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Admins continue to work on teach-out plan

Emma James
News Editor

In wake of five programs being eliminated within the span of a few months, the administration is continuing to work on establishing a two-year teach-out plan so affected students may finish their degrees.

American and New England Studies, geosciences and the arts and humanities program at Lewiston-Auburn campus were eliminated by the board of trustees in September, along with French and applied medical sciences just a few weeks ago. Since the eliminations, the administration has promised that students will be able to complete those programs in a timely manner before closing them completely, but according to some faculty little progress has been made in developing a teach-out plan.

According to Kent Ryden, chair and professor of American and New England studies, little progress has been made on developing a concrete teach-out plan, at least to his knowledge.

"The dean's office has been in contact with students, telling them there still will be courses offered, but there are no specifics," said Ryden. "Our students are very much in the dark."

Krysteana Scribner / *Arts & Culture Editor*

Provost Joseph McDonnell discusses the two-year teach-out plan to be enacted for students in eliminated programs.

Provost Joseph McDonnell explained that, though some argue there are ambiguities with the process, administration is taking their obligation seriously to provide students the opportunity to graduate in these programs.

"We're working to that objective," said McDonnell. "We're trying to make sure courses are in place for the spring semester and beyond that. Because there are so few students enrolled in these programs, it does give the opportunity for individualized plans."

According to Ryden, the dean's office has contacted students saying there will be ANES courses offered, but possibly not by current faculty, and with no specifics about what those courses may be.

"A real point of confusion is what's going to happen with students working on their master's theses. Students are still frustrated," said Ryden. "We're very much in the dark. They haven't been given any guidance, specific guidance, at all by the administration."

S. Monroe Duboise, associate professor of molecular biology and microbiology in the applied medical sciences program, also had limited knowledge on what the teach-out plan will look like, stating in an email, "I wish there were more that I could tell you about the plans being made. Meetings of the CSTH dean with individual faculty members are proceeding. I cannot predict what the end result will be at this point. I don't have any additional information at present."

McDonnell noted that not all students take the thesis path, and that conversations are starting to happen regarding their preference for degree completion. He also reassured that the administration is working on securing part-time faculty to teach the required courses, as well as faculty

See **TEACH OUT** *on page 4*

Chronicling USM's national media attention

Francis Flisiuk
Managing Editor

The American Studies Association has launched a new website with a map featuring schools across the nation they believe serve as examples of "assaults on academic freedom." USM is on that list.

the ASA is citing USM's most recent faculty layoffs and elimination of undergraduate and graduate programs as reasons for inclusion.

The project, which is considered ongoing, aims to document all the schools that violate academic freedom, cut departments and programs and participate in research surveillance. They also include schools that practice close policing of protests, especially ones that lead to violence and discrimination. The ASA have called upon the scholars, teachers, administrators and activists of America to pay attention to these troubling patterns in public higher education. So far there are 25 American universities on the online map.

"We were already sensitive to the kinds of pressures that our colleagues [at USM] were working under," said Matt Jacobson, former ASA president and acting director of public humanities at Yale. "We've been especially alert to situations where high-achieving programs were under threat."

According to the introduction on the website, the ASA hopes to call to attention these "crimes against education" and show that these situations are not isolated incidents. Jacobson said that USM's decisions, like national ones made towards education, are guided by a narrow, utilitarian vision.

"We hope to raise questions about our educational priorities as a society," said Jacobson.

Immense budget gaps, mass layoffs and the shrinking or elimination of popular academic departments are all issues that are part of larger trends nationally. ASA, along with many other institutions' blogs and publications, compare USM's crisis with problems across the

See **NATIONAL** *on page 4*

Ellen Spahn / *Design Assistant*

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USM combines student services for savings

Sam Hill
Editor-in-Chief

USM officials announced a plan to consolidate and centralize student services last Thursday, with aims to cut costs, recruit more students and increase retention.

Staff will begin to transition immediately, working to turn the efforts of 15 separate entities into a single, integrated division. The overall goal is to make student services easier to navigate for both enrolled and prospective students, as well as making sure all departments are on the same page.

Chris Quint, the executive director of public affairs, said that since he began working at USM this semester he's heard students equate trying to access student success to a game of ping-pong.

"We found a lot of redundancy within the system," said Quint. "There's been no real theme, structure or strategic plan for recruiting and advising students for so long. And since there hasn't been a plan, individuals across campus have taken it upon themselves to plan within their own department or office."

Quint noted that most students are bounced between numerous outlets while enrolled, including general, major-specific and minor-specific advisors, and that the offices of undergraduate, graduate and professional and continuing education departments were all recruiting students separately.

"We need to constantly be talking to each other to make sure we're all working toward the same goal," said Quint.

Five advising positions and two administrative positions will be eliminated with the consolidation, but no one is being laid off. All but one position has been vacant and one administrator will be returning to a faculty position. Officials have launched a search for a vice president of enrollment management to lead the division.

The savings will amount in nearly half a million dollars after including the salary costs of the vice president position and will go directly toward USM's projected fiscal year 16 deficit of $16 million.

The administration has repeatedly reported that dropping enrollment is a prominent factor in financial problems for the university and that this reorganization will likely help stop the drop.

"The charge of this new division is to more effectively serve students through one front door and to view all student service functions through the eyes of the student. We will eliminate the barriers that hinder our students' ability to navigate their way to graduation," read a letter from President David Flanagan and Provost Joseph McDonnell sent to the USM community last week.

According to Quint, USM typically loses one third of its freshman class each year. To help reduce that rate, each student will be assigned a faculty and professional mentor when they enroll to help guide them through the ins and outs of university life and transition.

Sam Hill / *Editor-in-Chief*

USM officials have announced a plan to consolidate and centralize student services. They hope that this will cut costs and contribute to filling the gap of the budget deficit.

An office of career development and community engagement will also be created through centralizing resources, which will allow the university to better connect students with internships and careers with local businesses. Quint said that through meetings with local businesses, officials have found that they aren't looking for interns at USM simply because they don't know where to post job openings on a USM website.

"Again, it's something that individual departments might do well across the campus, but something we need to pull together and do well as an institution," Quint said. "We hear so often from government officials and non-profits that they need students, but just don't know how to get them from USM, so they look elsewhere."

Quint says the division will be complete, organized and running efficiently before next fall.

"The concept is great and we've planned it well, but now it's time for that hard work," said Quint. "We want to be the one's to do it right and if we can, this can really transform the university.

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USM Preservation Fund meets $10,000 goal

Annie Quandt
Intern

As of Friday, the USM Preservation Fund reached its $10,000 goal. The fundraiser, which was started last spring by the protest group Students for #USMFuture, has two initiatives: One is to fund an independent audit, the other is to provide legal counsel to students.

"The independent audit's goal would be to shed some light on the finances. [We want to hire] someone who's impartial and from the outside, an impartial accountant, to answer a lot of these questions in terms of how profitable are these programs that are being cut. Faculty that are being eliminated are bringing in a lot of revenue on a yearly basis," said Meghan LaSala, senior women and gender studies major and student leader for the group.

LaSala discussed the importance of legal counsel, noting that the administration is still unable to tell students how they'll be able to finish their degrees.

"They're firing the only professors that have the training and credentials to offer these courses that students need to graduate," said LaSala. "When students declare a major, that's a legal contract with the university, that they are obligated to fulfill in terms of providing students the education they signed up for."

> **"We shouldn't let this supposed crisis moment define us as an institution."**
>
> **Meaghan LaSala**, *student leader*

MA's in applied medical sciences and American and New England studies were both eliminated. BA's in geosciences, French and the arts and humanities program at the Lewiston-Auburn campus were also cut.

"About 25 faculty were retrenched, and a lot of faculty chose early retirement, but not all those retirements were able to save other faculty positions, because if they weren't in the programs being targeted by the administration, then junior faculty were still retrenched," said LaSala. "We've lost five programs since the start of the semester, but many other programs are losing half of their faculty."

LaSala believes these are cuts that will have a lasting impact on USM.

"We're losing our only tenured classics professor; we're no longer going to be able to offer a class in the major," LaSala said.

LaSala also noted the stress some faculty face with the cuts.

"The administration is arguing that senior faculty can just teach more classes but a lot of faculty are already teaching about four classes. It also completely undermines that faculty at public universities, half of their job is to do research and to include students in that process; it's part of their job contract that they need to do research," said LaSala. "Faculty that is teaching five courses a semester are not going to be able to do that kind of work."

LaSala noted that the university is advocating for a shift toward more adjunct professors.

"They'll just replace these positions with part-time positions, but those positions are underpaid, unstable," said LaSala. "I know one adjunct professor that calls it her volunteer job. They don't have an office. They don't have the resources to support students the same way that tenured faculty do."

Sam Hill / *Editor-in-Chief*

Meaghan LaSala, senior women and gender studies major, speaks out against program eliminations.

Paul Nakroshis, a physics professor at USM, agrees that the course load put on other professors will be too much.

With a goal of reinstating transparency, sharing governance and advocating for state investment in USM, many have donated to the fund. Not only have professors donated, but LaSala says many alumni, students, families and members of the southern Maine community have also contributed to the fund.

Nakroshis explained that he donated because he believes the students are acting more intelligently than the university governing system.

LaSala emphasized that there's still hope for USM.

"I think there was and is another path forward for USM. That is to stop this downward spiral train of cutting courses which is only going to make our declining enrollment worse and hurt our bottom line because we're cutting faculty that are bringing in revenue for the University," said LaSala "We need to slow this train down."

"We shouldn't let this supposed crisis moment define us as an institution," said LaSala. "The region of southern Maine deserves a first-class institution, and we as a state can afford it."

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From **TEACH OUT** *on page 1*

to advise in thesis research.

"I think students need to be able to see a path," said McDonnell. "Exceptions can be made, but I also think students will want to see what's being offered to them each semester, rather than having the whole thing open-ended."

McDonnell explained that it's about what the university can offer and a students' schedule; students are not restricted to a two-year timespan.

"We do have the option to tailor these plans for each student," said McDonnell. "Students ought to know when courses are being offered so they can plan their schedule."

Still, to some, this plan seems difficult to interpret and unrealistic, given that USM is such a nontraditional school.

"Administrators are taking action and only then figuring out repercussions," Ryden said.

According to McDonnell, however, some plan is better than no plan. It's better to have courses planned out over a two year span so students know when they'll be available than to have it completely up in the air. This way, he believes, students have a visible path to continue on toward graduation, with the understanding that some exceptions can be made beyond the two-year plan.

"These are difficult times for the university, faculty and students," said McDonnell. "It's important that we work together cooperatively to serve the students in light of the budgetary constraints we are facing. I deeply appreciate the cooperation of faculty in best serving out students."

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From **NATIONAL** *on page 1*

country, all of which can have potentially devastating consequences.

"For the last 50 years there has been a tug-of-war between educators and non-educators for the soul of the American university. Educators are losing to politicians in some places and to corporate board members and regents in others," said Jacobson. "Local struggles in this setting are most often cautionary tales about the power that non-educators have over educators."

USM's steady decline in enrollment and projected budget shortfalls have been documented for many years now. However, instances of USM's future being discussed, through more national channels, has been relatively recent.

The first wave of attention USM received was back in March when former president Theo Kalikow announced the elimination of American and New England studies, geosciences, arts and humanities at Lewiston/Auburn and recreation and leisure studies. Soon following was the first in a series of layoffs or "retrenchments" of a dozen faculty members. Protests by the new founded campus group, Students for #USMFuture, were held and USM started to peak in the national higher education spotlight.

The goals and activist initiative of the group prompted a note of support from renowned linguist, philosopher and cognitive scientist, Noam Chomsky, who wrote to theatre graduate, Caroline O'Connor, "Very glad to learn about what you're doing. Badly needed. I hope you have good success." The messages of concern and coverage of the protests and administrative decisions trickled in from sources like, Inside Higher Ed, Naked Capitalism, Occasional Planet, Popular Resistance, The Real News, Aljazeera, Common Dreams, as well as every local media outlet.

According to Chris Quint, the executive director of public affairs, everyone has the right to print what they want, but no national writers or bloggers have ever reached out to anybody within USM's administration for a statement.

"These national outlets and even in state, have not once contacted me or anyone within the administration, to get our perspective," said Quint. "I'm sure if they had the opportunity to sit down and talk with us, and hear our plan for how we are making sure our university is financially viable. They would have a different opinion on how we're doing things."

Quint said that USM's administration is in no way restricting anybody's access to academic freedom. Quint makes decisions based on what is going to keep the university viable and be in the best interests of the students.

"If they want to print whatever they want without actually talking to anyone, that's their prerogative," said Quint. "I can assure you that the president, the chancellor and the board of trustees have no intention of turning USM into some corporate entity."

According to higher education commentators like New York Times writer Paul Krugman, USM's story deserves more attention and is representative of problems in public education, like neoliberalism's infiltration of educational institutions.

Krugman wrote a short opinion piece and called USM's fiscal situation an "ugly example" of how a school's educational qualities can be degraded once valuable professors are fired and departments are gutted. Krugman also attributed sharply rising tuition and sharp cuts in state funding as factors in the financial problem. According to Krugman, USM's administration is eager to downsize liberal arts and social sciences, which has direct educational consequences.

Other writers, like Lambert Strether at "Naked Capitalism," argue that USM, like many struggling public colleges, has become a microcosm of society at large, with top administrators representing the 1% who hold and delegate all the resources. Strether believes that greed and corruption have trickled down from the corporate and financial sector and has dominated some of America's institutions of higher learning. USM's administrators need to allocate the funds more strategically, or risk being accused of leading the school towards corporatization, which again is cited as a situation not unique to USM.

> **"USM's story would fit right into the narratives on austerity and the war on education in America today"**
>
> **Lauren Besanko**, *criminology graduate and local politician*

Columnist Madonna Gauding at the Occasional Planet agrees and adds that in an educational environment where the administrators refer to the students as "customers," where the school's budget is being spent should be something everybody is keeping an eye on.

Gauding hopes that the USM student and faculty protests spark a national movement that fights back against educational issues like tuition hikes, lack of funding and silencing of political dissent.

"Students are being denied a more enriching educational experience," said Gauding. "If we're lucky, students will take over where Occupy Wall Street left off."

"If we care about USM's future and the future of public higher education, we need to stop flat funding our public universities," said Dave Kerschner, a USM doctoral graduate.

Regardless of where the specific source of USM's budget deficit lies, one thing is for certain: schools are going through similar problems and using USM as an example of what can go wrong, when the administration is forced to cut faculty and programs.

Lauren Besanko, a criminology graduate and local politician, said that she'd be surprised if USM wasn't on the radar of players in the social justice and education arena.

"USM's story would fit right into the narratives on austerity and the war on education in America today," said Besanko.

According to Jacobson, the term austerity has become a buzzword for the easy gutting of values and programs that more Americans don't want gutted, like a good education for young people.

"The battle over USM cuts right to the bone of all of this," said Jacobson. "We're thinking that Maine will certainly be on our outlook."

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Student profile

Student worries about value of her education

Brian Gordon
Free Press Staff

The University's graduate degree program in American and New England Studies has been abolished as part of the cuts handed down by President David Flanagan and the board of trustees. No teach out plan has been available to students or faculty, leaving students wondering how they will finish their studies in the two years the administration is giving them. They are in the process of firing tenured professors and hiring adjunct or temporary workers in their place.

One of the students affected by the elimination of the program is Kimberly Clark, a Gray, Maine native who graduated from USM with a Media Studies degree in 2003. She returned to the school in 2010 to pursue a master's degree in ANES but now finds herself wondering what kind of a degree she is getting and what the rest of her education will be like.

"I worry about the value of my education, moving forward," said Clark. "It's certainly going to be a different quality than what it would have been."

Clark is taking one class a semester and has two classes left and two internships. She has opted not to try out the adjunct teachers because they might not be up to snuff. "I didn't want to be a guinea pig for a new professor. I make choices based on who the professor is going to be."

Sam Hill / *Editor-in-Chief*

Kimberly Clark, USM graduate of the media studies department, is currently enrolled in the eliminated American and New England studies program.

"I will finish within the two year allotment," said Clark. "The question is the quality and losing my professors - and who is assigned to me now?"

A search on MaineStreet yields only two classes available to Clark both to be taught in room "TBA," on days "TBA" and the teacher as "Staff."

These types of results don't inspire confidence in Clark who even used her 401k earned from eight years of working at Time Warner Cable on her education at USM. She didn't see it as a gamble at the time; it seemed to be a sure thing.

"I invested in my education. I invested in USM because I took that money out of my future," said Clark. "I believed getting this education would improve my opportunities and my future."

There was a meeting Tuesday the 11th about the future of the ANES program, but Clark was busy manning the Jumbotron of the Portland Pirates where she's a technical director of camera operations for all home games. She was hoping to at least get an email about what happened to see if there was a plan.

"The admin and the BOT have no idea what these programs do," said Clark. "If they did they would be thinking twice."

Clark doesn't think the administration is considering the non-traditional structure of USM. She has high school teachers in her classes, who want to teach a specialized course in their classrooms. There's also undergrads and non-matriculated students allowed to take courses in ANES program that don't receive a master's degree.

"This university is not about just a degree. It's about an education," said Clark. "Education doesn't equal degree. It's that narrow minded thinking that's killing the university."

It was almost five years ago that Clark took an archeology class with Professor Nathan Hamilton who now teaches at the Muskie school. That class got her interested in ANES and Hamilton nudged her into it. Clark was hesitant after being out of school for seven years but took to the program and was glad she did.

The public history and culture track Clark is a part of focuses less on writing and getting a Ph.D later and more about how to present history to the public. Most people get jobs working at a historical site or a museum. Clark notes many graduates are working at area museums, educating people on local history, including the Victoria Mansion, the Scott Dyer Museum in Saco and The Maine State Museum has curators that went through the program.

Right now Clark also works at Maine Irish Heritage Center. She sees her American and New England Studies program being vital to understanding the Yankee identity and the diversity in the region.

"I don't like feeling powerless about it and I don't like seeing this program being eliminated. I'm really so sorry for the future students that won't have the opportunity to take classes with these professors," said Clark. "They won't have the same opportunity that I had."

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Transfer students unaware of budget crisis

Emma James
News Editor

Students visiting USM for an adult, transfer and graduate student open house last week mainly described themselves as being excited to come to the university, but most were completely unaware of any of the program eliminations that have occurred this semester.

Josh Grassman, hoping to transfer to USM from Sienna College after a hiatus of a few years, was a classics major but will be transferring into the communication program.

Though he is switching majors, he described his feelings as "hurt" after learning about the eliminations of the program he once belonged to.

"I took a couple courses in classics last spring," said Grassman. "I probably would've tried to take more classes if the program wasn't cut."

He explained that, although the cuts are saddening, as an outsider he can't look at USM and criticize.

"Pretty soon my wallet will be a factor and my opinion will matter," said Grassman. "I can't complain if I'm not part of the system."

"I'm doing my part to keep my community alive."

Tiffany Hart, *Prospective transfer*

Sam Hill / *Editor-in-Chief*

Bonnie Stearns, director of student services in the college of science, technology and health sciences answers students' questions at a transfer student open house last Thursday. Though some programs in the college have been cut, she believes the college is thriving and robust.

Tiffany Hart, a student at the University of Maine Orono from 1994-1998 is coming to USM to finish her degree in construction management. She believes that in order for USM to grow as an institution, people need to enroll -- not be scared off by the financial crisis.

"If USM is going to get out of it [financial crisis] they need the student numbers," said Hart. "I'm doing my part to keep my community alive. Maine isn't going to do well if we don't have young professionals."

Lyna Vladimiroff, a California native, was unaware of the eliminations that have taken place over the past two months. As a humanities major, her program was cut just a few months ago.

"Oh my god," said Vladimiroff. "I had no idea."

Vladimiroff hasn't been in school for over 20 years, and has always dreamed of attending USM. She will be the first in her family to go to college.

"I think it [eliminations] are horrible," said Vladimiroff. "It's so impish. A lot of people can't talk to people. They don't know how. Arts and humanities are so important."

She described the cuts as "detrimental," but explained that they do not turn her away from attending USM.

In all three instances, Grassman, Hart and Vladimiroff spoke of the convenience of having a public university so close to their homes.

"It's just easy to get to," said Hart.

For many students, seeking an education at a different university is out of the question. Given USM's non-traditional presence, most students have jobs and, in some cases, families that they cannot uproot to move away.

Bonnie Stearns, director of student services in the college of science, technology and health said that no students have contacted her about applied medical sciences and geosciences, the eliminated programs in her department.

"We are the STEM [science, technology, engineering and math] college and that's to our benefit," said Stearns. "It's unfortunate that we're losing these amazing programs, but it's still a robust school. STEM majors are going strong."

All four agree that, regardless of the financial circumstances USM is facing, it's important to move forward and look to the future, rather than focus on the negativity of the past.

"We're supporting the programs we have while supporting our AMS and geosciences faculty and students," said Stearns. "That's all we really can do right now."

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In Brief...

USM hosts mentoring sessions with university alum

Two weeks ago the Office of Public Affairs announced that 11 graduates of the University of Southern Maine are returning to the Gorham campus on Wednesday, November 19, to participate in the university's alumni 30-minute mentoring program. From 12-4:00 p.m., these alumni will meet with a series of current students for 30-minute sessions during which they will provide mentoring, networking and share their professional experiences. The entire event will take place in the Presidential and Faculty Dining Rooms in Brooks Student Center.

Among the mentors will be a music therapist, a police detective and an etiquette consultant. Gorham residents participating include real estate agent Sherrie Benner who serves on Gorham's Town Council; retired Hannaford Brothers Company Director of Investor Relations and Assistant Corporate Secretary Charles "Chuck" Crockett; and Portland Web Works Software Developer Ezra Friedlander.

Portland Sun group buys Phoenix, Dig Portland hires away Phoenix staff

There was a prevailing feeling that a proposed sale of the 15-year-old alternative weekly to a local buyer a few weeks ago was the Phoenix' last hope of survival, so when that deal fell through, many believed the Phoenix would soon close up shop.

In the meantime, Dig Boston announced plans to branch out to Portland.

Fast forward to today: Dig Portland is gearing up for its inaugural issue a week from today and the Phoenix has, appropriately enough, risen from the ashes with a new ownership group and editor.

Portland, you are officially a two-alt-weekly city again.

The ownership group behind the Portland Sun, a free daily that in recent months cut production down to three editions per week, bought the Phoenix. So a regional group with local ties and an existing city product is doubling down on the market, even after it found it couldn't fully support the free daily.

When Dig announced in late October it would make a move into Portland, it looked very much like the Phoenix might be closing down and leaving a void in the alt weekly market. Now? Both publications will have to jockey for position.

For full story, see Seth Koenig's article in the Bangor Daily News

30 Minutes Could Change Your Life!

Connect with a USM alumni mentor and explore opportunities in a variety of fields

Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 • Time: 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Location: PDR/FDR, Brooks Dining Center, Gorham Campus
Sign up or select your mentor at www.alumniusm.org

USM's Alumni "30 Minute Mentoring" program connects current students to alumni to network and share experiences. 85% of our graduates live and work in Southern Maine. Our alumni are leaders, decision makers, business drivers, entrepreneurs and influencers. Their collective experiences and connections can assist students with career decisions and building your professional network.

Questions? Please contact Melissa Campbell in the Alumni Outreach Office at mcampbell@usm.maine.edu or 207-780-4833.

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Police Beat

Selections from the USM Department of Public Safety police log November 4 to November 12

Tuesday, November 4

Smokin weed In america!
6:54 p.m. - Report taken for marijuana violation.
Glickman Library, 314 Forest Ave.

Friday, November 7

How else you supposed get booze from A to B?
3:00 a.m. - Summons issued to Jordan J. Rice 20, of Raymond, for illegal transportation of alcohol. Warning to operator for equipment malfunction.
Gorham, Main St.

That poobox is going to the pound
5:31 a.m. - Vehicle towed for unpaid fines.
G20 Parking lot, 28 Husky Dr.

Hittin' and runnin'
11:11 p.m. - Report taken for damage to vehicle.
Philippi Hall, 19 Campus Ave.

Saturday, November 8

Jeezum, take it easy on the sauce bub
12:09 a.m. - Liquor law violation. Subject transported to hospital following medical emergency.
Robie Andrews Hall, 39 University Way

Shifty hobo lurks in stacks
6:22 p.m. - Suspicious person. Subject trespassing on campus.
Glickman Library, 314 Forest Ave.

Sunday, November 9

What sign? I didn't see no sign
8:46 a.m. - Summons issued for stop sign violation issued to Wayne A. Stanhope, 66 of Portland. Warning for insurance.
Deering Ave.

I love weed
1:10 a.m. - Report taken for odor of marijuana.
Robie Andrews Hall, 39 University Way

We don't need no water
3:54 p.m. - Report of a possible fire in the woods. Good intent call.
University Way Ext.

The diggity dank
9:06 p.m. - Report taken for odor of marijuana.
Upperclass Hall, 25 Husky Dr.

Wednesday, November 12

Take everything not nailed down
9:55 p.m. - Report taken for theft of an item.
Upton Hastings Hall, 52 University Way

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

Interstellar film review / 8
Doritos commercial / 8
Slam poet visits USM / 9

Arts&Culture

The future of books

Will e-readers replace printed texts?

Sam Hill / Editor-In-Chief

Between the rise of e-books and the growing nostalgia of physical copies, the future of the printed book is uncertain. A panel discussion was held last week to discuss this topic.

Krysteana Scribner
Arts & Culture Editor

Reading books digitally is becoming more and more common. Even with more titles becoming available and e-book costs going down, some still crave the smell of musty old libraries and think that the printed word is here to stay.

USM hosted a panel of print-lovers last week to discuss the future of the printed book, giving predictions and possibilities about the future of written literature.

"I love the weight of a book, the smell of the book and psychically closing it when I'm done," said Jean Jackson, operator of the espresso book machine at Books a Million in South Portland, who spends her evenings using the machine to make copies of any book her customers want. "It's nostalgic and it's personally an amazing experience for me."

Jackson hopes that the future of the book stays in print rather than becoming completely digitized.

Sissy Buck, an advisory board member of the center for book arts, explained that as a child, her parents gave her money to buy books at the book fairs her elementary school would have a few times a year, so there is a lot of nostalgia behind the print book for her.

"What I like to think about the future of the book is that no batteries are required to make it work," said Buck. "People want to buy local, physical objects. There is an appreciation for handmade crafts, vinyl records, woodworking and psychical prints of literature. I don't see the future of the physical book print diminishing but rather flourishing."

With all the nostalgia that people have around the printed book, it can be hard to imagine a world that solely reads literature using a Kindle device. However, all members agreed that universities are going to see an incline in the use of e-books to replace print textbooks in classrooms.

"In the academic world, you'll see a transition in many ways. University publishers and scholarships will transition, and print will not be as important because the availability of online texts is on the rise," said Dr. Clem Guthro, director of the Colby College libraries.

> **"I love the weight of a book, the smell of the book and physically closing it when I'm done. It's nostalgic and personally an amazing experience for me."**
>
> **Jean Jackson**, *Books a Million Employee*

Jackson comments by explaining that e-books are just a new outlet for people to look at the types of books they can read. It's also a greener option because it for saves paper and shelf space. Christie agrees and said that e-books can sometimes do things as good or better than the print book can.

"Large print books have almost disappeared as a market for us because they are usually so expensive," said Josh Christie, manager of Sherman Books in Portland. "However, if you have an e-reader you can just adjust the size to whatever you want."

Buck believes that e-books have grown in popularity largely because they're relatively new and up until recently, books were things people could hold. With this important aspect still in mind, Guthro adds commentary to explain the nostalgia behind literature.

"As we become more digital, the idea of interacting with a printed edition of the book becomes engaging for all individuals. The physicality of literature is important," said Guthro.

Jackson elaborated that although most people think that the older generation is attached to the book and the younger prefer using the e-book, this stereotypical stance isn't always the case.

> **"I think the future of the book is bright, both from my perspective as a writer and as a bookseller.**
>
> **Josh Christie**, *Manager of Sherman Books*

"I love the physicality of the book, and for that reason I do not own a kindle or reading device. What is interesting to me is that my mother and grandmother both have e-books that they love, yet they'll go out and buy the physical copy of their favorite books as well," said Jackson.

John Ring, a resident of Portland, explained that after owning a used bookstore for over 14 years, he's noticed that there is something magical about reading a book on paper rather than having to read it on a screen.

"One of the biggest comments I hear when people come walking in my store is that the place holds the smell of a bookstore. I've worked there so long I've gotten to the point where I don't smell my musty books sitting on the shelves anymore," said Ring.

Senior english major Christina Blaire said that she would one day like to own a library of her own, and after this discussion, the future of the book doesn't seem too bleak.

"Conversations for the future of the book can be frustrating because it is such a binary subject to talk about. You either are on one side or the other, this discussion in some ways is a lot like politics," said Christie. "It's much more grey in terms of what you agree with. You either love the print version, or hate it - and same goes for the e-books as well."

The discussion continued to explain more about how although the e-book is a more energy efficient form of reading literature, it will never have the same memorable feel that a printed edition does.

For that reason, it is safe to say that the future of the book is neither one sided or disappearing but rather flourishing in both the aspect of the print edition and the e-book form as well.

"I think the future of the book is bright, both from my perspective as a writer and as a book seller," said Christie. "Of course we're going to see changes as the years go on. However, I think it is a bright future for print books as well as digital books which really are in their infancy.

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Film Review

Interstellar has high quality visual imagery

Paramount Pictures

Sergey Miller
Free Press Staff

Interstellar, the newest movie directed by the famous Christopher Nolan, is a solid film which bends dimensions in space time and makes one ponder about even the smallest of physical phenomena in our daily life. The all-star cast of this film includes Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway, Matt Damon and Michael Cain.

This film does not fall short of an experienced and star studded cast, yet this is not the movie's best feature. The movie's strongest points are in its visual imagery and music, which takes the viewer on a journey to foreign worlds. The whole viewing of the film is a journey of color, intensifying music and the ability of cinematography to create a surreal movie going experience.

The movie begins with McConaughey's character, named Cooper, who is leading an ordinary farming existence in an otherwise unordinary worldly environment. Droughts, dust storms and famine plague the Earth. The death of Earth is imminent, and the need for interstellar travel has never been higher. However, organizations like NASA have been pushed to underground status and are no longer available to travel into space.

Luckily Cooper is a trained pilot, astronaut and explorer, all qualities that have been inherited by his lovable daughter Murph. Once the movie takes off into space, the rather sublime viewing experience takes off into a world of fantastic representation of wormholes, black holes, watery planets and icy planets. Alongside the excellent visual effects are also a strong plot and a moving performance of the entire cast.

Cooper's daughter (Murph) is a precocious child who seems to overshadow her older brother in both intelligence and a sense of spirituality. The plot moves forward quickly when Cooper is called in to his daughter's principal's office to address the serious charge that she has dared to argue to her fellow classmates that the moon landing was an actual event in the history of the world.

While remaining home, his daughter discovers a 'ghostly' presence in her room that has given her a message via lines of dust that has formed on the floor through her window. Since Murph is a child who understands binary code she decodes the short and long dust lines for a geographical location.

Together Cooper and Murph travel to the mysterious location that leaves the viewer on the edge of their seat with curiosity. Gravity is a recurring theme throughout the whole film as is the notion of relative time. These two concepts penetrate the whole course of the movie and also these two concepts travel across space and allows for Cooper to be given a very special mission from an old professor Michael Cain. Save the human race, take a team with you, including the daughter of the professor (Anne Hathaway playing the character of Brand,) and either find a way home or start a new colony. The four astronauts are to find another (hospitable) planet in a different galaxy by way of a worm hole. Along the quest, questions of ethical, human, and emotional complexities run through all the characters. The quest of the four brave astronauts assigned to this last NASA mission and a robot named Tars is a helpful companion along the way.

The plot of this film focuses on saving the human race. This can be accomplished in two ways: by either finding a new home on a distant planet or starting a new colony while leaving the people on Earth behind. The journey is a long one, the characters find their deepest feelings tested constantly. The characters explore other worlds, the meaning of human life, what it means to survive, and the quest for hope throughout the film.

There are enough plot twists to drive one's mind into many conceptual knots and the deeper meaning of the film comes out shining through at the end.The four astronauts are to find another planet in a different galaxy by way of a worm hole. Along the quest, questions of ethical, human and emotional complexities run through all the characters, the quest of the four brave astronauts assigned to this last NASA mission.

This movie is sublime in many complex ways which include visual imagery and imaginative exploration of interstellar proportions.

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Local Top 5:

Creative classes on campus

Krysteana Scribner
Arts & Culture Editor

1.) ENG 145: Topics in Literature, The Ghost Story

Looking for a creative class to spook up next semester? Imagine a class over ghosts: When and how did the phenomenon begin? Why do we analyze ghosts, what are the different types and in what ways can we explain their existence? By signing up for this topics in literature class, you may get to know the answers and you don't need to be an English major to take this course. It can count as an elective for all students. All you need is the prerequisites of ENG 100 or ENG 104 and an EYE class. This unique lecture taught by Professor Richard Swartz will take a look back at the phenomenon of ghosts dating back to the 16th century and how it became one of the most popular literary forms of all time. Swartz's has an upbeat attitude and a wide scale knowledge spectrum about his subject, making this class both fun and educating. This class takes place on Mondays from 5:35 to 8:05 p.m. on Portland campus, and all students with the proper prerequisites are welcome to sign up - if they dare!

2.) ENG 145: Topics in Literature, Witchcraft

In 1692, many individuals in New England were accused of performing witchcraft and in turn were executed as punishment. This fascinating topic has a long history to it, and students interested in taking this creative discussion class will have the chance to analyze a variety of literary texts over witches, witchfinders and witchcraft practices. Students will focus their attention to the Salem Witch Trials and work their way to the shift in opinions of witchcraft over time. Prerequisites for this class are an ENG 100 or ENG 104 class, as well as an EYE course, and this class takes place on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:45 to 10:00 a.m. with Professor Lorraine Carol.

3.) CMS 320: Topics in Media Production II, Photojournalism

For students interested in becoming journalists (but don't have access to the major itself here at USM) CMS 320 will offer Topics in Media Production on Photojournalism. Students will learn to master the basics of digital photography, lighting and photoshop. Although students are required to bring their own digital camera to the course, the benefits of photo assignments, field trips, exciting demonstrations and unique knowledgeable discussion make the cost worth your while. Taught by Professor Fred J. Field, this class takes place on Thursdays from 5:45 to 8:05 p.m.

4.) THE 102: Theatre Department, Acting for Non-majors

Have you ever wanted to take an acting class but because you weren't a theatre major, you decided against it? Well now you can do just that. THE 102 is an acting class for non-majors that helps students to gain a basic understanding of theatre and performance. By teaching students relaxation skills in front of crowds and showing them improvisation tactics, students learn public speaking and performance skills that they can take with them throughout their life. This class, taught by Professor Chabora, requires no prerequisites and takes place on Mondays from 5:35 to 8:05 p.m.

5.) RHF 118: Yoga

Going to college can be a full-time job and sometimes it is hard to find time to get exercise. This class offers students a class to get exercise as well as an education on what Yoga is and why we exercise. This class takes place every Monday and Wednesday from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. with Professor Maria Connor. This spiritual practice to transform the body and mind not only allows individuals to connect with themselves, but can also burn up to 175 calories in one hour! This makes the Yoga class a fun and creative elective to take next semester.

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What creative classes have you taken on campus?
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Students film internationally trending short

Photo courtesy of Peter and Thomas Campbell

A screen shot from the 30-second video, when the male gnome gets up to steal to the female gnomes Doritos.

Dora Thompson
Free Press Staff

Peter and Thomas Campbell, otherwise known as 8mufnz, released their entry for the Doritos 2015 "Crash the Superbowl" commercial contest earlier this month. The video has been hovering around the most popular submissions in the world ever since, and has even reached the number one spot for a few hours last week.

The student filmed short, titled "The Gnome," is set in a house party and features two gnomes looking lost in a crowd of humans. When the male gnome (played by Peter Campbell) spots his female counterpart (played by Jane Ackermann) the audience assumes he is jumping up to meet her, when all he really wants to do is snatch the bag of Doritos out of her hands.

Submissions had to be 30-second long videos featuring a bag of Doritos and were judged based on originality, creativity and overall appeal to the general public. The winner will receive a million dollars, a dream job at Universal Studios and a chance to see their advertisement featured in the 2015 Superbowl.

Nathan Cronauer, a junior environmental planning and policy major played one of the background characters in the commercial.

"The environment established by Peter and Thomas when shooting was one of professionalism, yet always with an element of fun. They had great energy that spread amongst the group ensuring everyone was putting in their best effort to make the commercial unique," said Cronauer.

Will Weaver, a junior business major and Drew Burke, a junior electrical engineering major, agree that being a part of this commercial is something they won't soon forget.

Thomas Campbell, who graduated last spring from USM with a degree in theatre, said that the whole experience is very surprising to him. The brothers also entered the contest back in 2011, but did not get nearly this far.

However, this is not the duos first brush with fame. Last year, their film "Crá Croi" won the Portland 48 Film Festival. This year their short "Subcontractors" won best editing, special effects, cinematography and audience favorite. 8mufnz also took home first place at the 2014 Four Minute Film Festival with "Pinch," and were asked back as judges the following year.

Peter and Thomas Campbell have been making shorts together since 2007. It wasn't until 2011, when they won their first contest that they started considering filmmaking as a profession.

"I love the filmmaking process from beginning to end, from the inception of the idea, to watching it all come together," explained Peter Campbell, a junior music major. "Hearing people's reactions to the film after is also very rewarding."

The pair, who almost exclusively creates situational comedies, is trying to move 8mufnz in a more professional direction. Although they want to be seen as a business, Thomas wants make sure they remain artists.

Peter Campbell says that studying music has definitely benefitted his filmmaking.

"I think the classes here have helped in almost every way, because I've taken sound design classes and writing classes. My work would be pretty different if USM wasn't involved," Thomas Campbell mused.

His connection with the theatre department also gives the brothers unlimited access to talented actors and actresses.

8mufnz acquires equipment through USM. The University's CI2 Lab research lab on the Portland campus encourages students to work in a creative, open, group environment. The lab also provides filming equipment for Peter and Thomas as long as they help run it.

If their commercial wins the contest then the Campbell's plan to donate some of the prize money to USM's music and theatre programs, especially in light of both programs recently suffering cuts. The brothers would also use the money to invest in new projects and pay their tuition.

As far as advice to aspiring filmmakers, the brothers have one thing to say.

"You're probably not going to love your product when you first finish it, but that discrepancy proves that you have the taste and ability to improve. So just keep making stuff, and it will come," said Peter Campbell.

8mufnz also have a Twitter and a Facebook page to update fans on their new projects, as well as on the process of the Superbowl contest. The semi-finalists will be announced and open to vote on January 5, 2015, so keep your eyes open for "The Gnome," and support your local artists. Already flirting with first place, the Campbell's, as Doritos would say, really "went for the bold."

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Slam poet redefines societal masculinity

Krysteana Scribner
Arts & Culture Editor

Award-winning poet, actor and writer Carlos Andrés Gómez took the stage at USM and performed a variety of his slam poetry, which focused on getting in touch with our emotions and never forgetting the beautiful moments we experience in life.

Gómez grew up believing he needed to fight, treat women as objects and close off his emotions in front of other people. It wasn't until he discovered a love for acting that he began to realize the true cost of holding back emotion. He said that this realization was one of the many moments in his life where he realized he was meant to perform as a career.

"I first got into slam poetry after watching the film *Slam* starring Saul Williams and Sonja Sohn. My biggest inspirations are the overlooked poignant moments in life and reluctant everyday heroes," said Gómez.

Over the course of his performance, Gómez read a variety of poems that touched upon themes ranging from love and violence to how we handle fear and express our emotions.

In his poem titled "Never Again," He read, "It will never happen again. / It's only human, right? / Like checks we can't cash / and children we can't raise / Words without end." Gómez continues with the poem by discussing how we too often use the phrase 'never again' in relationships to hide how aggression dominates everything males are taught.

> **"My book is a raw and intimate look at my journey, mostly stumbling through the dark of trying to figure out the riddle of manhood."**
>
> **Carlos Andrés Gómez**, *Award-winning poet, actor and writer*

Gómez has travelled to over 65 countries and explained that each one has given him a new insight on life and taught him something new.

"In each place I have travelled, I found more things I could relate to that were foreign and I am glad I got the chance to travel to the places I did," said Gómez.

Katelyn Wiggins / Free Press Staff

Carlos Andrés Gómez performs his slam poetry for students at USM.

One of his other works of poetry, titled "Everything," describes what it feels like to be in love by comparing the feeling of the emotion to other pleasurable activities that and cherished memories. Gómez slams, "You are a bowl of captain crunch cereal / that won't end and I'm four / in a bright red onsie with a buttflap in the back / it's a Saturday morning at seven o'clock sharp and transformers is on." His description of love urges men to reconsider how they handle emotions and express their feelings toward their loved ones.

According to Gómez, his poetry is meant to send a message to listeners that they are powerful and beautiful. In one of his spoken-word poems, Gómez recounts a confrontation he once had after accidentally bumping into another man at a nightclub. Just as they were about to fight, Gómez's eyes welled up with tears. Everyone at the scene jumped back as if showing vulnerability was the craziest thing that Gómez could possibly have done when he was supposed to be masculine.

Gómez's new book titled, "Man Up" urges men to break societal rules of male conformity and reconsider what it means to be a male figure.

"My book is a raw and intimate look at my journey, mostly stumbling through the dark of trying to figure out the riddle of manhood." said Gómez. "Ultimately the book is my attempt at giving all people across the gender spectrum permission to be authentic selves and how we might all be able to dismantle patriarchy together."

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A&C Listings

Monday, November 17

Stephen King Book Signing
Books a Million Bookstore
430 Gorham Rd. South Portland
Starts: 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 18

Lecture: Maine during the Civil War
Maine Historical Society
489 Congress St.
Starts: 12:00 p.m. / Ends: 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 19

Lana Del Ray vs. Florence and the Machine
Empire Stadium
575 Congress St.
Starts: 10:30 p.m.

Free Clothing Store
University of Southern Maine
Woodbury Campus Center
Starts: 11:00 p.m. / Ends: 3:00 p.m.

Straight No Chaser A Capella Group
Merrill Auditorium
20 Myrtle St.
Starts: 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 20

Monument Square Farmer's Market
22 Monument Sq.
Starts: 7:00 a.m. / Ends: 1:00 p.m.

Friday, November 21

Hookah Fridays
The Purple Caterpillar
367 Fore St.
Starts: 6:00 p.m.

USM Royal Majesty Drag Show
Holiday Inn Hotel
88 Spring St.
Starts: 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 22

British Art 1400-2000: The Berger Collection
Portland Museum of Art
7 Congress St.
Starts: 1:00 p.m.

Nels Cline and Julian Lage Concert
Space Gallery
538 Congress St.
Starts: 8:00 p.m.

Lake Street Drive Concert
State Theatre
609 Congress St.
Starts: 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 23

Classic Album Sunday: Pink Floyd's The Wall
Port City Music Hall
504 Congress St.
Starts: 5:00 p.m.

Want to submit an event?
arts@usmfreepress.org

Beer by Bruce

Sponsored Content from Shipyard Brewing

Let's hop to it! It's impossible to discuss craft beer without paying homage to the hop. Although that was not the case just a short time ago when our only choices were those light or even lighter lagers (you know the ones) made by multi-national, mega-brewers (you know the ones). By and large, those beers dismiss the potential of the hop. The craft beer revolution has rectified that.

No one celebrates the virtues of the hop more than American craft brewers and no style of beer celebrates the hop more than IPAs. So let the celebrations commence!

Hops are a four-for-one ingredient. They bitter the malt sweetness of beer, aiding in balance and drinkability; season the beer with hop flavor, contributing to complexity; add aromas to tantalize, entice, and ensnare the drinker to that first sip; and aid in preserving the beer. All this from the seed cones, commonly referred to as the flowers of the female hop plant.

Classified as a climbing vine of the nettle family, the hop plant is related to the Cannabis genus. Hops have a mild sedative, but not mind altering, effect. Initially the hop was used for its antiseptic powers, as they possess antibacterial compounds to help preserve beer. This is the dynamic from which IPAs were born.

The British are credited with discovering the preservation abilities of hops back in the heyday of the empire when they shipped beer to their troops in India. The long sea voyage of nearly 6 months proved too much for the standard ale, resulting in spoiled beer. The addition of more hops combined with a higher alcoholic beer did the trick.

Since that time, the hop ante has been substantially raised. Spurred on by aggressive American craft brewers, the rise of hops has led to the emergence and popularity of west coast IPAs, characterized by higher alcoholic strength and hop bitterness.

This caused a major shift in American beer markets, so much so that an arms race ensued with the mission of loading in more bitterness and alcohol. Some of these beers are quite good, even revolutionary, but others are "Shock and Awe" beers – meaning that in an effort to claim ever higher hop and alcohol levels, the balance was lost and, so too, was the drinkability.

It's that balance, or shall we say, some counter measure in the formulation of a great IPA that prompts you to the second pint. Though you can still find those "Shock and Awe" IPAs out there, some middle ground has been found between the original English IPA and the Imperial (west coast) American IPA.

No matter where your individual hop threshold lies, there is an IPA for you. In fact, close to one third of all craft beer consumed is some version of IPA, so the hop is here to stay! This fact isn't lost on us at Shipyard. We make a variety of IPAs in several styles for you to enjoy.

We have the traditional English IPA – Fuggles IPA; an American IPA – Monkey Fist IPA; an Imperial IPA – XXXX IPA; a Black IPA – Shipyard Black IPA; and coming soon a Red Rye IPA. If you can't make up your mind, we invite you to explore our IPA variety 12-pack. Explore, discover…share a Shipyard with someone interesting.

Perspectives

Our opinion: *Spring schedule needs to be solidified*

Signing up for spring classes is stressful. There's something anxiety inducing about building a class schedule that not only moves you closer to graduating, but also fits your work schedule, leaves you time to spend with friends and family and is filled with classes you actually care about. This all has to happen within a short window of time, because being turned down for a class because of overcapacity is also common. But at least we don't have find classes that may or may not exist, because the department is being cut.

Students in programs affected by layoffs or program eliminations have essentially nothing to go by as everyone else is registering for the spring semester. Course offerings were first listed as staff when administrators were looking for alternative instructors and now some courses have been hidden completely.

According to an email from Charlie Fitts, associate dean of the college of science technology and health, to professors, many sections in affected departments are still entirely up in the air. Fitts wrote that sections will be listed, but have an enrollment cap of zero so student can't enroll. The aim is to show students what class the university wants to offer, without committing to a course while details are being drawn out.

We can't imagine trying to plan our academic schedule around what might be offered. The course offerings changing shape so much in the past few weeks isn't inspiring and makes the administration's promise to help students complete degrees is questionable.

So many USM students are concerned about where their spring semester and academic career is headed. They don't know if required classes will be offered, when or if they should buy books and how classes with mystery times and dates will work around the rest of their lives.

How can students budget their time, money and academic interests when course offerings are so uncertain?

The university should have solidified spring offerings before registration opened. While most students will be able to breath a sigh of relief after registering this week, focus on the tail-end of this semester and get excited for the spring, some will be left behind and left wondering and that isn't okay.

Guest Column

An open letter on USM's future

If I could offer you a drug that could increase your math abilities, increase your musical abilities, increase your reading skills, improve your concentration and short term memory, decrease your chance of getting Alzheimer's disease, and improve your problem-solving skills and creativity, all while also expanding your world-view, expanding your sphere of interaction, increasing your understanding of your native language and of your cultural role in the world, increasing tolerance toward diversity, and finally, increasing your desirability to employers and your wage-earning potential, would you want that for yourself or for the young people in your life? Of course you would! Well, learning a foreign language is that drug.1 Numerous studies have demonstrated, over and over, that being bilingual conveys all those benefits.

In today's global economy, the ability to communicate is vital and as more companies expand internationally, the ability to communicate in another language has become a significant advantage in the workforce. Researchers have found that people who speak at least one foreign language have an average annual household income $10,000 higher than that of English-only speakers. And about 17 percent of those who speak at least one foreign language earn more than $100,000 a year. Likewise, 66 percent of North American recruiters agreed that being bilingual will be increasingly important in the next 10 years. 2

USM's recent decision to cut the upper level programs in Spanish as well as the earlier cuts to French, German, Russian, Latin and Greek, are criminally short-sighted. You do a terrible disservice to the students of USM and, by extension, to all residents of Maine, when you deny them the chance to become bilingual.

Likewise, you leave Maine out in the cold when it comes to business development and job growth. As noted above, bilingualism conveys a real, measurable benefit to employees and opens the door for Maine businesses to reach a more global market. By cutting the language programs at USM, you have crippled the future economy of Southern Maine and cut the salaries of our young workers considerably.

It has been reported that all Maine high school students will need to be proficient in a second language by 2017. USM's School of Education and Human Development enrolls 600 students a year3 who go on to form the majority of the primary and secondary school teachers in our state. If we no longer offer them the higher level language courses, how will they teach the next generation of children? It's hard enough for young Mainers to find a job that keeps them in their home state. Don't leave our young teachers unqualified to teach in our schools!

Education is intended to benefit society as a whole as well as the individual and I, for one, am deeply disturbed that you have chosen to ignore the many obvious, scientifically-proven advantages that bilingualism conveys and have thereby condemned Southern Maine to becoming a backwater, provincial, laughingstock of a community. This is what being a "metropolitan university" is all about?

Katrina VanBrugh

Adjunct Professor of Spanish, USM

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.

Student walkout today in protest to recent faculty cuts

Katie Zema
Contributor

Today at noon students on both the Portland and Gorham USM campuses will walk out of our classes and stand together in solidarity against the recent faculty and program cuts made by the USM administration and the UMaine System board of trustees. Students will gather outside of Payson Smith Hall on the Portland campus, and on Hodgdon Field in Gorham.

Why are we doing this? Students in a variety of majors are watching their degree programs—and their university itself—crumble in front of their eyes. USM students are being forced to deal with majors cut, graduation plans needlessly complicated, and we risk losing many professors with whom we have fostered meaningful and irreplaceable relationships. Since October, five programs have been eliminated, and 25 professors retrenched, derailing students' academic progress and imposing a cloud of fear and uncertainty over day-to-day life at USM. We see a university that the students and faculty are deeply, passionately invested in, yet USM does not seem to be invested in us.

The future of USM towards which the board of trustees seems to be leading us is nothing short of frightening, which is why students must stand together today: to demand that the board reverse the cuts, and use their influence to ensure a growing and thriving USM, instead of one that's collapsing.

We all are walking out for our own, personal reasons. There are probably as many reasons as there are students. Perhaps you had that one inspiring conversation with a professor that really changed your career path. Or maybe you were in one of the programs that were cut and are unsure what graduating looks like for you. Or perhaps you were close to one of the many faculty members who have unjustly lost their position with our great university. Regardless of your personal reason, it is time to come together to celebrate all the positive ways USM has shaped students, and reclaim a university that is invested in education, and not profit.

What are my own reasons for walking out today, you may ask? I am walking out today for many reasons. One of them is former sociology professor John Baugher. If I had not sat in his Introduction to Sociology class my first semester at USM, I am not sure where I would be today. It was his Qualitative Research Methods course that showed me a way I want to make a difference in the world. And it was conversations with him, and with other students in his classes, that continue to inspire me everyday.

I am also marching for the women and gender studies program. It was an Introduction to Women and Gender Studies class with Lorrayne Carroll that helped me to develop my passion for gender justice. The truth is, I am marching for every professor I have had, and all the skills and knowledge I have gained because of their dedication to the students at USM; for the diverse professors who taught me how to write with passion, who helped explain Judith Butler, and who even somehow managed to teach me Newton's laws of motion. USM faculty have help me grow as a student and person, and I refuse to stand by and watch something that has done so much for me and so many other students fall apart.

So now is the time to walk out and stand up against the Board of Trustees' decisions—decisions that are having negative effects on so many people, and that are damaging USM's institutional integrity. This is our University and our time to reclaim it. Show that you are here for USM. Be there today at noon and be a part of a movement to protect USM, Maine, and higher education as a whole. Whatever or whoever your reason is, join us today to take back USM.

Katie Zema is a Portland resident and women and gender studies and sociology major at USM.

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Conte and Crumpets

Talking to British peers about USM and American education

Martin Conte
Free Press Staff

Let me start this update by explaining why I've chosen to discuss matters of USM, and Maine, and the United States, rather than what most of you are hoping for, that is, matters abroad. It is rare that, according to a plethora of philosophical texts and a number of the laws of physics, any event exists entirely isolated. Each action we take has reverbations, and too often it is difficult to see how far the rippling waves can travel when you're in the middle of the pond. I'm speaking to you from a position physically outside of USM, but with a heart and mind deeply invested in it. This strange threshold has allowed me to meditate on the implications of certain under goings at the university with an amount of distance from the heart of things.

This is not a plea to the administration of the university. This is not a plea to the students, or the faculty, or the staff, or the Board of Trustees, or the Chancellor's Office. This is, more broadly, a plea to the people of Portland, and the people of the State of Maine. Invest. Whether our methods of investment into the UMaine system is a raise in taxes, or private donations, or alumni campaigns, USM needs money right now. Of that, there can be little doubt.

Tensions are high, as 'sides' are drawn among all the people who should be on the same side. There is really no two sides to this argument, there is only a dedication to the future of this University. And that future, if the university is going to survive by its own self-definition in any way more than superficial, must include the investment of the people in this state as a whole.

No one in the state is unaffected by the events going on at USM. Bleeding faculty, department, staff, majors, and students will directly impact the nature of the economy, the demographics, and the opportunities that Maine has to offer.

If we want to curb the emigration of young people from the State, we need to invest in USM. If we want to give Portland the national acclaim it deserves as the best city to live and work in, we need to invest in USM. If we want to protect and nurture the unique and essential Maine intellect, we need to invest in USM.

This past Wednesday night, I was invited to speak to a group of British students interested in traveling to the United States for a semester exchange. The University of Winchester has a number of relationships with American universities, including USM. I was asked to explain why I thought students should come to Maine for their experience abroad. I can tell you, the concern for the way in which our University is struggling did come to mind, and I spent some time seriously considering whether I could in good faith encourage students to come. What resulted from that consideration was a resounding yes.

Looking at USM from the eyes of an outsider helped remind me, while I've been barraged by news of the civil war raging across campus, why USM is so important. Why are so many people, whether they be people protesting administrative decisions, or people sitting in those administrations themselves, care so strongly about our institution? The answer is self-evident. Going to USM is, I argue, a wholly unique experience because everyone, from your professor to the student next to you to the custodian outside, cares deeply about what the University is capable of achieving. We can build great scholars, scientists, artists, performers. We can protect our local history, and the history of those locals who've existed before us. We can take the growth of cultural diversity in Maine and turn it into real, significant, social change.

Sokvonny Chhouk / *Design Director*

Martin Conte spoke during protests last spring when 12 faculty members were slated for retrenchment.

Up to now, the conflicts arising in USM's budgetary restraints have been presented around the notion of cutting. On one side, to oversimplify things, sits the administration, who sees the faculty as a place where financial cuts can be made. On the other side sits the faculty, who are asked to consider any and all alternative options for cuts. My question is, why talk about cuts at all?

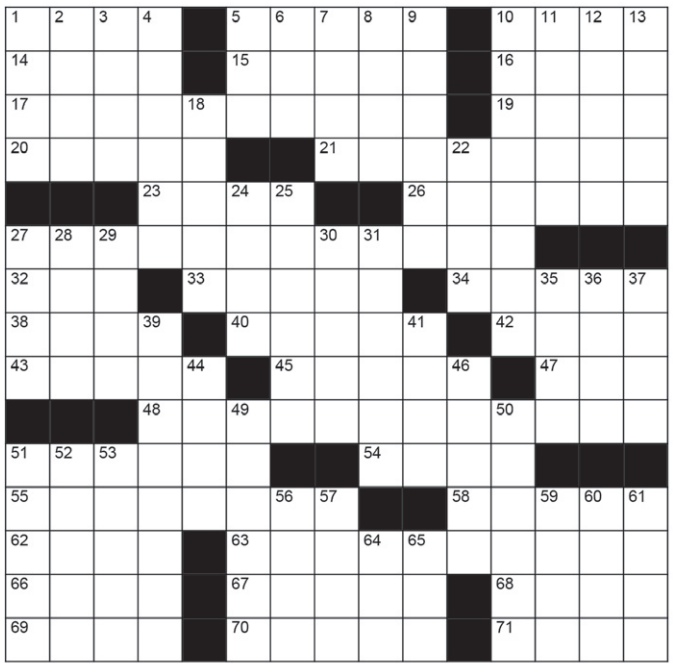
Why aren't we talking about recruitment? Why isn't every involved party volunteering to flood the local, and regional, high schools, with all these stories of the incredible courage and intellectual engagement that USM people possess? Why are we looking at a budget shortfall, and trying to shrink to meet that constraint? Why shouldn't we be seeking ways to expand to the reach that our University is capable of achieving?

When I talk to European students about American culture and identity, we wade through the usual stereotypes: McDonalds, country music, American Football, celebrity culture. But beyond that, I have often found an admiration for this definitively "American" creativity. From an early age, our education, in school and out, places a strong emphasis on individual ingenuity. We are encouraged, by our history and by our future struggles, to think outside the box. So far, it is this sort of thinking that has been absent in USM's rising difficulties.

In the classroom, as well as in conversations on campus with fellow students and alumni, I have learned how to think beyond what I believed my capacity to be. USM should do just that. When I'm asked, by either a British student considering exchange or a high school student considering higher graduation, what type of place USM is, I will tell them about the creativity, the discipline, the integrity, and the out-of-the-box perspective I have engaged with as a student. I will say so proudly. And I will continue investing in what I genuinely hope will be a bright future for the University of Southern Maine, and Maine as a whole.

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

Crossword



Across

1. Cowboy's friend
5. Japanese maker of watches and calculators
10. Mythical shield
14. Comfortable state
15. Hoodlums
16. Let out
17. "Porgy and Bess" setting
19. Native of old Peru
20. ___ Ste. Marie, Mich.
21. Revealing kind of slip
23. Food
26. Sparkly rock
27. Public reaction test
32. Distributor of many CD-ROMs
33. French composer
34. Sell illegally, as tickets
38. Football penalty
40. Splits
42. Place to put a thimble
43. France's Joan ___
45. Peter and Claudius
47. Red meat source
48. Johnny Cash classic written by Shel Silverstein
51. Bleach
54. Cowboys or Indians
55. Bridle
58. Big gato
62. "The ___ lama, he's...": Nash
63. Texas' state flower
66. Run out of steam
67. Haves
68. Affirmation
69. Follow, as advice
70. Heads, in France
71. Maps rds.

Down

1. Bench press muscles, for short
2. Small battery type
3. Alphabetic quartet
4. Rid of parasites, as a pooch
5. Coins: Abbr.
6. Sound of satisfaction
7. Explore, as the Internet
8. Marty Feldman's role in 'Young Frankenstein'
9. SUNY city on Lake Ontario
10. Exhibit A, Exhibit B, etc.
11. Mythical wish granters
12. South American natives
13. Musial and Laurel
18. Sloping type: Abbr.
22. Popular pizza/grill chain, informally
24. Chairlift relative
25. Smooth as silk
27. Mexican serving
28. German playwright Hochhuth
29. Russian gold medalist ___ Kulik
30. Add pep to, with "up"
31. Look over lickerishly
35. Sweetsop
36. Sockdolager
37. Zebulon with a peak named for him
39. Went on and on and on and ...
41. "___ Enchanted Evening"
44. Person with a handle
46. Old defense pact
49. In order to win money
50. Key of Beethoven's Ninth
51. Incensed
52. Legendary skater Sonja
53. Rhone feeder
56. He, to Hadrian
57. Night, in N'mes
59. Pint-sized pest
60. Network
61. English letters
64. Season, French style
65. Egyptian deity

Sudoku

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

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

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

Cryptogram

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

RK P UMPKOHBPC USCHOMYUOH P EJPYORKYQ BPCOJQ, HTSYQF TJ EJ HTJQK-HPORHKRJF?

And here is your hint:

J = E

The solution to last issue's crossword

Weekly Horoscope

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

Aries ★★★
March 21-April 19

Your self-discipline is stronger today. Take a first, small step in a program to make yourself better. Small habits create large effects.

Taurus ★★
April 20-May 20

Use your objectivity to examine your close commitments today. You can pinpoint areas for improvement in your relationships.

Gemini ★★★
May 21-June 20

Investigative instincts are strong today. Play CLUE, read Sherlock Holmes, explore the attic, do research, archeology in the yard, etc.

Cancer ★★★
June 21-July 22

In sharing ideas, you're unsure how much to shock others and how much to avoid making waves. Mental comfort vies with innovation.

Leo ★★★★★
July 23-August 22

Dramatic instincts are strong today and add excitement to your love life. Role-playing each other's fantasies may heighten libidos.

Virgo ★★
August 23-September 22

Today you can be extra practical and sensible. Don't work so hard that you forget to also kick back and enjoy life.

Libra ★★★★
September 23-October 22

Time for something NEW in the way of fun. Do something you've never tried before. Experiment and your enjoyment increases!

Scorpio ★★★
October 23-November 21

Leisure themes are mixed between an inward, private focus and an emphasis on friends and groups. Blend solitary and social needs.

Sagittarius ★★★★
November 22-December 21

Singing and music soothe your spirits today. Attend a concert, hear an orchestra or musical performer, play CDs, tapes, or radio.

Capricorn ★★★★
December 22-January 19

Take the family portrait, give your lover a sexy boudoir photograph, or create some pleasing visual memories.

Aquarius ★★★★
January 20-February 18

Sharing the material/sensual world with a partner is emphasized. Arguing about money or sex won't help. Find mutual satisfaction.

Pisces ★★★
February 19-March 20

Independent relationships are featured today. You feel a strong need for space, or a friend or partner goes off into their own pursuits.

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USM Community Page

Community Spotlight:
Workshop teaches the benefits of going organic

David Sanok
Free Press Staff

Last Wednesday, students gathered at the USM Community Garden Soil Building Workshop to grow organic vegetables and learn more about building garden soil and permaculture.

The project began this past April with the intention of teaching students about the benefits of eating nutritious organically grown vegetables.

Many of the vegetables grown at the workshop include kale, tomatoes, and various fruits and herbs. Some students are also able to grow their own plants like flowers by using soil to fill newly built raised beds with affordable materials that will break down and provide a healthy soil. The soil allows for USM gardeners to grow fresh organic plants for next spring and is used as a learning tool by the instructors to help students create a sustainable garden.

Stephanie Britta, a sophomore health sciences major, has been in the club since April and joined to maintain her agrarian lifestyle.

"I grew up in a farm when I was a kid"said Britta."When I got be a teenager, I started working on other farms during high school to gain more experience."

But after Britta came to USM last fall, she said that she found it difficult to adjust to the cheap and processed food served at USM.

According to Britta, the benefits of organic food include higher levels of vitamins, antioxidants, carbohydrates, and proteins which helps lead to better fitness. Vegetables that are sprayed with pesticides and cows that are fed grain rather than grass contain less of these ingredients that can lead to weight gain problems.

"I always ate organic food that was grown on a farm and never the processed food from supermarkets," said Britta. "If I ever ate a burger or steak, I always buy from farmer's markets where the cows were grass fed and not grain fed. I also make sure the fruits and vegetables I buy are not sprayed with pesticides and were made local. "

Although she bought organic food instead of eating on campus, Britta still wanted to find a way to continue growing her own organic food at college. That's when Britta found the office of sustain ability.

"When I came to USM last year, I started working for Tyler Kidder, the coordinator of the office of sustainability, where I got involved in recycling and composting food. She recommended this workshop to me as not only a way to get involved in gardening again and grow my own organic food, but also to meet other students who share the same interests in practicing an organic diet."

As a health science major, studying nutrition is part of Britta's major and is something she wants to pursue as a career.

"I want to live off the grid after I graduate and get into the medicine aspect of nutrition" said Britta. "I'll certainly continue gardening after I graduate, but I don't think I'll start a farm."

David Sanok / *Free Press Staff*

Students lay out a bed of newspapers to build a bed of soil that can be used for next years growing season.

Britta also feels that she will be making more of a difference in people's lives by educating people about the benefits of healthy food. "I don't think there's enough young people out there who know about organic food and how healthy it is," said Britta.

"I think if more people know about organic food and there's a bigger push for more healthy meals in our schools, kids will come to love it and grow up healthier into their adulthood."

At the end of this month, members of the workshop will shut down gardening for the year by covering up the beds with newspapers. This is done to preserve the compost soil for the winter so the soil can be used again for next spring when workshop will resume gardening.

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From the BDN

Nearly 200 people gather for vigil in honor of Portland fire victims

Seth Koenig
BDN Staff

PORTLAND, Maine — Nearly 200 people gathered in Portland's Longfellow Park on Tuesday night for a vigil to remember the six people who died this month just a short walk away in what was Maine's deadliest fire in four decades.

The 20-24 Noyes St. blaze has tested the city on multiple levels. In addition to the emotional toll the tragedy took on survivors, neighbors and first responders, the incident also stoked criticism the city's building inspections team is understaffed and working with outdated procedures.

Investigators have yet to publicly declare the cause of the blaze, which was reported just after 7 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, the morning after residents at the two-unit, 94-year-old home reportedly held a Halloween party.

The victims of the fire have been identified as tenants David Bragdon Jr., 27, Ashley Thomas, 29, and Nicole Finlay, 26, as well as visitors to the building Christopher Conlee, 25, of Portland and Maelisha Jackson, 23, of Topsham.

A sixth victim, 29-year-old Steven Summers of Rockland, leapt from the upper floors of the 94-year-old building to escape. He was hospitalized with severe burns and died from his injuries three days later.

Seven others who were at the house when the fire broke out escaped.

Allen Ewing-Merrill, co-pastor of the United Methodist Church HopeGateWay, said Tuesday he knows one of the survivors. About 30 people gathered at HopeGateWay late Tuesday afternoon to decorate prayer or hope flags before walking to the nearby park for the evening vigil.

"Our window looks right out onto that house, and it's pretty horrifying to think about what happened there and the people who didn't get out," Ewing-Merrill said. "But I also believe in the triumph of light over the darkness and the triumph of hope over despair."

Portland police Officer Alissa Poisson was one of the public safety personnel who to went to the fire scene Nov. 1. She joined with others at HopeGateWay to paint a prayer flag.

"The amount of loss in just a matter of minutes really had an impact on the officers and responders who were at the scene," she said. "We're trying to be there for each other. It's more loss than we're used to in just a moment's time."

Carol Schiller, head of the area's University Neighborhood Organization, called the tragedy "a profound loss for all of us."

"I enjoyed seeing Ashley and Nikki and their little dog, Daisy, in the park," she said during the Tuesday night vigil. "They brought vibrancy to our neighborhood."

Luminary votive bags lined the perimeter of the park and speakers at the vigil lit seven candles representing love, joy, memories, tears, hope, peace and strength. Laurie Whittemore, local volunteer chaplain for the American Red Cross, read the names of the victims, each one punctuated by a gong.

In the aftermath of the fire, the city of Portland announced the establishment of a task force to review staffing levels and inspection processes. The announcement came Friday, when the city released a record of multiple complaints against the 20-24 Noyes St. building, specifically 16 in the last 11 years, including several by neighbors concerned about accumulations of "trash and combustibles" around the property.

Seth Koenig / *BDN Staff*

Nearly 200 people attended a vigil Tuesday night in Longfellow Park in Portland, not far from where a Nov. 1 fire claimed the lives of six people.

A 2013 consultant's review of the Portland Fire Department recommended the city have 10 full-time inspectors to keep up with annual fire code inspections for the nearly 5,000 business and apartment buildings that should have them. Portland's Inspections Division includes just four inspectors, only one of whom is designated to respond to complaints like those lodged against 20-24 Noyes St. and conducted 850 such inspections last year.

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Featured Photo:

Sam Hill / *Editor-in-Chief*

USM raised the POW/MIA flag on Veteran's Day last week.

HELP WANTED

Pearl Ultra Nightclub & Pearl Tap House are seeking: Waitresses - Coat Check - Shot Girls

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Pearl ultra nightclub
442 Fore St

207-523-9600
Portland, ME

Pearl Tap House
446 Fore St

Campus Events

Monday, November 17

Movement Mondays
4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.
The Multipurpose Room, Sullivan Fitness & Recreation Complex, Portland

Glow Flow Yoga
7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Multipurpose room, Sullivan Gym, Portland

Tuesday, November 18

Rusty Rocket in Full Dome!
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Southworth Planetarium, Portland

Free Clothing Store
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Woodbury Campus Center Amphitheater, Portland

Wednesday, November 19

Chill The Eff Out Wednesday
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
The Wellness Center, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland

Commuter Connections
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
The Wellness Center, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland

Students of Economic Interest Meeting
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Room 520, Glickman Library, Portland

Dance night
8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Brooks Student Center, Portland

Thursday, November 20

2014 Husky Harvest Festival
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Woodbury Campus Center, Portland

Genocide and ME: Shining the Light of Truth
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Hannaford Hall, Abromson Center, Portland

Jazz Ensemble
7:30 p.m.
Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham

Philantrophy PINGO
9:00 p.m.
Brooks Student Center, Portland

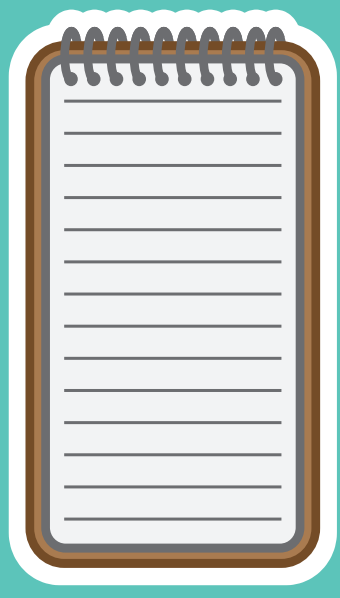
Friday, November 21

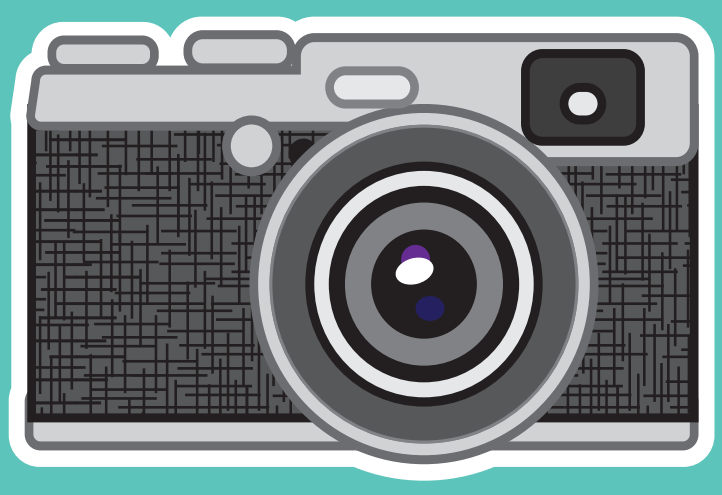
Muslim Student Association
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Woodbury Campus Center Conference Room, Portland

Student Senate Meeting
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Room 405, Bailey Hall, Gorham

15th Annual Royal Majesty Drag Show
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn by the Bay, Spring Street, Portland

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





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