Petition circling to bring a bar to Gorham campus

200 signatures needed, SGA pushing for 500 to send a stronger message

Thomas Fitzgerald
News Intern

A referendum question has been circulating among USM that is asking for student support for a bar to be built on campus. Although there are not very many details regarding funding of this operation, or where it would be on the Gorham campus, students are being asked to sign.

“We are just circulating the referendum to get the conversation started and to see how students would feel about it,” explained student senate member Ashley Caterina. “With their support, we can hopefully use that information and bring it to the appropriate parties. Plans will start being developed once the results from the referendum are in.”

It is the lack of information that is leaving a lot of questions from students and staff that are wondering if this plan is economical for the school. The inability to have answers regarding budgeting and where the bar will be built leaves some unsure about what they are signing.

“Given the small number of 21+ residents, and the cost of serving alcohol, it does not make financial sense to widely host the sale of alcohol at events,” said Welter. “We are continuing to consider pairing the serving of alcohol with events that we are going to have a large number of community members on campus.”

The wide sale of alcohol is likely never to reach our campus, but a pub that is similar to the Bear’s Den pub that is on campus in Orono is a more likely scenario. Orono alumni, Seth Albert, best described it as “how you would imagine Starbucks if they served beer and some food.”

Senior student and Technology management major Dan Jandreau weighed in on the situation as more of a positive lift for the student community.

“I think a campus pub would be a great addition to the Gorham Campus,” said Jandreau. “For students of age, there is not a lot to do in the Gorham area for nightlife, so providing an on campus solution is great. This also means less people going to the Old Port from campus which could result in less driving under the influence.”

Safety is an important factor to consider when thinking about the possibility that added night life can bring to the Gorham campus. As opposed to students wondering how they will find a way back to campus after a night in Portland, they can instead have the opportunity to enjoy themselves while only a walking distance away from their dorm.

The required 200 signatures have already been reached for the referendum to be passed along but the senate believes that 500 signatures will send a stronger message.
Zachary Sears
News Editor

Metropolitan University is an initiative that’s been around for a few years, but really started to surface and take hold last fall. MU has a complicated and entangled history as was evident with the moans and groans from the faculty when MU was brought up at last Friday’s faculty senate meeting.

One problem that Rebecca Tanous, student body president, has with the MU initiative was the timing of it all coming to light last fall. “The big problem with the timing of MU initiative is that it happened at the same times as cuts, so the number one thing that students find is that it means more cuts,” said Tanous.

Tanous found this to be true when she went around campus asking students what they thought of MU and most responded in a negative way because they thought it was associated with cuts.

Lorraine Carroll, Associate Professor of English at USM, stated that MU has a lot of initiatives tangled within it, one of them being an identity assigned to USM by the Board of Trustees under their one university model.

One thing that is clear is that there is a lot of confusion surrounding MU, so it begs the question: what does Metropolitan University really mean?

“In my eyes it means more resume builders as a student because we’re committed to helping our community and using that as a forum to get students experience,” said Tanous.

Some faculty and staff have expressed concern that by using the term metropolitan, it may put the focus entirely in Portland and leave out the university’s other two campuses.

“Doesn’t adequately capture the full range of work that people do,” said Carroll. She then went on to mention the work that nursing students do in the Dominican Republic, which may not be directly tied to the Portland community but is still work done by students in the community.

“With these added costs, something has to be done to generate money to afford this. One way this could be done is through enrollment gains.” said Tuchinsky. “If those things help enrollment then great, but enrollment gains are really secondary to USM becoming a stronger university.”

Tuchinsky was asked to comment on the cost of the MU initiative and if these numbers were still accurate, and responded by stating that it’s difficult to put a dollar value on something like a Metropolitan University.

With these added costs, something has to be done to generate money to afford this. One way this could be done is through enrollment gains.

Tuchinsky commented that in many ways, the MU initiative is just articulating on what faculty and students have been doing for years.

“Existing programs such as service learning that are designed to get students out working with the community. Some faculty and staff have expressed concern that by using the term metropolitan, it may put the focus entirely in Portland and leave out the university’s other two campuses. That’s a price tag that could potentially cost $150.00 per student. Tuchinsky was asked to comment on the cost of the MU initiative and if these numbers were still accurate, and responded by stating that it’s difficult to put a dollar value on something like a Metropolitan University.

With these added costs, something has to be done to generate money to afford this. One way this could be done is through enrollment gains.”

In the end, this is about making USM more connected to its community and improving learning and making USM a better institution.
Sukkah constructed on campus for week long Jewish festival

A short walk between Luther Bonney and Payson Smith will open your eyes to a strange structure sitting on the grass between the buildings. Made up of different types of wood, its roof is covered with the leafy branches of a Beech tree. This small hideaway, called a Sukkah, serves as both a spiritual getaway to students and as a way to connect community members in one meaningful space.

A Sukkah, often translated from Hebrew as booth, is a temporary structure constructed for use during the week-long Jewish festival of Sukkot, something akin to a harvest, or fall festival. It is topped with branches and often decorated with autumnal, harvest and/or Judaic themes.

Using money allocated from a community grant, Asherah Cinnamon is a contemporary artist living in Portland who is the creator of this project and called the Sukkah, “The Dwelling Place.”

The small structure has travelled to different college campuses in Maine over the past few years. It has been here at our campus, to the University of New England gallery, MECA, the Maine Jewish Museum and SMCC. It rotates each year and a formal meal is hosted every year in the Sukkah.

Every year, faculty and staff members at the Jewish Organization “Hillel of Southern Maine” are kind enough to share this with us. This group’s goal is to provide connections between USM students and community members interested in Jewish culture and faith.

Traditionally, it is a requirement that the small architecture be built only from materials growing from the ground. This explains why the walls are made of long pieces of wood and the roof is made of freshly cut tree branches.

Inside the structure is enough space for a small table, where you have the opportunity to connect with the natural world through simply enjoying a soft breeze while the sun shines against your skin. For Cinnamon, the choosing of beech branches was a particular choice.

“Often outlasting the winter, these leaves seem to wrestle with the wind - and I love the sound of it – it's like Maine music to me,” explained Cinnamon. “So to sit in the Sukkah and listen to the leaves rustle is part of the pleasure of being in the Sukkah.”

Part of the symbol of the Sukkah now in modern times is about welcoming the stranger, feeding our neighbors and caring for one another and strengthening the community.

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Sarah Holmes, Assistant Dean of Students

“It helps us, as a community, build a bridge between our daily lives, the natural world and our understanding of the divine.”

For Bernstein, the Sukkah acts as a place she can experience all her cultural backgrounds at once through foods associated with them. The combination of Maine’s apple cider with Israel’s love for Falafel and Pita bread, for example.

Sarah Holmes, the Assistant Dean of Students and administrative liaison to the Religious and Spiritual Life Council, believes the Sukkah is a great installation to bring to USM.

“Hillel of Southern Maine” is a reminder that my people were looking for a home and it’s a reminder there are unfortunately people in this culture in this society in this town in this state who don’t have a home,” said Cinnamon.

Ariel Bernstein, a community member who works with the Jewish Community Alliance to advise Southern Maine Hillel and member of the USM Religious and Spiritual Life Council, explained that this big project took a lot of volunteers to build the Sukkah.

“The Jewish community of Portland really came together for this,” said Bernstein. “But the Sukkah is here for all of us to enjoy; it is an extremely beautiful piece of work.”

“It helps us, as a community, build a bridge between our daily lives, the natural world and our understanding of the divine.”

Sarah Holmes, Assistant Dean of Students

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International Socialist Organization gets new club on campus

Contributor
Nicholas Beauchesne

The USM branch of the International Socialist Organization (ISO) held its second on-campus meeting of the semester Tuesday night on the first floor of the Glickman Library.

The word socialism, in and of itself, is polarizing. Long marginalized in the American political system as radical, part and parcel to communism and a threat to democracy, strong stigmas have been attached to the socialist movement stretching back at least to the era of the Cold War.

The group came together to discuss its progress up to this point, as well as its direction moving forward. New to campus, this group has several hurdles to overcome in order for it to become a viable and active organization among the many other student groups offered on campus.

Each club on campus seeks to establish a mission of sorts: something that it stands for and represents. The ISO is no different in that regard, though its message has long been established. Pete Franzen, a graduate student studying clinical mental health, spoke about the agenda for the club, as well as the socialist movement as a whole.

“We are looking for a coherent way to make things better. There is this belief that the system that we have in place is working,” said Franzen. “The media conveys this message that all you have to do is pull yourself up by the bootstraps, work hard and you will achieve the American dream. We don’t see things that way.

“We asked about the difficulty in getting people to move past the stigmas and mischaracterizations so often attached to the idea of socialist politics. Owen Hill, head organizer of the USM branch of the ISO, sees the socialist message coming through more clearly now than ever before.

“People are already moving past [the stigma]. The rule of the few over the many has gone on for far too long,” said Hill. Hill spoke clearly about the aims of the movement in general, and the club in particular. “To replace the rule of the bankers and real-estate developers with the democracy of ordinary working people,” said Hill.

With one of the leading candidates for the 2016 presidential election, Vermont senator Bernie Sanders, identifying as a socialist democrat, the movement finds itself with a bigger platform from which to work under. The Berlin Wall came down a quarter century ago; much thawing out has happened in terms of people’s perceptions of socialism.

The fact that Bernie Sanders is polling as strongly as he is, whether or not he represents the entirety of the socialist agenda, is a case in point.

All the while, the USM branch of the ISO will be conducting its weekly meetings, seeking to draw in support, and hoping to get its message heard.

Leader of the new club on campus, Owen Hill, speaks at the group’s first meeting that took place earlier this month.

Opt out rates for vaccines around the country are on the rise and Maine is one of the highest in the nation.

Maine’s vaccination exemption rate more than doubles national average

7,554 students opted out of sending vaccination records, according to Lisa Belanger, Director of Health Services at USM. That is approximately five percent of students.

Currently, students do not need to provide any specific argument in order to waive out of sending records of their immunizations, or lack of.

The reasons students opt out include religious principles and philosophical oppositions, as well as simply being unable to acquire their records due to significant inconveniences such as an inability to access their records or no longer possessing them.

“If an outbreak does happen, that convenience becomes inconvenient,” explained Cori Cornier, a University Health and Counseling Services staff member, referencing USM’s policy that all students without vaccination records are required to leave campus for the duration of the outbreak.

The concern of an outbreak is not met with the same reaction everywhere, with nation wide anti-vaccination movements expounding the dangers of these life-saving medicines based on refuted, false scientific studies, mainly a redacted paper by former British surgeon Andrew Wakefield which insinuated a link between the MMR vaccine and autism.

In his paper, Wakefield claimed that vaccines caused autism due to a mercury-containing compound called thimerosal which was an ingredient in earlier vaccines.

Despite there being no scientific evidence in favor of thimerosal relation to autism, the compound was eliminated from most vaccines in 1999 as a precaution.

The state of Maine’s vaccination exemption rate is one of the highest in the country at 1.7 percent, more than double the national average, according to to the Portland Press Herald.

Low vaccination rates contribute to the spread of diseases such as measles, pertussis, and chickenpox. The dangers of these diseases, all made less prevalent by vaccines, have some Maine citizens concerned about their safety and that of their families.

“I think schools should require vaccinations. Anybody who doesn’t get vaccinated poses a risk for the resurgence of deadly diseases,” said Michael Johnson, a physics major and junior at USM.

According to the Bangor Daily News, Maine is one of the 18 states that allow parents to waive their children from immunizations for philosophical reasons.

Also reported in the Portland Press Herald were Maine’s school-by-school vaccination rates, released by the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The troubling data revealed that 20 percent of students at South Portland’s Small Elementary School were opted out of vaccines by their parents, giving the school one of the highest opt-out rates in Maine.

The realization that the country is not as immunized as it could be has led to action from pro-vaccination movements, including groups with offices in the state of Maine.

“It simply is not safe to have a large population of unvaccinated people,” said an anonymous USM student. “Maine is supposed to be a place where you dream of retiring - not catching measles.”

Opt out rates for vaccines around the country are on the rise and Maine is one of the highest in the nation.

In recent years vaccines have become a hotly-debated topic, leading to division in schools over whether or not students should be allowed to be exempt from getting vaccinated.

This year at the University of Southern Maine, 385 of the school’s 7,554 students opted out of sending vaccination records, according to Lisa Belanger, Director of Health Services at USM. That is approximately five percent of students.

Currently, students do not need to provide any specific argument in order to waive out of sending records of their immunizations, or lack of.

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The flash flood in photographs
How Portland handled the massive storm

Krysteana Scribner
Editor-in-chief

Last Wednesday, the streets of downtown Portland flooded with immense amounts of rain that made commuting across town a difficult task, with nearly 5.63 inches of rain falling covering the ground.

Earlier that morning, a national weather alert was issued for the danger of increased flooding in low level areas.

In Portland, the flooding was aggravated by a 11.6 foot high tide, causing sewage systems to back up, unable to absorb the massive amounts of water pouring into the streets.

In turn, many of the cites manholes opened up, letting large amounts of water to pour into the streets and cause cars to become stuck in deep waters.

For Sac resident Bryan Shaffer, her daily commute to work in South Portland was problematic as well. “The mall parking lot was flooded so bad,” explained Shaffer. “The water leaked into my car. The water and sewage was everywhere.”

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Patricia Higgins / Free Press Staff

In Brief...

Patriots winning means free coffee

If you aren’t a football fan already, you’re going to be.

Dunkin’ Donuts is bringing back its “Pats Win, You Win” free coffee offer for DD Perks members, which means each time the Patriots win members will receive one free any size DD hot or iced coffee when they pay with an DD card or with the mobile app.

The offer is only valid on the day following a Patriots win. So far the Patriots are 3-0 and lead the AFC Eastern Division. Their next game is on Sunday, Oct. 11 against the Dallas Cowboys.

Planned Parenthood supporters rally in Portland

More than a hundred people rallied in Portland’s Monument Square on last Tuesday to support Planned Parenthood.

The event was part of the group’s nationwide campaign to fight criticisms from congressional Republicans over the use of aborted fetuses for medical research.

Some conservatives in Congress have called for potentially shutting down the federal government to axe funding for Planned Parenthood.

“We can talk about the extremists in Congress who are attempting to hold all of America hostage and their agenda of defunding Planned Parenthood and rolling back reproductive rights,” said Rep. Sara Gideon, D-Freeport, to the crowd. “But folks, what we really want to do today is, instead, spread our message: Mainers know better. We are here today to stand arm-in-arm with Planned Parenthood.”

A lone counter-protestor did appear in Monument Square, holding two large signs with graphic images of purportedly aborted fetuses, but was quickly surrounded by Planned Parenthood supporters who blocked his signs with their own.

Ice skating options

An ice skating rink is being planned and set to open on Thompson’s Point in Portland.

The rink is slated to open to the public the week of Thanksgiving, according to Chris Thompson, a principal in Forefront Partners, the developers of Thompson’s Point. Some details are still being finalized, but Thompson said they expect the rink to be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily from Thanksgiving week until the end of February.

The rink will be covered, have a heating tent and skate rentals.

There will be food trucks on site as well as an outdoor bar headed by Bramhall Pub’s Mike Fraser.

“It’s all in finding the right partners,” Thompson said. “It’s really finding that right mix of folks to build the neighborhood we want.”

First mayoral debate held

Portland Mayor Michael Brennan was one of the main topics of discussion during the first mayoral debate Wednesday night, with his two opponents taking aim at his leadership and policy positions.

The candidates touched on development, immigration and homelessness during the debate before a crowd of more than 50 people.

Former state Sen. Ethan Strimling and Portland Green Independent leader Tom MacMillan frequently criticized the mayor for ignoring the concerns of Portland residents, who they say have been trying to govern through referendum and are worried about increasing rents.

Brennan defended his record, noting his efforts to increase local food used by institutions, address workforce development, support hundreds of immigrants and advocating for the city in Augusta.

String of bank robberies solved

City police on Tuesday said about six bank robberies that have been reported since May have been solved.

The most recent robbery occurred last Friday, and suspects allegedly involved in all six cases are in custody, Chief Michael Sauschuck announced Tuesday.

Portland police worked with the community, the FBI and nearby agencies in solving all six cases. A bank robbery conviction carries a prison sentence of up to 30 years in Maine.

“Portland continues to be a safe city with a low crime rate,” Sauschuck said. “The success we have had is due to partnerships with the media, community members and law enforcement partners.”

News

Police Beat

Selections from the USM Department of Public Safety police log September 16 to September 20

Wednesday, Sept. 16

Phantom of the music hall
Suspicious activity reported at Corrhill Hall. Checked by officer. Unfounded.

Thursday, Sept. 17

Too parked, too furious

I’m ill, not sick
Rescue call, Woodbury campus center. Student feeling ill. Rescue transported to Maine Medical Center. Report Taken.

Bee safe
Rescue Call, Woodbury Campus Center. Student having an allergic reaction to bee sting. Rescue transported to Maine Medical Center. Report taken.

Courtyard cut-off

A+ aggressive
Disorderly conduct, Woodbury Campus Center. Report taken.

Card stock cop work
Paper service. Anderson Hall. Officer attempting to serve summons.

Friday, Sept. 18

Officer Smith, ghost car hunter
Suspicious incident, Bedford Street. Officer checking on suspicious vehicle. Officer handled.

Stopped, but no stop sign
Motor vehicle stop, 96 Falmouth St. summons issued. Report taken.

Attempted Facebook hack crushed
Theft report, Payson Smith Hall. Officer took a theft report involving a stolen laptop.

“Investigated”

Friday, Sept. 19

Repeat offender
Suspicious person, Upton Hastings Hall. Trespass violation. Unfounded.

Saturday, Sept. 20

It’s getting hot in here

Bathroom stall sniff

Police logs are edited for grammar and style. They can be found at usm.maine.edu/police/campus-crime-log.
The Beauty Queen of Leenane is a must see for many reasons. This dark comedy, full of sass and sardonic wit, features Friel's signature style of dance. Each character through their distinct movements offers a compelling performance. The audience was swept away with sheer joy at the sister's antics. Each with a distinct and shining personality, backed by irish folk music, the characters early, yet it doesn't affect audiences being swept away with sheer joy at the sister's antics. Each with a distinct and shining personality, backed by the irish folk music. The iconic dancing at Lughnasa has a lot of social and cultural dynamics. It represents a key transition of Irish culture in the 1930's, said Mcgrath. The play touches upon issues such as the rise of technology, the loss of jobs due to more factories opening night of Portland Stage. The play's opening night was on October 5th at the Studio Theatre at Portland Stage, 25A Forest Avenue in Portland at 7:30 p.m. and runs consecutively until October 10th, so be sure to trek out to see the absolute success that is this play, and to support our Theatre department.

Dancing at Lughnasa

The Portland Stage Presents

Performers in the show stand together in costume for a photo shoot.

Photo courtesy of Portland Stage

A solemn air was cast over the opening night of Portland Stage’s Dancing at Lughnasa. On Friday, October 2nd, playwright Brian Friel passed away in his home in Greencastle, County Donegal, Ireland. He was 86. Considered one of the greatest English speaking playwrights of his time and beloved by many, Friel’s work is not over. Directed by Sally Wood, The Portland Stage’s production of Dancing at Lughnasa is far from the last. The audience started the play with a sober respect for the playwrights passing, but couldn’t help but erupt in laughter and gasps as his work unfolded before them. At the end of the performance, the audience cheered in a long standing ovation.

Francis Mcgrath, an English professor at USM, specializes in 19th and 20th Century British and Irish literature and theory. He also specializes in the works of Brian Friel. “I often teach Friel’s plays in my courses, as he comes from where my research takes place in. He writes about social growing pains that Ireland’s had over the 20th century,” said Mcgrath.

Dancing at Lughnasa is a memory play that follows five unmarried sisters in rural Ireland during the Lughnasa harvest festival. It is told through the eyes of the illegitimate child of one of the sisters, Michael Evans, played by Randolph. Offered not-so-subtle comic relief. The iconic dancing scene was magnificently done, and left the audience clapping and bushed. Each actor showed their character through their distinct style of dance.

In the words of Michael Evans, “Dancing as if language had surrendered to movement- as if this ritual, this wordless ceremony, was now the way to speak, to whisper private and sacred things, to be in touch with some other- ness.” It was a performance that Friel would have been proud of.
Monday, October 5
Timelines
State Theater
609 Congress St.
Starts: 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 6
North Korea: Pulling Back the Curtain
University of Southern Maine
102 Wishcamper Center
Starts: 9:30 a.m.

Folk Music: Greg Baardman
Acoustic Artisans
564 Congress St.
Starts: 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 7
The Beauty Queen of Leenane
The Portland Stage Company Studio Theater
25A Forest Ave.
Starts: 7:30 p.m. / Ends: 9:30 p.m.

Irish Concert Series
Blue
650A Congress St.
Starts: 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 8
Cemetery Walking Tours: The Wreck of the Otrask
Evergreen Cemetery
672 Sreven Ave.
Starts: 12:00 p.m. / Ends: 1:30 p.m.

Pretty Girls Sing Soprano
Local Sprouts Cooperative
649 Congress St.
Starts: 7:00 p.m. / Ends: 9:00 p.m.

John Brown’s Body
Port City Music Hall
504 Congress St.
Starts: 8:00 p.m.

Friday, October 9
Bounce: How the Ball Taught the World to play
Space Theater
538 Congress St.
Starts: 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 10
No Biz Like Show Biz
Good Theater
76 Congress St.
Starts: 7:30 p.m.

Lucero
Port City Music Hall
504 Congress St.
Starts: 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 11
Dancing at Lughnasa
The Portland Stage Company
25A Forest Ave.
Starts: 2:00 p.m.

The truth behind vacationland
The Gorham art gallery examines how postcards with agendas shape the world view of quintessential Maine.

Glossy postcards litter the shorelines and mailboxes throughout our state, bearing bold bubble-letter statements like, “Maine: the way life should be,” or “Gettings from Vacationland.” These phrases are superimposed over sprawling images of Acadia National Park in Autumn, waves crashing around The Portland Head Lighthouse and a moose leisurely chewing grass in Sebago Lake. These are the visions of Maine we’re all used to. But until December 11th, USM’s Art Gallery in Gorham invites viewers to question them with their exhibit, “Picturing Maine: The Way Life Was.”

Curated by Donna Cassidy and Libby Bischof, the exhibit draws from USM’s photo archives with images of Maine from the early 1900’s to the 1950’s. Some prints of the pictures are on sale at the gallery, and all are accessible through The Library of Commerce, where they are now public domain.

The exhibit is part of a large project called The Maine Photo Project, which is a consortium of curators throughout the state, all hosting galleries full of Maine-themed photographers. Some are pulled from collections and some are contemporary. Accompanied by Bates, Bowdoin, and Colby, USM has worth contribution to the project.

USM will also show works by Maine photographer Todd Webb at the Area Gallery in Portland. A previous artist-in-residence, Webb left behind some works that will be shown. There will be a symposium on the works on October 15th at the Glickman Library.

One part of the exhibit features photos taken for The Detroit Publishing Company. One of the largest American publishers of postcards, the company hired numerous photographers to capture Maine’s beauty in a way that specifically appeals to potential tourists. Displayed in geographical order, the results are several clean and well composed photos of Maine’s notable countryside clubs, lighthouses, and beaches.

Some of the sites no longer exist, like an old train station. The Portland Union Station, that used to stand on the intersection of Congress Street and St. John Street. The land holds a strip mall now. Women in one piece bathing suits sit peacefully on Old Orchard Beach and great lawns sprawl out before large resorts. One can also view the colored postcards these images turned into.

“These postcards are telling tourists that Maine is their playground,” said Carolyn Eyler, Director of exhibitions and programs. The images were certainly aimed at well off white people with the ability to travel.

A stark comparison to the sunny photographs of Maine’s best lies across the gallery, as photographers try to capture the state’s “worst.” In the late 1930’s, the Farm Security Administration (FSA), an organization the helped farmers after the Depression, was founded. The goal was to show to farmers the value of their craft. A third and very different view of the Pine Tree State is not taken by a photographer at all. A group of black women in 1950’s visited Maine and snapped photographs of their vacation. It shows the women in front of tourist destinations, but this time, it is not to sell the place. It is simply to capture a memory. They aren’t as well composed or as stylish as Detroit’s Publishing Company’s Maine, yet they are real. They offer a narrative not often thought about, as most advertising was directed at white people.

“There is all kinds of activity that mainstream history leaves aside,” said Eyler. “There is always an agenda,” said Eyler. “It is important not to take for granted the images in front of us.”

The next time you see a postcard claiming Maine is seabed in blueberries, maple syrup and smiling faces, you can think a little bit deeper.

Dora Thompson
Arts & Culture Editor

Would we think these things as a nation supporting,” explained Eyler.

The black and white images certainly have a feeling of good-old, hard working America. Most taken in rural Northern Maine, a family sits in a run down home with a woodstove, a potato festival in Presque Isle looks lively, and run down farm houses stand out against the sky. Especially after the FSA received some flack for not photographing more of the war, the organization needed people’s support.

The idea was to show that agricultural culture was still a large and vital part of this country’s economy, but that farmers themselves were struggling. It’s a completely different Maine than the publishing company’s colorful postcards.

From an FSA economist, Roy Stryker, to photographer Paul Carter showed the motive behind the collection, “Visit finest examples of state forests in Maine, both coniferous and deciduous stands—to be used as contrasts and to show how (the FSA) are aiming to convert this seemingly barren land into what will become a national asset through reforestation.”

A third and very different view of the Pine Tree State is not taken by a photographer at all. A group of black women in 1950’s visited Maine and snapped photographs of their vacation. It shows the women in front of tourist destinations, but this time, it is not to sell the place. It is simply to capture a memory. They aren’t as well composed or as stylish as Detroit’s Publishing Company’s Maine, yet they are real. They offer a narrative not often thought about, as most advertising was directed at white people.

“There is all kinds of activity that mainstream history leaves aside,” said Eyler.

So as you wander through “Picturing Maine: The Way Life Was” contemplate the extreme and often unconscious affect that photography has on our lives. Would we think these things about Maine if someone with a camera hadn’t told us to think it? What other ways does photography influence our perceptions without us realizing?

“There is always an agenda,” said Eyler. “It is important not to take for granted the images in front of us.”

The next time you see a postcard claiming Maine is seabed in blueberries, maple syrup and smiling faces, you can think a little bit deeper.

A stark comparison to the sunny photographs of Maine’s best lies across the gallery, as photographers try to capture the state’s “worst.” In the late 1930’s, the Farm Security Administration (FSA), was an organization the helped farmers after the Depression. It was to evoke sympathy, and often unconscious affect that photography has on our lives. Would we think these things about Maine if someone with a camera hadn’t told us to think it? What other ways does photography influence our perceptions without us realizing?

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Dora Thompson
Arts & Culture Editor

Want to submit an event?
arts@usmfreepress.org

Photo courtesy of Jason Lund

Arts & Culture
Letter to the Editor:  Finding meaning in grief

In response to overwhelming tragedy often comes widespread push for reform— as those in mourning search desperately for resolution in their grief. Just shy of the one year anniversary of the Noyes Street fire that claimed the lives of six young people, the decision to lift the smoking ban at USM can— hopefully, breathe deeply knowing that a lesson has been learned.

As more aggressive enforcement and changes in accountability aim to prevent another fatal fire, I feel it is important to face the facts without fear. As police and city attorneys are issuing court summonses while threatening to impound fines on landlords who fail to correct safety violations. As we enter this fall season, I beg of my community: NOT to be like Gregory Nisbet.

By all accounts, Nisbet was about as laid-back a landlord as they come. Known for flexibility in collecting overdue rent, he paid little mind to his units— even renting to tenants without background checks. A complete lack of mindfulness to safety came this laid-back management approach because he was not only well-known for being a likable guy, he was also well-liked by his tenants. We must never value laxity in overseeing of the expense of safety.

Though he will almost definitely never manage property again, Gregory Nisbet can teach us all a valuable lesson. Nisbet stands accused of reckless neglect in his failure to maintain the integrity of his properties, which faces criminal charges ranging from code violations to six counts of manslaughter. Though the cause of the fire was ruled accidental, state fire officials did not fatalities were likely caused by cigarette violations. Portland Fire Chief Jerome LaMoria stated the cause of the blaze was an improperly disposed cigarette which ignited the plastic receptacle into which it was tossed.

Let us not forget that had the same cigarette been discarded the same way, functioning smoke alarms would have alerted those inside to the fire. We must take responsibility for our safety and hold accountable those who do. However, the discarding of cigarettes is a practice all smokers should be engaged in. In the habit of, and provided a function- ing smoke detector maybe this wouldn’t have happened. We will never see.

Assistant Fire Chief Keith Gautreau it right when he said in regards to enforcement: “We have to be consistent.” We have to be consistent in our responsibility to ensure the safety of all by properly disposing cigare- ettes and smokers should be held accountable for it.

As such, the program approving the study abroad program was established with community. This program is an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in seeing some truly amazing things. The benefits of travel abroad are larger than life.

Zach Abbotoni
Free Press Staff

Travel Tips

The benefits of travelling abroad are larger than life

In the United States, we often get so caught up in our own little worlds; completely encompassed by the politics and culture that surround us all while completely oblivious to the rest of the world, skewing our perceptions of the world around us. This is a much more to our world outside of us. So many of us fail to realize there is a world outside our own because we’re so caught up in our own hectic lives. Traveling is an excellent way to view the world in a completely different light and escape our world from a different point of view.

When I was 14, I was fortunate enough to be given the opportu- nity to travel abroad. During this trip, I traveled to Southeast Asia and was given the opportunity to see some truly amazing things. From helping build a schoolhouse to seeing Angkor Wat in Cambo- dia, a trip this will never get old. This trip was simple due to my environment exposure. Other people’s cultural view- points can be so drastically different, but that’s what makes our world so wonderful. A trip such as this one gave me a new appreciation for how fortunate I am to live in the United States, and how cultures with limited or fewer resources than our own are still extremely happy, despite all the material things that we seem to “need.”

Personally, I perceive college to be the perfect time to broaden our horizons and explore new things. Luckily for everyone at USM, our school offers a great study abroad program. Although I have not taken place in the study abroad program personally, the program looks excellent and has a multitude of different states and countries that you can travel to.

With travel that is affordable as well as credits that will transfer into your major, help you progress towards your degree. This means like an awesome opportunity for anyone hoping to get a change of scenery and explore a bit more of the world. The program also states that approved study abroad programs are eligible to use financial aid.

Whether your motivations for travel are volunteering in Sierra Leone, backpacking across Europe, or to experience an ayahuasca retreat in Peru, I would strongly suggest just going for it. I understand traveling can be expensive, but personally, I feel as though the newfound appreciation you gain for the world around you, along with the expe- riences you have, are well worth the expense. Having the opportunity to travel and volunteer has definitely changed me as a person, and I would advocate doing the same to anyone if they are given the opportunity to do so.

Abigail H. Tornery

If USM wants to be metropolitan, we should at least know what that means

If USM wants to be metropolitan, we should at least know what that means. So if people working on the actual project still have questions, then how are high schoolers who have never been here supposed to know what it’s referring to? Odds are they have no idea.

Based on the asking around we did, one theme was prevalent whenever you asked about Metropoli- tan University; you would always get the same response: they don’t have much in common. Students work- ing with the community, professors being involved with the community, internships, resume builders: that was gist we were getting. It still sounds pretty nice, why shouldn’t students be involved in their community. Well, that’s not taking into account the students who are out and making their interactions with the community are going to receive high praise, but what about those that don’t make it a requirement? Some faculty argue that students are already engaged in the com- munity enough with their every- day lives, why should they force them to go back into the com- munity where they are already spending a bulk of their time? Not too many mention, capstones and internships were already a big part of certain majors before MU was even an institution. Community involvement has already been a factor at USM for the past several years and President Cummings has even acknowledged this.

It should also be mentioned that the times faculty aren’t even getting the message, they de- serve when they are doing these community outreach programs. Unless what they do is attached to something tangible, like writ- ing a book or just having some- thing to show for what they’ve been doing. Faculty aren’t be- ing recognized for the countless hours of research they put in, or the time they spend just speaking to the students, all of that is which is reaching out to the com- munity. But it never gets men- tioned. What’s the problem with MU, besides the fact that it’s been around for a few years but really came to life right around the time of a budget deficit and faculty layoffs? Despite the claims that the two have nothing to do with each other. If a student does happen to know what MU is, that’s immedi- ately what they associate it with; or the fact that a lot of decisions made surrounding MU were done so in a way that went against the constitution of this university.

It’s the name. The problem and it’s a big one. When you hear Metropolitan, the first thought that comes to mind isn’t working closely with the com- munity. It’s possible that this could be causing problems and there’s a very simple solution to it: changing the name. Don’t call it Metropolitan anymore, call it something different. Just throw the word community in there and then maybe people will notice the better idea what this initiative is even about.

October 5, 2015

The Free Press is a weekly student–run newspaper for the Student Activity Fee. One copy of The Free Press is available free of charge. Up to 10 additional copies are available at 25 cents each at the office of The Free Press, 92 Bedford St., Portland, Maine.
"Our tour guide, who was born the same year as I, was 19 when her city was first bombed in 1991."

Joie Grandbois-Gallup
Contributor

For many of the students on this journey the city of Dubrovnik conjures up images from the HBO series Game of Thrones, a show that I have never watched. The images in my mind, though fuzzy, are much older. They are from the early 1990’s, when the civil war was raging, a war that would destroy or damaged during the siege of Dubrovnik. Those orange rooftops, yet untouched by the dark patina of time, are all less than twenty years old.

Mount Srđ is also home to the war museum that tells the story of the war and the siege of Dubrovnik. Our tour guide, born the same year as I, was 19 when her city was first bombed on October 1, 1991. After touring the museum I asked her how they survived, how they managed to get through food or water. The people here, many of whom are quite willing to speak to you of the war if you ask, who live through such things, are survivors. They are resolute people who love the city they live in. They honor the past while living very much in the present. Whether that is a lesson they learned in war or if it was the thing that helped them survive I am not sure.

I do know that there are resources many of us can learn here and if you do come to visit, enjoy the city as it is today but also take a moment to recognize where it has been.

For the last ten months a small and dedicated core team of staff and students working on the UMaine System campuses have been working to create a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the approaching end of the dining services contract. Currently, Aramark is the vendor who holds the contract with the various campus dining facilities (Orono is self-operated, meaning their food service is not contracted out to an external vendor but instead operated as a university department). Aramark is the current dining services operator who provides residential meal options, kiosks, late night snacks and catering to our campuses. They order, plan and prepare the food as well as employing the staff to make the food happen. Aramark won the last round of contract negotiations in 2006 and now the 10-year contract is up - it’s time to go out to bid. Due to the fact that UMS is a public entity, we must always put large purchases and contracts out for public bid process to ensure transparency.

Last year, a consultant was hired to help the campuses assess the current state of their food programs. This investigation included food offerings, hours of operation, types of food served, style of menu, number of meals served, sustainability and availability of local, sustainable, special-diet food, etc. Once the data was amassed, a survey went out to all students, staff, and faculty across the System asking what they thought was most important about food service and what they wanted to see improved.

Using all this data, as well as information researched and provided by a consultant, the Strategic Procurement Office and the core team worked together to craft the language for the RFP. The document went public at the end of August and vendors have until November 4 to submit their proposals. The proposals will be long and detailed documents with the vendors asking that we deliver on the various demands of the UMaine System right down to the specific needs of each eatery on each campus (Bailey & Lusher Bonney Kiosk, operation, for example). The confidential proposals will be fairly and efficiently evaluated by the core team, and a decision will be reached on the winner later in the winter. If the vendors have expressed interest in submitting proposals and each proposal will be different in terms of what they offer. One can only hope that UMS will have a new vendor by January 2020 (year five of the contract). This is great news for farmers, processors, fisherfolk and distributors, and for UMaine food fan? We have a thriving local food scene with abundant variety of local, crafted food and beverages and this new contract makes it easier to offer food that is fresh, healthy, and sustainably sourced. Our university system is not local, so be sure to choose local when you can and ASK if you don’t see it!

To find the full RFP read and all 62 of its glorious pages, head to the UMaine Strategic Procurement website or Google ‘Request for Proposal Dining Maine’.

Tyler Kudler is the Asst. Direc. for the Sustainable Programs at UMaine. She works on the UMS campus to reduce environmental impact.

Perspectives

Changes in the campus food program: UMaine treats students to local eats

Self Exploration

When a moment becomes a memory, will you remember it through a lens?  

Nicholas Beauschesne
Contributor

Two rare and spectacular events occurred this past week. A “supermoon” total lunar eclipse glared a radiant red in the late evening sky Sunday night. It had been more than three decades since such an event occurred; it will be nearly twenty years before it reoccurs.

Earlier that Sunday, another event, rare and spectacular in its own right, concluded. Pope Francis wrapped up a six day visit to the United States earlier that afternoon - a tour that included, among other things, a speech to Philadelphia behind the same lectern that Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address off of.

These two events, connected in their rarity as well as the celestial connotations they evoke, over- rood each other in the walled city of space and time. It is safe to say that a supermoon lunar eclipse will not coincide with a papal visit to the U.S. any time soon.

We should be so lucky as to be alive and able to experience such events. Religious leanings aside, Pope Francis is an impactful man. The weight of his words and deeds carries gravitas; the supermoon, his presence makes many look upward.

With all that being said, how many of us look up into the sky Sunday night to experience the eclipse? How many waited until the next morning to see on some screen what a supermoon lunar eclipse looks like? I’d venture to say a fair amount of us opted for the ladder (myself included). This certainly doesn’t mean much was missed.

I don’t claim to speak for everyone. Many of you readers, I hope, are better than me in this regard…

But it was late; I was comfortable. I couldn’t see the bloody moon out of any of the windows in my apartment (really, my room - that’s all I had the effort to check).

I’ve known this though, seen it almost every day. Moments occur, opportunities present themselves and I let them go unnoticed: so much goes unseen. I am not the only one, that much I can say. In this world of instant-internet distraction and gratification, so much we no-longer take for granted is spent looking down instead of looking up.

A photo went viral this past week. From across a street to a camera man capturing a telling scene. Thronges of people, a setting sun and a caged eagle, lean forward as one in an attempt to catch a glimpse of the pope as he passed by.

It is a telling image. Everywhere. Every one that realizes that this is one of those true moments in time that they should carry with them; a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Each set of eyes are locked in a deep gaze hoping to catch a glimpse of the pope; their eyes locked into phone screens. Arms up, like some absurd collection of concert-goers holding lighters in the air, the people struggling to position their cell at just the right angle. Camera phones snap shot after shot, while the people see nothing.

Except for one. A small, older woman stands tall in the moment. Her eyes, unlike those in the sea of humanity wades in, are not distracted. Her gaze is fixed. She is connecting to the moment and capturing more than all the cameras combined.

I saw this picture and it stopped me straight. Looking at the woman, I saw my grandmother. There was a sense of recognition of the old generation of people with the new. Each time I look at that picture, it jars me: She is the generation that I will soon be among.

Each moment in time is an opportunity; engage, or don’t.

Something tells me that woman in the picture found a way to look up into the sky last Sunday night and knew that the burnt-red moon would never we would ever fade from her memories. If there is anything I should remember, it’s this: Keep your head up, you eyes open and your mind in the moment.

Self Exploration

Beautiful visit

Dustin Kelly
Contributor

Reds, yellows, oranges and pinks splash the trees while autumn waves goodbye.

Branches dance to shed their skin and lend the ground a crisp blanket.

Aromas flood the chilled air so that we float in warm nostalgia. Knitted hoodies, pumpkin spice, cinnamon scents, and cracking wood.

Shorter days and colder clothing are signs of a welcoming fall. A window to announce its sudden arrival.

This visit will be a brief one but missed once it escapes.

Pouring for Proposals is here for its promised stay.

Has anything on this page grabbed your interest? Let us know at editor@usmfree- press.org
October 5, 2015

**Crossword**

Across

Down

**Weekly Horoscope**

**Aries**
March 21-April 19
A beautiful setting sets a romantic mood. Candlelight, flowers, mu - sic and other lovely accessories make mutual seduction likely.

**Taurus**
April 20-May 20
Work and lovemaking create conflicting demands on your time and energy. Keep room for both and make sure your beloved does too.

**Gemini**
May 21-June 20
Today you could make things difficult for yourself by thinking of all the many things you “ought” to do. Relax!

**Cancer**
June 21-July 22
A new love interest develops. Your kind and sympathetic nature at - ttracts the attention of the opposite sex.

**Leo**
July 23-August 22
Do your own thing on the job today. Working alone, in your own way, at your own speed, you can be more effective.

**Virgo**
August 23-September 22
A new approach brings a break - through. Changing the way to handle that old situation breaks the deadlock.

**Libra**
September 23-October 22
A new approach brings a break - through. Changing the way to handle that old situation breaks the deadlock.

**Scorpio**
October 23-November 21
TV or movies could give ideas for shared sensual sensations. Thinking about pleasure can lead to attaining it.

**Sagittarius**
November 22-December 21
If you expect too much (of your - self or your partner), disillusion - ment follows. Allow each other to be human and less than perfect.

**Capricorn**
December 22-January 19
You could find yourself going in fits and starts today at work. You swing from slow and steady to hectic, urgent and hyper.

**Aquarius**
January 20-February 18
Playfulness is in order today, so don’t get too serious. Be willing to laugh and be frivolous and you’ll have a marvelous time.

**Pisces**
February 19-March 20
Your family needs freedom and independence today. Physical action can channel high energy.

**Sudoku**

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

**Cryptogram**

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

GYUQ VC RAPHCFZAH
LHZ OC EUMM ZUEY
COVZA? EZMM RYCFZH.

And here is your hint:

L = U

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**Puzzles**

And here is your hint:

L = U
Boff club has given something to look forward to outside of classes and given me things to think about what I want to do.

Kennedy Grant, President of the Boff club

Pennsylvania, where they have opportunities to meet new people and learn new things.

Kennedy Grant, President of the Boff club and sophomore anthropology major

 Ezra Merriman, a freshman, told me science major explained, “I joined because I’ve always liked mock battles. It’s fun, good exercise, and a great way to get to know people.”

As of now the club meets Fridays at 4 on Robie Hill since it’s getting colder outside they will be moving to Sunday’s at 1 in the wrestling room.

Jessica Corr a third year history major and vice president of the club believes that being part of the club has made her USM experience much better. “Being a part of Boff club has made my USM experience better because I am meeting new people, I am doing new things, something I really haven’t done before.”

Corr also explained that the major reason why people should join is that we are a very welcoming community.

“We don’t care if you can’t fight, if you just want to hang out with a bunch of people or just watch, it is a fun experience either way.”

The Boff club has been on the USM campus for about five years now, starting out as a lightest touch group and eventually evolving into a full contact group following the rules of Dagorhir, a nationwide Boff organization.

Dagorhir is a full-contact, live action combat game where people engage in battle with foam-padded buffer equipment.

You must be hit in two out of four limbs or the torso to be counted as dead.

There are various types of weapons that a person can use such as swords, spears, clubs, axes, etc.

The club gets its weapons specially made and sometimes they order ones from online.

Lela Ferguson, Ryan Ferguson and Juniper Hathaway started the Boff club in 2010. The Boff club was made as an outlet for people who enjoyed the idea of fighting with swords, without having to fight with swords.

Boff club games vary from tournaments and objective games like Capture the Flag for those who are more competitive, games like Ogre Pit and Zombie Tag and sometimes they order ones from online.

Kennedy Grant, President of the Boff club, takes on the husky mascot in a Boff-off.

Boff club has given me something to look forward to outside of classes and given me changes to think about what I want to do.

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