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University Politics 101

**Required texts
for this course
on page 2**



Headlines across the state last week led with news that USM officials had announced a plan to cut its physics major, but the document that had led to public outcry from the community, faculty and students over the decision, Provost Michael Stevenson made clear, was never meant for public eyes.

The twist came out Friday at the first USM faculty senate meeting of the year that the administration had not intended to release the information yet. The document, titled the "Draft Physics Action Plan," was dated from the physics program review meeting on Sept. 11 between Stevenson, physics department chair Jerry LaSala and Professor Paul Nakroshis.

According to both LaSala and Nakroshis, the document was handed out in physical form at the program review meeting to the two physics professors who have both, in recent years, had to defend the physics degree during program reviews. The document, Stevenson explained on Friday, was meant to spark conversation at the time about the future of the department, but Nakroshis and LaSala did not recall any discussion about the draft at the meeting.

"The impression that Provost Stevenson gave was that his mind was made up, and the negotiations would be on our side. He did not demonstrate flexibility that we could see," said LaSala.

The document outlined an "action plan" to be complete by May 31, that included the suspension of enrollment of new majors, "effective immediately," and a plan to "integrate with faculty in other departments." The news of the plan, LaSala explained, seemed to have been leaked to the Portland Press Herald by an unknown physics student after Nakroshis had discussed the provost's proposal with his students in class.

"We were not instructed that this was in any way secret, and the idea that it wasn't going to make the news at some point is of course absurd," said LaSala.

The public outcry that resulted after the

A large group of people is gathered on a grassy lawn in front of a brick building labeled "UNION HALL". The group is diverse in age and appearance. Some individuals are holding signs, including one that reads "What Will You Do With Your Sin On Judgment Day?". The scene is outdoors, with trees and a clear sky in the background.

Justicia Barreiros / Free Press Staff

Top: a student confronts Sye Ten Bruggencate (left) and Mike Stockwell (right). Bottom: Cross Country Evangelism gathered in Gorham Thursday while classes were in session.

sponse showcased at USM, because they believe men “like darkness rather than the light because their deeds are evil.”

"They don't want the light to shine on them," said Stockwell. "But we're going to come out and stand for Jesus Christ, and proclaim his word. We're not trying to be offensive in our method, but the word is offensive. And to tell

someone that they're wrong, people find that offensive."

Rose believes that it is Stockwell who needs to see “the light.”

“[He needs to] see that things are not the same as they were thousands of years ago

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Gorham was the unsuspecting host of a religious group, Cross Country Evangelism on Thursday. The group came hoping to “spread the Word” to students.

Mike Stockwell, along with a handful of other ministry members who proclaimed the “gospel of Jesus Christ for the glory of God” came to USM as a part of a their campus tour, traveling up the northeast coast preaching the gospel at different campuses.

“[The negative student response] is expected of what happens when the gospel is preached. People rebel against it. The Bible says that faith comes from hearing. So we come out and we preach God’s word so that people can hear,” said Stockwell. “God is the one who gives life. God is the one who gives salvation of the lord. So we trust that God’s people, his sheep, will hear his voice when we come out here.”

Even so, students did not receive the message as one of hope.

"I'm disgusted," said sophomore theater major Ashley Rose. "I understand freedom of speech. I understand this is like a public domain. But to sit here and tell me that my friends and my family are wrong, and that they're going to hell, no matter what they believe in or how good they are during their life is disgusting. They're feeding young children these plagued words."

Stockwell and his group are used to the re-

University Politics 101: take it before they cut it

From **PHYSICS** on page 1

news came out last week, LaSala suspects, may have forced some accountability on the part of the administration for the cuts. "I think that [Stevenson] and the president have recognized that [Stevenson] came on too strongly, that if we were going to have a conversation, we have a conversation; we don't start with conclusions. When the second sentence is, 'We will stop enrolling student effective immediately,' that doesn't give a lot of room for discussion."

The provost, on Friday, explained that the issue "got kind of

confounded in the press" and publicly apologized, explaining that he had "no intention of provoking the kind of emotional response" that the draft received. He did not, however, debunk the claim that he may intend to cut the physics major still. He only explained that he "has no intention to have USM move forward without physics teachers." Many faculty at the meeting considered moving forward with physics classes but no major to be a step in the direction of a lower quality physics education for students. They argued that more qualified physics faculty

would not remain at a university that did not offer a physics major.

Nakroshis, not unlike others at the meeting on Friday, did not seem to leave with a sense of closure. "I had a hard time accepting his apology as genuine because I don't feel like he treated us as genuine in the meeting. I don't think he treated it as a genuine discussion," he said. Nakroshis, like others, felt that the administration has disregarded the Faculty Senate constitution, making key decisions about cutting academics without discussion with faculty. English Professor Nancy Gish cited article one section three

of the university governance document, which states that administrators "shall counsel directly with appropriate bodies established by this constitution before making major decisions."

As the provost and president stated that the conversation will be opened up to faculty and the community starting at the university-wide "Direction Package" unveiling on Tuesday, many faculty responded that they felt they were entering the conclusion of a conversation and not the start of one.

Nakroshis referred specifically to Theo Kalikow as quoted by the

Portland Press Herald saying that "It's their [the physics department] turn. There are other programs in different areas, and it will be their turn [to be cut], too."

Nakroshis said, "It will be other people's turn" made it pretty clear that they've been coming up with those plans independent to the faculty and with no involvement, and I think that's really a problem."

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Faculty senate resumes after work-to-rule

Sidney Dritz
News Editor

Friday, the faculty senate moved to change its decision about the definition of "work" as it relates to the Associated Faculties of the Universities of Maine's "work-to-rule" motion, moving for the faculty senate to resume regular meetings in an almost unanimous vote.

While the faculty senate stands by the decision to endorse work-to-rule, which was voted in unanimously in last February's faculty senate meeting. However, Friday it revised its opinion that the faculty senate's own meetings fall into the category of work beyond that which is necessary for the university to function, which



Alex Greenlee / Free Press Staff

Faculty senate chair Jerry LaSala (center) votes to reinstate regular meetings of the faculty senate.

"As a body, you are harming us by not meeting."

-Kelsea Dunham
Student body president

should be abstained from under work-to-rule as a protest against the full-time faculty's long unresolved lapsed contract issues. The senate moved to resume meeting for the year, in the words of the chair of the faculty senate, Jerry LaSala, "on the precedent that governance is not work."

Christy Hammer, president of the USM chapter of AFUM agreed that, rather than falling under work-to-rule jurisdiction, "governance is part of our work plan."

Student Body President Kelsea Dunham weighed in on the

matter as well, speaking on behalf of the student body to say, "as a body, you are harming us by not meeting." Dunham went on to list certain issues that the student government has, in the past, moved to try to take action on, such as parking and the common hour which was passed by referendum in the last student election. "Because we can't come to you to collaborate on this issue," Dunham said, "we can't move forward."

The motion to resume faculty senate meetings was passed with 33 for, no abstentions, and a single opposing vote from Associate Professor of psychology Donald Sytsma, who declined to comment to the Free Press.

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Loose ends: the ghost majors

Sidney Dritz
News Editor

USM's physics department is, the administration was quick to assure at Tuesday's faculty senate meeting, far from the possible eventuality of its closing, but the document which brought the question of the physics major's longevity into the public eye assures that current physics majors will be fully able to complete their degrees.

In this, they would receive the same consideration as other students of cut major departments at USM—for instance, the Russian and German studies majors, which were cut in the past few years, following the "rule of five" review, in which majors with less than five students enrolled in them came

under scrutiny.

The second item of the draft of Provost Michael Stevenson's "Physics Action Plan" listed the next step forward for currently enrolled physics majors, saying, "The department will develop, by January 2014, an advising plan for each current major that will allow them to complete the major as quickly as possible."

Said Dean Lynn Kuzma of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, "Any time you decide that a program is not going to accept majors, you have to make arrangements." Kuzma said that in order to help the student who was enrolled as a Russian studies major complete her degree, the college worked out a deal with Bowdoin for the student to take some classes for her degree

there, and even temporarily hired a new part time faculty member to teach the one student. Kuza said that her office had been in contact with the student, and that, "she was happy with the arrangement in that case."

Provost Michael Stevenson said of students whose degree programs are phased out, "we are obligated, ethically at least, if not otherwise, to help them finish their degree." Stevenson suggested that, in the event that a degree program is cancelled, students might make up for gaps in their required course loads through online classes or classes at local community colleges which could be transferred in for USM credit, or through independent study. When asked about the faculty member who was hired to teach the Russian studies major, Stevenson said, "I'm certainly not aware of that."

At the faculty senate meeting Friday, English Professor Nancy Gish countered a number of these potential substitutions for classes by pointing out that, for one a significant portion of USM students, commuting to other regional schools is not an option. "My students are heroic," Gish said, pointing out that many USM students have families and jobs in the area of the school, and do not have the luxury to hunt down the disparate pieces of their degrees. Gish said that cutting the physics department and, effectively, cutting off the option of the physics major to USM students would be, "a terrible class division that a university can't make a statement about."

Kuzma pointed out that USM is not alone in considering the option of cutting departments, especially in the current financial climate of cuts to education. "It's not this unique, unusual thing that USM is doing, unfortunately," Kuzma said. "All universities are faced with these really hard choices."

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Physics & beyond: what's next?

Sidney Dritz
News Editor

"Although it's about physics now, it's ultimately not just about physics. It's about education at the university and maintaining ourselves as a comprehensive university that is affordable for people that live in southern Maine," said Paul Nakroshis, USM physics professor.

Sociology and women and gender studies professor Wendy Chapkis elaborated on that point, saying, "We can't cut our way out of this hole we're in." Chapkis said that USM has cut out everything that is expendable already, and that further cuts are not the answer, but rather the solicitation of more reasonable funding for the university. "We have cut everything we can cut and then some," Chapkis said,

before expressing confidence that the southern Maine community does want an excellent university in the area. "We haven't been articulating that message," Chapkis said, "We have been saying 'what can we cut next?'"

Associate professor of classics Jeanine Diddle Uzzi had a more numerical objection to the notion of cutting the physics major. "Education is not a for-profit business," Uzzi said, "But physics is a for-profit department." She went on to say that the "rule of five" review of

2011 revealed that the physics department was \$300 thousand in the black, and nearer to \$500 thousand including summer classes. "It's really naive of us to think we'll still get that revenue if we cut the major," Uzzi said.

Provost Stevenson reiterated his stance that he had not proposed cutting physics classes, simply the physics major. "There's still plenty of physics to teach," he said to the Free Press the morning before the faculty senate meeting. "What we need to avoid is having physics

classes with four or five people."

Associate professor of electrical engineering Carlos Luck did not say that losing the physics department would certainly threaten the accreditation of other departments at USM with physics prerequisites, but he did say that it was possible. He said that while the university's accreditors did not require a physics department, its lack, and the effect that lack might have on physics prerequisites might eventually

See **MAJOR** on page 5

USM professor brings Democracy Now! producer to speak on censorship



Casey Ledoux / Free Press Staff

Criminology professor Dusan Bjelic felt it was important to bring a different viewpoint to USM in order to teach his students to think critically about the bias of the media and history they consume.

Emma James
Staff Writer

On Oct. 3, 2013 at the Space Gallery at 7:00 p.m., Nermeen Shaikh, news producer and co-anchor of DemocracyNOW!, a daily and independent global news hour, will speak with firsthand information on how the political process actually works.

For funding for the event, Professor Dusan Bjelic of USM's criminology department applied to the Maine Humanities Council, but received a "very curious" rejection.

"[The rejection said] that in this proposal it's not clear how an audience will benefit from that talk. So since I couldn't get money from them I contacted the Space Gallery and someone suggested to contact ACLU. They were immediately interested, but the Maine Humanities Council couldn't find the importance of it," said Bjelic. "It is a hot topic and maybe they were not inclined to support an event that could be controversial."

Controversy lies in the idea that, according to Bjelic, the questioning of ideas and perspectives is rarely covered by the corporate media, but this event will encourage people, specifically journalists, to put pressure on public figures to uncover what may otherwise remain elusive. Even so, Shaikh attributes the difficulty in doing so to the possible constraints of large news corporations.

"In any context, one can't assume that those who wield power are those who give the most honest account of it," said Shaikh. "I think, as independent journalists, it's much easier to be outside of whatever influences the larger corporate media may fall under. The important thing is to go to as

many sources as possible."

"Today more than ever, words are weapons," said Bjelic. "Philosopher Michel Foucault said to people like ourselves who are involved in writing to 'treat our truths as weapons' and not as means to stabilize status quo."

Shaikh agrees. "So you have to, as an independent journalist, turn to people who are the recipients, who have to live with the effects of whatever decisions are

have 40 million Native Americans who have been killed in the United States since Columbus, and it's a far more significant holocaust for us than European Holocaust."

Bjelic believes that students in particular, who may justify ignorance of censorship because they don't see it directly affecting them, are some of the most affected.

"They don't know about it because of censorship in the educational process," said Bjelic. "They don't have vital information about their own history. Censoring a press is just one domain of overall censorship in the educational process."

Shaikh understands that it is very true that censorship does not affect students in this very moment, but it will.

"The kind of world that we live in and the world that these students will grow up [in] once they graduate and get jobs, they'll be profoundly affected by all kinds of decisions that are being made," Shaikh said. These decisions cover a range from waging a war to raising minimum wage.

"Not seeing this as an important fact means also not seeing how important it is to stop global warming; how to stop extermination of natural species; not to stop further gap between wealthy and poor; not to stop melting of polar ice. In other words, not stopping the disintegration and destruction of the planet," said Bjelic. "That all depends on whether or not power is serving the interest of the people and the planet or corporate and military complex."

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"In any context, one can't assume that those who wield power are those who give the most honest account of it."

-Nermeen Shaikh

News producer and co-anchor of Democracy Now!

made by those who are in power and over whom...the influence is felt, they often have the least say," Shaikh said.

For that reason, the event will deal with the potential issues of power, and how that translates to censorship, which essentially affects everybody without their knowledge, according to Bjelic.

"There are very rare instances where there is explicit censorship," said Shaikh. "What I experience in any case is a sense of quiet outrage at the kinds of injustices that one sees perpetrated against all kinds of people in all kinds of contexts irrespective of my own subject position."

Even in the classroom setting, Bjelic witnesses students being censored in the educational process.

"I asked my students about holocaust and they immediately will tell me six-million Jews. When I ask them about American Holocaust they have no idea what I'm talking about," said Bjelic. "We

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In Brief...

Celebrate Bi-sexuality Day discussions

The Center for Sexualities and Gender Diversity on the Portland campus is celebrating National Bisexuality Day with discussions and snacks on Sept. 23 from 2:30-4:00pm. The purpose of the event is to bring more awareness of the spectrum of gender identities and sexual orientations to the students of USM. They will be showing videos that address gender, views of non-monosexuality, privilege and other related questions.

There will be discussions about all non-monosexualities, which are when someone is attracted to a person regardless of their sex or gender. They welcome all guests including those who identify as bisexual, queer, and pansexual. They will also be holding a similar meeting on Sept. 24 on the Gorham campus in the Rainbow Room at 8:00 p.m

Inaugural event: Confucius Institute

The grand opening ceremony for the new Confucius Institute will be taking place on Sept. 25 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in 10 Bailey Hall on the Gorham campus. The goal of the new Confucius In-

stitute is to bring the Chinese and Mandarin languages and culture to Maine’s students, educators, business people and community members. The USM Confucius Institute will connect approximately 400 institutes throughout the world. At the inaugural celebration, students will have the opportunity to meet public officials from China, as well as administration and faculty from USM’s partner institute in China, Dongbei University of Finance and Economics. After the inaugural celebration, a reception and open house will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 in 301 Bailey Hall.

An evening with Lois Lowry

Join USM in welcoming back Lois Lowry, one of America’s most beloved writers and a USM alumna. Lois Lowry will be speaking to students from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Abromson Community Education Center on the Portland Campus, about story craft, and discuss her return to Maine after living elsewhere for several years. She will also read from her work and take questions from the audience. Lowry has written more than 40 books for young adults, including the popular Anastasia Krupnik series. Lowry has received Newbury Medals for her novels *Number the Stars* and *The Giver*. She also received the International Reading Association’s Children’s Book Award for *A Summer to Die*. You can purchase tickets at tellingroom.org.

Politics then and now: former Senator George Mitchell

Former U.S. and Maine Senator George Mitchell is visiting USM to talk about politics in Maine and the nation from the 1960s to the present. The event will be held Sept. 26 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the Hannaford Lecture Hall on the Portland Campus. Mitchell successfully led the effort to enact the Clean Air Act of 1990 and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton in 1999. Mitchell will be addressing the changes in the political system since 1960. Politics are no longer described as “a noble calling,” in the words of John F. Kennedy, but are now described with words such as “poisonous” and “dysfunctional”. He will discuss how politics were “played” when he first became the governor of Maine 1980 and how they are played now, and what the implications of this are. The event is free and open to the public.

White water rafting

If you’re looking for an adventure, join the Southern Maine Outdoor Recreation organization on a white water rafting trip Friday Sept. 27 at 3:00 p.m. through Saturday Sept 28 until 7:00 p.m. The group will be boating on The Forks on the Kennebec River. Sign up at the Sullivan Rec and Fitness Complex on the Portland Campus. The trip costs \$60 for students and \$75 for non-students. Transportation is included.

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Police Beat

Selections from the USM Department of Public Safety police log Sept. 8 to Sept. 16

Sunday, Sept. 8

Horticultural faux pas
12:20 a.m. - Subject removed a bush from the ground. Ran off on officer. - 128 School St.

Clean-up patrol
9:33 a.m. - Monitored security alarm point activated. Set off by a custodian working in the building. - 35 Bedford St.

But is it art?
12:13 p.m. - Report of criminal mischief done to the building. - Upperclass Hall

Monday, Sept. 9

Jazzercise issues
5:20 p.m. - Officer responded to an issue with a patron. All set. - Sullivan Gym

Tuesday, Sept. 10

Nothing to see here, folks
4:17 a.m. - Checking on a subject in the parking lot. All set. - 37 College Ave.

Wednesday, Sept. 11

Not permitted
5:58 p.m.- Report of subjects attempting to sell items out of their vehicle. Gorham Police Officer located them on School St. and advised them to get a permit and they were warned not to return to campus. - Parking garage G-16

False alarm
9:34 p.m.- Fire alarm activation. Gorham Fire Department responded. - Philippi Hall

Copycat
10:42 p.m.- Fire Alarm Activation. Gorham Fire Department responded. - Phillipi Hall

Thursday, Sept. 12

Horror movie waiting to happen
4:18 p.m.- Report of unknown activity near the woods. Group was gone upon officer’s arrival.- G-13B Parking Lot, 17 University Way

Friday, Sept. 13

Gateway drugs
11:09 a.m.- Report of damage to a residence hall room door. Wood Hall

Shattered sense of clarity
3:40 p.m. - Glass door damaged accidentally. Officer filed a damage report. - Costello Complex

Saturday, Sept. 14

Team effort
8:29 p.m. - Assisted Gorham Police with a traffic stop. - Campus Ave.

National Lampoon moment
8:46 p.m. - Report of a subject dressed oddly. All set, going to a toga party. - G17 Parking Lot, 67 Campus Ave.


Sunday, Sept. 15

“Betcha can’t eat just one!”
10:52 a.m. - Report of multiple broken windows. Report taken. - 62 School St.

Monday, Sept. 16

Five alarm gourmet
8:47 p.m. - Fire Alarm activation due to burnt food. - Upperclass Hall

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


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be troublesome.

More immediately, though, November's election will feature a referendum question for a bond package which would fund, among other things, renovations for laboratories at USM, in the form of a \$4 million grant to USM to be divided between the three campuses. At the faculty senate meeting, President Kalikow said to the faculty "It would be a very wonderful thing if the bond issue were to pass ... for stuff like chemistry and physics and biology and things like that."

In "Faculty contracts may be in sight," (Sept. 16) USM bargaining representative to the faculty union John Broida said the impending vote on the bond package put pressure on the UMS to resolve issue of the long-overdue faculty contracts because the issue inspired a lack of confidence in the system.

At the faculty senate meeting, Mark Lapping, professor at the Muskie school of public service and former USM provost took Provost Stevenson and President Kalikow to task for the image of USM they have projected throughout the past week. Referring to a quote of Kalikow's to the Portland Press Herald earlier in the week, Lapping said "It's just not a good idea to have it out there that there will be more to come." He went on to say that statements like that will make USM a hard sell for admissions officers looking to boost dropping enrollment, and that a "message" which includes the possibility of further department cuts will not leave confidence in the university high.

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when the Bible was written," said Rose. "You can be Christian and still think that gay people are good, and that they can go to heaven like the rest of us. And that they are no more sinned [sic] than the rest of us."

Another student facing off against the group, senior history major Brandon Levesque, agrees, but for a different reason.

"I don't mind the message that they're conveying because I myself am a person of faith. The issue is the way that they are presenting the message. There's a lot of hate," said Levesque. "There's a lot of fear."

College campuses, though, are ideal places for Stockwell and fellow members to preach the gospel.

"I like the [back and forth banter]," said Stockwell. "We're at a college. You guys have debate classes. They actually teach 'how to debate somebody.' We're just having a spirited exchange here."

Levesque believes that it is not Stockwell's place to come to any campus, including USM's, and "not know anybody and judge their heart."

He's yelling at people and telling them not to be a Sunday school teacher or whatever they're doing," said Levesque. "I don't necessarily agree with the lifestyle of homosexuality. That's great, that's my personal opinion, but you know what? As a Christian I'm called to love people, regardless of their lifestyle. Period. Jesus did it as well. He said 'You know what, this isn't my intention for you, but I love you. I created you. I love you anyway.'"

Stockwell looks at the approach they have in a very different light, with an aim of simply "preaching the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

"We understand that sometimes



The evangelists outside the Brooks Student Center inspired impassioned responses from passing USM students throughout the day.

Justicia Barreiros / Free Press Staff

it's received hard, but it's because people's hearts are hard. God has to change them," said Stockwell. "That's what we're out here proclaiming. We hope that they'll hear the word, and God and his mercy will save people through these means, through the preaching of the gospel."

"And that is not what is going on here," said Levesque. "This is reaping fear by hell and damnation, fire and brimstone."

Jourdana Avital, sophomore ASL major, got into a dialogue with one of those preaching.

"Why are your sins better than mine? I love her, I don't even know her," said Avital. "I love everyone

here. I love my fellow man, I'm not preaching against them and what they do."

Avital agrees with Levesque and Rose that freedom of speech is important, but shoving religion on another human being is not spreading love, in her opinion.

"They're preaching that they're better than us, and I have no respect for that because in religion you're supposed to love your fellow man," Avital said.

Scott Smith, another ministry member, explains that he is honored to present the gospel.

"The gospel has an inherent offense," said Smith. "We know that many will reject it, but there are

some who will receive the message, and those who will receive are the ones we have come for. It's not for the masses."

Even so, compromises between the ministry and the masses were not met.

Levesque said, "I don't need a book chapter verse to know that Jesus would look at you right now and say what you need to express is love not hate."

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Arts & Culture

USM students look forward to fall flavors

Courtney Aldrich
Free Press Staff

Everyone here in Maine knows what's coming — walking across campus or commuting to class will soon become unthinkable in the flurry of snow that will be waging war on our little New England world. So for now, it's time to celebrate the fall.

Smoothies are slowly going out of style. And along with Beans' boots and Goodwill sweaters, everyone on campus wants something (if not someone) to keep them warm. The fall season has just begun and apple-picking has suddenly replaced a long day at the beach. Remember late last November when pumpkin spice and apple cider lattes broke your heart and said their goodbyes? The good news is, they're returning this year and are already resurfacing in all our local coffee shops. The campus will never again feel this energized all year with all the buzz over the favorite fall flavors refilling their travel mugs twice a day.

USM senior and social work major Anais Roy can't get enough hot apple cider during the fall season. "Every year my family has a cider party back home in Vermont. We use our cider press and make our own cider along with homemade donuts!"

And let's face it, USM, there isn't a real reason for runs for coffee and hot apple cider just yet, right? Without a football team to root for, there's no reason you'd need to be outside in the after-summer autumn chill with a hot chai in your hand. Not to mention the semester is just three weeks under way, so final exams and term papers seem like such a distant winter curse. A steaming cup of Coffee By Design hasn't yet become a necessity on any given afternoon past 3 p.m. yet. We don't need it, but the fall drink flavors are definitely something to enjoy while they're in season.

Some students, like USM senior music major Gregory Judd, prefer a hot cup of Starbucks to start off their day. "I like the 'Caramel Apple Spice' at Starbucks," said Judd. "It reminds me of the cold October nights in high school at marching band practices."

If you don't have a vehicle and are stuck to finding caffeine on your feet, The Gorham Grind is conveniently just a pleasant stroll from your dorm room.

"I love the 'Honey Bee Latte'", said USM junior and art major Nicole Tombarelli, "I get it every-time!"

Equipped and ready for fall, owner Carson Lynch is armed with snicker doodle lattes, pumpkin white mochas, his original creation "pumpkin rocket fuel" — a mixture of coffee, milk, cream and sugar — and apple cider from Randall's Orchard in Standish.

"The Snicker Doodle Latte is a signature drink of coffee and milk with a vanilla shot and topped with cinnamon sugar," said Lynch.

Among other seasonal drinks, the pumpkin has got to be one of the most popular offered at the Grind, according to Lynch, as the drink that had already gone out of stock by 10 a.m. that morning. "I made sure to order double for tomorrow," said Lynch.

It's also important to note that the mocha chai from the Gorham Grind is in fact made with actual espresso and not just chocolate chai — A stronger drink for a more stressful semester. St Joe's Coffee, just down Route 114 in Scarborough also offers local flavor and some specialty drinks for customers to embrace the fall season. From the classic pumpkin latte, the "Dirty Chai" and the exotic maple cinnamon syrup and cayenne pepper "Fireball Latte," there is a specialty drink for all palates

"The pumpkin lattes are really popular right now as well as some other specialty lattes like the 'Great Dame,' which is made with Irish Creme syrup and our dark chocolate," said St. Joe's employee and USM senior Katie Belgarde double majoring in women and gender studies and media studies.

Leaves of red, orange and yellow-green set the tone for the weeks ahead, and while you roam the campus searching for the prettiest one to use as a bookmark for class, you eventually find yourself at one of the local coffee shops, ordering your favorite from the past season.

Everyone always comments on how they love the smell of autumn, but honestly I'm sold on the theory that it's just the pumpkin spice espresso that lingers in the air.

arts@usmfreepress.org
@courtthope



Justicia Barreiros / Free Press Staff

(Top) Freshman musical performance major Carly Sobczak pours milks into her coffee at The Gorham Grind. (Middle) Senior vocal performance major and Gorham Grind employee Sable Strout chats with a customer at the register. Local resident Jason Lambert plays guitar for customers to promote his music.

Let us know what
your favorite fall
flavors are!



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A&C Listings

Tuesday, September 24

Film: Cartoon College
SPACE Gallery
538 Congress St.
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Show: 7:30 p.m.

Devon Colella
Blue
650 Congress St.
Doors: 7:30 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 25

Sarah Lee Guthrie & Johnny Irion
One Longfellow Square
181 State St.
Doors: 8:00 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 26

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

Ott. / Anomie Belle
Port City Music Hall
504 Congress St.
Doors: 8:00 p.m. / Show: 9:00 p.m.

Artist Talk: Adventures in Illegal Art
SPACE Gallery
538 Congress St.
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Show: 7:30 p.m.

Friday, September 27

Nuclear Bootz / Whale Oil / Jimmy Jacked
Bayside Bowl
58 Alder St.
Doors: 6:30 p.m. / Show: 7:00 p.m.

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

North of Nashville
The Big Easy
55 Market St.
Doors: 9:00 p.m. / Show: 9:30 p.m.

Trapper
Blue
650 Congress St.
Doors: 9:30 p.m. / Show: 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 28

Strangefolk
State Theatre
609 Congress St.
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

Hardy Brothers Trio
Blue
650 Congress St.
Doors: 7:30 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

Angel Olsen / Pillars & Tongues / Lisa/Liza
SPACE Gallery
538 Congress St.
Doors: 8:00 p.m. / Show: 8:30 p.m.

Juston McKinney
Port City Music Hall
504 Congress St.
Doors: 9:00 p.m. / Show: 9:30 p.m.

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

Local Review

African influences are a welcome change



Deep Roots Entertainment

Dan Kelly
Free Press Staff

Change, released last Saturday by the Lewiston based rappers, Pallaso and The Mess, takes Ugandan influence and incorporates elements of popular American music.

Pallaso, a Ugandan-raised rapper formerly known as Pius Lizard and Pius Mayanja, released several cuts in his home country and has shared the stage with the likes of Sean Paul and soca artist Kevin Lyttles. Pallaso's sound while he was in Africa showcased his impressive rap skills, but was based in the soca tradition. His songs were long jams with an upbeat syncopated drumbeat and repetitive vocals. Jesse Hammond, aka The Mess, has collaborated with Pallaso on *Change* to create tracks that are laden with sampled synthesizers and use chord progressions that are synonymous with American pop—predictable, repetitive

and classic in every way. The two rappers have done an excellent job in combining elements of different musical styles while still sounding organic.

The lyrics on this album show strength, resilience and acceptance of diverse individuals more than anything else. “Believe in Me,” which incorporates a somewhat cheesy but very fitting acoustic guitar dub, sings about recovering from drug addiction and the stigma that can be attached to substance abuse. This song attempts to remove that stigma and replace it with acceptance, empowerment and advocacy for individuals that have suffered from addiction. “If I Try” encourages individuals to change the world and reduce world problems such as drug abuse. Although this might seem idealistic, this track inspires the listener to think what of what could happen is more people worked harder change the world for the better.

Although *Change* uses techniques in arranging and composing that are common in American pop and rap, it is not your typical hip-hop album. Lyrics work to inspire listeners, and Pallaso brings a unique flavor to the music that is not often heard on Top 40 albums. Both Pallaso and The Mess are technically advanced in their songwriting and rapping skills and don't hide it on their album. *Change* deserves an in-depth listen to appreciate how two rappers can make stories of heartache the source of immense listening pleasure and inspiration.

arts@usmfreepress.org
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In Heavy Rotation

What caught the eyes and ears of our staff this week.



Ba Da Bing Records

**Lady Lamb the
Beekeeper / Ripley Pine**

I really liked Ripley Pine when I first listened to it, but lately I cannot stop playing it. I think I've fallen in love. The album is such a trip with Aly Spaltro belting out the absolute rawest emotions on every track. She so easily glides back and forth between being sweet as, well, a lamb and angry as all hell.

-Sam Hill
Arts & Culture Editor



13STAR RECORDS

Hunter Hayes / Encore

Nights and days spent doing homework or cleaning up in the dorm often need some music and some singing. *Encore* is all upbeat, cheerful, and generally romantic music, which is great for lightening the mood while doing homework and will definitely put a smile on your face!

-Jordyn Cram
Free Press Staff



Panic State Records

The Moms / Viva!

This New Jersey garage band's first EP is bright and furious and catchy punk, the kind of band you listen to and think “I would have really loved this in high school.” Great for tapping in to your inner raging adolescent, fuming alone in your bedroom, blowing out your ear-drums.

-Sidney Dritz
News Editor



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Perspectives

Our opinion: *Cuts may irreversibly change USM*

Last week, USM accidentally announced that it intends to shutter the USM physics department. The reason for the closing is, naturally, financial, and by extension, a product of this inconvenient economic slump. USM is not alone in this financial struggle, college enrollment has fallen significantly over the past few years, and universities are making significant cuts to stay solvent. For the most desperate universities, closing departments is now on the table. California State University announced its intention to close its Africana Studies Department this year; Clarion University is closing its music education program; and SUNY Albany plans to cut a whopping five humanities programs. Undoubtedly all of these universities, USM included, would prefer to keep these programs going, were funding better, but it's just the way things are – the way things are now, that is.

Public universities have two primary sources of funding – public support (i.e. state funding) and revenue from tuition. Both of these sources have been rather dry lately, not due to some strange coincidence, but, to some extent, because they are both tied to the recent economic downturn. The stagnant state of the economy has been so long and felt so lousy, it's easy to get caught in the attitude that it's simply the

“new normal”, and it seems that some academic leaders have fallen prey to that syndrome. The problem seems to be a matter of projection. If you were to project dismal income indefinitely, then cutting an expensive department could be the only option. But that brings about some potentially embarrassing questions: Do these schools believe that enrollment and funding will never be on the rise? Do administrators and the public believe that programs like African studies, modern languages and physics have no meaningful role in education anymore? Is the plan to play catch-up when things get better and hope that the university will stay as relevant as the ones which didn't give up on the future?

If universities like USM are not asking themselves these questions, then students are riding in a captainless ship. Students and the public need to speak up for what they value, but above all, universities, that is, faculty and the administration together, need to be leading the way in protecting education from dangerous, outside interests that seek to make education into a profit-based endeavor.

The Free Press welcomes continuing dialogue on this subject. Email editor@usmfreepress.org.

Evans on Education

USM the degree mill: We're not interested

Christian Evans
Contributor

It's no secret that USM is putting a lot of time, effort and money into increasing its online offerings. It's part of the president's plan to save the school from its current downhill tumble – in addition to being one of the most commonly preached cure-alls for declining student enrollment.

As a student senator, I've had a lot of students offer me their opinions about the direction of the school and one of the biggest and most common worries I've heard is that we're turning into a degree factory. Many students are upset that we're beginning to appear more and more like a DeVry, an ITT Tech or a University of Phoenix – schools that regularly advertise their online, cheap, fast degree programs. I have to say that I'm worried about the same thing too, because when I chose USM, it was because my department was innovative and supportive and that the school offered a large selection of interesting classes. I chose a real university, not the McDonald's of education.

I'm not saying that online classes are going to kill the school. They will likely create a more efficient option for scheduling issues with big majors, like those that the nursing and music programs face. The problem is that the commercials that

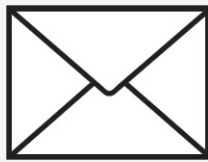
we've seen pop up on television and YouTube, espouse USM's great offerings to students and ooze that degree-factory sensibility, but let's face it, those schools are often considered a joke. They're not bad schools. They do provide an accessible education to a lot of people, but the fact remains that USM is a traditional state university. Hip advertising campaigns and online classes won't save the school. If USM feels like a DeVry for prospective students, they're not going to want to pay the extra cost of having a full university.

We should have an online option, but we should also look to enhance our learning options. The Portland/Gorham area is rich with opportunities for learning. We have a variety of speakers of foreign languages like Arabic, Swahili, Somali, Nuer, etc. We have local businesses that could offer learning opportunities for agriculture, maritime sciences and viticulture. Maine is known for its emphasis on locally-sourced goods, so why shouldn't that apply to our education too?

Christian Evans is a senior linguistics major.

The Free Press welcomes continuing dialogue on this subject. Email editor@usmfreepress.org.

editor@usmfreepress.org
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Letters & Comments:

The 'Rule of Five' is arbitrary and dangerous

Recently, a written proposal from USM provost Michael Stevenson was released that put forth the idea of “disestablishing” the university's physics department due to “low enrollment.” What's the problem with the argument in the proposal? Not only is the department financially self-sufficient, profitable in fact, but its enrollment and graduation rates are comparable to the nation average for physics departments.

So where is this coming from?

An arbitrary “rule” has been sweeping over universities across the nation like an infectious plague. “The Rule of Five” states that a department should be able to produce an average of five graduates per academic year. Why five? The answer is that somebody just made that number up, it's completely arbitrary. Many departments, such as USM physics, are comfortably profitable graduating, say, just three graduates per year. Certain university administrators are implementing such rules

in order to hold up the appearing of “doing something” about the various financial difficulties being faced by their institutions. This is what's happening in Maine right now.

Many university physics departments have already been closed due to this “rule” and, according to the American Physical Society (<http://www.aps.org/publications/apsnews/201112/backpage.cfm>), approximately 60 percent of physics departments in this country would have to be shut down if we used these metrics across all U.S. universities.

The conclusion: If USM “disestablishes” its physics department it is setting precedent for the outright destruction of the United States' position as a world leader in scientific education and research. This cannot continue.

Further, the USM department of physics provides opportunities for Southern Maine residents to acquire an education in science, mathematics, engineering and

technology, which makes them part of a healthy, scientifically literate, workforce. The students and faculty of USM strongly believe that the loss of the USM physics department will be a devastating blow to the state of scientific education in Southern Maine and will result in degradation of the quality of education available for future engineers and STEM students that many Maine businesses rely upon.

In the interest of supporting a prosperous future of scientific progress in our nation, and maintaining a supply of well-educated scientists and engineers in the region, I urge you take action and request that USM cease plans to dismantle this important resource.

Sincerely,
Derick Arel
Senior physics major

Introducing...

Memoirs of a migrant student



Alexander van Dintel
Perspectives Editor

The Free Press has a new perspectives editor: me. I'm writing a short introduction to give readers an idea of what's to come. I am something of a migrant student, with USM being my fourth school since I started my journey toward a degree in Political Science. I've already met some school-hopping non-traditional students here, they're not too much of an oddity here. Being a migrant student is a bit like being a migrant worker: no health care, no job security, and family that rarely has a clue to where I am. Still, I can't claim to work terribly long shifts

and I only get hassled for ID at student affairs. I transferred into the University of Southern Maine this year, four days before classes started, and have been wandering about with my little map of campus since.

My previous three schools were small, in fact, one of my schools had fewer than 200 students, and so USM has been my first true university experience. When I used to picture a university, I saw a dark cave of a lecture hall with an unpaid intern droning to a sleeping crowd, the instructor present only on the syllabus. The fear of being trapped at a dreary diploma mill kept me at eccentric little colleges boasting high faculty to student ratios. I generally liked them, and was hesitant to lose what I thought were intrinsic advantages to small private colleges. I've been pleasantly surprised at USM. I have not had a single class significantly larger than my old brutally expensive classes, and all the teachers try to know us by name. Here's how the schools differ, though: I'm writing this article.

Back in 2011, while attending a small liberal arts school in Vermont, I gathered a little group of friends together to start a newspaper. It was exciting; the paper

was going to be a fun retro concept with tongue-in-cheek radical political articles in the vein of propagandist 1900s papers. That's about where it ended; We worked on the layout, had some articles ready, but in the end we had only about 800 students as a pool of both writers and readers, and little chance of securing advertisers for such a small audience. Our initial group quickly dissolved as the realization dawned that the project was going to be pretty rough and the idea was a little too strange for the student senate to stomach.

I wasn't terribly surprised at the outcome; this was pretty typical for some colleges that didn't have the critical mass to maintain more ambitious projects. That is, not only does USM have the intimacy of a small school, it is large enough to allow for development. Have you been awarded work-study? It's not just a formality here, if you want a work-study job, you can get one; there are several departments looking for interns (one of which happens to be the Free Press). I have had semesters worth of paper work-study hours, with no positions available to apply them to. Want

See MEMOIRS on page 9

Want to respond to something you read in this week's issue of the Free Press? Write a submission and send it in!

Email us at editor@usmfreepress.org
for more information.

From MEMOIRS on page 8

to make connections? The University's Greek system is thriving and looking for members. Clubs abound, and USM supports them. This may all seem like common knowledge, but USM's assets can be taken for granted. Media positions at larger schools can require battling through 80 applicants. Smaller schools rarely have the funds or population to support multiple programs. Don't forget the fleeting advantages of college itself – the opportunity to get experience in most any field on a whim is something that is an anomaly outside of an academic environment.

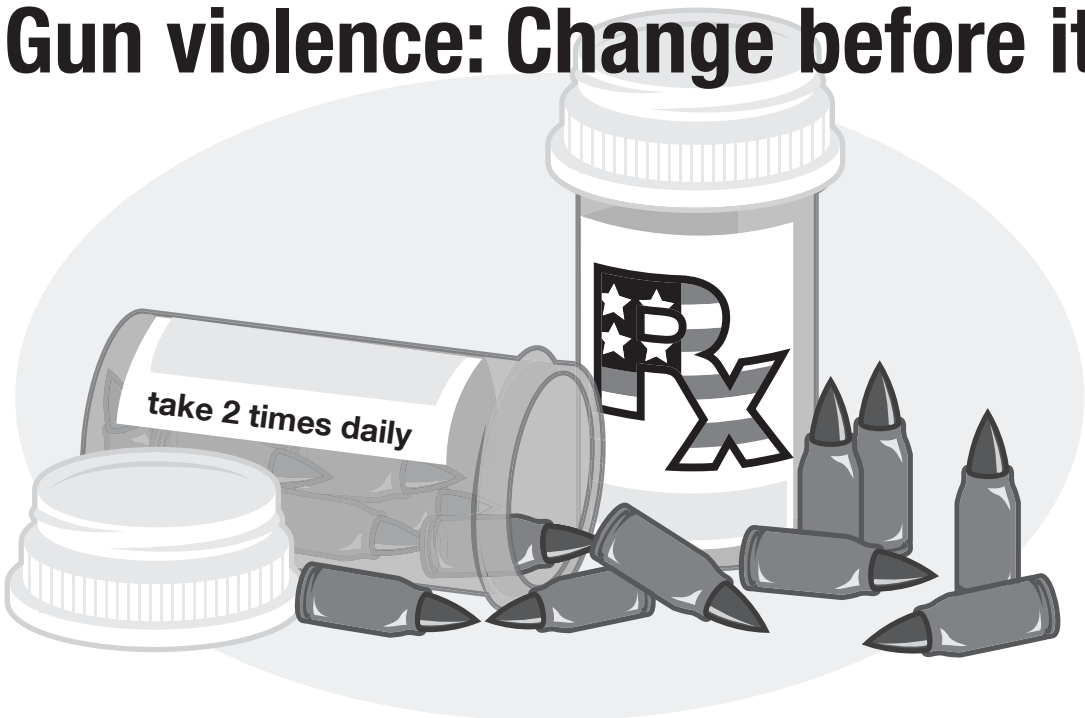
This September I was tapped by the Free Press to edit the perspectives section of the Free Press newspaper. Over the year, I'll be providing the USM community with a steady, life-giving stream of brilliant opinions on behalf of the Free Press. As a start, I'd like to give an opinion of my own: USM is unique, and bursting with opportunities. Get involved, make money, meet people, join a club; few schools offer what USM does, and these opportunities don't lie around for the picking after graduation.

Oh, and one more opinion: you should work for the Free Press. Don't want a commitment but want to give us a piece of your mind? Send me an opinion some time and we'll make sure people know what's what.

editor@usmfreepress.org
@USMFreePress

The Pickle Jar

Gun violence: Change before it's too late



Dylan Lajoie
Contributor

Gun violence has been a common theme spotlighted in the news over the past couple years. Again, it made the news last week, when 34-year-old Aaron Alexis walked into a Washington DC Navy facility and gunned down a dozen people. Once again, an individual with a history of mental illness, found a way to get his hands on a firearm and spill the blood of innocents. It was the same old story.

Alexis complained of hearing voices talking to him through the walls and ceilings of his hotel room. He claimed someone, or something was sending microwave signals through his body to keep him from

sleeping at night. He even alerted Newport, RI police of these issues, who in return alerted security officials at the naval base. Despite his history of mental illness, nothing was done, and he successfully passed a background check to purchase the gun of his choice.

Gun control advocates across the country have been making their case for tighter restrictions since the Aurora, CO shootings during a midnight showing of The Dark Knight Rises, and of course, since the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting that took place last winter. Background checks don't go far enough they say, and they're right. Alexis used a Remington shot-gun, not uncommon to be the weapon of choice for sportsmen in Maine during hunt-

ing season. It wouldn't be much of a problem right now for someone to walk into Wal-Mart or Cabela's, pick out that very same gun, and walk out of the store with it after an hour or two, just like Alexis did.

Despite the deaths of twenty children and six school officials at Sandy Hook, a push for stronger gun control at the federal level fell apart in April when the Senate couldn't pass a bill that would require stronger background checks, along with other restrictions. Some states, such as New York have taken it upon themselves to tighten restrictions on guns. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into law the NY SAFE Act, setting limits on magazine capacities, requiring background checks for all gun sales

(including private sales), and authorizing authorities to seize an individual's weapons if there is probable cause that the individual intends to cause harm.

Even more states have loosened gun control laws though, thanks to lobbying by the National Rifle Association out of fear that big government is going to take away their Second amendment rights. The Maine legislature hasn't shown much interest in tightening or loosening gun control laws, and firearm regulations remain fairly loose. Maine has no laws prohibiting private firearm sales, requires no permit to buy firearms and is a "shall grant" state when it comes to concealed weapons permit requests, even after the horrors our country has seen.

It seems that once again we are reminded that a serious conversation needs to be had about guns, violence and the role of mental illness in our society, while crafting practical legislation to eliminate these mass killings. The grim public policy reality is that if the deaths of 20 children and the Aurora shootings weren't enough to stir new gun legislation, then the killings in Washington DC won't change much either, unless a deep change in the entire nation's attitude occurs.

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

The Free Press welcomes continuing dialogue on this subject. Email editor@usmfreepress.org.

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OCTOBER 8

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LADYDOWN WITH NUMBER 13
OCTOBER 15 and 16

UMPHREY'S MCGEE WITH LONDON SOULS
OCTOBER 19

FITZ AND THE TANTRUMS
BEAT CLUB
OCTOBER 26

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NOVEMBER 1

FULL SCHEDULE

- OCT 7 WEIRD AL
- NOV 2 YONDER MOUNTAIN S.B.
- NOV 3 BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE
- NOV 8 MATT NATHANSON
- NOV 16 METRIC
- NOV 18 ELVIS COSTELLO — SOLO
- NOV 21 DARK STAR ORCHESTRA
- NOV 22 GABRIEL IGLESIAS
- NOV 30 BEATLES NIGHT
- DEC 2 ANIMAL COLLECTIVE
- DEC 6 FOGCUTTERS
- DEC 31 BADFISH

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OTT
with ANOMIE BELLE
SEPT 26

TOUBAB KREWE
OCT 5

A GREAT BIG WORLD
OCT 14

JUSTON MCKINNEY
DEER, MOOSE, TICKS & HICKS
SEPT 28

DALE EARNHARDT JR JR
OCT 6

10/17 THE ENGLISH BEAT
10/18 KUNG FU
10/20 MIKE DOUGHTY
10/24 DONNA THE BUFFALO
10/25 LASERDISK PARTY SEX

THE LAST BISON
with THE BALLROOM THIEVES
OCT 1

VANESSA CARLTON
with PATRICK SWEANY
OCT 11

10/31 TRON OF THE DEAD
11/1 BRONZE RADIO RETURN WITH SPENCER
11/10 LUCERO
11/19 THE LONE BELLOW
11/22 SUICIDE GIRLS

GIANT PANDA GUERRILLA DUB SQUAD
with JIMKATA
OCT 4

CONSPIRATOR
with Higher Organix
OCT 12

11/29 PARDON ME, DOUG A TRIBUTE TO PHISH
12/12 CARBON LEAF
12/18 BRO SAFARI
12/31 RUSTIC OVERTONES

Sports

Wednesday

Field Hockey
vs. St. Joseph's
4 p.m.

Saturday

Men's Soccer
vs. Plymouth St
12 p.m.

Field Hockey
vs. Keene St.
2:30 p.m.



Quick Hits: The Huskies' week in review



Justicia Barreiros / Free Press Staff

USM's Cara Murtagh, #7 senior middle, pursues the ball while surrounded by Framington State players.

Anna Chiu
Sports Editor

Women's Soccer Huskies unable to edge Salem State

The women's soccer team lost 0-1 against Salem State in a non-conference match on Wednesday night. The loss is their third straight and drops their record to 3-4 overall.

Senior goalie Katie Cobb recorded two saves for the Huskies.

The soccer team will next face Plymouth State this Saturday at 1 p.m.

Volleyball Huskies win third straight

The volleyball team earned a hard 3-2 win against Regis college in a non-conference match on Thursday evening. The Huskies overcame a 1-2

deficit to win 25-15, 22-25, 18-25, 25-15 and 15-13. The win is the third straight for USM and improves their record to 10-2 overall.

Freshman Kristina Rubico had 15 kills, four aces and six digs to lead the Huskies. Sophomore Demi Ruder had 25 digs, making it her second consecutive game with at least 20 digs. USM will next face Husson this Tuesday at 7 p.m. for a non-conference match.

Women's Tennis USM triumphs Thomas College 9-0

The women's tennis team dominated Thomas College in a non-conference match on Thursday afternoon. The win is their second straight and improves their record to 5-2 overall.

Senior captains Mary Moran and Emily Boutin had a 8-1 victory at first doubles to

lead the huskies while sophomore Emily Estes had her first collegiate win with a 6-0, 6-1 shutout. Sophomore Courtney Aldrich had a hard earned 7-5, 6-2 win at fourth singles.

USM will next play the University of Massachusetts Boston this Tuesday at 3:30 pm.

Men's Soccer Thomas College dominates USM

The men's soccer team faced a tough loss against Thomas College, losing 0-6 in a non-conference match on Tuesday afternoon. The loss brings their overall record to 0-6-1 overall.

Freshman goalie Adam Verreault had six saves for the Huskies. Thomas College had a 4-23 advantage in shots and also a 7-2 lead in corner kicks. Thomas scored all their goals in the second half.

USM will next play Colby this Tuesday at 4 p.m.

Upcoming

September 24

Golf
@ Queenan Memorial
Invitational
11 a.m.

Women's Tennis
USM
@ Mass.-Boston
3 p.m.

Men's Soccer
USM
@ Colby
4 p.m.

Women's Volleyball
USM
@ Husson
7 p.m.

September 25

Field Hockey
St. Joseph's
@ USM
4 p.m.

September 28

Men's Soccer
Plymouth
@ USM
12 p.m.

Women's Volleyball
USM
@ Western Conn. St.
12 p.m.

Women's Soccer
USM
@ Plymouth St.
1 p.m.

Women's Tennis
USM
@ Salem St.
1 p.m.

Women's Volleyball
USM
vs. John Jay
@ Western Connecticut

Field Hockey
Keene
@ USM
2:30 p.m.

Scoreboard

September 14

Field Hockey
USM 0
Bridgewater St. 1

Men's Soccer
Worcester St. 4
USM 1

September 15

Golf
Maine Intercollegiate
Championship
2nd out of 11

Women's Tennis
Johnson St. 0
USM 9

September 17

Men's Soccer
Thomas 6
USM 0

Field Hockey
USM 1
Bowdoin 9

Women's Volleyball
USM 3
Unity 0

September 18

Women's Soccer
USM 0
Salem St. 1

September 19

Women's Tennis
Thomas 0
USM 9

Women's Volleyball
USM 3
Regis 2

September 21

Field Hockey
USM 1
Eastern Conn. St. 3

Women's Volleyball
Eastern Conn. St. 3
USM 2



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USM COMMUNITY PAGE



Kirsten Sylvain
Editor-in-Chief

Students have played a pivotal role in the conversation that's gripping the university community now over whether or not USM is making a poor choice considering cutting its physics major.

An unknown student started the conversation by disclosing the information to the Portland Press Herald, prompting vocal opposition online and in local newspapers and Provost Michael Stevenson's public apology at Friday's faculty senate meeting.

One student, senior chemistry major Patrick Wallace wrote in a letter to the Free Press that, "Our state has many bright young minds, and this decision sends the message to students pursuing a career in STEM fields that there is no place for them here," he wrote. "Those prospective physicists who don't wish to attend college far north in Orono will be forced to attend schools out of state where they will most likely remain."

A number of students were also present at the faculty senate meeting on Friday at which faculty moved to either take the proposal off the table entirely or replace it with an alternate plan. Student senator and third year leadership and communications double major with a minor information technologies, Dan Jandreau, addressed the entire body at the faculty senate meeting on Friday.

"I'm very connected on campus," he said. "And students are in a mass hysteria. What we need are open lines of discus-

Student Reaction: Students speak up about physics



Alex Greenlee / Free Press Staff

Student Body President Kelsea Dunham (left) and student senators Dan Jandreau (middle) and Marpheen Chann-Berry (Right), sat in on Friday's faculty senate meeting, and in addressing the body, urged for transparency with students during cuts.

sion." He cited social media as an encapsulation of the student body's reaction to the issue, referring to one picture that had been shared 57 times on Facebook.

Despite Stevenson's efforts to stress that the information released was a proposal and not a mandate to be effective immediately, student and faculty still cited a growing feeling of uncertainty and of more cuts to come. Student Body President Kelsea Dunham, who was also in attendance, and Jandreau both mentioned when addressing the senate that they knew of physics majors who were already beginning the hunt for news schools to transfer.

Dunham later wrote in an email to the Free Press that she thought a major issue during this process has been a lack of transparency on the part of the administration. "I thought the meeting today was indicative of the general feeling that students and faculty have, which is that they are not part of the processes happening at the university. I think this is an excellent opportunity for collaboration between faculty, students and administrators," she wrote.

news@usmfreepress.org
@USMFreePress



Featured Photo:



Justicia Barreiros / Free Press Staff

A dragonfly landing on the blue and yellow lines of the turf on USM's Hannaford Field in Gorham.

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

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



Campus Events

- Monday, September 23

Portland Events Board Meeting
September 23, 2013
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland

Celebrate Bisexuality Day Discussions
September 23, 2013
2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Center for Sexualities and Gender Diversity, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland
- Tuesday, September 24

Bridging the Great Divide
September 24, 2013
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
102 Wishcamper Center, Portland
- Wednesday, September 25

Veterans Welcome Resource Fair and BBQ
September 25, 2013
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Outside of the Woodbury Campus Center, Portland

An Evening with Lois Lowry
September 25, 2013
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
USM Abromson Community Education Center, 88 Bedford Street, Portland
- Thursday, September 26

Politics Then and Now: Former U.S. Senator George Mitchell
September 26, 2013
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Hannaford Lecture Hall, Abromson Center, Portland

Samba at USM!
September 26, 2013
7:30 p.m.
Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham

GEB: Fall Carnival
September 26, 2013
9:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Lower Level, Brooks Student Center, Gorham
- Friday, September 27

White Water Rafting with Southern Maine Outdoor Recreation (S.M.O.R.)
September 27, 2013
3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Sign up at Sullivan Rec & Fitness Complex, Portland
- Saturday, September 28

Old-Fashioned Outdoor Band Concert
September 28, 2013
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
On The Green in front of Corthell Hall

Gorham Event Board Presents: Magic @ USM
September 28, 2013
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Lower Level, Brooks Student Center, Gorham

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