Bayside could be location for future Portland dorms

Petition circling to bring a bar to Gorham campus

**Bayside could be just a three minute drive to the Portland campus.**

Sam Haiden
Arts & Culture Intern

Bayside is just a three minute drive to the Portland campus. John Jackson, Senate Chair of the Student Government Association, has completed his list of petition signatures to move the initiative forward and his comprehensive plan claims that it will improve many lacking aspects of the university infrastructure. When considering a new dormitory in Portland, is where it would go? According to Jackson there is no shortage of space. “The USM Portland campus is actually very large,” said Jackson. “We actually have more square footage than Harvard.”

According to Jackson, a Portland dorm would be a nascent step in USM’s path to success. Jackson also suggests that there are plenty of potential building sites for the dormitory that are within walking distance of the campus that are no farther than walking from Upperclass in Gorham to Dickey Wood in Gorham. Jackson says that these sites would be appropriate for a dormitory which would be comparable to Upperclass Hall. Although he would not specify which sites were most likely to be chosen he mentioned that there would be no construction costs to speak of, due to the fact that the buildings are already in place. They would simply require a change of ownership and become contracted similarly to other dorms at USM.

For instance, a potential candidate in the decision-making process is the building known as Bayside, which has served USM students on some level for years now. The process of change-of-ownership would essentially entail a lease agreement in which USM provides student housing, but may or may not cover maintenance fees and labor. Those are things which will have to be worked out in principle between the owners and the administration before going to the Board of Trustees for final approval and a sealing of the deal,” explained Jackson, adding that it could happen by July of 2016, making it possible for students next fall to be living there.

As a student back in 2012, Tyler Ford was an eager freshman studying theatre. After realizing he wanted to live in California for experience, he has returned to Maine in hopes of seeking his life path on the big screen. For Gaylord, the idea of dorms on the Portland campus adds an attractive quality to the entire college experience. “Being surrounded by an encouraging and exciting group of friends was the only way to balance out the stress of college courses,” explained Gaylord. “These people were the ones who inspired, supported, and uplifted me. I couldn’t imagine my college experience being anywhere nearly as great without having lived on campus.”

Not only does he think it would increase enrollment, but it would also severely hurt USM’s ability to pull out-of-state people in if they have a potential to create dorms on the Portland campus. “Portland is one of the nation’s fastest growing “cool” cities in the United States. People all the way across the country are hearing about Portland, Maine, none of them are hearing about Gorham, Maine,” said Gaylord.

**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.

“At an interesting concept, but without knowing the specific revenues, costs and risks that USM would be exposed to I really don’t have an opinion as to whether or not it is a good idea for USM,” said business professor, James Suleiman.

When asked about his opinion on the circulating referendums that students are constantly seeing, senior English education major, Dylan LeComte, seemed to have a similar opinion as professor Suleiman. LeComte believes that some of the people circulating the petitions have no idea what they were asking students to sign.

“As far as the petition for a new bar on campus goes, I’d be reluctant to sign it until the whole story behind its funding and location comes to light,” stated LeComte. Despite the small amount of details that have been circulating, chief of staff Dan Welker offered some insight regarding the recent serving of alcohol at the parents weekend in Gorham.
MU initiative gets students involved in the community

The name of the initiative could be contributing to the confusion

USM’s architecture lends itself a modern feel to coincide with its Metropolitan vision as the MU transformation is underway.

Zachary Searles
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 had a complicated and entangled history as 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 name of the initiative is that it happened and 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.

Lorrayne 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 residence builders as a student because we’re committed to helping our students and using that as a forum to get students experience,” said Tanous.

Others may feel that part of the problem lies with how MU was communicated to faculty and staff.

“The problem is that the conversation about MU never got outside this small group of people over the last two years. It never really got outside and explained and it got entangled with all the other things that were happening,” said Carroll.

Community outreach and working with the community to get students real world experience is a big part of the MU initiative, with programs such as service learning that are designed to get students out and working with the community.

“What the president thinks it means is that USM will be actively engaged with its many surrounding communities and community partners,” said Adam Tuchinsky, chief of staff for the president’s office.

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.

President Glenn Cummings has stressed in the past that the MU initiative does not mean that USM is a regional university that only serves the southern part of the state.

As stated earlier, the MU initiative has been underway for a few years. Some may argue even longer than that, since USM has been recognized as a Metropolitan University since the 1980’s.

“There’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 true. He responded that the sole purpose of that’s a price tag that could potentially cost $150.00 per student.

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 are really secondary to USM becoming a stronger university.

Rebecca Tanous commented that this focus on community involvement could potentially bring students to USM.

“I think that offering the resources that we have from the community since the 1980’s. USM is already heavily engaged within it’s community. There are many programs that require internships and capstone projects, which require students to go out into the community.

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

USM’s transition to this Metropolitan University and getting faculty and students into the community is going to come with a price tag, but how much will it cost exactly?

Last year, the Free Press reported that it was going to cost the university $900,000 annually, which is an estimation based on surveys and observations of other schools that have made similar transformations.

In the end, this is about making USM more connected to its community and improving learning and making USM a better institution.

Adam Tuchinsky, Chief of Staff for the President’s Office

Patrick Higgins / Free Press Staff
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, it’s 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.

“It’s 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.”

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.””

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.””

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.”

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

“This year at the University of Southern Maine, 385 of the school’s 7,554 students opted out of sending vaccination records, according to 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. Depending on the 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 more than doubles national average

Maine’s vaccination exemption rate more than doubles national average

The realization that the country is not as immune to this as it could be has led to action from pro-vaccination movements, including groups with Maine’s oppositions, as well as simply being unable to acquire their records due to significant incoherencies such as an inability to access their records or no longer possessing them.

“If an outbreak does happen, that 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 immune to this as it could be has led to action from pro-vaccination movements, including groups within 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.”
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 1.16 foot high tide, causing sewage systems to back up, unable to absorb the massive amount of water.

"In turn, many of the cities manholes opened up, letting large amounts of water to pour into the streets and cause cars to become stuck in deep waters. For Saco 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 floors were soaked."
Anora Morton
Contributor

The Beauty Queen of Leenane has a must see for many reasons. This dark comedy, full of sass and sarcasms, features rippled strength in immersion and intimate cast chemistry.

Director Thomas Power describes the emotional journey of the play.

“It raises your hopes up, and then it dashes them, and then it tricks you and raises them up again.”

The aforementioned are reasons enough to go see The Beauty Queen of Leenane. Not to mention, this play is also the last play to be directed by Thomas Power in his USM professorship.

This play examines the already strained relationship between Maureen a middle aged spinster, played by Mary Kate Ganza, and her meddling mother Mag, played by Elinor Strandskov, and the separeate and staggered visitation of two brothers, the younger Ray Dooley, played by Owen Carten, and the older Patrick (whom Maureen is quite keen on), played by Martin Bodenheimer.

“The audience should be totally open minded. They should be ready to be shocked and be ready to laugh and ready to cry.”

Power gave a fair warning that at a previous rehearsal audience member remarked out loud “Oh my god, that didn’t just happen” during the climax of the play.

1966 was Thomas Power’s first year teaching at USM, and thus this Spring semester marks his 50th year, and retirement. Over his many years, Power has watched the university, and the theater department, grow and evolve. When Power began teaching, USM was not even conceived.

In 1968 the Portland and Gorham campus merged together, and so did the two different theater departments. This merger created something great, what Power remembers as one of the best theater departments in New England. USM was boasting 150 majors and 5 to 6 main stage productions a year at that time. It provided actors such as Tony Shalhoub, the star of the t.v. show Monk.

“It’s a different department today,” Power remarks The numbers of teachers and students have dropped drastically. Power still knows the theater has the quality of the past.

“The theater is a star in the crown at USM,” he exclaimed

This is senior theater major Martin Bodenheimer’s third show with Thomas Power. Bodenheimer performs a powerful monologue to open the second act, and got into character by listening to Irish folk music.

“I came to USM on a whim, but stayed because of the faculty,” he admitted.

Upon graduating, Bodenheimer plans on heading to New York, and looks fondly back on his time at USM. He encourages current students to support the department.

“My sworn duty is to give opportunity for students to learn through doing,” said Power. “How well they do is a measure of my success as a teacher-director”. He said that the most rewarding part of his career was watching students grow into the real world.

The Beauty Queen of Leenane opens October 7th 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 Theater department.

- Anora Morton

Dora Thompson
Art & Culture Editor

A solemn air was cast over the opening night of Portland Stage Company’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 Tony Reilly after he is old. Reilly performed a convincing character transferring between playing a seven year old boy, to long, thoughtful adult monologues.

He controls the eb and the flow of the play, perhaps exaggerating real world happenings. Evans tells the audience the dismal future of the characters early, yet it doesn’t affect audiences being swept away with shear joy at the sister’s antics. Each with a distinct and shining personality, backed by their ex-Christian uncle Jack, it is impossible to not find yourself in one of these characters.

“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 and the growing tensions between Catholic and Pagan traditions in Ireland. It also delves into more personal issues like love, family, desire, and duty. And it was all backed by Executive and Artistic Director Anita Stewart’s enchanting set. A giant moon rises up and down in the background, fronted by charming and simple cottage set.

Juilliard graduate Julie Jesneck played Chris, the mother of Michael Evans. She did a highly relatable job at portraying a wiseful young mother. Senile Uncle Jack, played brilliantly by Paul Haley offered subtle comic relief. Aunt Maggie, played by the lively Tod Randolph, offered not-so-subtle comic relief. The iconic dance scene was magnificently done, and left the audience clapping andushed. 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.
**A&C Listings**

**Monday, October 5**
- **Timeflies**
  - 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 Seaview 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.

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**The truth behind vacationland**

**The Gorham art gallery examines how postcards with agendas shape the world view of quintessential Maine**

**Glossy postcards litter the shelves at shops throughout our state, bearing bold bubble-letter statements like, “Maine: the way life should be,” or “Greetings from Vacationland!” These phraselines 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 geographic order, the results are several clean and well composed photos of Maine's notable country 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), was an organization the helped farmers after the Depression. They launched The Small Town Project, which is a consortium of federal, state and local governments, where they are now public domain.

“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, as most advertising was directed at white people?

“The truth behind vacationland is 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 all kinds of activity that mainstream history leaves aside,” said Eyler. “The goal was to show to just-ify funding small towns and customs. It was to evoke sympathy, and show what their dollars were 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 agrarian 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.

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 stylized as those for not photographing more of the war, the organization needed people’s support.

Want to submit an event? arts@usmfreepress.org

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**Dora Thompson**

**Arts & Culture Editor**

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**Arts & Culture**

**Editor**

**Dora Thompson**

**arts@usmfreepress.org**
This past week we heard, for the first time this year, radio ads trying to draw in potential students to come to what is being called a Metropolitan University, but what does that actually mean? So if people even know what Metropolitan University is, then simply stating that all the messages against the MU initiative, we are learning here.

Finding meaning in grief

Letter to the Editor: Finding meaning in grief

In response to overwhelming trauma often comes a 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 community continues to mourn. This is not something we can—honestly, deeply knowing that a lesson has been learned here.

As more aggressive enforcement and changes in accountability aim to prevent another fatal fire like the one in Portland, city officials and city attorneys are issuing court summonses while threatening to impose 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 Gautreau had it right when he thought of the lives of six young people, the community continues to mourn. This is not something we can—honestly, deeply knowing that a lesson has been learned here.

As more aggressive enforcement and changes in accountability aim to prevent another fatal fire like the one in Portland, city officials and city attorneys are issuing court summonses while threatening to impose 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 Gautreau had it right when he thought of the lives of six young people, the community continues to mourn. This is not something we can—honestly, deeply knowing that a lesson has been learned here.
For the last ten months a small and dedicated core team of staff, with the support of 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 for all UMaine System campuses (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 halls, food courts, kiosks, late night snacks and catering to our campuses. They order, plan and prepare the food as well as employing the staff needed 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 back out for bid. Due to the fact that UMS is a public entity, we must always prepare proposals that are open for public bid process to ensure transparency.

In the past year, a consultant was hired to help the campuses assess the current state of their food programs. This investigation included looking at types of dining oppor- tunities, hours of operation, types of food served, style of menu, number of vendors on campus, availability of local, sustainable, special-diet food, etc. Once the data was amassed, a survey went out to all staff, students, 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 in- formation researched and provided by campus partners, a consultant, the Strategic Procure- ment 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 4th to submit their proposals. The proposals will be long and contain detailed information about what the vendors propose and deliver on the various demands of the UMaine System right down to the specific needs of each eatery on each of our campuses (Bailey & Luther Bonney Kiosk, operation, for example). The con- fidential proposals will be evalu- ated and fairly evaluated by the core team, and a decision will be reached on the winner later in the winter. If no vendors have expressed interest in submitting proposals and each proposal will be very differ- ent in terms of solutions being pre- sented.

Interestingly, one of the vendors will be bidding a Maine-based cooperative which offers collective membership to employees, students, and the community. Others are cor- porations like Aramark who specialize in large scale food service (colleges, hospitals, prisons, etc.).

So, what will change? Although we won’t know for a few months, we can be ironed out until the proposals are evaluated, one thing we do know is there is much a larger emphasis on local food, in this case the contract than in previous contracts. Local food is defined as being any food that is grown, manufactured, produced or processed in the UMaine system school. Therefore, UMPI could buy corn from New Hampshire and USM could buy fish from Canada if they really wanted to.

To most of the foods that qualify as local, however, will be from within our own state. Having the loc- al emphasis in our new RFP will get us one step further. The fact that our state line encourages more of a regional food system approach which is much better for the long-term resilience and connectivity.

In addition, the amount of local food found on university plates is going to increase significantly.

Exact local food purchases across the system are moving forward. With the first year of the con- tract, however vendors must pur- chase at least 20% local food from local sources. The 15% is measured in cost and averaged out over a calen- dar or fiscal year so there may be some local foods purchased during these seasons. The 15% must be spread out between these categories: Pro-duce, dairy, eggs, fish/seashore, poultry, meat, baked goods/grains and grocery. Each year, the vendor must increase the percentage of local food purchased by 1%, reaching 20% local food by 2020 (year five of the contract). This is great news for farmers, processors, fisherfolk and distributors of Maine grown food! Maine has a thriving local food scene with abundant variety of whole and crafted food and beverages and this new consistent market for food is important for further growth and stability in the food economy.

Once the decision for a new ven- dor is made this winter the win- dowing contract for food service will take ef- fect July 1st 2016. So next summer and fall, expect to see some new names and more local and sus- tainable foods for sale on campus!

There will still be a large per- centage of food served on campus that is not local, so be sure to choose local- cal whenever you can and ASK if you don’t see it! To find the full RFP and read all 62 of its glorious pages, head to the UMaine Strategic Procurement website or Google “Request for Proposal Dining Maine”

Tyler Kulder is the Asst. Direc- tor for Sustainable Programs at USM. She works on the three UMaine campuses to reduce environmental impact.

Poetry Corner

Beautiful visit

Dustin Kelly

Contributor

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

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

Aromas flood the chilled air so we float in warm nostalgia.

Knitred hoods, pumpkin spice, cinnamon scents, and crackling warmth.

Shorter days and colder clothing are signs of a welcoming fall.

I was left standing at the door to announce its sudden arrival.

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

Poems of this installment are here for its promised stay.

Dr. Steve: An interesting column idea? Send it to us at editor@usmfreepress.org
**Weekly Horoscope**

- **Aries**
  - March 21-April 19
  - A beautiful setting sets a romantic mood. Candlelight, flowers, music 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 attracts the attention of the opposite sex.

- **Leo**
  - July 23-August 22
  - Words build bridges of friendship today. Discuss what is on your mind; you’ll find your connections strengthened.

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

- **Libra**
  - September 23-October 22
  - A new approach brings a breakthrough. 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 satisfactions. Thinking about pleasure can lead to attaining it.

- **Sagittarius**
  - November 22-December 21
  - If you expect too much (of yourself or your partner), disillusionment 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.

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**Cryptogram**

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

**GYUQ VC RAPHCFAH**
**LHZ QC EUMM ZUEY**
**CQYZA? EZMM**

And here is your hint:

L = U

---

**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.

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**The solution to last issue’s crossword**

1. “Throat’s...”
2. Party for a bride-to-be
3. Pretty, appealing
4. 1946 Army song title
5. “The buzz”
6. Ending for doc’s or doco
7. Anon.
8. 2001 bestseller “Wife
9. Golfer Ballesteros
10. Academician
11. Anuses
12. Held on to
13. Channel builder
14. Reporter, angrily
15. Beatrix’s “Gothic”
16. Moo...girl piano
17. Star’s lift
18. Ar
19. Pencil with...pen
20. Part of a Spanish play
21. Final consumers
22. Widespread panic of the 1960s
23. “Oh, yeah!”
24. Actress Anderson
25. Cheeked for ounce of...for short
26. Former kingdom in the Czech Republic
27. Abbr. on a ship
28. Billboard collection
29. Continued
30. Politician’s audiences
31. Lads choices
32. Exposed
33. One-time Soviet news agency
34. Anon
35. “Neddy”
36. Retort (abbr.)

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**Puzzles**

1. Credit
2. Provider of some fall color
3. Masked ship
4. Parrot
5. Blacksmith’s products
6. Pilot a plane
7. Like much yogurt
8. Protection against slander
9. Twist
10. Dribs
11. Avignon agreements
12. “____ & the Women!” (Altman film)
13. Singer Mitchell
14.Certain Middle Easterner
15. Downhill racer
16. Golfer’s gadget
17. Jong who wrote “Fear of Flying”
18. Sobbed
19. Start of a pulmonary problem
20. Homages
21. Enlarge
22. Playground robot
23. French rail service
24. Ronin
25. Laughter syllables
26. “Give ____ don’t pollute”
27. Adventure
28. “____ just like the girl...”
29. Some car contracts
30. Sea cows
31. Perch
32. Sharp choppers
33. Skimish
34. Aristes Julien and John Willy
Community Spotlight: USM Boff club: How to play, who participates and reasons why you should join the club

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.

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 feels that boffing is a wonderful stress reliever and has helped him choose his major.

“Boff club has given me something to look forward to outside of classes and given me chances to think about what I want to do,” said Grant. “I decided to become an Anthropology major because of Boff Club, and have met many of my new friends through it.”

The club participates in many events throughout the year, including Clash Games for those who enjoy scenarios.

Ezra Merriman, a freshman political 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.”

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

Photo courtesy of Megan Graham

Photos courtesy of Francis Flisiuk

Do you know any interesting students? Email us: editor@usmfreepress.org

Thursday, October 8

Carto Crafters
Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education
University of Southern Maine
Portland Campus
Starts: 4:30 p.m. / Ends: 6:30 p.m.

The Beauty Queen of Leesane Studio Theatre at Portland Stage
25A Forest Avenue, Portland, Maine
Starts: 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 9

October Food for thought Luncheon
Room 170
University of Southern Maine
Lewiston & Auburn Campus
Starts: 12:00 p.m. / Ends: 1:00 p.m.

Natural Selection
Southworth Planetarium
University of Southern Maine
Portland Campus
Starts: 7:00 p.m. / Ends: 8:00 p.m.
Choose your weapon

And join us

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