

"Love is an orientation": Christians and LGBTQ community talk it out

3



9



Hip-hop dance club busts a move

15

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Alleged Student Senate violations tossed aside

Accusing senator resigns before complaint is addressed

Sam Hill

Editor-in-Chief

Two weeks ago the Student Senate treasurer denounced decisions made by the senate chair and parliamentarian to withhold his paycheck after multiple absences.

Treasurer Jason Blanco recommended that Joshua Dodge, the senate chair, and Joshua Tharpe, the parliamentarian be removed from their positions for violating the constitution, which does not give them the authority to alter stipends.

According to members of the senate's executive board, Blanco never filed the proper paperwork to the Violations Inquiry Committee to warrant investigating his claims and call for Dodge and Tharpe to be removed and that he quit immediately after that meeting.

"There was nothing properly submitted, so, officially, there's nothing to talk about," said Tharpe.

Dodge, Tharpe and Judson Cease, the senate vice-chair, declined to discuss the specifics of Blanco's accusations because they were discussed within an executive session. When a senator is appointed, they are asked to sign a

confidentiality waiver restricting them from speaking about what is discussed in those sessions. The senate generally goes into executive session to discuss personal problems including promotions, demotions or dismissals.

Dodge did say that the issue with Blanco's accusations were strictly procedural and the decision to not act on his concerns was indeed not biased.

The Student Government Association constitution requires anyone accusing an individual of violating the senate's rules and regulations to file multiple copies of a formal complaint including a full description of the violation, names of witnesses, contact information and their signature. After a formal complaint is submitted, the VIC has ten days to notify the accused party, another ten days to convene and investigate and 30 days to conclude their findings and choose an appropriate penalty.

Because Blanco did not file a formal complaint, the VIC is unable to investigate, let alone act and remove anyone from their position.

"If he had filed a complaint properly, it would've been investigated but he walked away," said



Sam Hill / Editor-in-Chief

Senate chair Joshua Dodge and senate parliamentarian Joshua Tharpe were accused of unconstitutional actions regarding stipend withholding.

Tharpe.

Dodge declined to comment on Blanco's request to have him removed from his position, saying that there are two sides to every

story and that he didn't feel comfortable speaking on the situation to the press. He suggested that any student who wanted to know his thoughts on the issue to come

and speak with him during his office hours in the SGA office.

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Student Senate continues to fill empty seats



Sam Hill / Editor-in-Chief

New senators John Jackson and Scott Reiner both cited the university's budget deficit and the dismissal of professor last spring as reasons for wanting to join the student senate.

Alex Huber

Contributor

The primary goal of the Student Senate so far this semester has been filling vacant seats and increas-

ing their presence on campus, and they're beginning to make progress.

At last week's meeting the senate added two new senators and quickly replaced the treasurer position that was left vacant due to internal con-

flicts. During the previous meeting former treasurer Jason Blanco accused two executive board members on unconstitutional actions and resigned immediately afterward.

In the wake of Blanco's resignation the senate is pressing on by voting in Senator Ashley Rose, a member of the senate's finance committee as the new senate treasurer. Rose and Senator Tom Bahun were both nominated for the position, each having significant experience in dealing with finances. Rose was already a part of the finance committee and Bahun serves as the treasurer of the Board of Student Organizations. Both Bahun and Rose have experience with accounting for numerous groups outside of the university.

Bahun's position with the BSO was brought up during the deliberation by Kyle Frazier, the student body president, who did not think it was wise to have Bahun leave his position at the BSO for the senate.

"I don't think rocking the BSO again is the best option right now,"

said Frazier, noting that the BSO has been running smoothly and it would not be wise of the senate to make them look for a new executive board member.

Constitutionally, students are not allowed to hold multiple stipend positions, so Bahun would've had to resign from BSO to receive a stipend for the senate treasurer position.

Senator Matt Wilkinson, who also chairs the BSO, said he was comfortable letting Bahun take the position, even if it meant he had to find someone to take his place.

"I'm fully confident that we could find someone capable," Wilkinson said during discussion while the two candidates were out of the room.

No one had any doubt in either of the candidates' abilities; however, senators wanted to make sure that they were looking out for the entire Student Government Association, not just the senate.

A secret ballot was cast where Rose was elected by a majority vote. As the senate treasurer, she is now responsible for overseeing the

SGA's budget and advising other groups on financial matters.

In addition to filling the treasurer spot, two new senators were appointed to the senate. Scott Reiner and John Jackson joined the senate filling the empty seats left behind by former senators who were removed due to attendance issues this semester. The two new senators were elected by a nearly unanimous vote. Senator Jackson was appointed to the student affairs committee while Reiner was appointed to the public affairs committee. Both cited the recent budget deficit and dismissal of faculty last spring as reasons for joining the senate.

After the appointments, the senate spoke at length about increasing their presence on campus, speaking about ideas such as creating public profiles of themselves, creating a forum for students to voice their concerns without having to attend senate meeting and better tending to senate entities and student groups.

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“Love is an orientation” discussion space created

LGBTQ members and Christians talk it out

Francis Flisiuk
Managing Editor

In an effort to provide a comfortable and welcoming space for members of the LGBTQ community to explore and discuss their faith with other Christians, a six-week series of discussions has been planned, centered around the idea that “love is an orientation.”

Sarah Holmes, the assistant director of student life and diversity and coordinator of the center for sexualities and gender diversity, has teamed up with Reverend Rus Willette, the leader of the Christian Navigators group, to bridge the potential gap between these two communities that share a history of misunderstanding with each other.

According to Holmes, there are many students in Maine and across the country that are either gay and don’t feel welcome in their church, or are practicing Christians that are hesitant to come out due to social stigma. Sometimes people are targeted and roped into hurtful stereotypes, by those closest to them, like their friends and family.

“I have worked with gay and lesbian students over the years that come from strict, conservative backgrounds and did not gain the support of their family,” said Holmes. “They often use religion as the reason for their lack of support.”

Holmes believes that the source of discrimination comes from a mix of misunderstanding, fear and old traditions. Both Willette and Holmes have said that they absolutely understand that these issues can be very sensitive to some people. They are both working to ensure that whoever shows up to these meetings are made aware that they must come with a welcoming and inclusive attitude. The talks aren’t meant to be

a debate, but a discourse that will hopefully lead to increased understanding that love is the underpinning of our society.

“Love is what ties communities together,” said Holmes. “What love actually looks like is more important than what form it takes place in.”

Willette leads about 75 students in the group, the Navigators, where they participate in community, fellowship and Bible studies. This is the first year they’ll be meeting in the Center for Gender and Sexuality Diversity to discuss a mutual definition of love in a formal way. Willette said that despite being a Christian who’s accepting of non-traditional sexual identities, he still recognizes that these topics can be controversial.

“Having these types of conversations can be hard as the two sides will not always agree,” said Willette. “The key is to make sure no matter what is discussed, both ‘sides’ walk away from the table feeling cared for and not beat up.”

Holmes has said that, overall, Christian groups like the Navigators have evolved to become more accepting of queer folk.

Still there are Christians on campus that are less accepting of people from the LGBTQ community, but Holmes noted that most of the groups that harass gay students come from outside the community. Holmes mentioned the Westboro Baptist Church who has picketed at USM in the past, as well as Guy Hammond, the founder of Strength in Weakness Ministry, who preached last year that with proper faith you can “pray away homosexuality.”

“I get that a person’s religion is very important to them,” said Holmes. “But the search for a truly open and inclusive faith community is even more important.”

The Bible says that believers are supposed to love the sinner and hate the sin but according to the holy text, homosexuality is viewed as a “detestable” sin. The infamous passage in Leviticus 20:13 clearly condemns homosexuality by saying: “If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.” It’s this 2,100 year-old quote that has fueled discrimination against LGBTQ members in those that interpret the Bible literally and as an infallible, word-for-word truth.

Horace Jones, a student member of the Alpha Omega Christian Fellowship, said that no further interpretation of this passage is needed, because the Bible and its language makes it “plain and clear.”

“I do not believe that one can be a practitioner of the Christian faith while living that [LGBTQ] type of lifestyle,” said Jones. “Just like there are other ways that people live that Jesus would not approve of in those that follow him.”

Jones said that LGBTQ members can express their faith, but their sexual orientation does hinder their ability to fully commit to that faith.

Alpha Omega has not responded to inquiries and invitations about future “Love Is an Orientation” discussions.

Ryan Biggs, a junior theatre major, disagrees by citing another famous Bible quote, “love thy neighbor.”

“I believe that you don’t choose who you fall in love with, it just happens,” said Biggs. “I think people in general should be more accepting of everyone.”

Biggs is optimistic for the future of discussions like “Love Is an Orientation,” and said that it could really help people get to a higher place



Katelyn Wiggins / Free Press Staff

The door to the center for sexualities and gender diversity in the Woodbury Campus Center. This is where the weekly discussions are held. If they are well received Holmes hopes to take the event to Gorham.

of acceptance and understanding. And that’s exactly the hopes of the organizers and students too afraid to fully express their faith or sexuality, during this ongoing journey to end discrimination.

“What can we do to start to heal

some of the hurt that’s been done?” said Holmes. “People just need to focus on living with kindness, love and gratitude.”

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Admin yet to ease uncertainty in teach-out plan

Emma James
News Editor

Programs eliminated by the board of trustees are still waiting for administrative action to proceed with the enactment of a teach-out plan for students. Progress has been made, but uncertainty still remains.

According to Kent Ryden, professor and director of American and New England studies, the dean’s office sent out a letter to all current students asking if they plan to finish their degrees, and informing them that they would have two years to do so.

“The dean’s office has been able to plan out the sequence of required courses for students, but not the elective courses,” said Ryden. “They’ve just indicated that there will be elective courses available each semester, but at this point nobody knows what those elective courses will be, nobody knows who will be advising students on theses and independent studies and internships.”

Ryden indicated that the teach-out plan as it has been developed thus far has had no consultation with the ANES faculty.

“Our students are still left with a lot of questions and a lot of unknowns, and I’m still not able to answer them. It doesn’t seem like

their needs and interests were fully taken into account,” said Ryden. “A lot of our students are pretty upset.”

David Jester, a current ANES student, expressed concern at the uncertainty of it all.

“Since I’m doing a thesis track, it could take me a year and a half or even two to three years to finish,” said Jester. “When I entered the program we were supposed to be given six years to complete, so that would’ve allowed me until 2017. As of right now, it looks like they’re only giving us two years which goes against the student guidelines.”

Stephen Pollock, professor of geosciences, was unable to comment on the teach-out plan for his program, indicating that everything is “too preliminary” to release at this point.

“What happens ultimately rests in the upper ranks of the administration. The provost or president will eventually sign off,” said Pollock. “We may know something more after the provost releases his academic restructuring plans on Monday.”

Ryden attributes the uncertainty to a “poorly thought out elimination process.”

Ryden explained that it is possible to complete the program in two years, but many students are



Katelyn Wiggins / Free Press Staff

Kent Ryden, professor and director of American and New England studies, expresses concern in the lack of consultation with ANES faculty by the dean’s office in regard to the teach-out program.

nontraditional or part time and only take a class or two per semester. A student in this demographic may require the allotted six years for completion.

“If this is the case, I feel the students have legal recourse. When I entered this program I entered under the auspices that I had six years to graduate,” said Jester. “Theses take a long time, sometimes longer than just a semester. I feel like they did this very brashly and they

wanted to do this without thinking and just want people to lay down and play dead.”

If Ryden was involved in the teach-out plan process, he explained, he would take into account the needs of the students more.

“I would try to involve the students in the process or at least get a good sense of what would work best for them and would try to bring more specificity to the teach

out plan,” said Ryden. “That is, eliminate a lot of the uncertainty. Establish what the faculty resources would be and what the curricular resources will be.”

“I’ve already invested enough of my life’s money into this,” said Jester. “I would definitely be seeking legal action if I was not allotted the amount of time promised.”

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USM to host teach-in focusing on ISIS activity

Sam Hill
Editor-in-Chief

The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, commonly referred to as ISIS, has made headlines around the world recently for making violent threats against the United States and its allies, and the beheading of two American journalists.

On Wednesday, the office of Multicultural Students Affairs is hosting a teach-in for the public, focusing on the political and militant atmosphere in Middle Eastern countries, the history of unrest and violence in those areas and how ISIS activities are affecting the global community.

“Part of the mission of any higher learning institution is to train tomorrow’s leaders and global citizens, and in order to produce that, you have to make them aware of this larger world that exists beyond their own country,” said Reza Jalali, coordinator of the office.

The teach-in will include a panel consisting of Jalali, Ali Abdullatif Ahmida, a professor of political

science at the University of New England, Senem Aslan, an assistant professor of politics at Bates College and Ali Al Mshakheel, a journalist formerly based in Iraq, where he wrote for the Times of London and ABC News.

Each panelist is scheduled to speak briefly about their views on ISIS, Middle Eastern history and the possibility of direct U.S. intervention before opening up to take questions from the audience. Jalali says the goal is to provide students and the community with a forum to ask questions, raise concerns and learn more about the conflict.

“We try to create a safe-zone so that people can ask any questions they want, because they’re not going to be judged,” said Jalali. “Not all learning takes place in the classroom — some of it happens in hallways, in student groups, some in lecture halls — and this is one place where people can just walk in and get some information for free.”

Jalali said that he wants students to understand that while this violence and conflict is happening far



Sokvonny Chhouk / Design Director

from the U.S., it can easily still impact them.

We’re not asking you to take sides, but regardless of how you feel, if there’s a conflict out there you may be called there to fight for your country or the price of gas may go up at home,” said Jalali. “As part of this global community, what happens there impacts us here.”

Aslan suggested that students explore a wide range of news sources to fully understand what’s happening regarding ISIS activities.

“They can read newspapers that have reporters on the ground in the region. They can read foreign newspapers to get a sense of how U.S. actions are affecting other countries or how they are perceived by citizens of the Middle East and beyond,” she wrote in an email to the Free Press.

Jalali said he hopes that discussion will lead toward the history of the situation as well, noting that widespread terrorist groups do not simply sprout up overnight.

“Students should start to develop that historical consciousness about U.S. foreign policy because today’s decisions will continue affecting their lives in the years to come,” wrote Aslan. “The problems that we face today in Iraq and Syria have a lot to do with the U.S. occupation in Iraq in 2003, for example.”

Recent polls from NBC News and the Wall Street Journal show that 72% of Americans believe that the U.S. will send combat troops overseas against ISIS militants, even though President Barack Obama has spoken against it on many occasions. Jalali said that he feels while Americans are willing

to send armed forces into Syria, most don’t know where Syria is.

“To me that is horrible, because we ask our brave young men and women in uniform to go fight this war, but we don’t bother ourselves to know where we’re sending them,” said Jalali. “We’ve kind of divided these countries into friends, foes and people we really don’t care about. With that kind of generalization and stereotyping, events like this [the teach-in] become really important.”

The teach-in will be held in the Woodbury Campus Center amphitheater from 11:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday and there will be light snacks available.

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“ We ask our brave young men and women in uniform to go fight this war, but we don’t bother ourselves to know where we’re sending them. ”

Reza Jalali, Coordinator of the Multicultural Student Affairs

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Students demand earlier bus

Brian Gordon
Contributer

The 8:45 bus that runs from Woodbury Campus Center in Portland to Gorham is often late getting students back to the dorms.

A quick search on MaineStreet yielded nine classes that end at 7 p.m. or just after, forcing those students who are heading home in Gorham to wait nearly two hours, as they miss the 7 p.m.

Waiting in the warmth of Woodbury Campus Center was Lydia Kaply, a freshman nursing major. She had been waiting for the bus since 7 p.m. Her anatomy and physiology class was supposed to go until 7:55 p.m. but her professor often cuts them early.

She noted that there’s a lot of classes that conclude at seven and those students miss the bus ride home scheduled for 7 p.m.

Kaply was joined by Niko Milanoski, a freshman accounting

major, who waited an hour for the 8:45 p.m. bus to bring him back to Gorham. His astronomy class ends at 7:50 p.m. and he settles in for a good hour wait twice a week.

Joy Pufhal, dean of students, was receptive to student complaints. She said that the seven p.m. bus would become the 7:10 bus, beginning Oct. 6.

Kyrie Ovady, president of the Queer Straight Alliance, and a junior media studies major, said the group has to plan their meetings around the bus schedule.

Alena Kiel, a senior liberal studies major who joined the group said that USM ought to call the bus the 8:55 because that’s when it usually shows up.

“It’s a long time on a dark bus with bad music,” said Gabby Bousquet, a freshman nursing major. She also added that there was a lot of confusion as to why the bus stopped at the mall on its commute to Gorham.

No one waiting for the bus

could remember anyone ever getting on or off the bus at that stop. The driver just stops and doesn’t even open the door.

“If there is no longer student interest [at the mall stop] I do not see a reason to provide the service,” said Pufhal. She also added that the stop would be made on a request basis. “It is easy to identify students who wish to be dropped off at the Maine Mall, but more challenging, although not impossible, to set up a system to know if anyone is waiting at the Maine Mall to be picked up and brought back to campus.”

Regarding the overall lateness of the bus, Pufhal said she would pass along the complaint to those in charge and hopefully fewer students are seen waiting in the dark.

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Police Beat

*Selections from the
USM Department of
Public Safety police
log September 24 to
September 30*

Wednesday, September 24

Amber alert

3:54 p.m. - Well Being Check. Checking on a student. Unable to locate. - Luther Bonney Hall, 85 Bedford St.

Thursday, September 25

That wacky tobacky

9:30 p.m. - Report taken for odor of marijuana. - Upton Hastings Hall, 52 Univeristy Way

Look out for ghost cars

9:51 p.m. - Motor vehicle stop. Warning for operating without headlights. - 149 State St.

Sunday, September 28

FIRE! FIRE! Ah wait, nope

6:03 a.m. - Fire alarm activation. System reset by Portland Fire Department. Facilities employee also responded to fix the issue. - Glickman Library - 314 Forest Ave

You only busted up my car, no problem

6:21 p.m. - Property damage only. Two vehicle accident. No report required. - G8 parking lot, 24 University Way

Snow in September?

9:36 a.m. - Summons issued to Rosanne M. Swiger, 65 of Portland for studded snow tires and failure to produce insurance. Warnings for failure to provide registration and inadequate brake light. - Parking garage, 88 Bedford St.

Monday, September 29

Go fight somewhere else

8:30 a.m. - Harassing communication, handled by officer. Verbal disagreement. Subjects moved along. - Glickman Library, 314 Forest Ave.

You’re supposed to stop at the giant, red sign

10:34 p.m. - Warning given for stop sign violation. - Costello Complex, 43 Campus Ave

Lucky lurker

2:17 p.m. - Suspicious Incident. Handled by Officer. - Upton Hastings Hall, 52 University Way

Extreme Hot Pockets

6:40 p.m. - Fire alarm activation for burnt food. - Upperclass Hall, 25 Husky Dr

I don’t like people playing on my phone!

8:15 p.m. - Harassing communication through phone. Report taken. - Upton Hastings Hall, 52 University Way.

Tuesday, September 30

Bums like reading too

3:55 p.m. - Suspicious scivity. Staff requested assistance with a patron. All set. - Glickman Library, 314 Forest Ave.

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

The technical side of stagecraft students



Elizabeth Friedman / Free Press Staff

Junior theatre major Megan Maguire and Professor Perry Fertig put together the backstage for USM's play, "The Well of Horniness." The people who work out back play an important role.

Elizabeth Friedman
Free Press Staff

While the audience is dazzled by sparkling costumes, complex lighting and actor antics on stage, some of the most important work happens behind the scenes.

USM Theatre Department produces a minimum of two shows per semester, and the students who work backstage contribute greatly to each theatrical success. A lot of the individuals who are working backstage love what they do, and plan on pursuing stagecraft as a future career.

"On some levels the most important thing about a play is finding the right look, or the right prop that can make the scene come together. This is just as important in comparison to the job of the

actors," said Callie Cox, a junior theatre major.

Sarah Kennedy, a senior theatre major, explained that the things she learned working with show productions have helped her obtain a set of skills that she can use out in the real world.

"I came into this department thinking I wanted to act. Even then I wasn't trained enough to do that yet. In the future, I will be able to pursue acting, but if that doesn't work out, I can pursue design, and if that doesn't work out, I can work backstage," said Kennedy.

This trend appeared common among the students who participate in the theatre productions. Martin Bodenheimer, a junior theatre major, also explains that before attending USM, he thought he would just pursue acting. Yet what

he learned was far beyond his expectations.

"Before college, I had never worked with any stage lighting equipment. Even though I want to pursue acting, I will probably end up working in a lighting shop somewhere. I'd rather work in the theater in some way than not," said Bodenheimer.

Megan Maguire, a junior theatre major, explained how USM doesn't make these students choose just one focus, but instead gives them a well-rounded education in all fields of theatre.

"In the real world you're not always going to be acting, so you will have to take another gig, and having another skill set is so important and essential to getting a career," said Maguire.

With the pressing concern of job

viability in the arts, many students find that the opportunity to gain new skills help them out in the long run.

"My resume is very well-rounded now because of this department. They got me an internship at the Maine State Music Theater," said Kennedy.

Though most of the students interviewed expressed an original interest in acting, some students found a new love for working backstage that has allowed them to broaden their horizons in the working industry.

"Originally I came in thinking I wanted to act. I still love acting, and I still want to do it, but I found a love for doing tech as well that I didn't know I had before and wouldn't have if we weren't required to take everything," said

Cox.

This shift in interest was most often attributed to the faculty, because students believe that the faculty is wholly responsible for allowing USM students to pursue their dreams.

"The faculty here at USM care about us not just as their students. They care about us as humans. They'll stop and ask how are you, and really want to know the answer," said Cox.

"All aspects of theatre helps you figure out who you are as a human being, while math and science can help explain it all further. I do what I love, and that is all that matters," said Kennedy.

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Digital exhibit packs a political message

Lily Kapiloff
Contributor

The new art exhibit called "Opposing Gestures" has made an appearance in both the Portland and Gorham campuses.

"Opposing Gestures" is the result of a collaboration between visiting artists Sama Alshaibe and Joseph Farbrook. The artists describe their collaboration as an inter-media exploration of political, existential and personal dilemmas demonstrated through individual human gesture and motion.

The collaboration "DIATRIBES, A Decade Later" on the Portland campus, utilizes four old-style televisions to broadcast simultaneous interviews and news bulletins covering the U.S.-led invasion on Iraq with updated commentary by the artists discussing each others' works and how the context has changed socially and politically since the project began ten years ago.

Director of Exhibitions and Programs, Caroline Eyler, said that she wants to spread awareness about USM's digital media concentration and inspire students about the possibilities that are out there for this kind of career. She also explained

“They’re really probing at what it means to be human.”

Caroline Eyler, Director of Exhibitions and Programs

that both artists experiment between the labels of fine art and digital media. She specifically mentioned how Farbrook likes to infiltrate other systems.

"He made an e-ghost for match.w.com which is just a fake profile. He hacked and reprogrammed Kindle technology to make images that move but don't emit light," said Eyler. "He really has an inventor quality about him."

Some students on campus are finding the presentation of the exhibit difficult to absorb. The personal, political and existential questions raised in this exhibit are likely to illicit a range of reactions from students.

Winston Boyle, a sophomore physics major, believes that viewing the exhibit in the environment it was presented makes people feel like they are just watching a regu-

lar news broadcast. However, some students disagree with this statement.

"I think it has a lot to do with what people want to see. It's a little difficult to watch all that at once. You just get used to that kind of stuff after a while and you tune it out," said Ella Field, a senior chemistry major.

Eyler offered advice for students who want to take in the exhibits on a deeper level. "Just sit in the space and relax; let the overall effects sink it. Look at the individual ones, see what you think about them, then just sit back and hear the sounds and the music. They're really probing at what it means to be human. The exhibit works on a lot of different levels. There's a lot left for the viewer to sort out."

"We are inviting everyone to share their personal reactions to be-



Sam Hill / Editor-In-Chief

The Gorham campus art exhibit is located in Woodbury Campus Center

come a larger part of the artwork," said Eyler.

On the Portland campus, there will be a community response wall that will allow community members to share written or visual response. Some of the responses will be posted on the wall alongside the artists' work and also on the USM Art Gal-

lery's website. According to Eyler, the community response wall aims to create a safe place for discussion, analysis and the sharing of personal stories that are well thought out and respectful.

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Film Review

Manhattan Film Festival: One world, one week



Manhattan Film Festival

Sergey Miller
Free Press Staff

The Manhattan Short Film Festival happens annually and includes 10 short films that have been selected out of thousands from around the world. The idea is to present these short films to an audience who cast votes and pick their particular favorite overall as well as their favorite actor or actress.

The headquarters of this event is located in New York City, but theaters on continents, such as Europe and Australia, are involved in hosting this event in many of their respective states and countries.

Focusing on only five of the short films shown at Nickelodeon Theater in Portland, this film fes-

tival is definitely worth attending from anywhere in the world.

One of the first films shown, titled 97%, was directed by Netherlands filmmaker Ben Brand. The film tells the story of a lonely man on a train who has an app on his smartphone which finds people who are, relationship wise, compatible with his personality. While searching on the train for a future girlfriend, the phone gives many descriptions of the person's physical attributes and how far away they are from his cell phone. He discovers that technology can be a blessing as well as a curse, even when an app can give 97% accuracy as to who one should be dating. He fails to see what is right before his very eyes, leading to a misrecognition of a real love for one he is suppose to be going after.

Mend and Make Do tells a love story in a new way but has all the charm of nostalgic romance. Directed by English filmmaker Bexie Bush, this is a moving and emotional masterpiece that uses everyday objects in a stop-motion orchestra of symphony. There are no actors but only animated objects which can be found in any home. The objects show a love story throughout time. In an original and refreshing way, this is a story concerning the relationship between Vincent and Lyn, two young lov-

ers who go through time, and the objects in their life.

The Bravest, The Boldest, directed by American filmmaker Moon Molson, tells of the emotional experience of two army officers' job in reporting the death of the main character's son who died for his country. The result shows every part of the human experience and emotion. What does it mean to deliver the message of death?

Last but not least, *Rhino Full Throttle* directed by German filmmaker Erik Schmitt, tells the love story about a man who has to find a unique way of telling a girl that he loves her. Through the help of love he discovers renewal and what it means to experience existence in the world. It is a story about paying attention to what is alive in a city and in the human heart.

Seeing the film festival spurs natural emotion, ignites the imagination and moves the heart. Experience the wonder of great short films for their independent vision and intellectual mind-bending, as well as to support the noble enterprise of artistic expression.

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Album Review

Lady Antebellum strays from the country norm



Capitol Nashville

Krysteana Scribner
Arts & Culture Editor

Last month, country band Lady Antebellum released their new album, 747, which features 11 different songs that focus on the topics of love, loss and important life lessons.

This band is well known for their songs such as "Need You Now" and "Just A Kiss" which were featured on their previous hit album *Golden*. This time around, the band wanted to create songs that not only stayed true to their original sound, but strayed away from their typical country songs and had a different variety of instruments than previously featured.

This album was written on the road and recorded during breaks in the band's 2014 headlining tour. 747 has less string instruments and more electric guitars, which makes for a unique combination with the

vocalists. Featuring upbeat lyrics and triple-stacked harmonies, Lady Antebellum keeps their old sounds alive while still adding that extra flair to keep their songs popular.

The album's hit single, "Bartender," reached number one on the "U.S. Country Airplay" in early September. This song tells the story of how one woman wants to forget a man who broke her heart, so she goes out to a bar with her friends in order to forget her sorrows. "Eight o'clock on Friday night I'm still at home / All my girls just keep on blowing up my phone / Saying come on he ain't worth the pain / Do what you gotta do to forget his name." This song features bass, drums and a banjo to create a unique combination that leaves listeners humming the tune all day.

Each song in this album was written using drums, bass and guitars rather than just piano or acoustic guitar, which overall allowed them to push themselves out of their comfort zone and write in a style that would allow them to stray away from their country norm.


Another song on their new album, "I Did With You," features the male vocalist Charles Kelly with accompaniment from the female vocalist Hillary Scott. Instruments such as piano, drums and the quiet strums of guitar are featured in this song, which creates an entrancing beat that feels genuine and true to the emotions portrayed in the lyrics. This song tells the story of two lov-

ers who are no longer together, and it is only after everything between them has fallen apart that they can fully understand the true meaning of love. "Love comes in circles / And love takes its own time / Bending and breaking, not taking a straight line / I never knew, I never loved timelessness and true / Oh, I did, yeah I did with you."

Another one of their hit songs, "Downtown," features guitarist Dave Haywood throughout the song as he plays a continuous, catchy beat. Kelly leads the song off with playful lyrics, and Scott harmonizes with her. Together, the two sing the lyrics that tell the story of one woman who is waiting for her man to show her off to the world after he continually lets her down on date nights. "I'm only counting on your cancellation, / When I should be counting on you at my door. / Did you forget about how we went around, / I don't know why you don't take me downtown anymore."

Overall, Lady Antebellum has figured out a way to make their music sound new and fresh without overdoing their typical country style sound. Their previous albums have delighted mainly country lovers, yet 747 leaves their comfort zone and allows for different audiences to see that not all country singers sound the same. These amazing songs are definitely worth a listen, for both country and pop fans alike.

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Local Top 5:

Ramen Upgrades

Abby Johnson-Ruuscansky / Design Assistant

Anastasia Muca
Contributor

For most college students, ramen can become a repetitive dinner dish. It's affordable, easy to make and easily fits in the small cupboards of our living spaces. However, there are ways you can upgrade your ramen that might bring some relief from the boring, culinary doldrums that is the cheap noodle dish.

1.) Nothing beats pad thai at Boda on Congress Street, but if you're in need of a quick fix, add a spoonful of deliciously smooth peanut butter to the noodles and broth. This instantly sweetens your ramen and thickens it into a pad thai style dish. Ginger, chocolate sauce, caramel or honey can give you that extra sugar rush when you're up all night studying for math class. These instant craving crushers will make your soup sweet and delicious, and it's definitely worth looking into for ambitious college students who are willing to try new things.

2.) For a more traditional dinner, try upgrading your ramen into a classic stir fry. Start by adding Chinese cabbage in your ramen for some added crunch. This oriental twist is a great way to sneak some protein and greens in your diet. You should first microwave your ramen for about three minutes. After that, strain your noodles and throw them in a pan. Feel free to mix in some extra vegetables and fry in some eggs. Once your ramen has fully cooked, sprinkle on the seasoning packet that comes with it and mix until fully absorbed by the vegetables and noodles. This combination makes for an excellent, protein enriched addition to any instant noodle dish.

3.) The leftover food sitting in your mini fridge can actually be used to make a brand new dish, making for a nice change of pace from the traditional ramen soup. You can add anything from leftover chicken nuggets to those kraft cheese singles that have been sitting in your fridge. Don't be shy with these items. Mix in shredded cheese, a bit of milk and you'll find that your ramen has a mac and cheese flavor. If you're in the mood for something rich in protein, add in slices of leftover pepperoni, ranch and pizza sauce for an interesting and delicious twist on your ramen. Even the combination of broccoli and cheese can create a unique version of noodle soup. One day you'll look back with nostalgia and disgust but also with subtle pride at your creative mashups.

4.) Sometimes all you need to do is add a little sauce to kick up the flavor of your ramen. If you're looking for a tangy, chinese-style ramen dish, adding soy sauce to your noodles can give your ramen that extra boost to make it that much tastier. If you're in the mood for something a little spicier, adding hot sauce and jalapenos can give your ramen that extra kick to keep things fresh and new. Buffalo sauce is just as hot, and adding some chicken in with the mix can make for an amazing experience for your tastebuds. If you want to add a little zest to your ramen, you can add lemon pepper seasoning, basil or curry powder to get the most flavor out of your food.

5.) Looking for an oddly unique twist to your favorite dishes, such as pizza and burgers? You can get creative by taking ramen from the package, add some pizza sauce, shredded cheese and toppings such as pepperoni and mushrooms, and put it in the oven at 350 degrees for five to eight minutes. This gives your pizza a crunchy twist that you'll be dying for your friends to try. Get even more creative and replace those buns on your hamburger with a ramen patty. Take ramen and put in a stir fry pan, lay a plate on the top until it cooks into a flat, round patty. Put on either side of your burger for a new twist on your favorite microwavable food.

The list of ingredients you can add to your ramen is endless, so next time you want something to eat that is both cheap and delicious, don't just settle for the little pack of flavor that comes with the noodles and try some of these ramen upgrades instead!

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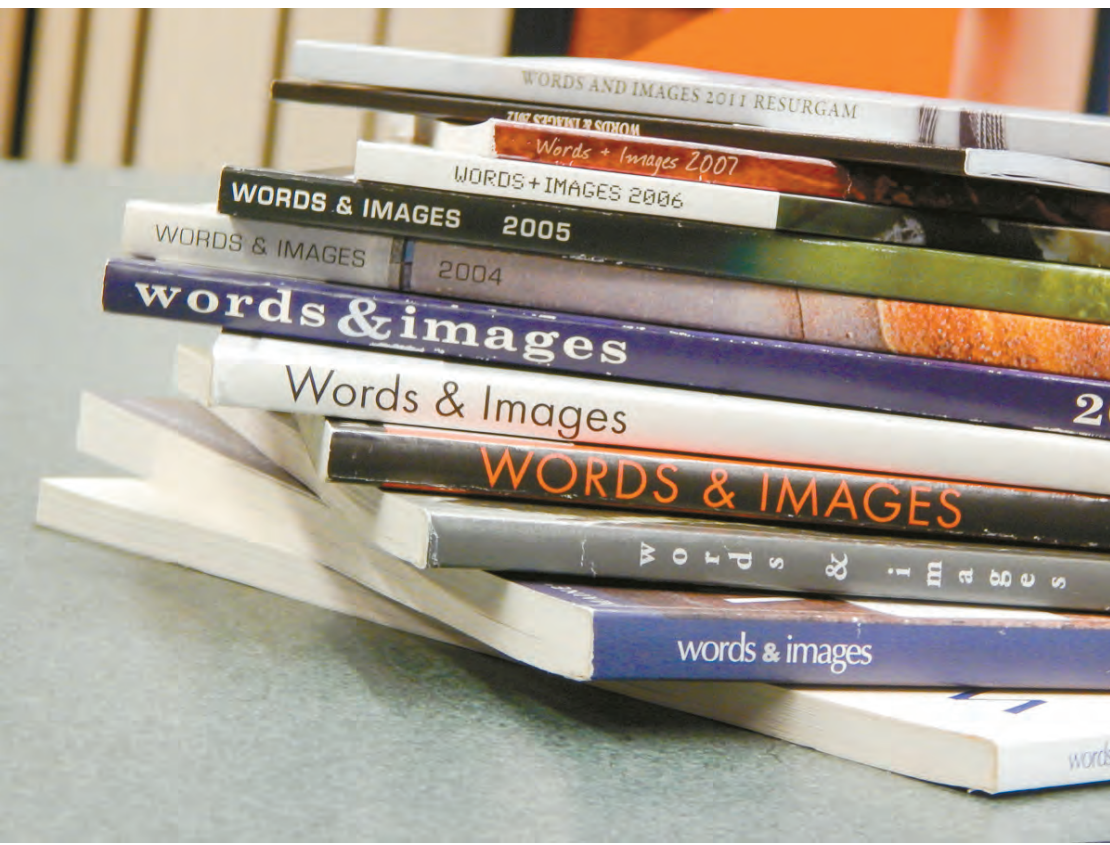
Have an idea for a ramen upgrade?
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Words and Images struggles to comeback



Krysteana Scribner / Arts & Culture Editor

Words and Images has put out a literary journal annually since 1998, which includes the work of USM students

Krysteana Scribner
Arts & Culture Editor

Words and Images USM's student literature and arts journal, lost all of its funding last semester, but Robert Perry, the student director of publication is determined to keep it going.

Over the years, Words and Images has published work from a variety of students, as well as added work by a variety of individuals in the Portland community. They have also featured a variety of famous individuals, such as novelists Richard Russo and Jen-

nifer Eagen, as well as filmmaker Todd Field.

However, when the Student Government Association decided that Words and Images needed to be cut, all creativity centered around this journal ceased to exist.

Perry became involved with Words and Images as a new writer. He attended one of their release parties in 2013, where previous director Katherine Hannigan offered him the position.

"Katherine warned me before she handed off the position that the student government had a

general dislike for our program," said Perry.

"Our literature and arts journal has published all kinds of work. Fiction, non-fiction, art, you name it. However, the loss of funding has us in a tight spot. They didn't tell me they were planning on cutting our budget entirely until one of our senate meetings last year," said Perry.

Without funding, Perry explains that it would be difficult to continue publishing Words and Images, and for that reason, he has had trouble trying to figure out what steps to take without funding to

back it up.

"We used to have contests for writers, and we used to pay our contributors. Since our funding was slashed from \$10,000 per year to zero, we'll just have to see what happens. I even offered to give up my stipend in order to raise more funding, but they just wouldn't budge," said Perry.

"From what I understand, the student government cited that a lot of the money was going to non-students. They want us to be a USM exclusive journal. That just wouldn't work. I can count all the USM student submissions from last year on one hand, and that just wouldn't bring enough content in to make our literary journal successful," said Perry.

According to Perry, Words and Images has the ability to continue publishing their work, but it would require the SGA to give back at least half their budget.

According to Justin Tussing, an English professor and the previous faculty advisor for Words and Images, the decision to cut the program entirely is a big loss for all students on campus.

"It has always been about making connections across the community, and the loss of Words and Images also means the loss of its proud history. I just don't understand the politics behind it," said Tussing.

Senate chair of the SGA Joshua Dodge says that the budget cuts were necessary with the university's six percent drop in enrollment this year. The decision to cut certain programs wasn't easy for the senate, but it was something that had to be done.

"Our treasurer at the time, Tyler Boothby, proposed we needed to make drastic cuts to combat the drop in enrollment. In addition

to Words and Images, we also cut Student Legal Services, so it wasn't like we were singling out any one program," said Dodge.

When asked why the program's funding was cut entirely, Dodge replied, "The senate made the final decision at the end of the last academic year. Words and Images's budget was just so small that we couldn't see ourselves trimming their funds and having it still be functional."

Another reason that Words and Images was considered for budget cuts was because of their decision to pay student activity fee money to non-USM students.

"I'm not throwing anyone under the bus here, but our constitution says that student activity fee money cannot be paid to non-students. There is record of payments being made to non-students. That is something we kind of wanted to end as well," said Dodge.

Although Words and Images is no longer a student group here at USM, Perry talked about trying to get the literary journal up and running again by trying to find ways to get fundraising and donations that the program needs.

"I haven't done much. It's hard to find the motivation after losing all the funding. However, I am determined to keep it going, and I will do whatever it takes to get the program running again," said Perry.

Both Perry and Tussing said that they aren't sure what the future of Words and Images holds. Although both want to try and resurrect the program, they aren't completely sure what steps they will take next in order to continue creating this literary journal.

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Arts & Culture Recommends: The Banned Books Film Series

Sydney Donovan
Free Press Staff

Every Thursday throughout the month of October, Portland Public Library will be holding an event celebrating banned books and the topic of censorship located at the Rine's Auditorium. This event is the fourth annual Banned Book Film Series that will be showing film adaptations based on famous pieces of literature that were once banned or are still banned in places such as schools. It is a celebration of intellectual freedom and the bravery of the authors who wrote literature with controversial topics.

Patti Deloious, assistant cultural team leader at the Portland Public Library, said that the series was created to draw attention to banned books and to generate interest in the books themselves.

"We hope this event will stimulate discussion about issues of censorship. Part of our purpose as a public library is to make these materials available so that people can judge them for themselves," said Deloious.

There will be a variety of films shown at the series including adaptations of *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini, *Sophie's Choice*, by William Styron, *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding and *The*

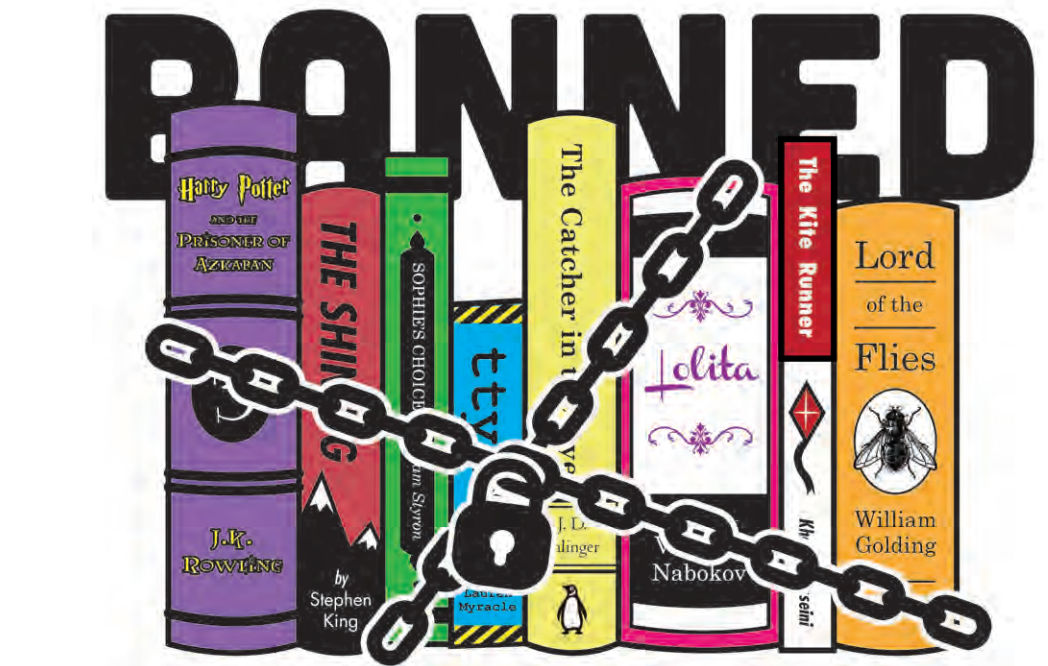
" This kind of censorship causes individuals to avoid probing or exploring certain areas of the human experience. "

Patti Deloious, Assistant cultural team leader at the Portland Public Library

Shining, by Stephen King. All of these stories express the dark recesses of the human heart.

Deloious highly encouraged USM students to attend at least one of the screenings and said that these films being shown question everyone's critical thinking skills.

"I would recommend this event to students for several reasons. First of all, these are great films, based on excellent books, and they are worth seeing for that reason alone, but more importantly, students should understand that whenever someone challenges a book, film or any work of art, they are challenging your intellectual freedom. They are trying to deny your right to view what you want and to form your own opinions about what you view," said Deloious



Ellen Spahn / Designer Assistant

Many of the books banned often contain explicit content that may be taken offense to both the parent or the younger individual reading them. However, Deloious believes that if censors are allowed to rule, then artists and students alike might begin to self-censor.

"This kind of censorship causes individuals to avoid probing or exploring certain areas of the human

experience for fear of arousing controversy," said Deloious.

This event revolves around the idea that people, in general, should take advantage of their freedom of the allowance to read and watch whatever they want without limitations, and to be able to tap into all aspects of the human experience.

This event is recommend for anyone interested in the issue of

censorship and for those who hold a love for literature and film. It is completely free to the public, and the library strongly hopes that, after seeing these films, discussion will be generated to share with family and friends later on.

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A&C Listings

Monday, October 6

Sculpture Garden Invitational
UNE Art Gallery
716 Stevens Ave.
Starts: 4:00 p.m. / Ends: 6:00 p.m.

Longfellow Shorts: An evening with Susan Conley
Portland Stage
25A Forest Ave.
Starts: 7:00 p.m. / Ends: 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 7

Mark Johnson Paintings
CIA Cafe
72 Ocean St. South Portland
Starts: 7:00 a.m. / Ends: 5:00 p.m.

John Sinclair Poetry Reading
Bull Feeney's
375 Fore St.
Starts: 7:30 p.m. / Ends: 10:30 p.m.

Full Moon Ghost Tour
Wicked Walking Tours
1 Bell Buoy Park, Commercial St.
Starts: 8:00 p.m. / Ends: 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 8

Portland Farmers Market
22 Monument Square
Starts: 7:00 a.m. / Ends: 1:00 p.m.

David Beam & The Custom House Gang Blues and Bluegrass
Andy's Old Port Pub
94 Commercial St.
Starts: 8:00 p.m. / Ends: 11:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 9

Live Acoustic Music Nightly
Andy's Old Port Pub
94 Commercial St.
Starts: 7:00 p.m.

Friday, October 10

"Brighton Beach Memoirs" by Neil Simon
Portland Stage Company
25A Forest Ave.
Starts: 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 11

Portland Pirates vs. Providence
Cross Insurance Arena
45 Spring St.
Starts: 7:00 p.m.

International Heritage Music Festival
Mayo Street Arts
10 Mayo St.
Starts: 8:00 p.m. / Ends: 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 12

Fall Harvest Weekend
Maine Railroad Company & Museum
58 Fore St.
All Day Event

Avenue Q Show Review

Krysteana Scribner
Arts & Culture Editor

From Sept. 19 to Oct. 4, the raunchy puppet show *Avenue Q* made its debut at Lyric Music Theater on Sawyer Street in South Portland. This unique puppet-filled comedy aimed at adult audiences left people sorting through a variety of emotions, from sadness to hysterical laughter that couldn't be tamed.

This musical told the story of a recent college graduate named Princeton, who moved into a shabby New York apartment on *Avenue Q*. There, he met the lovely Kate, as well as the rest of his neighbors who helped him discover his purpose in life.

Located in the front of the stage, two sign language interpreters used puppets to sign to the deaf audience, which made the experience open and intriguing to all audience members.

The cast of 11 actors performed at an expert level and their quality of sound effects and precision on stage made for an amazing theater experience. The topics in the show touched upon what life is like after college and how to discover who you truly are. In scene one, "What Do You Do With a BA in English" had audiences daydreaming back to their college days, as Princeton talked about how his degree has given him few skills and little opportunity in the real world.

Princeton fell in love with his neighbor Kate, who believed her purpose in life is to create a school for just monsters. This topic led into the song, "Everyone's a Little Bit Racist," where the neighborhood came together and admitted that even when they don't mean to be, they made judgemental as-

sumptions that can affect the way they treat people.

As Princeton tries to sort out his own problems, his neighbors Nikki and Rod argued over whether or not Rod was gay. "If You Were Gay" had the two come together and discuss that no matter their sexuality, they will always be friends.

Side characters, such as Trekkie, the porn obsessed monster, often made hilarious side comments that felt both appropriately placed and random enough to make audiences burst out into laughter.

Three of the characters in this play didn't use puppets. Christmas Eve and Brian were the bickering married couple who often helped the puppet characters during times of stress. The landlord, Gary Coleman (who in real life was known for his successful childhood acting career) also played a role in helping the puppets find their true meaning in life.

As the play progressed, controversial subjects such as racism, homosexuality and Schadenfreude (taking pleasure in others' pain) are discussed through song, and a disturbing display of puppet intercourse had the audience both laughing and cringing.

Molly Harmon, who played the role of Kate Monster in *Avenue Q*, believes that the success of the show goes not only to the actors, but to the manager, puppet builder, lighting staff and sound board operator.

"This play was a blast, and I am super glad I got to be a part of the show. Everyone in the cast did an amazing job, and although this wasn't the first show I've been in that involved puppets, it was definitely the most rewarding one,"

said Harmon.

Each scene change was quick and well done, and actors made facial expressions according to how their puppets were feeling, which made for a surreal experience and a more realistic show.

This performance was amazing because no matter what the subject, the dialogue kept audiences in good humor until the end. The mature content over love, sex and finding ourselves in the midst of it all kept audiences on their toes in wonder where Princeton and his friends were headed in life and what kind of things the future had in store for the characters.

Through all of these difficult topics of discussion, the actors and actresses held it together and performed a play that felt both genuine and comical.

At the end of the performance, audience members stood for an applause that lasted well beyond the end of the show. Anyone who had the chance to see this play left the Lyric Music Theater with a new outlook on the world of puppetry and acting.

Throughout the months of November, February, April and June, Lyric Music Theater will be hosting other shows, such as *Oliver!* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Even Trying*. If you missed out on *Avenue Q*, then plan on attending one of these other amazing plays.

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Perspectives

Our opinion: *USM needs to keep impacting programs, not just money-makers*

Last week President Flanagan was appointed as a member of the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce, which he hopes will help in bringing in ideas of community engagement and closer professional relationships with businesses and companies in the region at large.

Flanagan urged the attendees to invest in USM and realize that there is a lot of potential to unlock with the UMaine system's academic resources as a whole. The seven colleges in the UMaine system each have their own individual academic strengths and weaknesses but it seems that the administration wants to compile all the resources into one searchable, educational community. Flanagan's vision sees a future where an employer looking for a skilled laborer can access a statewide portfolio that provides a list of services from certain departments, no matter where they are in the state.

It would also be incredibly beneficial for a students learning experience if they could log onto a website, and have access to the best programs and teachers, even if they are on a completely different campus. Our rapidly progressing technology could certainly make this

digital academic portal a reality, we just don't want it to replace actual interactions between professors and students, because that's where the real learning usually happens. Technology can make learning a lot more accessible, but don't turn USM into a "Netflix University" where you can earn a degree by lying in your bed eating Doritos.

We think it's important for USM and the rest of the schools in the system to become a more critical option when employers are looking for workers to fill up their job openings. During a four year experience at college, a lot of students have a hard time truly realize what kind of career they should forge. If outside employers spend more time tabling on campus, sponsoring career related events and offering more internships and work-study jobs, it could make the transition between graduation and the real world a lot less terrifying.

USM does need to be engaged with the greater Portland community, we just hope that the nature of the engagement doesn't solely benefit potential employers and that it takes students goals and ambitions into considerations.

Flanagan said that his new business model involves concentrating on "purer" areas like science, technology, engineering and the health professions because those academic departments foresee the most job growth. We hope that USM isn't choosing its academic focus solely based on entrepreneurial goals.

Let's not forget about the academic departments that so many students are so deeply passionate about: arts, classics, history, theatre and women and gender studies, to name a few. These focuses help make Portland prosperous, vibrant and interesting. Just because you can't attach a dollar amount to this kind of community engagement doesn't mean it's not worthwhile. Portland's got a vibrant creative community, so let's not minimize that curriculum just because some other areas are more profitable.

We hope that the administration finds a way to include the value of liberal arts and related programs into their income and expense reports and that it influences their decisions come time to eliminate programs and layoff staff and faculty.

Our Opinion is written by the Free Press editorial board.



INVEST IN USM

A weekly forum for USM voices to identify opportunities to join together, think creatively, reorganize our priorities, and help USM and the entire UMaine System prosper and grow stronger to serve all Mainers and their communities.

Why I resigned from senate

Nick Marcketta
Contributor

As of last Friday, September 27, I was no longer a Student Senator. I resigned, in truth because I could not bring myself to attend Senate meetings any longer.

I chose to become involved with USM's Student Senate at the height of campus wide hysteria last spring, following the graceful budgetary maneuvers inflicted our faculty, our staff, and our already battered student body. Vaishali Mangain, the greatest teacher I have ever had the privilege to know, was among the retrenched faculty. Vaishali had helped to show me some of my own potential, and to get over a fear of math that otherwise may have dictated my choice in major.

It wasn't long after the forty-third USM Student Senate convened for its first meetings, however, that I learned that its makeup was not an accurate representation of the USM's diverse and dynamic student body. Instead I found our Student Senate to be a rather cliquey, and exclusive club. New ideas seemed meant to stroke the egos of the members of the Executive Board, and suggestions and even questions were noticeably unwelcome.

At one of our first meetings the 43rd Senate voted to eliminate Student Legal Services in favor of "more dances and BBQs." Words

fail to express the disappointment in Student Leadership that I felt that day. Student Legal Services filled a great need for students in trouble and not, and represented one of the standard perks enjoyed by university students. But, in the words of one Senator, "Why should I pay for someone else's problems when I can have another dance?" I was joined by a small minority in opposition to this irresponsible elimination, but we were overruled.

As time progressed I watched as the money from Student Activity Fees—money paid by all USM students—was funneled away from meaningful and intelligent student groups, activities, and resources, and channeled instead into BBQs, parties, and events that were disproportionately interesting to a select and small group. New and restrictive rules were implemented in procedures that must be followed by student groups to request Student Activity Funds from the Senate. New requirements that student groups fund raise twenty percent of any requested funding, if in place last year, would have meant fewer intellectually important events for dedicated student groups. There was even mention of firing long-term staff who are employed within the Student Senate's budget, in favor of still more dances. All this time, the administration was meeting with the e-board to get an idea of "how the student body was feeling," when this

was perhaps the least accurately representative group of students on the entire campus. I have never before seen such flagrant disregard for the wellbeing of others and for social institutions that promote a healthy social whole in favor of narrow and personal interests with little regard or benefit for most of the diverse community at USM.

So I quit. I knew that I could be more useful elsewhere.

Within USM's Student Senate I saw in action a rhetoric of selfishness that is currently threatening the very wellbeing of our social collective. This is the kind of rhetoric that is operative through a subtle but divisive change in the language of thought and action, from "we" and "our" to "me" and "mine"—a destructive change that teaches people to fear and resent one another, rather than to see themselves and their peers (all people) as assets.

Rather than excitedly dreaming of what we might build together, those inhaling the fumes of this new rhetoric seem only to be looking to protect what they have at the expense of the greater whole. Unwittingly, however, they are constantly darkening the skies of their own dreams and undermining their own communities.

Without each other, we all have nothing. It is that simple. The USM Student Senate should be about us and all of our well being; not about me and what I want.

Nick Marcketta is a USM student and former student senator.

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Adventures in the Winchester Cathedral

Martin Conte
Free Press Staff

It's been three weeks since I arrived in Winchester, and yet it took until today for me to sufficiently explore Winchester Cathedral, the skyscraping Anglican church that has sat in the city's center since 1066 A.D and was made famous by the 1960's chart-topping song of the same name. Joining a group of students from Uni, and graciously led by two fearless senior guides, I embarked on "the tower climb," an adventure as dramatic and intriguing as a Game of Thrones episode.

We started with a walk across the length of the cathedral itself, stepping over gravestones set in the floor from the past millennium, including the final resting place of novelist Jane Austen. Somewhere, hidden in the cloisters, the organist diligently practiced, filling the hall with the strains of sacred music. He was accompanied by the rattles and bangs of a construction crew, as the church is currently undergoing a two year, multi-million pound (that's currency, not weight) project of renovation and reconstruction. After a brief discussion of the origins of the building's aesthetic, and its history of changing design, the guides ushered the nine of us through a door shorter and almost as thin as me. Up a spiral staircase we walked, on stone steps not wide enough for my entire foot to fit, with orange extension cords leading to small lights every ten yards or so.

The staircase was literally so narrow, the most stable way of walking up it was to lean oneself against the center column, and extend a steady-ing hand to the opposite wall. Up we went, until we entered the first level of our tour: the belltower.

Winchester cathedral boasts sixteen bells, many of them dating back to the 17th century. The bells are rung manually every quarter hour, and some of them weigh nearly six tons! The room we stood in had been rebuilt in the past century, as the weight of the bells combined had begun to cause structural decay. Not exactly the best news to hear after climbing up a dizzying staircase! When the bells need refurbishing or repair, they are actually lowered through a circular opening in the church's ceilings to the floor below. Additionally, the bells are engraved with the title of each new monarch, which meant that, during the tumultuous overturn of the crown in 1936, the bells were engraved three times. Edward the VIII's name, as he had only reigned as king for less than a year before abdicating, was actually crossed out.

We were shepherded further up the staircase, past a few slitted windows, the walls closing smaller and smaller, before a door the height of a crawlspace opened before us into clear air. We had ascended to the height of the Cathedral Tower.

From this viewpoint, I could at last see the whole of the city of Winchester, laid out before me. To the south, we could make out the chimneys of a factory town near

the shore. To the East, the rolling hills of "the Downs," which I'm sure I will describe to you in a later blog post, as soon as I can go hiking through them! To the North and West, the city, made up of rows and rows of slender streets and well-preserved, centuries old, houses. Winchester, with a population of just under 40,000, is nevertheless about a tenth of the size of our Portland. Like most of England, it's population is condensed and packed into homes literally falling on top of each other, not in a claustrophobic way, but comfortably, cozily. Unlike Portland, Winchester does not sprawl. It's city limits are strictly defined by rolling hills and farmlands, cut by a few major roads and the railway. Yet, within its streets, the city is packed with good food, plenty of theatre and artistic involvement, and wonderful outdoor markets erected nearly every day.

A bird's eye view of any location constantly reminds me how much there is yet to explore, and how easily one can overlook such opportunities in one's own neighborhood. I certainly have seen little of Portland, and don't know each of its unique and hip streets. While I look forward to seeing more of London, as well as Paris, Berlin, Rome, and Athens during my stay in Europe, I also look forward to seeing the local, and meeting the people of Winchester for who they are, not as subjects of the kingdom, or as residents of England, but as people, the people of our beloved Winchester.

Just such an example of the lo-



Martin Conte / Free Press Staff

The Winchester Cathedral

cal colour presented it to me later that afternoon, as I sat in a coffee shop and ate dinner. An enormous man, with an enormous white beard, dressed in hawaiian shorts and an undershirt, came lumbering up the street step by step. As he came closer, I (as well as the other pedestrians he passed) could see that he was barefoot, his heavy feet blackened by the cobblestones. He stepped through the door of the shop where I sat, and bellowed in a voice straight from Dickens, "good evening, darlings!" He was Paul, a local, and apparently a common face at this particular cafe. He was charming, eccentric, and vocal. We know these characters in Portland;

they're universal.

Finishing my trip to the cathedral was a fantastic treat. I got the chance to participate in the cathedral's Evensong, a short, daily ceremony of prayer. Tonight, the celebration was led by a visiting boy's choir, who filled the church with truly magnificent music. A reminder that, as I have stated before, the U.K is privileged to have a history constantly alive, and carefully preserved, for future generations. I go to sleep with those miracle voices. Until next time.

Martin Conte is a senior English major currently studying abroad at the University Winchester and loving it.

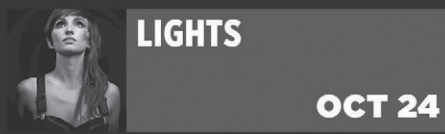
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Crossword

Across

1. Edge

5. To a point

10. One-fifth of MMCCCLV

14. Make over.

15. John of Jamestown

16. "Moses und ____"

17. Shorthaired cat breed

19. Knotty swelling

20. Panchen's superior

21. Eminence

23. Hunchbacked assistant

26. Prodded

27. Right on, musically

32. Japanese restaurant vegetable

33. Sunder

34. Curly cabbages

38. Narrow cleft

40. Slew

42. Word processing command

43. Musical scale letters

45. Signet

47. TV classic "The ____ Erwin Show"

48. A "Citizen Kane" co-star

51. Bring forth as evidence

54. Place to get bargains on B'way shows

55. Explains

58. Jacket material

62. "____ She Lovely": Stevie Wonder hit

63. Planter without hired hands

66. Boba ____ (character in "Star Wars" films)

67. Fox and Goose star

68. Don formerly of morning radio

69. Quartet, after a defection

70. Japanese metropolis

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20							21			22				
			23		24	25			26					
27	28	29					30	31						
32				33					34		35	36	37	
38			39		40				41		42			
43				44		45				46		47		
			48		49					50				
51	52	53						54						
55						56	57			58		59	60	61
62					63			64	65					
66					67						68			
69					70						71			

Down

71. Fill to repletion

1. Pitt of "Ocean's Eleven"

2. 1986 CMA Entertainer of the Year McEntire

3. Brief amour

4. Fancy floor, maybe

5. Mr., in Madras

6. Ending for ball or bass

7. Cook the other side of

8. A fair piece

9. Goof, at bridge

10. Bach choral creations

11. Data, for one

12. Elk's place

13. "____ a vacation!"

18. "____, short and infrequent, were exhaled": Eliot

22. "Pow!"

24. Newspaper section

25. Touch up

27. Spotless

28. "That's clear, man"

29. Sarcophagus

30. Immerse again

31. Alarm

35. Desperately needing a map

36. One-named art deco master

37. Bedazzle

39. Make changes for

41. Carter or Charles

44. Places where lines meet

46. Heaps of, slangily

49. Children's author/illustrator Maurice

50. "Oy vey!" elicitor

51. Have ____ of gab

52. Nurse, vis-a-vis medication

53. Prefix meaning "tooth"

56. Itty-bitty

57. "... ____ I'm told"

59. Peel in "The Avengers"

60. OT book

61. Celt

64. ____ offensive (1968 Vietcong attack)

65. Big hairdo, for short

Sudoku

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

2	3		7		6			
7	5		4		2			
						4		
	3	2	1		4			
	4				6			
	2		3	8	9			
5								
	1		8		5	2		
4	9		5		7			

					2			
7		8	4		9			
	4	3					7	
			1	7	3			
			2		3			
		1		6	8			
2			8			4	9	
		9			6	7	8	
	6							

Cryptogram

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

QAVIW WTB T RTO ETW
MNMH VNLHW. OETO'W
MAOENMX TO TVV. T
QDAX RDIW HLHDB
MNXEO!

And here is your hint:

O = T

The solution to last issue's crossword

A	L	T	S		A	T	P	A	R		T	A	M	P			
S	E	R	T		B	R	O	M	O		U	B	E	R			
S	H	E	E	T	M	U	S	I	C		R	A	Y	E			
N	I	T	R	E		T	R	O	U	N	C	E	S				
					E	E	O	C			C	L	E	A	R	S	
O	N	G															
L	E	O			S	E	L	E	S		A	T	H	O	S		
E	X	A	M		D	I	V	A	S								
A	T	L	A	W		N	I	L	L	A		S	E	W			
					J	A	M	E	S	M	A	D	I	S	O	N	
S	P	E	E	D	O						S	M	U	G			
O	U	T	S	I	D	E	S				S	U	G	A	R		
S	L	A	T			R	E	P	E	N	T	A	N	C	E		
A	S	T	I			E	N	E	R	O		N	U	T	S		
D	E	S	C			D	Y	E	R	S		A	S	E	T		



Weekly Horoscope

★★★★★	great
★★★★	good
★★★	average
★★	alright
★	difficult

Aries March 21-April 19

Mutual pleasure is the focus for today. Sharing your fun doubles it. Compromise with someone close to find activities you both enjoy.

Taurus April 20-May 20

Lottery fever! The urge to gamble is high. Don't risk what you can't afford to lose. Seek safe excitement (like love or roller coasters).

Gemini May 21-June 20

Facts are in focus. You may catch up on tasks, fix up equipment; make needed repairs, do organizing, or make anything useful.

Cancer June 21-July 22

Power plays or manipulations by loved ones are likely, so be extra empathic and cooperative tonight. Look for chances to be a team.

Leo July 23-August 22

Don't fight over money with a partner. Do find a way to protect your need for security, while still reaching out for more gain.

Virgo August 23-September 22

Surround yourself with beauty today--whether you create it, visit an art gallery, a flower show, window shop, watch the sunset, etc.

Libra September 23-October 22

Test your stamina and control by teasing and delaying gratification tonight. Build endurance and heighten satisfaction.

Scorpio October 23-November 21

Examine allowances and expenditures today. A discussion of financial needs and responsibilities (within the family) aids realism.

Sagittarius November 22-December 21

Curiosity about how things work is stronger today. Don't ask embarrassing questions, but do increase your understanding.

Capricorn December 22-January 19

You and your beloved need to balance a lighthearted approach with a more intense commitment. Find a middle ground.

Aquarius January 20-February 18

Strength is an issue today; your willpower is better than usual. Focus, concentration, and business instincts are good.

Pisces February 19-March 20

Your zeal leads you into new territory. You break new ground at home or at work and it's exciting.

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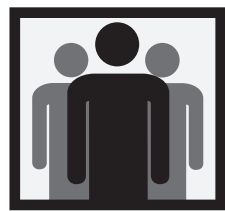
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USM COMMUNITY PAGE



Community Spotlight:

Congress Street ranked as one on the US's best

Sam Hill
Editor-in-Chief

PORTLAND, Maine—The parade of accolades for Portland continued Wednesday, when Congress Street, the street where most of the city's parades kick off, earned national honors.

The American Planning Association on Wednesday named Congress Street, which runs through Portland's downtown area, among its 10 Great Places in America: Streets for 2014.

The APA annually picks 10 streets that reflect a true sense of place, cultural and historical interest, community involvement and a vision for the community's future. This year's list included prominent streets, such as Broadway in New York City and Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C.

During a news conference last Wednesday to announce the APA designation, Mayor Michael Brennan spoke about the evolution of main streets in America and how Congress Street continued to grow while managing to stay grounded and local.

"We have, through a conscious effort in the city of Portland, survived transition over the years, and we now have a Congress Street that's thriving and growing," Brennan said. "For those of us who have lived in Portland for a long time, we've seen Congress Street

go through any number of different evolutions and ups and downs. But what's important is that we've made it through."

Congress Street was chosen as one of the APA's top streets in 2014 for its varied architecture, with buildings dating back to the 18th century, its dedication to arts and culture and its notable public events that include the First Friday Artwalk and regular farmers markets.

"Recognizing these special places highlights the role planning plays in adding value to communities," William Anderson, president of APA, said in a prepared statement issued Wednesday morning. "Planners, working with others, help build better communities in a variety of settings, from urban to rural; the result — better neighborhoods, cities and regions. We applaud these efforts and congratulate this year's designees."

According to Carl Eppich, city planner and president of APA's Northern New England chapter, a great city or street is reflective of the people who work there.

"I wasn't really surprised by this designation, but I was really pleased and excited for my colleagues here in the city," Eppich said. "With planning destinations like great streets, they don't happen by accident."

"This is exciting for the city of Portland to be recognized nationally for one of our most prominent



Sam Hill / Editor-in-Chief

Portland Mayor Michael Brennan accepts at award naming Congress Street as one of the best streets.

streets and especially for city staff in our planning department, who work so hard everyday to improve our streets," said Sheila Hill-Christian, acting city manager.

Brennan went on to outline some of the work the city's planning and urban development department has done over the years and extended

his praise to city workers, residents and businesses.

"These things do not come simply by happenstance," Brennan said. "It's because of a lot of decisions made by citizens of Portland, local businesses and people who work for the city of Portland to ensure that a transition has occurred

and that we now have a street that we can be proud of."

This story was originally published in the Bangor Daily News last Wednesday.

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GEB's 'Minute to Win it' a hit with residential students

David Sanok
Free Press Staff

The Minute to Win It event last week had students competing in games that were simple in description but difficult in execution.

The challenges included shooting a rubber band to knock down cups and cans. Stacking cups and cans on plates without having them fall also proved difficult to some competitors. But the real test of skill and determination came from having to complete these challenges in a minute or less.

Senior media major and chair of the Gorham Events Board Chelsea Tibbetts hosted the event and said her inspiration for this challenge came from her childhood.

"When I was a kid, my friends and I would play games like these," said Tibbetts. "As we got older, we added a new rule. The players would have to stack all these cups in under a minute, which we felt added intensity."

When Tibbetts entered college, she said that she thought it would be fun to not only continue the childhood games, but bring it to USM in some structured form of competition for all students to par-



Photo courtesy of USM Student Life

Zachary Bessette stacks can after can on top of one another in an attempt to win a prize from the event.

ticipate in.

Although the crowd turnout was not as big as expected, there were still students who volunteered to enter the contest. To get the people

in Brooks Student Center to watch the show, Tibbetts played hip hop music to get their attention.

"Music adds a lot to these competitions by getting the crowd

pumped up," said Tibbetts. "I usually pick songs that match with the kind of game that is being played. If it's a slowed paced one, the beats are softer and vice-versa."

For this year's Minute to Win It competition, the winner would receive a Chromecast as a prize.

This year's winner was freshman Zachary Bessette who won the prize by stacking coke cans on top of each other in under a minute without a single one falling.

"It was just a fun night for me and my friends" said Bessette after winning. "It didn't really matter to me whether I won or not. I just came to be around my friends and enjoy the entertainment."

For Tibbetts, event nights have been a weekly hobby the last four years. "Every year, I try to host an event like this for the community," said Tibbetts. "Some nights I'll host arts and crafts; other nights it will be performances. I just feel that as a student of USM, I have an obligation to try getting as many people as possible to come to these social events. But as an obligation, it's something I enjoy putting together."

For her next event, Tibbetts will be hosting the event "Crayon Art" on Wednesday Oct. 8 in Brooks Student Center.

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Involvement Spotlight: Hip Hop dance club is growing

Deborah Roberts
Contributor

Twice a week in the Sullivan multipurpose room, USM students dance to complex hip hop routines, to get their cardio workout in, but also just to have some plain, sweat-inducing fun.

The group was borne out of a demand for a dance club focusing on the hip hop style. According to the founder of the club Mouttwei Chap, styles like ballroom dancing, are “not really our thing.”

When asked how the group was formed Chap said, “We did it for our love of dancing. We created this to basically have fun and learn to teach others and show our love of dancing.”

The response proved to be truthful because the student participants were focused on some intense dance moves and clearly had fun both in the teaching of the dance and in the execution.

According to Maiki Sato, the second in charge of the club, some of the moves are pretty serious and are compiled from previous shows and experiences.

“We use our experiences to help us learn how to teach and choreograph as a group,” said Sato.

Chap has experiences in performing dances from his time living in Massachusetts. Sato learned a lot of his skills while taking classes over the years. This combined dance knowledge leads often to new choreographed dance numbers for the students to learn.

Dance groups usually range from four to six people of varying experience lev-



Sam Hill / Editor-in-Chief

Freshman Mouttwei Chap leads three other students in a dance to a K-Pop tune.

els. Either way people mainly show up to have fun.

Nicole Steinhagen said “I have no dance experience whatsoever and I just showed up tonight to have some fun.”

“It’s a new experience, going out of your comfort zone and learning something you love,” said Sato. Hip hop dance club’s founders like to find a way to dance everyday and have fun while doing it.

When asked if the group would ever put on a performance, the group members responded excitedly: “We would love to put on a performance whenever we can get enough people to show up

and get into this performance. It’s great fun and we would love to share it with everyone someday.”

According to Sengmolicka Vuthy, another group member, moving your body to the rhythm of a hip hop beat, proves to be quickly tiresome.

“It’s a great workout and it’s fun when we get together and work on our routines,” said Vuthy.

Most of the participants said that they are hopeful more people show up to the club and realize what a great time it is.

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Campus Events

Monday, October 6

USM Mindfulness Meditation Group
Multipurpose Room, Sullivan Gym, Portland
4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 7

USM TEDx: How to Make Stress Your Friend!
The Well, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland
12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 8

Harvest Festival
Woodbury Campus Center, Portland
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 9

Love Is An Orientation - Christianity and the LGBTQ Community
Center for Sexualities and Gender Diversity,
Woodbury Campus Center, Portland
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Friday, October 10

Student Senate Meeting
166 Upton Hastings, Gorham
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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