New student president pushes to dissolve BSO

Sam Hill
Managing Editor

After 23 years of controlling student activity fee funding for student groups, the Board of Student Organizations may be stripped of its financial responsibilities, putting that power back into the hands of the Student Senate exclusively.

According to Student Senate chair Joshua Dodge, the BSO was originally developed so that the senate wouldn’t be overwhelmed by financial proposals and funding requests from student groups, but that it no longer functions properly.

“I think we can all agree that the BSO is a broken system,” said Dodge during a BSO advisory group last Tuesday. A senate resolution was brought before the BSO on Friday, April 11 titled “Dissolving the Board of Student Organizations” so that senators sponsoring the resolution could get feedback. After the Friday meeting, Dodge said that while he supported the resolution, there was an overwhealing opposition from BSO members when the resolution was announced, and he didn’t feel comfortable going forward with it as it stood on Friday.

“I’m student-elected, so I don’t feel comfortable supporting something that the students don’t,” said Dodge.

Student Body President Kyle Frazier openly disagreed with Dodge, saying that there were a few students who spoke out, but the majority of the BSO didn’t say anything at all.

“I don’t think we should let this go just because a few people don’t agree with it,” said Frazier.

The resolution, drafted by the senate’s constitutional review committee, called on other senators to recognize the “ineffective and inefficient nature” of the BSO, citing low attendance, meetings that were not “a pleasure” to attend and a lack of fiscal scrutiny as reasons why the BSO should be dissolved.

“The BSO hardly looks at proposals,” said Frazier. “BSO spends and spends and spends and then they come back to the senate for more money at the end of the year. It’s irresponsible. When I spend my money, I run out of money and that’s that.”

The recommendation to dissolve the BSO and the four stipended executive board positions are introduced in the resolution as “the groundbreaking ideas of Kyle Frazier.”

According to Director of Student Life Christopher O’Connor, the Student Government Association has had a healthy unallocated fund at the end of the semester in the past four years or so, so the

Stonecoast MFA may soon be out of a house

Sidney Dritz
News Editor

One of USM’s most prestigious pieces of architecture may have reached the point where it’s more trouble than it’s worth to the university, according to a recent University of Maine System maintenance report.

When President Kalikow announced her first round of proposed cuts in February, one of the considered cuts was the Stone House, home of the Stonecoast MFA program for creative writing, the Stonecoast Writers’ Conference and a Book Arts Conference, directed by Rebecca Goodale each summer.

According to Chief Financial Officer Dick Campbell, the Stonehouse costs significantly more money than it brings in.

“The Stone House and the MFA program are two different things,” said Campbell in an interview with the Free Press last week. “You could have those at another location.”

English Professor Nancy Gish, who directed the Provost’s Writing Seminar at the Stone House for thirteen of the program’s fourteen years, has a different perspective that relates to the importance of the Stone House for the programs it houses. “In my judgement, it was one of the most important parts of the [Provost’s Writing Seminar] program,” Gish said of the house.

2013 Stone Coast MFA graduate Karla Fossett agreed. “I think that the program relies on the house— the house is where everything happens,” Fossett said.

The Stone House, which was designed by John Calvin Stevens in 1918, is one of the oldest buildings owned by USM, and was, at the time that the UMaine system commissioned a report on building conditions from Sightline, which was delivered in January, 2014, one of three buildings with the highest deferred maintenance and renovation costs per square foot.

The report, said Campbell, was presented before last summer’s

See MFA on page 3
USM’s own “two towers” shut down

The Dickey-Wood towers have been USM dorms since the ’70s. They were under enrolled when they were first used and have stayed unpopular.

The closure of Dickey-Wood was one of the most common cost-saving recommendations to come out of the Direction Package Advisory Board work, but both Pufhal and Campbell said that it wasn’t entirely a cost-based decision. They both said student experience will be changed for the better with this decision.

The community will benefit from consolidating students, said Pufhal. “We want to help create a more vibrant community in a more modern space.”

This past year each floor in Wood tower was occupied, but only the second floor of Dickey tower was used. There are 368 beds available in Dickey-Wood. During the 2012-13 school year only 229 of those were occupied and that number has dropped to 158 in the past year.

“We don’t usually see returning students go for the towers,” said Director of Gotham student life Jason Saucier. “More often they go for singles.”

Pufhal said that the empty rooms throughout the towers were not building any sort of community among the residents and that felt there were a lot of students isolated because of it.

“I think of the students who stay there during breaks and have their few floormates leave,” said Pufhal. “We don’t want any student to have to feel that way. We want them to know they’re in a community where they’ll always have someone.”

Because of the way the towers are designed there are less rooms on each floor in comparison to other dorms on campus. Pufhal also said that the towers, which were built in the ’70s, are run down and that she would want students to be in some of the campus’s newer buildings.

“[That’s not one of the great construction eras, to put it mildly],” said Campbell about when the towers were built.

The towers are currently home to three living-learning communities including The Rainbow floor, which is dedicated to an LGBTQ community, a quiet floor and the Southern Maine Outdoor Recreation floor group. According to Saucier, the Rainbow floor will be moved to Philipp Hall, the quiet floor to Anderson Hall and the location of the SMO is currently up for suggestions.

“We are going to continue to think this will, in the end, give students a stronger sense of community on campus,” said Pufhal.

Sinday Dritz; contributed to this article.

Residential Life says goodbye to Dickey-Wood

Come next semester, Dickey-Wood Hall will be entirely offline to students. Due to a combination of low on-campus enrollment and the unpopularity of the towers, they will remain empty during the next school year and possibly beyond.

“We’ve made this decision for now, but we’re not entirely sure what’s going to happen in the future,” said Executive Director of Student Life Joy Pufhal.

Pufhal said that keeping the towers empty will save the university roughly $170,000 through saved expenses on maintenance, heat, electric, staff and other operating costs. He also said the towers would cost $2 million to demolish and that renovating it would essentially cost more than building an entirely new building elsewhere.

Chief Financial Officer Dick Campbell said that with current enrollment projections, the towers simply won’t be necessary. The campus had about 1,500 rooms in 2011, he said, and enrollment that year didn’t come close to filling those available spaces. This year USM officials predicted that there will be 1,066 students on campus next year, said Campbell. He explained that that number of students could be housed next year without using Dickey-Wood.

Pufhal echoed him. “I’m confident we can accommodate the student need for housing with the remaining six residence halls,” said Pufhal.

Phi Mu Delta strengthens community partnership

The Phi Mu Delta fraternity and University Neighborhood Organization co-hosted a cleanup of Longfellow Park with a block party to follow in the hope that the events will bring USM and its neighbors in Portland together.

Phi Mu Delta, which only formed in 2012, also hopes that the event will help establish them within USM. “It’s going to help get our name out there and show that we are here and we mean business,” said University Neighborhood Organization president Carol Schiller. “We’re very impressed with their initiative and drive to get involved and make good things happen.”

“Portland, USM and university neighborhood organizations are lucky to have such talented, professional and thoughtful young people that care and want to make a difference,” said Schiller.

USM performers at the block party include the USM Dance team and the band Thingamajig featuring Phi Mu Delta brother Brendan Butler.

The USM New Sorority Interest Group and Circle K volunteers are also helping to organize this year’s events, and several community partners are sponsoring it, including the Shipyard Brewing Company (which will donate Capt’s Eli’s soda), Leonard’s Piazza, Key Bank and Minuteman Press.

The University Neighborhood Organization is also advocating that Portland dub the area between Stevens avenue and Bedford street the education district. “This would be a big boost to USM and UNE’s ability to brand and market their institutions and this area,” said Schiller.

With the cleanups done on Friday, the volunteers are already preparing for the next event. “The May 3rd Block Party is a time for everyone to come outside and celebrate spring, have a slice of Leonardo’s pizza, try Capt’s Eli’s hand crafted sodas, listen to Thingamajig music, watch the USM dancers, join the bike parade, play games, explore the PPL Bookmobile, pick up a free Key Coloring book, meet your neighbors and enjoy the day,” said Schiller.
As a USM freshman, Brendan Butler is a brother in the Phi Mu Delta fraternity, a member of two active bands and organizing a dance marathon that will take place in Gorham next November.

Dakota Wing
Free Press Staff

Brendan Butler is first year student with a lot going on.

He has not yet declared a major, but is already a member of the Phi Mu Delta fraternity, a part of two bands, and has participated in many shows and community service activities. He has aspirations to make changes at USM and wants to create a place where all students, commuters or residential, can enjoy their college experience to its full potential.

“I want to make an impact on USM to make it a more cohesive community. I want it so even if you commute to the school, it’s going to feel homey,” said Butler. He decided to attend USM because he felt it would allow him to play music, make connections and be a member of a good community.

Butler is the head of the committee in charge of the Dance Marathon, a first time Phi Mu Delta event. It’s scheduled to take place at the Costello Fitness Center in Gorham next semester the night of Nov. 8. “I am focused on making the dance marathon successful and hopefully make it a hallmark for USM,” said Butler. He plans on making it a big event, bringing in more times than he was able to recall and has volunteered to play for free at various events. He will be involved in many shows over the summer and is extremely dedicated to the bands.

During all this, he is still a full time student at USM with a plan to possibly double major in political science and sociology. He plans to positively impact USM by making it a more involved and inviting community for all students.

“I want to make an impact on USM to make it a more comprehensive community. I want it so even if you commute to the school, it’s going to feel homey.”

-Brendan Butler
Freshman, undeclared major

Student profile:
A commuter for community

From MFA on page 1

A series of renovations, making the Stone House the property with the most outstanding costs required to maintain it.

“The Maine system has an aging campus [sic] with more space in high risk categories than peers. This means that life cycles of many building components are past their useful life,” read the Sightlines report, compiled by Jim Kadamus and Emily Morton.

Fossett cited the house’s historical nature and atmosphere as assets to the program. “I always felt really lucky to be able to work in this place that has such historical significance,” she said.

Fossett also described the Stone House as the heart of the MFA program, and explained that students taking part in the program live and do most of their work in various locations, often from a distance, and that the natural beauty and isolation of the location creates an important atmosphere during the workshop periods where the students are together.

Amanda Pleau, another recent Stone Coast graduate, said something similar. “It’s a little bit lonely,” she said of the scattered nature of the students between workshops, “but then we get to the residency and it’s like summer camp.”

According to Campbell, discussions are underway about what to do with the property. “It could be on a historical register, it’s not now,” said Campbell. He said the building might be sold, or converted to a different use by a new owner.

“There are times you might not sell it for a profit as much as for eliminating the cost of using it,” said Campbell. According to Campbell, the cost of operating the Stone House comes to $45,000 per year on top of the money the university receives from the programs which use it. This cost is the minimum needed for limited use, and does not include deferred maintenance costs, including repairs to the sewage system, well and water system, slate roofs, boilers and heating, and the hazardous abatement material necessary to make those repairs. There are also costs associated with meeting various codes the Stone House currently does not meet, like electric codes and ADA compliance.

“We’re fighting it,” said current Stone Coast MFA program director Justin Tussing. Tussing told the Free Press he has attended meetings with the president, the provost and Dean Kuzma of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

When asked about the maintenance costs, Tussing said, “From where I’m standing I don’t think that it’s necessary to do that all at once, but I don’t think administration sees the numbers in the same way I do.”

Tussing suggested that one way to bridge the gap between the money brought in by the Stone House and the costs required to maintain it would be to reach out to other groups in the area to share the space and form creative partnerships.

“We’re really problem solving right now, but I’m encouraged, frankly, with how responsive Theo and Michael have been,” Tussing said.

When asked when a conclusion about the fate of the Stone House might be reached, Campbell said, “I would hope we would make some decisions in the next few months.”
Honors morale high as funding drops and program reviews

Kirsten Sylvain
Editor-in-Chief

The time has come again, after more than a decade, for the USM honors program to be reviewed, and according to program director Nancy Artz, the timing is right.

“It would be fair to say that USM’s fiscal reality in recent years and future budget projections affected the timing of the review,” she said. The honors program would have been affected during the recent retrenchment, with the layoff of Professor Kai Briggs during the recent retrenchment, Briggs will stay on, but Administrative of the faculty cuts, Briggs will stay on, but Administrative Specialist and Office Coordina-

or Nan Bragg will still be laid-off after May.

According to Artz, funding for the program has been shrinking for the past few years, even though she believes the program could successfully expand if additional funding was available be-cause of strong student interest in the courses. Fifty-seven incoming students for the fall have signed up for priority registration in one of the program’s four entry-year experience courses, Artz said. In total, they plan to enroll 62 stu-dents in the EYE courses. “In other words, our EYE sections are more or less full before registra-tion has even started,” she said.

“If we had more funds, we could offer more sections,” Artz said. However she, like the honors students in attendance on Thurs-day, were optimistic that changes in the program would not hinder its future success. “The budget is sufficient to deliver our required courses and remain a vibrant community,” Artz said.

A small group of honors stud-ents met in Hastings Hall on Thursday to discuss the program with three external reviewers who will submit a report on the pro-gram in May. The review, which started in September, is aimed at improving the program through self-analysis and ensuring ac-countability to stakeholders.

Artz explained that another goal of the study is to try to bet-ter understand how much money the program brings in at USM and how much it costs. As Artz explained, the honors program is uniquely structured, making it difficult to quantify its success. Reviewers will use student sur-vveys to understand how many students cite honors as a reason to come to USM and stay at USM. They will also talk about how honors faculty are funded, as the honors faculty are all within other departments.

Program review is required pe-riodically by USM’s accrediting body, the New England Associa-tion of Schools and Colleges, and by the University of Maine Sys-tem, Artz explained.

Bragg’s position was added to the program at a time when USM wanted to expand the program, but that expansion, Artz explained, never happened, so it has been relatively well-staffed compared to other similar honors programs. “Nan has been wonderful at fos-tering a sense of community and supporting individual students in myriad ways, so the elimina-tion of the position is clearly a loss for the program,” Artz said.

“That said, comparable programs function just fine with one support staff member rather than two, so we can too,” Artz said.

Assistant Director of the pro-gram Bethany Round also trans-ferred to Student Success this semester. A search has already begun to fill the position, but with Bragg gone, the position will con-solidate the two support staff po-
sitions. “This…[position] is more im-portant than ever now that we’ve gone from two support staff lines to one,” Artz said.

“In fiscal year 2013, 106 students were enrolled in honors courses and 123 seats were filled with some students enrolling in multi-
ple courses, though relatively few students complete an honors the-sis — four to eight students have done so over the last four years, Artz explained.

“Because we are not a degree-granting program and because we encourage students to ‘sample a course’ — the concept of ‘completing’ the program isn’t as meaningful as completing a degree program,” Artz said.

Students at Thursday’s meeting highly praised the program as a unique and enriching experience and said that they were con-fident the program would succeed despite its loss this semester. “I think the biggest thing will be losing the presence in the office,” said honors student and sopho-more economics major Kyle Rob-inson.

Freshman honors student and health science major Collin Skill-mann added that he was confident that despite the loss of Bragg, the program would continue to provide an active learning com-munity for students. “It’s a strong program,” he said.

“We’ve already told students that they need to take greater respon-sibility for maintaining our learning community,” Artz said, and a number of the students at Thursday’s meeting seemed ready to help out. They have already started work on creating a peer mentorship program to help in-coming honors students.

“In the dozen years since our last review in 2001, the honors program has changed consider-ably, as has the institution’s fiscal reality,” Artz said. “The time is ripe to reflect on the current state of the program and consider new models of education.”

news@usmfreepress.org

Kirsten Sylvain / Editor-in-Chief

From BSO on page 7

BSO running out of funds and returning to the senate has never been a problem. But this year the SGA was forced to cut its bud-get due to low enrollment at the university, and our planning on being more conservative with funding.

“ar purposefully didn’t go to the emergency meeting because I wanted to make sure it was student driven,” said O’Connor.

“There’s a lot to think about with this move — the big thing being fiscal responsibility, obviously. That’s something I know everyone wants to help out with.”

Finances aside, the BSO has had trouble filling seats at meet-ings this past year. BSO Chair Katie Belgard cited lack of at-tendance as the primary reason for BSO inefficiency. The BSO needs a minimum of 28 of its 56 recognized student groups to be in attendance for the board to make quorum, and that’s been a difficult thing for us to attend the board meetings.

“If we don’t have the voices of the student body, we can’t vote, and we can’t do business,” said Belgard.

When Belgard emailed a poll to all recognized student groups to see when they could meet to dis-cuss changes, she received fewer than 28 responses.

According to Belgard, no stu-dent has come forward yet to fill the chair position for the BSO af-ter she graduates this spring. If no one steps up to the plate, student senates are appointed leaders in the BSO.

“It’s not working, and it’s our [the senate’s] responsibility to fix it. No one wants to run it, so why should we have it?” said Frazer.

Right now members of the sen-ate and the BSO executive board are figuring out ways to keep the BSO, but also redeveloping the group’s purpose. One possibil-ity discussed on Tuesday was to fold all financial responsibilities back into the senate’s purview so the BSO can focus more on group organization, working with the Leadership Development Board to teach student groups about fundraising, public relations and gaining new members. The BSO would still exist, but have different responsibilities. With the recent turnover of student sena-tors, no action was taken on this issue at last week’s student senate meeting.

“We want this to be a collabora-tive process,” said Dodge.

Dodge announced at last Fri-day’s student senate meeting that the BSO will be in a transition period and that deciding the next steps will be one of the first duties of the newly elected 43rd student senate.

news@usmfreepress.org

@USMFreePress

By Germaine Tillon | Directed by Meghan Brodie | Translation by Annie and Karl Bortnick

Musical Direction by Jonathan Marro | Choreography by Maria Tziabos

Musical Arrangement & Composition by Christophe Maudot

April 18-27
Friday, April 18 & April 25 at 7:30 p.m. | Saturday, April 19 & April 26 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 20 & April 27 at 5 p.m. | Tuesday, April 22 at 10 a.m. (N.S. matinee)
Wednesday, April 23 at 5 p.m. (all seats $5) | Thursday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Russell Hall, USM Gorham campus

Tickets: $15 general public / $11 seniors, USM alumni & employees / $8 students
usm.maine.edu/theatre
Police Beat
Selections from the USM Department of Public Safety police log April 13 to 17

Sunday, April 13
Aquatic list of charges requested 1:24 p.m. Wellbeing check requested. Unable to locate. - Upton Hastings Hall, 52 University Way
One man's "oddly" is another man's "invisible" 10:13 p.m. - Report of a person acting oddly. Unable to locate - Wishcamper Center

Monday, April 14
There is such a thing as being TOO early 6:30 a.m. - Security alarm activated. All set - Glickman Library
Poorly portal 11:37 a.m. - Damage to a door. - Upton Hastings Hall

Tuesday, April 15
Freedom of speech, people 6:36 p.m. - Verbal altercation. Report taken - Brooks Student Center

Wednesday, April 16
Professor says he'll have it back by next week 8:32 a.m. - Personal injury report taken - Bailey Hall

When will it stop?! 10:44 a.m. Phone - Reporting an on going incident - 21 Falmouth St.
Report as you are able 12:41 p.m. - Two vehicle reportable accident. - 52 University Way

Dear out of headlights 9:11 p.m. - Warning to operator for operating without headlights. - Husky Drive

Suspended ambulation 9:26 p.m. - Summons issued for operating after suspension issued to Ashley Blanchard, 25 of Raymond, ME. - Glickman Library, 314 Forest Ave.

Cloaked in darkness 11:19 p.m. - Checking for a suspicious person. Report taken. - 37 College Ave.

Thursday, April 17
Disturbance deja vu 2:35 p.m. - Person who caused a disturbance in March back on campus. Subject located and issued trespass paperwork. - 314 Forest Ave.

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

Retrenchment retrospective

Dean Kuzma explains criteria for cuts

Sidney Dritz News Editor

Though the retrenchments and position discontinuances that were announced last March have since been rescinded, the process by which faculty members were selected for layoffs is still seen as unclear.

One of the reasons that understanding the process is important, according to Dean Lynn Kuzma of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, is that if, as President Kallikow has said is possible, the university enacts another series of faculty cuts in the fall, those cuts will have to follow the same criteria as the last, since those criteria are outlined in the faculty union contract.

Last week, Kuzma explained to the Free Press what those criteria are. "I had to get a crash course in it because the retrenchments were mostly in my college," she said.

At the time of the retrenchments, the term heard most often was "last hired, first fired," which Kuzma said was true after a certain point, although certain other considerations complicated the absoluteness of that rule. The Provost's office identified departments with a high faculty-to-student ratio, and within those departments they looked at faculty reductions proportional to the faculty-to-student ratio.

Faculty were then divided into categories listed in Article 17 of the faculty union contract, determined by how many years faculty members had been employed at USM, divided by three year increments.

There were, however, a series of other considerations detailed in the faculty union contract, including faculty members' individual qualifications, the departmental needs for those faculty members' areas of specialization, and a priority toward minimizing any effects detracting from affirmative action.

These considerations, rather than rumored "deals" alluded to in a short series of Free Press live tweets, are the reason "last hired, first fired," was not the only rule determining faculty cuts. The Free Press reached out to Provost Michael Stevenson, who Kuzma credited with the retrenchment and discontinuance decisions, and from whom she said she had received her information on the process. When asked about the criteria for faculty cuts, the timeline for that process, the source of his information about what constituted "departmental need," and what's next now that the retrenchments have been rescinded, Stevenson responded to the Free Press in an email, "Having given your questions some serious thought, I think there may be other discussions that might be more beneficial." He then suggested that next week would be a good time for these discussions.

"The idea was that, "are people taking deals to save their jobs?" And the answer to that was "absolutely not,"" Kuzma said.

According to Kuzma, in only one degree program did the provost need
According to Arcadia’s owners, they aim to satisfy the city’s niche nerd culture. “We embrace nerd culture because, like us, so many people in Portland do too,” said Aceto. “Between classic arcades, pinball, board games, tournaments and special events, you’re guaranteed to find a good time along side a great local beer or gaming themed cocktail.” There are also plans to sell food, with a focus on grilled cheese, again catering to our inner child.

Aceto said that they plan to have at least a dozen pinball games and another dozen old school arcade titles. Visitors can expect to play classics like Q*Bert, Arkansas Street Fighter II, Simpsons, X-Men, NBA Jam and Pole Position. A playthrough will cost you 50 cents, and scores will reset each month after a tournament style competition among the participants with the highest points.

“Having all of those features change the mood and the atmosphere immensely,” said Kennedy. “This bar is happening. We’ve got leases signed, and we just got approved for a liquor license by the city,” said Aceto. Some controversy may have also been sparked because Arcadia will be taking the place of another bar and local favorite: Slainte. Many are sad to see this local wine bar, quesadilla spot and host for local music go, despite the fact that Arcadia may be taking its place. “I have fuzzy memories of many good times there,” said Jacob Wadler, a Portland resident. “Truly a loss.”

So far Arcadia’s owners have raised $7,847 out of their $25,000 goal, which is set to help with some of the start up costs. “The way we see it, we’re the only game in town,” said Aceto.
Blue Smoke, released by legendary country music heroine Dolly Parton, is what you would expect—a few good hearted tunes that you should never tell your friends you listen to.

First off, the title track pulls out all the country-western clichés—a train drumbeat, picked banjo, quick fiddle riffs, slide dobro and a particular backup vocalist with pipes that sound like they’d have to be genetically modified to be so low. Blue Smoke isn’t a tune to take seriously, it’s something to mindlessly play while you cruise through the midwest in your American-made pickup truck. As Parton sings, “Rollin’ down the track... I ain’t never comin’ back.”

But Blue Smoke presents more than just cheap pleasure. “Don’t Think Twice,” the Bob Dylan classic, is covered with respect and originality. Finger picked guitar and a Southern belle vocals open the tune. It’s quickly surrounded with drums, dobro and fiddle. This song sounds pure Dolly, but you can tell it’s a Dylan tune. The tragic sarcasm of the great folk singer comes through with “I wish there was something you would do or say, to try and make me want to change my mind and stay / We never did talk anything, don’t think twice it’s alright.” Immediately following, however, Nashville harmonies and technically perfect slide resonator guitar let you know that this, in fact, is the same old Dolly. By the end of the tune, the chorus has been repeated several times, but hey, it’s that good.

Even with all its sincerity, Blue Smoke still has its unfortunate moments. “Lay Your Hands On Me,” featuring Jon Bon Jovi, has to be addressed. Jon Jovi, the downright lame rock star, and Parton make a track that is just strange. Lyrics like “Lord I’m ready, I’m willing, and I’m free to pay / We never did too much...” can’t help but inspire a reluctant chuckle of familiar comfort.

Parton is a simple minded artist with an undeniably righteous philosophy. Her music is predictable and not terribly exciting, but it’s dependable. She’s a time-tested staple of country music, and the protagonist doing the fetishizing and objectifying is a woman. The film even fails the famous Bechdel test for equal female representation, not because there aren’t numerous conversations between two women, but because all these women talk about is their desire for men and how many they can possibly sleep with. Nymphomaniac capitulates on the misogynistic, inverted it, and offers a radically new vision of women, men and sexuality.

The film begins in the grime of a back alley, in the bare, emotionless home of Seligman (Stellan Skarsgaard), an older bachelor whose life is bereft of color, energy or real life of any kind. He finds Joe, played brutally and brilliantly by Charlotte Gainsbourg, beaten and left unconscious in the street. The former describes himself as an asexual; the latter is a clinically diagnosed nymphomaniac. The former obsesses over books, the latter over penises. As Joe begins to tell her story, the two weave their binary perspectives into a convoluted, often twisted, perspective on the world. For every coarse sexual innuendo Joe confesses to, Seligman finds an equivalent in the beauty of literature and history. For every man Joe sleeps with, Seligman has a book ready, or a quote from a character. Joe’s story is harsh, bawdy, philosophical and gruesome. She is simultaneously self-effacing and unapologetic. Seligman’s home is so utterly bereft of sex, indeed of any passion of any sort, that Joe’s story is muted, it is past, it is stylized and retold and fabricated. But the harshness of its reality, and the mirror it holds to our own humanity, as audience members, at times had the audience visibly cringing.

Nymphomaniac presents more than just cheap pleasure, it’s something to mindlessly play while you cruise through the midwest in your American-made pickup truck. As Parton sings, “Rollin’ down the track... I ain’t never comin’ back.”

Blue Smoke isn’t a tune to take seriously, it’s something to mindlessly play while you cruise through the midwest in your American-made pickup truck. As Parton sings, “Rollin’ down the track... I ain’t never comin’ back.”
Dear USM President Kalikow,

We are very concerned by the actions of the USM Board of Trustees and the administration. As people who own and work at USM, we believe in the mission of the university to serve the people of Maine and the nation.

Now, we don’t like to gossip, but when we’re told that there are “other discussions that might be more beneficial than those we’ve heard President Kalikow [unexpectedly] closed on chassis,” we are puzzled. We are puzzled by the silence from the administration. We expected it would be more open. We know that the USM administration was unable to answer any questions about them for us.

We spent last week using this particular breach of newspaper to improve this university for a bit more transparency, and this is what we mean. If an indeterminate number of the people who keep this university running may or may not be fired every day, we do not ask questions about it, the answers should be somewhere for us to find. Ask not asking for your opinion (though, you know, we wouldn’t exactly mind that, either), but we would dearly love it if university administration and new trustees were to answer to some of these questions a bit more fully.

Because we reject the corporate model offered by the BiT, and because we have been so consistently excluded from this process, we or, today, we carry on with a vision for USM that upholds the principles of USM as a public school. We are working with staff representatives and union leaders to strengthen programs and to resist political campaigns that may violate terms of stewardship as well as any other laws.

2. Support of Alternate Budget Plans: We are organizing to challenge the administration to re-allocate the alternate 27-point plan financial plan. While we understand that reasonable people might disagree over specific points, what strikes us most significantly about the plan is how the faculty senate was able to find alternate ways to eliminate waste and maximize the availability of a comprehensive education.

3. Get an Audience with the Board of Trustees: We ask to appear at the next Board meeting to present our case directly to the Board. We also encourage our supporters in the coalition and across the country to directly, and let them know that the direction in which they are steering the USM is not in the best interests of the people of Maine, and may violate terms of stewardship as codified by law and university governing documents.

4. Finance an Independent Audit of USM System Finances: As a public institution, the USM does not have the same degree of openness and public record as the private sector. We are investigating ways to crowd-source an independent financial review of the USM, looking to connect the dots regarding the financial facts, waste, conflicts of interest, and instances of cronyism or retaliation.

5. Fight for Funding For Public Education: We will continue to work towards educating the public as a pivotal political issue during the next election cycle. To this end, we are building a coalition of students, faculty, staff and alumni from around the United States that ensures our human right to education is protected.

We will continue to fight for the interests of the people of Maine, and may not exceed 350 words without prior approval from the Editor-in-Chief. • The deadline for all submissions is Wednesday at 5 p.m. preceding the week of publication. Send submissions to editor@usmfreepress.com

-- The USM Free Press is available free of charge. Up to 10 additional copies are available for 25 cents each at the office of The Free Press, 92 Bedford Street, Portland, Maine 04101 (207)780-4689 x4. • We reserve the right to reject advertising. We will not accept discriminatory ads. • We welcome letters to the editor. They must be submitted electronically, include the author’s full name, school or relationship to USM, and may not exceed 350 words without prior approval from the Editor-in-Chief. • The deadline for all submissions is Wednesday at 5 p.m. preceding the week of publication. Send submissions to editor@usmfreepress.com
Isn’t laughing awesome? You’re welcome

Thaddeus Moriarty
Free Press Staff

I’m Thaddeus Moriarty, and you are wrong. Why? Because you think I’m funny. Or you think I’m not funny. Either way, that’s why you’re wrong this time. Because someone, somewhere, disagrees with you no matter what you think. I’ve heard it both ways: a woman on the Free Press website said I was witty (and so we’re getting married), while on the other hand I’ve heard that some people find my writing persona to be “arrogant” and “self-centered,” to which I say “phtbhbt.” It’s not my fault I know everything about stuff and junk you’re wrong about. Slow your roll, Starfox.

“Funny” is an awfully relative word, which makes being funny a less-than-paltry task. This isn’t meant to be a fishing expedition for Moby Pity, but rather a simple fact: trying to write something that most people you-probably-expect adventure to disagree with is harder than Donald Trump’s ego. This isn’t the world a seriously amusing place everyday, all day, 24/7/365. Think about it. Some people, some whereas, find clouds funny. And some find pigeons or fruit snacks or buses or pencil shavings or your mom funny. And maybe you find newspapers checkable, worthy, and as you hold this you smile the whole time. And maybe, just maybe, some of you think “You Are Wrong” is a little funny.

And that all means that the whole world, at one moment or another of every single day, has its laughs. Which is a pretty awesome thing. But honestly, if you don’t think I’m funny…

Thaddeus Moriarty is a senior history major.

Corrections:
Letter from Editor: Inaccurate tweet leads to changes in Free Press social media policy

As many of you may have noticed, we were live-tweeting on March 21 from two different locations while faculty were being re-trenched. In one of the tweets from that day, I inaccurately stated that English Professor John Muthyala had taken a deal in order to save his job.

That Muthyala was not re-trenched was the result of a decision made by College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Dean Lynn Kuzma. The decision was made within the faculty union contract. For more details on this process read “Retrenchment retrospective” on page 5. The events leading up to March 11 in the April 14 issue on page 11, the Sustainability & ME column titled “Spring is here: Gear up to garden” was written by Jo-lynn Egan, not Iris SanGiovanni. 21 and following protests were the first time that the Free Press used social media to live tweet news events. One of our policies has been that our reporting on social media be treated with the same care and objectivity as our reporting in print, but I want to apologize for any harm this tweet has caused and assure that we are taking this as an opportunity to review our social media policy so that you can stay informed about USM events in print and online.

Best,

Ellen Spahn
Design Assistant

Sustainability & ME:

From the April 14 issue on page 11, the Sustainability & ME column titled “Spring is here: Gear up to garden” was written by Jo-lynn Egan, not Iris SanGiovanni.
Crossword

Across
1. Captain's top
2. Pertinent
3. Ski lift leader
4. Page sent by computer
5. White prefix
6. Having one's marbles
7. Comedian who played Gertrude
8. Mother and twig's sister in Charlie's 'Three Stooges'
9. Page Pagne's island
10. Swan song
11. Captain of Latvia
12. Critters with eyesballs
13. "7th-st"!
14. Ammonites (Jebel J)
15. Thai dish
16. Handome ___, homely does
17. Comforter
18. Repairs on which sauce is made

Down
1. Big Apple Bell
2. Come to mind again
3. Vietnamese festival
4. 4,500 CST, scientifically
5. Novelist lurke
6. Asox ____, clear water
7. Dry out, in a way
8. Brilliantly colored fish
9. ____, instant (quickly)
10. Bakery order
11. Center of judging Any
12. Keep one's ___, the ground
13. Health food store staple
14. Op. opposed to underage drinking
15. Church concocte
16. The "A" in A.M.

Sudoku

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

Cryptogram

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

KVUUGKBV
GTRNLKP
HJUUPGKW
UJT AGGO J UNJKK
KOGNN YMVTI.

And here is your hint:
P = H

Sudoku

```
+---+---+---+
|   |   |   |
+---+---+---+
|   |   |   |
+---+---+---+
|   |   |   |
+---+---+---+
|   |   |   |
+---+---+---+
```

Cryptogram

I can help with......
- Deciding when to retire & to help with your cash
- Developing an investment portfolio flow in retirement
- Rolling over your retirement accounts to IRAs
- Family money issues

Investments & Financial Planning –
Call 207-650-7884 or 207-934-3698

The Gold Company financialplanning.com

Award-winning pizza
Free delivery
10% off with college id
Order online

$3.00 off any large pizza

Leonardo's Pizza
415 Forest Avenue, Portland
(207) 775-4444
www.leonardosonline.com
Brandon Sodergren is a senior criminology major, member of the wrestling team and a student senator. Before attending USM, Sodergren served in the Marine Corp for six years beginning in 2006, including two tours—one in Iraq and one in Afghanistan—as an infantry machine gunner. Now he spends his free time running marathons and fundraising in honor of fallen service members and their families.

Sodergren began running marathons in 2012 when he participated in the Marine Corp Marathon in Washington, D.C. “It ends in Arlington at the National Cemetery—it was very emotional,” he said. In 2013 Sodergren run in two more marathons, the Marine Corp Marathon again and the Army Marathon.

USM also participated in the Maine half-marathon and multiple five and ten kilometer road races since 2012, but the 2014 Boston Marathon will be his fourth marathon. Sodergren also intends to run the full Maine Marathon later this year. “Every time I’ve run, I’ve run in honor of a fallen comrade,” he said.

Today Sodergren is in Boston, running in the 118th Boston Marathon in honor of Lance Corporal Alexander Arredondo, a fallen marine. Sodergren is one of the 12 members of the Run for the Fallen team honoring Maine’s fallen service members and fundrasing for Maine’s Military Gold Star Families. A banner, or service flag, with a gold star is tradition for family to families that have a military family member killed in action.

Although Sodergren never met Arredondo personally, he’s known Arredondo’s father Carlos Arredondo. “I met his father in the annual Run for the Fallen—it was a long run then—we ran from Ogunquit to Portland that year, but since 2013 it’s been 5k,” said Sodergren.

There are two ways to enter the Boston Marathon as an official entrant. Runners must either have a qualifying time (which ranges between three to five hours dependent on age and gender), or they can qualify for the race by contacting Carlos Arredondo. “I’d rather raise the money and awareness of a good charity and Run for the Fallen is one of the best charities you can run for,” said Sodergren. Although he does intend to train for a qualifying marathon, Carlos Arredondo's future years.

Carlos Arredondo and John Mixon—the founder of Run for the Fallen—were at the finish line and seeing him finish and seeing him cross the finish line, said Sodergren. “We’re going to have a great marathon and they’re not going to scare us.”

“We are making a statement, we’re not going to live in fear because of terrorism and I think that’s the important thing. We’re going to have a great marathon and they’re not going to scare us.”

-Brandon Sodergren

Senior criminology major

A press release from the Boston Athletic Association on April 11 outlined the changes to this year’s Boston Marathon including the 33 percent increase of the field size allowing 36,000 entrants versus the previously established 27,000 limit of entrants in recent years.

The increase of participants makes this the second largest Boston Marathon in the 118 years of the marathon’s history. The largest amount of participants was during The Centennial Boston Marathon in 1996 with a starting field of 37,808 entrants. Included in this year’s registered entrants are 5,330 international runners representing 70 countries.

From the ‘By The Numbers’ section of The Marathon’s official website there are 36,000 official entrants, 80,000 people attending the expo, and 10,000 volunteers. In addition to these numbers there are over 10,000 first responders standing by—comprised of medical and police personnel and police officers.

“We are making a statement, we’re not going to live in fear because of terrorism and I think that’s the important thing,” said Sodergren. “We’re going to have a great marathon and they’re not going to scare us.”

Justice Barreiros
Sports Editor
Involvement Spotlight: Frazee explores the world

Krysteana Scribner
Contributor

USM student Nik Frazee might be from a small town, but he’s international at heart. “I love to travel,” said Frazee, a double major in anthropology and tourism. “I was extremely grateful for each experience I have had.”

Frazee has travelled abroad to a total of 29 different countries, including France, Switzerland, Spain, Austria, Germany, and Italy. Over the years, Frazee has gained a great deal of experience from his travels. He has learned to speak Serbian, made local cuisine with families in Bosnia, hiked a volcano, and rode a camel. “If I stay in a place awhile, I look forward to learning about the culture, and learning about the little things that make them unique.” Frazee wants other students to know just how wonderful the study abroad program at USM really is. “Traveling gives you a whole new perspective in life. Get involved. Try new things. Be open to what’s out there. Every dollar I’ve spent on travelling, I have never regretted.” He wants students to know that the financial aspect is nothing to worry about either. “If you are interested in studying abroad, go to the International Office in Payson Smith [Hall], and you can talk with someone that will give you a lot of helpful information on the program and ways you can apply for scholarships and financial aid.”

Frazee said that he hopes to do more travelling in the future. He also hopes to outreach to the community to educate people how they can study abroad and ways to go about doing so. Frazee said that traveling will always be a big part of his life. “There are so many amazing places out there that people just don’t know about,” he said. “I am extremely grateful for each experience I have had.”

For more info on the program and ways you can apply, Frazee said that traveling will always be a big part of his life. “There are so many amazing places out there that people just don’t know about,” he said. “I am extremely grateful for each experience I have had.”

Featured Photo:

Nik Frazee posed for a photo during a trip to Istanbul he took this past January. Photo courtesy of Nik Frazee.

Campus Events

Monday, April 21
Financial Wellness through SALT
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Amphi theater, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland
The Sociology of Food: A Panel Discussion
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, Portland
The Spring Fling
12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Lower Brooks Student Center

Tuesday, April 22
Earth Day Celebration
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Amphitheater, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland
“Trashed” Film Viewing and Discussion
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Talbot Auditorium, Luther Bonney Hall, Portland

Wednesday, April 23
WMPG 40th Anniversary Celebration
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Woodbury Campus Center, Portland
How to Use Online Dating to Safely Find Love
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Center for Sexuality and Diversity in Woodbury Campus Center, Portland
Take Back the Night
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Brooks Dining Hall, Gorham

Thursday, April 24
Heirloom Apple Orchard Spring Work Party
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Heirloom Apple Orchard, off College Ave, Gorham
Building Student Power: A panel conversation with student climate activists
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Amphitheater, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland

Friday, April 25
Social Wellness: Free Cheese Tasting and Discussion
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Atrium of Wishcamper Center, Portland
Lecture: The Death of the Book has been Somewhat Exaggerated
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 7th floor, Glickman Library, Portland
In the Underworld
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Main Stage, Russell Hall, Gorham

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