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Officials discuss active shooter policies

The USM community has been thinking more about safety than usual in the aftermath of the armed standoff in Gorham on Wednesday, Jan. 22.

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

“I think Mainers sort of live in a bubble,” said undeclared freshman Christopher Wright. “A lot of people don’t think as much about dangerous situations, because they don’t happen as often up here.”

The number of school shootings in the U.S. this month has opened the doors for conversation about USM’s emergency response plans, and whether the community would be prepared for similar or worst-case scenario situations.

“Unfortunately, we live in a world where these things can happen anywhere and at any time,” said director of Public Safety Kevin Caswell. “We need to be as prepared as we possibly can be.”

Right now, USM uses e2Campus, a third-party emergency notification system, to send safety alerts when there is a dangerous situation on or near either campus. It also sends out emails to the university email accounts of students and staff.

“It’s a really great system,” said director of Public Safety Kevin Caswell. “It literally takes just a few minutes to sign up, and students can choose what kind of alerts they want to receive.”

Through e2Campus, anyone can sign up for alerts on emergency situations or serious weather conditions, and there is a separate storm line for the Lewiston-Auburn campus. Because alerts are sent to personal phones, students are required to sign up to receive these alerts.

“I signed up for the alerts within the first week I was here at school,” said freshman psychology major Allison Tucker. “I totally forget about it until there’s a storm and get that text that says no school, then it’s back to bed for me.”

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

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

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

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

“Our goal is to make people aware of a situation and aware that they need to avoid it,” said Cogner. “Not being journalists, we don’t want to alarm anyone, but we want to make people aware of a situation in which there is an active shooter on campus, the person causing the scene will likely have access to the information law enforcement is releasing, so they need to be discreet with what information they make available to the public.

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

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

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

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

Heather Guaciaro
Contributor

Students have come together with the help of the Office of Sustainability at USM and support from the Student Senate to bring the issue of Divestment to the floor at the Board of Trustees meeting on February 27.

In March of 2013, the Student Senate approved a resolution to express the student body’s desire to divest the University of Maine System endowment from any of the top two hundred publicly traded fossil fuel companies. The measure was passed by a 10 to two margin.

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

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

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See DIVEST on page 6

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There are two other groups as well. “The second subgroup, C.O.R.E (Creating Operational Responsibility and Excellence), is looking at how USM can reduce costs and increase revenues in FY 15 [fiscal year 2015] and beyond, while adding value to the student experience. This group is also sur-
ing USM constituencies on a number of topics to inform their work,” wrote Kalikow and LaSala.

The third, which Dunham said focuses on the university’s sign-
nature program, is described in Kalikow and LaSala’s email as working on ways to qualitatively and quantitatively evaluate aca-
demic programs at USM.

Before the small group work commenced in last Friday’s meet-
ing, the advisory board held open conversations with two invited speakers: George Mehaffy, vice president for academic leadership and change at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, and Richard Dunfee, the director of the AASCU’s grant resource center.

Mehaffy and Dunfee were invit-
ted to USM as guests of the Faculty Commons. “They did a presenta-
tion on the challenges and opportun-
ties facing higher ed across the nation on the light of serious fiscal and enrollment problems,” said Ex-
ecutive Director of Public Affairs Bob Caswell. The members of the Direction Package Advisory Board were invited to attend the presenta-
tion, and then Mehaffy and Dunfee attended Friday’s Advisory Board meeting. The presentation to the Faculty Commons will be posted on the Faculty Commons website later in the week, Caswell said.

At the Direction Package Ad-
visory Board meeting, Dunfee discussed a series of funding op-
portunities through the AASCU, and Mehaffy delved deeper into his own and AASCU’s aca-
demic philosophies. According to Mehaffy, one of the problems with universities as they are tradition-
ally organized, USM included, is that there is a division of leader-
ship and a lack of unity. He cited strict departmental delineations as a source of weakness. “I do think if you’re really going to be serious about this stuff, if you think about the funding opportunities, they’re all interdisci-
plinary.”

This lack of unity, which he said, comes as much from the dif-
fusion of power created by unions as by departmental divisions, re-
sults in an unevenness of quality avoided by organizations that run on a more proscribed, corporate model, like the Cheeseake Fac-
tory or the University of Phoenix.

Kalikow objected to the com-
parision to the University of Phoe-
nix, countering Mehaffy’s point about the lack of unions at Phoe-
nix resulting in fewer conflicting voices.

They don’t have any full-time faculty, either. They have no anything, except they make a lot of money for their investors, and that’s not the model we want,” Ka-
lkow said.

Mehaffy’s philosophy, which calls for an educational standard to be upheld across the board at a university, drew several objections from faculty and staff who argued that corporate comparisons were perhaps not entirely applicable to the university setting. Mehaffy as-
serted, “It’s easy to do an honors program; it’s not easy to do an honors program for everyone.”

Mehaffy concluded by stressing the need for the best thing for the stu-
dents and for the institution to be at the forefront of any educational innovation.

“What’s best for the students has to be a top priority, we’ve heard that from the Vision Committee,” Kalikow returned.

Mehaffy told the Free Press that he feels like he always learns something when he visits schools to speak. At USM, he said that he’d been asked a very thoughtful ques-
tion by a student, which he was still considering the answer to. Mehaffy said the student had noted that the state is paying less of a percentage of the operating costs of public uni-
versities, and that students are pay-
ing a higher percentage in tuition.

“The question was, does the source of funding for an institution change the way an institution operates, and I think the answer is that it does,” Mehaffy said.

“From a perspective, I thought it was a very interesting experi-
ence, we had very good conversa-
tions,” Mehaffy said.

Mehaffy said he was impressed by the thoughtfulness of the work the university is doing to address the budget shortfall.

USM’s budget shortfall was by Chief Financial Officer Dick Camp and as work that de-
serves the university community’s support by University of Maine System Chancellor James Page. Over the course of the meetings scheduled for the month of Febru-
ary, and the actions which will fol-
low them, the result of that process will be revealed.

“We do not anticipate that the fi-
nal product will have all it’s crossed and i’s dotted. This would be an unrealistic expectation. We do expect the recommendations will provide sufficient guidance upon which we can inform and guide cus-
tions,” said Kalikow and LaSala in the Jan. 28 email.

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Comming this spring break...

FROM THE POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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FROM TAR SANDS on page 1
protests over use of the pipeline, wrote: “Our commitment to public
safety and the environment con-
tinue to be recognized by leading
industry organizations in the U.S.
and Canada.” They recognized that there would be debate over the use of the pipeline and that they would “welcome opportunities for open
discussion that suggest the wisdom of the project,” but they went on to add that they “believe that the project is in the public interest.” They would be doing this work with the pipeline with as much caution towards the environment as possible.

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

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

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

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

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

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hees said, “in a lot of these forms, there are benefits that outweigh money up front,” meaning that even though renewable resources pay off in the long run, they cost a lot of money to research and enact now, whereas oil is cheaper now, whereas oil is cheaper now.
“I think there are always going to be circumstances where we might not be able to reach everybody,” said Caswell. “But if the situation had been different, and students outside the cordoned off area were in danger or might have been in danger, we would’ve contacted everyone.”

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

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

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

USM Public Safety officers participate in annual training with other local law enforcement for active shooter situations. Over the summer, the department held drills in Bailey Hall on the Gorham campus along with officers from the Gorham, Scarborough and Windham police departments.

“We have a lot of resources to draw from for a small agency,” said Cogner. “Personnel-wise and networking-wise, we’re in a good place to respond to any situation. We’re all in this together.”

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

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

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

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From DIVEST on page 3

The group has a simple game plan: bring the facts, support from both the USM faculty, staff and organizations on campus and throughout the UMS, and ask that the UMS divest. “We will be addressing the impacts divestment will have on our futures and the environment as well as the financial and enrollment benefits of divesting,” said Sandi Bucan.

“Right now, the fossil fuel industry is planning to extract more than five times the amount of carbon that scientists predict we can safely extract,” said LaSala. “It is unacceptable that USM is profiting off of a system that is about to drive us over the climate cliff.”

“If the University of Maine System is an investment institution for our future, why are they simultaneously investing in companies that will make this a hard future to live in?” asked Shaun Carland, a junior math and computer science double major and the director-founder of the Students for Environmental Awareness and Sustainability.

“From an economic viewpoint it’s smart to divest,” he said. But there is still more research to be done on how economically feasible it will be to divest in the long run, but according to Carland there’s a lot about what a fossil fuel free energy system can perform just as well as with fossil fuels.

“Six universities have already divested, including two in Maine: Unity College and College of the Atlantic,” said Carland. A number of institutions, communities and even full cities across the country are on the list of those currently divesting from fossil fuel companies. The group hopes to be able to add USM and the other University of Maine schools to that list of those committed to divest.

The group is hopeful, though. The movement has been gathering support from both the USM and Orono campuses via petitions, personal statement and a photo campaign with students and faculty members with the campaign to Digital Science double major Meaghan O’Hara.

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Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts on display in London, Cairo and USM

Francis Flisiuk
Arts & Culture Editor

Seven years after a car bomb exploded in Iraq, killing 30 people, wounding over 100 and destroying the entire perimeter of Al-Mutanabbi street the cultural epicenter of Baghdad, a powerful art exhibition has arrived at USM entitled Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here that displays the significance of what happened on that day through visually impressive pieces of literary art.

Literary art, which can include everything from poetry and stories to calligraphy-laden broadsides (a large sheet of paper printed only on one side) was always the main focus of Al-Mutanabbi street. For centuries the street in downtown Baghdad was the bookselling center of the whole country and served as a hub for writers and literary artists to meet, exchange intellectual ideas and foster creativity.

The suicide attack, for which no group has claimed responsibility, destroyed thousands of books, poetry and other literary works of art not just from Iraqi culture, but from around the world. Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here aims to bear witness to the attack and to create a sense of solidarity between creative writers and artists everywhere.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Through art we can clear a space between us and the Iraqi cultural community.”

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

Beausoleil found the motivation to start this project when he first heard about the Al-Mutanabbi bombings and was shocked when after ten days there was no significant cultural response from the attack. Being a fellow bookkeeper and purveyor of the arts, the attack struck a personal chord with him, and he felt that he needed to respond.

“I immediately knew as a poet that it was my cultural community that had been attacked,” said Beausoleil. “As a bookseller, if I lived in Iraq, I would be on that street.”

According to Beausoleil, an assault on culture is an assault on the world, and in some metaphorical way we share the same street as the Iraqi Al-Mutanabbi.

“This was an attack on us all,” said Beausoleil.

According to Beausoleil, the assault on culture is an assault on the world, and in some metaphorical way we share the same street as the Iraqi Al-Mutanabbi.

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

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

Francis@usmfreepress.org / FrancisFlisiuk
February 3, 2014

Arts & Culture

In Heavy Rotation

Red Barrels

Outlast/Red Barrels Games

This game has redefined the horror video game genre for me. I’ve never jumped out of my seat as much during this play-through. You play as a journalist exploring Mount Massive Insane Asylum armed with only your night vision camera. When you begin to uncover the atrocities within, nothing prepares you for what happens next.

- Francis Filiuuk
Arts & Culture Editor

Arts & Culture Recommends: USM presents Doubt

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

“This cast is itching for an audience.”

-Ashley Rood
Junior theatre major

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information about the show, times and ticket pricing visit the USM Theatre Department website at www.usm.maine.edu/theatre.

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@courtthope

Laura Stevenson and the Cans / Wheel

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Courtney Aldrich
Staff Writer

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Sweater Weather / The Neighborhood

I’ll be honest. I only started listening to this album because of the opening of the song “Sweater Weather” sounds a bit like “The Way You Move” by Outkast. But, after my investigation, I let it play through on Spotify and thought it was a killer mood album. Great new addition to my library.

-Sam Hill
Managing Editor
Brosseau brings new spin to folk

Grass Punks, released by Tom Brosseau, questions the imperatives of American folk, yet it is still able to pay dear respect to the timeless genre.

Folk music has always been an elusive term—world music played by lower socio-economic classes, artists from the ‘60s folk revival (e.g., Bob Dylan, Joan Baez), and more recently, bands like The Milk Carton Kids have all been pigeonholed into the ever-expanding genre. Although Tom Brosseau sounds significantly different from all of these acts, most people still would say he plays folk music, whatever that means.

Looking specifically at Grass Punks, layered acoustic guitars are paired with vocals. Mandolin and electric guitar play occasional supporting roles but are not the central focus. Its harmonics are relatively simple, giving every chord equal worth. Lyrics are thoughtful but also pay respect to the value of subtle novelty.

"Cradle Your Device," for example, opens the album by saying “You’re stuck inside a bidding war / You’re arguing over price / You hardly even acknowledge my existence / When you cradle your device.” This song’s meaning, having to do with the ironic communication issues brought on by the digital age, brings up a serious issue in a light-hearted context.

A three-chord pop progression driven by a thumping shuffle rhythm is layered with high-pitched chords that are strummed and finger picked. This tune could be mistaken to be another Blithe love song, if one doesn’t pay careful attention.

"Tami," Brosseau’s unique way of describing a past love affair, is equally as creative. While the guitar parts here could be compared to that of Leo Kottke, the vocals are more like Lou Reed or even Radiohead. However, Brosseau’s sound still stands out. "I Love to Play Guitar," happy and relaxed, rounds out the album which most musicians can appreciate, substituting “guitar” for any other instrument.

What exactly makes Grass Punks folk? As consistent with almost all other acts classified as belonging to the genre, simple sincerity. All of its tunes are presented at face value. Stripped-down instrumentation is used as a direct means to deliver a message.

The direct message, therefore, seems to be the most pervasive quality in folk. It is abundantly clear, with Grass Punks, that Brosseau is able to convey a simple and honest message by way of only acoustic guitar and voice.

arts@usmfreepress.org
@USMFredPress

Francis Fliosuk
Arts & Culture Editor

The Age of Reason defies standards in electronic music albums featuring 15 dynamic tracks that are rich in innovation and variety.

The Slovenian born DJ Gramatik, whose real name is Denis Jasarevic, has been busy creating his own record label Lowtemp and crafting this gem of an album that’s been released after much anticipation. The Age of Reason is one of those rare albums that’s almost impossible to describe as a whole because of the extreme variance in each track. Gramatik mixes big beats with only the best sounds from a wide range of genres like electronic, funk, soul, glitch hop, house and even a little jazz for an album that has become trendy in the past few years. These tracks won’t give you the dubious headache that most mainstream DJs and bands often do.

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

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

Gramatik’s strength is in his versatility as an artist and don’t go rushing to the nearest record store to grab a copy, because Gramatik is offering his entire album free to download through his Soundcloud page.

Arts & Culture

February 3, 2014

Grass Punks

Dan Kelley
Staff Writer
**Monday, February 3**
2004 MECA Painters: 10 Years Later
Maine College of Art
522 Congress St.
Opening 12:00 p.m

**Tuesday, February 4**
Caroline Cotter
Blue
650 Congress St.
Show: 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, February 5**
Think and Drink Community Event
SPACE Gallery
538 Congress St.
Show: 6:00 p.m

Irish Music Night
Blue
650 Congress St.
Show: 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday, February 6**
Jason Anick Presents: Tipping Point
One Longfellow Square
181 State St.
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

12 O’Clock Boys Film Screening
SPACE Gallery
538 Congress St.
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Show: 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, February 7**
Okbari with bellydancers
Blue
650 Congress St.
Doors: 6:00 p.m. / Show: 7:00 p.m.

Garnet Rogers
One Longfellow Square
181 State St.
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

First Friday Art Walk
Downtown Portland
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

**Saturday, February 8**
Emancipator Ensemble
State Theatre
609 Congress St.
Doors: 8:00 p.m. / Show: 9:00 p.m.

Chris Klaxton Jazz
Blue
650 Congress St.
Doors: 10:00 p.m. / Show: 10:00 p.m.

**Sunday, February 9**
Banff Mountain Film Festival
State Theatre
609 Congress St.
Doors: 6:00 p.m. / Show: 7:00 p.m.

JD Samson & Men
SPACE Gallery
538 Congress St.
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

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**Film Review**

**Streep vs. Roberts in “August: Osage County”**

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

It’s Streep vs. Roberts in “August: Osage County.”

Set in the plains of Oklahoma, Violet Weston (Meryl Streep) is the recently widowed, pill-popping, violently critical matriarch who watches with a maudlin pleasure the lives of each of her three daughters—disaster-victims on their sleeve; no one holds the traditional respect of the clan. The family grieves for guidance, and she slowly bends to the same low as her mother, as each new calamity is laid at her feet. The Weston girls are hicks in purest form: politically incorrect, drinkers, smokers and each an unflinching survivor. But the Weston men are also poets, writers, readers and lunatics; allusions to Greek mythology and literary figures run rampant through the film. The film opens with Beverly delivering a line from T.S. Eliot: “Life is very long.” Later, his daughter will reprise the line with “Good thing we can’t see the future. If we did, we’d never get up in the morning.” And throughout the film, there is the incessant presence, in the disastrous wake of Bev’s death, of a line Barbara will return to again and again: “Now what?”

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

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

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

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

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In our editorial last week, we brought up concerns about the safety of students in off-campus housing and university policy regarding them. Information that we found about the university’s policy regarding its fraternities specifically was unclear. Many readers were offended that we singled out this group of students, who, according to a variety of reports, have often been noted for their high level of involvement in the university community. It was not our intent, however, that last week’s editorial was about policy, not people.

As recent events across the country have shown, the concerns we brought up concerns about the safety of all students, on and off campus. The national chapters of both of USM’s off-campus fraternities prohibit the use and storage of firearms in their houses, but should we rely on someone else to dictate our community’s public safety policies?

We care deeply about the safety and well-being of our students residing in off-campus fraternities and are glad that USM is a place where USM Life has been so beneficial to the USM community. Unfortunately, recent events may have served to negatively impact the reputation of fraternities and sororities across the USM community. The Gorham incident involving an armed student was an isolated event, but as a university, these policies need to be clarified for the safety of all students. Of course, the national chapters of both of USM’s off-campus fraternities prohibit the use and storage of firearms in their houses, but should we rely on someone else to dictate our community’s public safety policies?

The editorial called attention to the discrepancy in USM policy that prohibits any students on campus from possessing firearms, but that fails to extend to off-campus, university-affiliated groups such as fraternities. We urge the university to clarify the policies regarding off-campus fraternity houses and their relationship to the USM-on-campus community. We wrote that last week’s editorial was about policy, and clarified the reach of its policies to students living off-campus, but it can ask that its staff closely monitor students who appear to be experiencing difficulties and offer assistance to help them find appropriate services. It is, of course, much easier to support residential students, but where do fraternities fall in this equation? Technically, these student organizations are university-affiliated and are loosely monitored by officials, but when it comes to certain policies, like USM’s weapons policy, they are exempt because the University of Maine System policies dictate that “living” is not a “student activity.”

The Gorham incident involving an armed student was an isolated event, but as a university, these policies need to be clarified for the safety of all students. Of course, the national chapters of both of USM’s off-campus fraternities prohibit the use and storage of firearms in their houses, but should we rely on someone else to dictate our community’s public safety policies?

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From WEAPON on page 11 confidentiality, then I don’t want them to have any program at all.
President Obama already made one jump forward when he negoti- ated START-Treaty with Russia, which should eliminate a chunk of both countries’ nuclear weapons count by 2018. Despite that one stride, the United States is still slated to spend about $700 bil- lion on the Defense Department’s next nuclear program over the next ten years, according to the Plough- shares Fund, a group dedicated to ridding the world of nuclear weap- ons, not just in one region of it, but yes, in the western world as well. We need to focus on the US, and India’s nuclear programs. Iran is still constantly under fire from the United States for their program and if they were to flap at the current high. But maybe it’s time to turn up the heat on our own nuclear pro- grams.

Dylan LaJoie, aka Pickles, is a senior political science major with a concentration in international rela-
tions.

editor@usmfreepress.org
USMFreePress

Make Maine better: Vote Cutler in 2014

Marpheen Chann
Contributor

My name is Marpheen Chann, and I am the student body vice- president at USM and a college town advocate. When I ran for student body vice- president and during my one incident, I strongly suggest not to judge an entire organization based on one incident. I knew a few folks involved, but that was it. Over the last year, I’ve had a chance to get to know many students who are very involved with Greek Life, includ- ing the student body vice president, Marpheen Chann. Other than the incident on January 22, I have seen only good come on from one’s involve- ment in Greek Life.

My goal as student body president is to create a tighter knit community at USM, and Greek Life is just one of the many organizations on cam- pus working to promote that ideal. The Greeks are all required to hold a GPA of 2.5, and have an average GPA of 2.91 last semester, which in- cluded doing 1023 study hours. All of our Greek organizations are also heavily involved in philanthropy and community service. Some ma- jor community service projects that Greeks are involved in are the White Cane Walk, the Autism Walk, Relay for Life, and the Full Yard Clean Up.

Members of Greek Life are working hard to change the stereotypes associated with fraternity and soror- ity life. It’s not all Animal House. In fact, it’s mostly the opposite. Greek Life is men and women creating re- lationships that will last a lifetime.

It’s helping out on campus, on where and where they can. (In fact, two fraternities on campus volunteered at USM’s 14th Annual Royal Maj- esty Drag Show and Competition. Talk about breaking stereotypes!) It’s fraternities and sororities work- ing together to create a better cam- pus – many members of Greek Life are active in our Student Gov- ernment Association, the Gorham Events Board, have participated in events with Campus Safety Project, and the list goes on and on.

I will say that I strongly believe that Greek Life in no way contrib- uted to the incident on January 22. Just because it was a fraternity brother, at his house, does not mean it was a fraternity. It was one person. Greek Life had 135 active mem- bers in the fall semester. Before we judge an entire organization based on one incident, I strongly suggest we look at the larger whole.

Kelsey Dunham
Student body vice president.

USM benefits from Greek Life

My name is Kelsey Dunham, and I am your student body president. I want to start this little piece of writ- ing with the statement that I am not actively involved with Greek Life at USM. I still strongly believe that Greek Life is good for USM, as a whole.

When I ran for student body president I knew nothing, other than stereotypes, about Greek Life. I crashed fraternity meetings, expect- ing hostile reactions, but not getting them. I knew a few folks involved, through my work with campus groups, but that was it. Over the last year, I’ve had a chance to get to know many students who are very involved with Greek Life, includ- ing the student body vice president, Marpheen Chann. Other than the incident on January 22, I have seen only good come on from one’s involve- ment in Greek Life.

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Sunday, Feb. 9 & 16 at 5 p.m.
$5 at 5: Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 5 p.m.
Thursdays, Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m.
Performances take place off-campus at:
The Studio Theater at Portland Stage
25A Forest Ave., Portland

Tickets: $15/$11 seniors, USM alumni & employees/$8 students
Special $5 matinee: Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 5 p.m.

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

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

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Crossword

Across
43. Great
44. Good
45. Average
46. Alright
47. Difficult
48. Easy
49. The way to — heart...
51. Distinguish clearly.
54. “All...” ball
56. Avenger’s action
58. “The way to — heart...”
62. Large creek
64. Cartoon Network show that debuted in 1999
67. Extra __ attraction
68. Round breed of India
70. Cat
71. Bar apes’ huddles, Unity
71. Little pin

Down
1. Rhynstone rival
2. Guy that Paul Simon advises you to “Make a new plan” 3. Medusa (neighbor of Cancer)
4. Dauntlessly
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USM athlete sets high goals for track nationals

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

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

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

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

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

“I’m currently ranked number one in the nation. Things can change, but it’s looking pretty good right now.”
- Kevin Desmond
Men’s indoor track athlete

Track Athlete of Week twice this season.

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

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

Desmond isn’t the only athlete breaking records this season. Desmond also anchored the men’s 4-by-400 meter relay team that broke the school record with a combined time of three minutes, 18.09 seconds. Desmond, junior Jamie Ruginski, and sophomores Zach Miller and Jeremy Collins surpassed the previous record of 3:18.76 that was set last March. The Huskies’ 4-by-400 meter relay team is currently ranked third in the nation in NCAA Division III.

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

Justicia Barreiros / Sports Editor

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

Athletes in Action: wrestling dual meet

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

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

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

Later that day, the Huskies fell 27-12 to the Worcester Polytechnic Institute Engineers. Deupree won out again, scoring 8 of the Huskies 12 points in the loss, finishing the day with a 2-0 record individually.

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

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

Randy Hazelton / Multimedia Editor

Athletes in Action: wrestling dual meet
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Aaren Rivard has been lighting up stages at USM since he decided to study at USM to make music performance his career.

Rivard, a senior vocal performance major, considered attending Colby College, the Boston Conservatory and the Juilliard School, before deciding to attend USM’s department of music.

Graduating from high school in South China, Maine, where he is from originally, Rivard struggled to decide whether to teach or to perform music. As time passed, however, he realized that performing was his future.

Since that time he’s performed at USM and in Portland. As one member of a quartet that sang in the November showing of Mozart’s Requiem, a collaborative performance that featured the University Chorale, the Southern Maine Symphony Orchestra and students from five high schools, Rivard took to the stage at the Merrill Auditorium in the show under the direction of Professor of voice and choral studies Robert Russell.

The experience of performing in the Merrill Auditorium affected him deeply. “I had performed in choruses there before, but this was something different. Being able to work with other singers in a quartet and have a more intimate musical experience was special,” he said.

Rivard praises his experience studying music at USM. “I think the music program is fantastic and is somewhat underrated. Having met many professional musicians, those here are on par with others in the music field,” Rivard said. He added that two USM alumnae, Ashley Emerson and Megan Marino, have even performed at the Metropolitan Opera’s performance of Richard Strauss’s Die Frau ohne Schatten (The Woman without a Shadow) that finished its run in November.

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

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

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

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

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

Graduating from high school and have a more intimate musical experience was special,” he said.

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