaginatively useful of typography, parchment, and book cover designs that capture the creative spirit that once flowed through the hands of Al-Mutanabbi streets artists and book merchants.

According to Beau Beausoleil, a poet, bookseller and visionary behind the exhibit, the literary art pieces represent the intellectual community of Iraq, while also bridging the cultural gap that over a decade of war has created. For Beausoleil, the project isn’t meant to be viewed as your standard art exhibition.

“It’s not a memorial art project; it’s a living breathing project.”

-Beau Beausoleil
Artist and Curator of the Al-Mutanabbi Starts Here Exhibition

To bridge the cultural gap and help create a more accurate view of the Iraqi intellectual community that wasn’t tainted by political propaganda, Beausoleil initially sent out a call to poets and artists to send in work for a memorial reading at the San Francisco Public Library, and received 43 visual responses in the first month. After a growing rise in interest and a few successful collaborations the project expanded in 2010 and included 130 letterpresses that featured emotional and evocative responses to the attacks from several international artists.

The artists use books and pages combined with text and illustrations as a platform for addressing issues, said Beausoleil. “They often work in parts of their own life as well. It becomes a personal statement, something that will sink in very deeply.”

One work entitled “Ink and Blood” by Cathy Deforest reads on its first page, “In dedication to imagination: we are all descendants of Al-Mutanabbi.”

The pieces are all reminiscent of the diversity of content that was once available any given day on Al-Mutanabbi street. There are poems, anecdotal stories, typographic and even a book cover with a broken mirror inside the frame, giving off the illusion of a victim’s reflection. Some pieces are even designed to feel like they came out of the explosion themselves with text sprawled out on half burnt pages, for a eerie level of immersion.

“I want people to struggle with the art and be uncomfortable with it in the best sense,” said Beausoleil.

According to Beausoleil, the pieces force us to think about the commonality between a small street in Baghdad and our own cultural streets, and furthermore, they can bring us to the realization that the Iraqi people have lives very similar to our own.

“Through art we can clear a space between us and the Iraqi cultural community,” said Beau Beausoleil. “One day we will win their respect and trust, and we will step into that space, and we can work together.”

Rebecca Goodale, the program coordinator for the Kate Cheney Chappell ‘83 Center for Book Arts at USM thinks it’s a thrill for students to be able to experience this exhibit and get a chance to meet some of the artists.

“I believe that the outpouring of the participants and their talent and thoughtfulness will impress those who attend,” said Goodale.

The exhibition is on display here at USM from now until May 1 and will also include a panel discussion on Feb. 5 with Jesseca Ferguson, Anna Wexler and Stephanie Stigliana, Boston-based artists who contributed to the project. They are part of a large network of international voices and artists who have come together with this exhibition to connect the world through literary art and help people realize that Al-Mutanabbi street doesn’t just start in Baghdad, it starts here.

“Al-Mutanabbi street isn’t just about half a world away,” said Beausoleil. “If there is a bookstore, a university, or a cultural institution, that’s where it starts.”

francis@usmfreepress.org
@FrancisFlisiuk
This week four USM students will take on the Portland Stage in a production of Doubt, the 1960s drama set in St. Nicholas’, a New York Catholic school.

A Pulitzer-prize winning stage play written by John Shanley will be under the direction of USM professor of theatre William Steele.

Amidst the aftermath of Kennedy’s assassination, the small Catholic school is faced with challenges to their traditional conservatism. Sister Aloysius, played by junior theatre major Ashley Rood, believes there is reason to suspect the molestation of Donald Muller, St. Nicholas’ first African-American student.

Sister Aloysius suspects that parish priest, Father Flynn, played by sophomore theatre major, David Bliss, has committed such a crime. Aloysius thinks this because of a one-on-one meeting between Flynn and the boy. Flynn insists that he was disciplining Donald for drinking altar wine.

As the accusations continue, the stakes are raised, each character battling their stories to the point where the audience begins to doubt them both.

Appearing in her nonmusical, Ashley Rood has enjoyed the opportunity to experience the close-ness of a small cast that is apparently, “itching for an audience,” said Rood.

Junior theatre major Pamela Smith, who plays the role Mrs. Muller (the mother of the molested child) describes the characters as intimate, and strategically so. “The playwright hit it on the head,” said Smith.

Both the bare bones cast and set design align with Shanley’s original intent for the show. The charm of the parish priest and the seemingly 100 percent certainty of Sister Aloysius convictions against the priest are opposing forces that create the doubt.

The African American student that Sister Aloysius believes was molested by Father Flynn is interesting eliminated from the casting list and stage altogether. The decisive exclusion of the boy from the casting list allows the show to approach a more mature audience with intensity.

“If the kid was in the production, you’d be able to tell based on his actions whether or not I [Father Flynn] was guilty,” said Bliss.

The performances will take place at Portland Stage Studio Theater at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 7 and Saturday, Feb 8 at 7:30 p.m. The Sunday show on Feb 9 will be at 5 p.m. Doubt will continue to play the following weekend.

For more information about the show, times and ticket pricing visit the USM Theatre Department website at www.usm.maine.edu/theatre.
Grass Punks, released by Tom Brosseau, questions the imperatives of American folk, yet it is still able to pay dear respect to the timeless genre. Folk music has always been an elusive term—world music played by lower socioeconomic classes, artists from the ‘60s folk revival (e.g., Bob Dylan, Joan Baez), and more recently, bands like The Milk Carton Kids have all been pigeonholed into the ever-expanding genre.

Although Tom Brosseau sounds significantly different from all of these acts, most people still would say he plays folk music, whatever that means.

Looking specifically at Grass Punks, layered acoustic guitars are paired with vocals. Mandolin and electric guitar play occasional supporting roles but are not the central focus. Its harmonies are relatively unadorned, with every chord equally worth. This three-chord pop progression driven by a blumping shuffle rhythm is layered with high-pitched chords that are strummed and finger picked. This tune could be mistaken for another Blithe love song, if one doesn’t pay careful attention.

“Tami,” Brosseau’s unique way of describing a past love affair, is equally as creative. While the guitar parts here could be compared to that of Leo Kottke, the vocals are more like Lou Reed or even Radiohead. However, Brosseau’s sound still stands out. “I Love to Play Guitar,” happy and relaxed, is a light-hearted context.

While it seems like the album is suffering from a bit of identity crisis from the impressively different styles in each track, half the fun is just anticipating what you’ll hear next by skipping around on the album. Gramatik’s strength is in his versatility as an artist to include classic piano and guitar sounds, with hyper kinetic beats for a seamless blend of both old and new. “You Don’t Understand,” the second single on the album, starts off with a smooth funk guitar riff but then progresses into a more futuristic mix that could only be described as elegantly filthy.

The Age of Reason is a refreshing step in the right direction for electronic music, staying away from the muddled vocals on top of overly aggressive dubstep bass wobbles that has become trendy in the past few years. These tracks won’t give you the dubstep headache that most mainstream DJs and bands often do.

“Torture” is a must-listen featuring vocals from Eric Krasno, who features lush electric beats paired with an infectious guitar riff that’s reminiscent of The Black Keys. And if the work of Gramatik alone wasn’t enough, a lot of tracks feature the production collective of Exmag, which includes other top-notch producers, such as SuperNicer, Mike Iannatto, and ILLUMINTR.

This is an album that embraces the fresh and energetic feel of electronica but with plenty of nostalgic nods to a funkier more soulful style. The Age of Reason is a distinctively unique spin on electronic music that benefits from its hybrid quality of blending fresh beats with classic instrumentals. The Age of Reason is an electronic game-changer. Oh, and don’t go rushing to the nearest record store to grab a copy, because Gramatik is offering his entire album free to download through his Soundcloud page.
**Streep vs. Roberts in “August: Osage County”**

It's every movie buff's guilty pleasure. It's like getting wine tipsy, or treating yourself to dinner just before the rent is due. Putting some of the finest actors and actresses currently at work in the same dilapidated mansion, alongside the finest actors of any generation and shaking up the bottle with crisis after crisis until each of their heads explode, all in the exquisitely graceful hands of a fearless romantic director, makes August: Osage County the treasure to film buffs that it is.

Set in the plains of Oklahoma, Violet Weston (Meryl Streep) is the recently widowed, pill-popping, violently critical matriarch who watches with a masochistic pleasure as the lives of each of her three daughters disappoint her in just the way she expects each to. The family grieves the loss of the father figure Beverly (Sam Shepard), who is romanticized and, as the only absent one, appears to be the only one with any sort of dignity left to him. They all eventually look to the oldest sister, Barbara (Julia Roberts) for guidance, and she slowly bends to the same low as her mother, as each new calamity is laid upon her. The Westons are hicks in purest form: politically incorrect, drinkers, smokers and each an unflinching survivor. But the Westons are also poets, writers, readers and lunatics; allusions to Greek mythology and literary figures rumble through the film. The film opens with Beverly delivering a line from T.S. Eliot: "Life is very long." Later, his daughter will reprise the line with "Good thing we can’t see the future. If we did, we’d never get up in the morning." And throughout the film, there is the incessant presence, in the disastrous wake of Beverly’s death, of a line Barbara will return to again and again: "Now what?"

Much can be said about the contrasts of this film. Each character feels the need to show their emotions on their sleeve; no one holds back, even when we expect them to. Everyone must face some seemingly unbearable crisis, each of which in any other film would stand alone as the tipping point. Put them together, and you begin to wonder if this isn’t just the apocalypse of all family disasters.

But in this visceral plot of revenge, incest and anger and disgust and cruelty and killer instinct, each performance comes to a head in a sweep of brilliant character acting. Each family member is given the chance to grapple with the decay of land and life, to face the bodies in the closet, and we’re left wondering how many will survive. A good half of the film is delivered in high decibel, as screaming matches erupt every five minutes. Indeed, eventually there is a wrestling match on the living room floor. Supporting performances by Benedict Cumberbatch, Julienne Nicholson, Juliette Lewis, Abigail Breslin, and Misty Upham shine, bouncing off each other in fits of glee and anger like the glorious image of burning ships in port. But it is Margo Martindale and Chris Cooper who shine as Violet’s sister Mattie Fae and her husband Charlie. While the family has certainly lost its way, it is only Charlie’s gentle moral compass and Mattie Fae’s rich laughter that can steer them straight.

We could write books about the magic that occurs when Meryl Streep performs, and we already have. I don’t need to tell anyone how miraculous her talent is, that effortlessly flows out of herself, into the balding, drugged up, withered shell that is Violet. But let the trumpets of Hollywood sing, for never before have we witnessed another actress who with such ferocity steals the spotlight from Streep, as Julia Roberts does in this film. The two characters go head to head, toe to toe, and the dialogue flies like meleval lances. Who can suffer more, who is stronger, who will outlast the insults of the other? Radiating all the virile bound from Hell, Robert stands over the defeated Streep and shouts “You don’t get it, do you? You don’t get it? I am running things now!”

August may not be a part of the digital revolution that is changing the possibilities of film magic. Nor is it one of those films that fills your heart with inspiration—those epic, sweeping tales of American bravery or genius. But it is a film driven by sensational actors, embroiled as complicated, distraught and genuine characters, that paints a portrait of those always distant plains, where survival is still an act of kicking and screaming.

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Policy is the problem

In our editorial last week, we brought up concerns about the safety of students in off-campus housing and university policy regarding on-campus fraternities. Many readers were offended that we singled out this group of students, who otherwise have often been noted for their high level of involvement in the university community. It should be stressed that last week’s editorial was about policy, not people.

As recent events across the country have highlighted, it is important that we do not have to worry about the safety of all students, the university needs to clarify its policies regarding their relationship to their community’s public safety policies.

We care deeply about the safety and well-being of our students residing on campus, and we should be monitoring any too closely. Unfortunately, recent events may have served to negatively impact the reputations of these students, which is detrimental to their relationship as part of the campus community. It is important to ensure their continued success in the future.

Institutional policies need to be clarified and enacted in favor of our community’s public safety policies.

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Kelsea Dunham
Contributor

My name is Kelsea Dunham, and I am your student body president. I want to start this little piece of writing with the statement that I am not actively involved with Greek Life at USM. I still strongly believe that Greek Life is good for USM, as a whole. When I ran for student body president I knew nothing, other than stereotypes, about Greek Life. I cracked fraternity meetings, expecting hostile reactions, but not getting them. I knew a few folks involved, through my work with campus groups, but that was it. Over the last year, I’ve had a chance to get to know many students who are very involved with Greek Life, including the student body vice president, Marpheen Chann. Other than the incident on January 22, I have seen only good come from one’s involvement in Greek Life.

My goal as student body president is to create a tighter knit community at USM, and Greek Life is just one of the many organizations on campus working to promote that ideal. The Greeks are all required to hold a GPA of 2.5, and have an average GPA of 3.0. All of our Greek organizations are also heavily involved in philanthropy and community service. Some major community service projects that Greeks are involved in are the White Cane Walk, the Autism Walk, Relay for Life, and the Full Yard Clean Up.

Members of Greek Life are working hard to change the stereotypes associated with fraternity and sorority life. It’s not all Animal House. In fact, it’s mostly the opposite. Greek Life is men and women creating relationships that will last a lifetime. It’s helping out on campus, and where and when they can. (In fact, two fraternities on campus volunteered at USM’s 14th Annual Royal Majesty Drag Show and Competition. Talk about breaking stereotypes!) It’s fraternities and sororities working together to create a better campus – many members of Greek Life are active in our Student Government Association, the Greater Events Board, have participated in events with Campus Safety Project, and the list goes on and on.

I will say that I strongly believe that Greek Life in no way contributed to the incident on January 22. Just because it was a fraternity brother, at his house, does not mean it was a fraternity. It was one person.

Kelsea Dunham is student body president.

From WEAPON on page 11 confidentiality, then I don’t want them to have any program at all.

President Obama already made one jump forward when he negoti- ated the START Treaty with Russia, which should eliminate a chunk of both countries’ nuclear weapons count by 1/3. Despite that one stride, the United States is still slated to spend about $700 billion on the Defense Department’s nuclear program over the next ten years, according to the Ploughshares Fund, a group dedicated to ridding the world of nuclear weapons, not just in one region of it, but yes, in the western world as well.

We need to focus on India and India’s nuclear programs. It is constantly under fire from the United States for their program and their budget is very high. But maybe it’s time to turn up the heat on our own nuclear program.

Dylan Lajoie, aka Pickles, is a senior political science major with a concentration in international relations.

editor@usmfreepress.org
USM_FreePress

Make Maine better: Vote Cutler in 2014

Marpheen Chann
Contributor

My name is Marpheen Chann, and I am the student body vice president at USM and a college student. The election season is here, and it’s time to finally say what I have to say—that, as a democrat, I am voting for Eliot Cutler in 2014.

Don’t get me wrong; I like Mike Michaud, and I have considered the Democratic party family, but I am a democrat in the sense that I believe in democracy, that I have the right and the privilege to vote for who I think is the best candidate and for what I think is best for the state of Maine.

Each and every one of us, as participants in this democracy, have the right and the privilege to vote for the candidate and values we think are best for the state of Maine. To say it is not so, to say that we must vote for who we’re told to vote for, is an assault upon the fundamental principles inherent within our right to vote.

This is what I believe as a democrat. This is what I believe with all my heart. That I am a catalyst for change simply because I can vote. That as a citizen, I can do what is best for the state of Maine by voting for who and what I think is best.

That is a fundamental principle of democracy and that is what Maine has been and should continue to be. Having met with Eliot Cutler and having discussed the challenges that our state faces, I have made the difficult choice, as a democrat, to support the candidate I think has the best solutions for the state of Maine, with so much untapped potential.

Why has this been such a difficult choice? In part, because I have been part of the political system and it’s difficult to break away. On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, it was noticed when I stood with Eliot at a public event. Some in the party asked me why I would stand by this candidate when I am a democrat?

Why? Because I am voting with my conscience and a strong belief that Eliot has the best vision, the best plan, the most drive to take Maine’s undeveloped economic advantages. We can be a mecca for immigrants, families and young people if we aren’t afraid of making bold decisions about our future.

In fact, we must be bold if we want to make Maine a place of opportunity.

This year’s election for governor is not only about being bold, but about not being afraid. I have heard the mantra about anyone can be LePage—but what if the choice is between politics-as-usual, accommodated by the same group of political players, and a chance to do something innovative? The year 2014 brings us all to a crossroads. There is the left or the right. The answer is to move straight ahead, to move boldly forward as a people and as a state to do what is best for Maine.

Eliot Cutler has a plan to bring all Mainers together, whether you’re a republican, democrat or an independent. No matter who you are, in this democracy, we share a duty to vote for whom and for what we think is best for the state of Maine.

Marpheen Chann is student body vice president.

Corrections:
From the Jan. 27 issue on page 11, in the “This Week” schedule, the Men’s Indoor Track Maine State Championship was listed as a home game. The event was held at Bowdoin College on Saturday.

From the Jan. 27 issue on page one, in the story “University oversight of fraternities questioned” a photo credit was misspelled. The first photo was taken by Justicia Barreiros.

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Crossword

Across
1. Teen’s ‘No-way’
2. The office
3. "Me here!"
4. Heaven to the ground
5. Habit of talents
11. Washington city
14. Clarinet relative
15. Journalist, slain
21. Dune
23. Gilbert cowherd
27. Deal with gently
31. Some e-mailed news reports
32. Parent company of Lotus
33. "Stop worrying!"
34. Garden pests
35. Albin’s second
40. Ashen
42. He’sdrawable
43. Artifact
45. First month on a calendar
47. A Fine Tune
48. Try to win
51. Distinctly: sharply
54. Ball
56. Giver’s action
58. "The way to do heart..."
62. Large crock
64. Cartoon Network show that debuted in 1999
66. Okra: Able
67. Extra attraction
68. Round breed of India
69. Cat
70. Bar aspirant's huddles, briefly
71. Little un

Down
1. Caucasian rival
2. Guy that Paul Simon advice to "Make a new plan"
3. "Mojito" (neighbor of Cancun)
4. Daughter
5. "Hey, unm, ogra's..."
6. Iota (El Salvador)
7. Electrical units
8. Unprecedented event
9. Donee-prizates
10. Fortuity
11. Heurist neighbor
13. Songstress Simon
14. Newshw was to tap
22. Connect the ___
24. Lyrical verses
25. Good condition
27. Radio knob
28. Clerical title
29. "____ or a man with..."
30. Thin and bony
31. Too much
32. African miner
33. Special 60's cars
34. Carine attack commands
35. Rip, jaggedly
41. "Baseball Tonight" analyst John
42. "Podfatie Girl" singer Aretha
43. Indian, say
44. Asp, as null
45. Solidify
46. Queen bee’s mate
47. Minor pursuit
48. Better-than-average grades
49. Calculates the total
50. "Look to ___ for God" (Carmen
51. Biancardi's "
52. "Avid land"
53. Investigator, Able.
54. Cattle flier's title: Able.

Sudoku

A sudok 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.

LR EF PXFXFULK AJLRTL P GJUP JU P ERKFXBJZF JZNXPJLJRZ.

And here is your hint: F = E

Weekly Horoscope

Aries March 21-April 19
Patience, fortitude, and follow-through are essential today. Remember to count to 10.

Taurus April 20-May 20
A past friend has drifted away. You have little in common now; don’t try to keep hanging on.

Gemini May 21-June 20
If there is hanky-panky of any kind going on at work, you are more likely to find it today.

Cancer June 21-July 22
Friends drop in unexpectedly or your place becomes a center of activity, chaos, and new directions.

Leo July 23-August 22
Someone near to you is too protective or too judgmental and critical. Don’t overreact. Keep your own inner emotional security.

Virgo August 23-September 22
Today you are balancing stability and change on the job. Vary your routines a bit, but take care of essential duties.

Sagittarius November 22-December 21
Feelings are thoroughly mixed with thinking today, so get comfortable with both.

Capricorn December 22-January 19
Nestling together with the one you love is important today. Feeling comfortable and being cherished rank as high as being passionate.

Aquarius January 20-February 18
Caring and being cared for are in focus. Take action on domestic matters, or devote energy to emotional commitments.

Pisces February 19-March 20
Don’t try to tie anyone down. Give lovers and friends lots of freedom without possessiveness.

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The solution to last issue's crossword

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Free delivery or carry out
One coupon per pizza
Expires 5/1/14
USM athlete sets high goals for track nationals

Junior Kevin Desmond looks to break his record in 800 meter dash

USM men’s indoor track student athlete Kevin Desmond has already achieved record-breaking time in the men’s 800 meter dash, but this season he has even higher goals in mind.

Desmond, junior exercise physiology major, has been running track since about ten years old, he said. He’s already accomplished a lot this season, with three school records already under his belt, but Desmond looks forward to achieving even higher goals.

At the Bates Invitational on Jan. 18, Desmond surpassed the previous USM record in the men’s 600 meter dash that was set by Parker Chipman in 2010. Desmond’s time of one minute, 21.82 seconds also qualified him for the New England Division III and the New England Intercollegiate Amateur Athletic Association Championships at the end of this month.

“I wouldn’t say it was planned, but it was definitely one of the goals on my agenda for the season. I’ve been working really hard towards it,” Desmond said about his 600 meter school record. “And then breaking it, I wouldn’t say it was a relief, but definitely a high moment, another accomplishment in life.”

Last week, Desmond was one of three New England area athletes to be selected as an Eastern College Athletic Conference Division III New England Track and Field Athlete of the Week. He has also been named the Little East Conference’s Track Athlete of Week twice this season.

“I’m currently ranked number one in the nation. Things can change, but it’s looking pretty good right now.”

- Kevin Desmond

Men’s indoor track athlete

Track Athlete of Week twice this season.

“It’s definitely an honor. It’s nice to be named twice in a row, but I have much larger goals in the picture,” said Desmond.

Desmond has two main goals for the remainder of the season—to break his school record time in the men’s 800 meter dash with a time faster than one minute 50 seconds and place in the top three of the 800 at the National Championships. His current record time in the 800 is 1:51.70 set last February at the NE-I-CAA Championships.

Desmond isn’t the only athlete breaking records this season. Desmond also anchored the men’s 4-by-400 meter relay team that broke the school record with a combined time of three minutes, 18.09 seconds.

When Desmond spoke to the Free Press, he was preparing to compete in the men’s indoor track Maine State Championships that were held at Bowdoin College last Saturday.

Justicia Barreiros / Sports Editor

Junior Kevin Desmond, men’s indoor track athlete, holds the current school records for the men’s 600 meter and 800 meter dashes.

Athletes in Action: wrestling dual meet

(From left to right) Assistant Coach Mike Morin, seniors Kyle Gallant, Dan Suarez and Rick Chipman, (Back) Assistant Coach Julio Santiago and Head Coach Joe Pistone.

During the last regular season home dual meet, with matches against Plymouth State and Worcester Polytechnic Institute, senior wrestlers were recognized for their athletic achievements.

The Huskies downed the Plymouth State University Panthers in their first meet of the day 27-12, as junior Jonathon Deupree earned a 8-6 win in his match over a regionally ranked grappler.

Later that day, the Huskies fell 27-12 to the Worcester Polytechnic Institute Engineers. Deupree won out again, scoring 6 of the Huskies 12 points in the loss, finishing the day with a 2-0 record individually.

Senior Dan Suarez also posted a 2-0 record in the dual meet.

The Huskies next meet will take place this Saturday at Rhode Island College in a tri-meet with Roger Williams.

Randy Hazelton / Multimedia Editor

February 3, 2014
Quick Hits: The Huskies’ week in review

Justicia Barreiros
Sports Editor

Women’s Basketball
USM beats UMass. Boston 55-47

USM's women’s basketball team quickly took the lead in the first half with a score of 29-21 at halftime. Boston played hard in the second half but was unable to keep up with USM. Junior forward Rebecca Knight and sophomore forward Megan Pelletier led the team in points with a combined 23 points. This win puts the Huskies at 12-6 overall, and 4-8-2 in the league. USM proved USM to 5-11-5 overall and 2-6 in the Little East Conference. Their next game is at home against Colby this Tuesday.

Men’s Ice Hockey
Bowdoin beats USM 4-1

The men’s ice hockey team suffered a hard 4-1 loss to Bowdoin College. Bowdoin started the game with two quick back-to-back goals three minutes into the first period. Sophomore forward Tyler Simmons scored USM’s only goal in the third period but was answered by two additional goals from Bowdoin. Freshman goalie Dylan Wells saved 39 of the 43 shots on goal. This loss brought USM to a record of 4-11-5 with a 13 game winless streak.

Men’s Basketball
USM beats UMass. Boston 75-68

The men’s basketball team broke their eight-game losing streak with a huge 75-68 win over UMass. Boston. Four USM players scored in the double digits to give the huskies the advantage over Boston. Sophomore guard Cole Libby finished the game with six assists, five rebounds, a steal and a team high 18 points. This win improves USM’s record to 6-12 overall and 2-6 in the Little East Conference. Their next game is at home against Colby this Tuesday.

Women's Ice Hockey
Bowdoin shuts out USM 0-4

The women’s hockey team broke their 13 game winless streak against UNE this past Friday. Down by one goal after the first period, USM came back in the second period and put up four goals. While holding a tight defense, USM kept UNE scoreless during the second and third periods. USM scored their sixth additional two goals in the second and third periods respectively. Junior goalie Liz Bergstrom saved 29 shots on goal. This loss brought USM to a record of 9-10-1 overall and 6-5 in their league. USM will play next at Castleton this Friday.

Men’s Ice Hockey
USM defeats UNE 6-2

The men’s ice hockey team broke their 13 game winless streak against UNE this past Friday. Down by one goal after the first period, USM came back in the second period and put up four goals. While holding a tight defense, USM kept UNE scoreless during the second and third periods. USM scored their sixth and final goal of the game in the third period, bringing the final score to 6-2. The win improved USM to 5-11-5 overall and 4-8-2 in the league. USM will play next at Castleton this Friday.

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Student Profile: Rivard lights up the stage

Aaren Rivard has been light-up stages at USM since he decided to study at USM to make music performance his career. Rivard, a senior vocal performance major, considered attending Colby College, the Boston Conservatory and the Juilliard School, before deciding to attend USM’s department of music.

Graduating from high school in South China, Maine, where he is from originally, Rivard struggled to decide whether to teach or to perform music. As one member of a quartet that sang in the November show of Mozart’s tet that finished its run in November.

He said that his voice teacher, Ellen Chickering, associate professor of voice at USM, has greatly influenced him. “She’s a second mother to me. She doesn’t just ask about the music I’m working on—she has a genuine care for me, individually and musically.”

When asked how he has grown musically, he explained, “Being immersed at USM, my appreciation for opera and music in general has grown exponentially through looking at different ways music is performed.”

His future goal is to support himself through only singing, without needing a second job. “My goal is not to sing at the Met, but if I get there, I’d love it. I want to sing in opera houses with successful singers and with amazing directors and powerful conductors.”

According to Rivard, his five-year plan is to be either in Germany studying or working, or he will still be studying in the U.S. to attain an artistic diploma, which he would get after first completing a master’s degree in music performance. But his goals extend beyond his studies. “I’d love to sing under Plácido Domingo [Spanish conductor and tenor], having him as a mentor or as a director.” He would also like to sing in the opera with soprano Joyce DiDonato, American operatic mezzo-soprano. “She has a passion for opera and that translates on the stage, and being next to her would be incredible.”

“One of the reasons I enjoy coming to classes and decide not to stay in bed is that I’m excited to hear what the professors have to say that day,” he said. “Some professors care so much that they make the most mundane things interesting,” Rivard said.

Jen Smith
Staff Writer

USM @ Home - Scarborough
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Husky Hut, Brookes Student Center, Gorham

Monday, February 3

Campus Events

Tuesday, February 4

USM Career Fest
10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland

Wednesday, February 5

USM Celebrates Black History Month
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Woodbury Campus Center, Portland

Thursday, February 6

Resume Writing for USM Veterans & Servicemembers
11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Payson Smith, Portland

Friday, February 7

Board of Student Organizations Meeting
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Luther Bonney, Room 410, Portland

Saturday, February 8

USM @ Home - Scarborough
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Scarborough Grounds - 264 Route 1, Scarborough

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

Featured Photo: Patrick Higgins / Staff Photographer

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USM COMMUNITY PAGE

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