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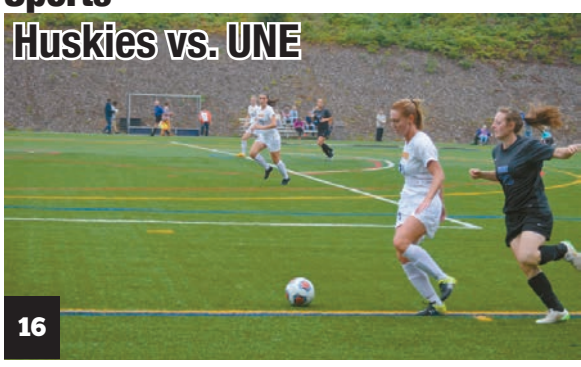

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Mayoral candidates take the stage for debate hosted at USM

Photo courtesy of Troy Bennet, Bangor Daily News

President Cummings at the debate, shaking hands with Mayor Michael Brennan

Zachary Searles
News Editor

With less than a month to go before the election, voters have an important decision to make when choosing who will be the face of the city for the next four years. Portland's election day on November 4 will require the people to cast their ballots and vote on a series of referendum questions, as well as the city's new mayor.

Voters will have three options when casting their ballot, a number which is significantly lower than four years ago when there were 15 names on the ballot. Current Mayor Michael Brennan is running for re-election and is facing stiff competition from Ethan Strimling, CEO of LearningWorks, a local non-profit organization and Tom MacMillan, Chair of the Portland Green Independent Committee.

Brennan became the first popularly elected mayor in the city since 1923, beating out 14 other opponents including Strimling. Prior to 2011, mayors had been chosen by the City Council; but now the people have the power to choose who will be in charge.

While Brennan may have defeated Strimling in 2011, that may not be the case this year. According to a poll released in August from the Maine People's Alliance, Brennan is trailing behind Strimling by nearly 25 points.

On the first Wednesday of October, the three candidates gathered in Hannaford hall on USM's Portland campus for one of their many debates, moderated by Associate Professor of Political Science Ron Schmidt.

One of the heated topics for the debate was surrounding question two on the ballot next month regarding the raising of minimum wage to $15 in the city of Portland. Neither Strimling or Brennan were for or against the proposition. MacMillan was the only one to voice his support.

"I'm an enthusiastic supporter of raising the minimum wage to a living wage, because nobody who works full time should live in poverty," said MacMillan, who helped draft the question number two for the ballot.

MacMillan wants the other two candidates to finally make a stance on the issue. Strimling claimed that he was still hearing the arguments from both sides before making a final decision.

While Strimling and Brennan may not have vocalized their stance yet on raising the minimum wage to $15, they both supported the Maine People's Alliance initiative to get the minimum wage to $12 state wide.

According to the Bangor Daily News, Brennan's campaign manager, Marc Malon, has stated that as of recently, Brennan is against the increase.

If elected Mayor, MacMillan stated that he would push for rent stabilization. Rent in the city went up by 17 percent in just last year. With 60 percent of people in Portland choosing to rent and a close to one percent vacancy rate in the city, rent problems could continue to get worse in the future.

"I can't afford seventeen percent. People in their 20s and 30s and people who are working for a living are not going to be able to afford it either," said MacMillan.

Strimling was also in favor of doing something to make Portland housing more affordable, claiming that property taxes have gone up 15 percent in the last four years all while median income has decreased.

"If our household income drops, property taxes and rent and everything else keeps going up, then you're going to squeeze out the middle class and we will become a city of haves and have nots," said Strimling.

Homelessness has risen in Portland over the last few years and all three candidates recognized that this was an issue.

Strimling stated that the city shouldn't be focused on building bigger shelters to house more homeless people, but rather that the city should be working on reducing the number of homeless people as a whole so there aren't as many that need assisted housing.

MacMillan took a different approach, tying in homelessness with wages, stating that there are people working full time that still have to go to shelters to eat because they aren't making enough money from working. He also criticized the recent laws banning panhandling.

"We all know that the panhandling law had everything to do with hiding poor people from our public spaces," said MacMillan.

Strimling's big point throughout the debate was bringing the council together and working together. He criticized Mayor Brennan saying that government has been divided during his four year term.

"The mayor is the chair of the board," said Strimling. "You don't go into the board meeting looking to have a divided vote."

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Rise in graduate education reflected at USM: Is it worth the cost?

Thomas Fitzgerald
News Intern

There are fifty options at USM for studies beyond a bachelor's degree, but many students face a conflict of interest when it comes to finding a job, or entering their field of study.

Graduate social work student Erica Brown finished her bachelor of science degree in social work last Spring, but decided that pursuing graduate school would be the best option for her future.

"As an advanced standing student in the Masters of Social Work program, I never thought that getting my masters degree was possible. Yet as I moved through the undergrad program I realized it was more attainable than I had thought," said Brown. "Now that I am in the program it's a seamless transition that allows a person to build on the foundation that the undergrad program built."

Brown explained that she felt very prepared going into her program from what she previously learned.

"The courses are easily applied to the knowledge we are gaining at our internships and vice versa, being in a setting where the professors are as passionate as mine makes it easy to engage in class discussions and become an active learner at our placements."

Brown also said it would not be as beneficial if it wasn't for the hands on learning experience and the full immersion.

From a national perspective, the interest in graduate school has been on the rise. A census study that was done by the council of graduate schools reported that mathematics, computer science, and engineering have seen the highest increase in enrollment, but there has has also been a 5.4 percent increase, which has been reflected here at USM.

According to associate director of graduate admissions, Lisa Sweet, there are approximately 1,500 graduate students. Sweet also said that the most popular programs are business administration, nursing, occupational therapy, social work and counselor education.

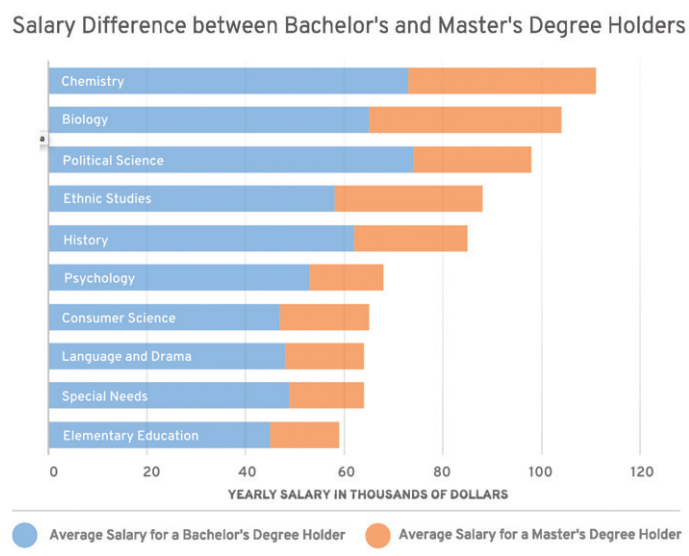
If you are a student who is considering continuing their education at USM on a graduate level, consider reaching out to the Executive Director of Graduate Studies, Tara Coste.

"Graduate School is a wise choice for many professions," Coste said. "In fact, in an increasing number of fields, graduate level education is becoming the entry level credentialing required. Certainly, a graduate degree is what many employers look for in candidates for management positions."

If the thought of adding graduate school to a busy schedule seems hard to manage, Coste explained how accommodating the scheduling of many programs can be for students with varying schedules.

"USM is committed to meeting the needs of Maine's professionals and businesses. The majority of our graduate programs offer classes in the evening and in online and other low residency formats to accommodate the complicated lives of working adults," Coste said.

According to Coste, USM is developing new programs that combine undergraduate to graduate pathways that make it easier for students to make that transition and pursue graduate degrees.



Orkhan Nadirli / *Design Assistant*

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$0.50 PINTS OF BUD LIGHT, HIGH LIFE, NATTY DADDYS!

$2 VODKA DRINKS! $2 FIREBALL SHOTS!

Miller HIGH LIFE

FIREBALL CINNAMON WHISKY

BUD LIGHT

EVERY THURSDAY IS

COLLEGE NIGHT

ON FORE ST

OLD PORT slice bar AND ICE BAR
420 FORE ST

Pearl TAP HOUSE
446 FORE ST

Pearl ultra nightclub
442 FORE ST

MARK'S PLACE
416 FORE ST

PORTLAND, MAINE

The impact of technology in the classroom

The digital age moves students away from books and towards online resources

Cody Marcroft
Free Press Staff

Digital technology exists in individuals' lives more than it ever has and the revolution shows no signs of slowing soon. Education, like many other systems, is subject to change as a result of the increasing use of computers and the Internet. With this in mind, how are services and faculty at USM using this digital technology to maximize value for students? Should we be concerned about the direction education is headed?

Patrick Higgins / *Free Press Staff*

Whitney Bolduc, Jr. and Cynthia Yang sit together and work on homework in Woodbury Campus Center. From online classes to online texts, laptops are becoming more prominent in the classroom.

The Modern Library

Visit the second floor of the Glickman Library on USM's Portland campus, and you'll find there aren't many books. A few shelves containing reference books separate lounge areas from computer stations. There's a lively chatter among students sitting beside each other at a computer, or those gathered at tables or in pods discussing class projects. A few signs sit atop the spotty bookshelves around the room notifying visitors that, "this is not a quiet floor." It isn't the traditional library scene.

"There was a time when there was speculation that the physical library would disappear," said David Nutty, Director of Libraries at USM. "Instead of disappearing, we've adapted and we've changed."

The second floor at Glickman is referred to as the Learning Commons. The space was created to give students a place to collaborate with classmates, seek help from a tutor or librarian, or get assistance with technology.

"As we have decreased the amount of print material in libraries, we've converted those spaces into active learning spaces," said Nutty. "That's what you see here in Glickman, for example, on the second floor with the Learning Commons."

Nutty admitted that book circulation is steadily declining, but that doesn't render the library obsolete.

Paul Dexter, Coordinator of Learning Support at USM, argued that, at a time when distractions are rampant, the library is more important than ever in offering a place for students to focus on one task at a time.

"The brain hasn't necessarily changed that much in terms of when it comes to a cognitive task," explained Dexter, who has a B.A. in psychology along with a Master's degree in social work and a Ph.D. in Public Policy. "So what becomes even more important is finding the place where you can be focused solely on one task at a time. The library is one of those places."

The physical library is surviving, but technology also allows the library to expand into the virtual world. Nutty noted that students have online access to the same resources, with the implementation of website features like, "Ask a Librarian," that someone who visits the building has. Additionally, the library is moving to digital and away from being a print-based resource.

"The digitization of the world, in all senses, have really changed what libraries look like," said Nutty. "Fundamentally, though, we're still about research and helping find information."

According to Nutty, USM students have access to 240 online databases. The library pays a subscription fee to a vendor who compiles articles, organizes them into a database and creates a search engine to navigate them.

The library is also making USM material -- student and faculty research, department papers, school newspaper articles -- available digitally. The online service, called the Digital Commons, is searchable through Google, where it can be reached not only by USM students but the public as well.

> **"There was a time when there was speculation that the physical library would disappear. Instead of disappearing, we've adapted and we've changed."**
>
> **David Nutty**, *Director of Libraries*

"We're seeing over 2,000 downloads per month, and that grows every month. That's a big push into the digital era," said Nutty.

The library is strutting into the online world with confidence, and Nutty looks forward. He even envisions creating a makerspace at the library.

"A makerspace is when a library buys a piece of equipment or technology that's maybe a little more cutting edge, and puts it in a space for students to 'play with'," explained Nutty. "We don't have the funding for that at the moment, but if I were to think maybe a couple of years from now, that might be something we would do."

You Don't have to Go to Class...

...but the assignments still need to be completed. That might not be the most effective pitch for taking an online course, but it's an accurate one. Online classes are becoming common for students at USM and many other colleges and universities across the nation. One perk to enrolling in an online course is flexibility, said Rucha Modak, a Learning Designer for the Center for Technology Enhanced Learning (CTEL).

"These days especially, there are a lot of students who are not in that 18-24 age range. Even if they are they have busy lives, jobs, and might be juggling multiple things." Modak explained. "An online course can help them complete their education while earning and, therefore, paying for their education."

According to Modak, CTEL works primarily with USM faculty in integrating technology in education, mostly in blended and online courses, but also traditional ones. The Center helps faculty decide what technologies to use, trains them to use it, and helps with troubleshooting. The CTEL also helps with course design, which is the core of Modak's work as a Learning Designer. She also provides technological training for faculty.

"A lot of things go into thinking about how to teach online," said Modak. "The syllabus needs to be different, the schedule needs to be different, and a lot of faculty need help in figuring those things out."

Lisa Giles, Adjunct Professor of English at USM, constructed an online version of the Entry Year Experience (EYE). The course aims to help incoming USM students transition to the academic workload at the collegiate level, mainly through critical reading, thinking and writing.

Giles said she built an online version to meet demand, as well as to explore new technologies with students. She believes online courses, in some ways, requires a student to be more responsible.

"Though I can make 'announcements' and frequent contact with students, they must manage their time well and stay in touch with any questions," Giles wrote in an email.

Dan Panici, Professor of Communications at USM, said he has been teaching online courses for over ten years. He finds online courses to be an exciting challenge for him as much as it is for students.

"It certainly has made me aware of what the really important information is, and what projects and assignments are really valuable," said Panici. "And it's helped me in terms of communicating because I'm not there face-to-face, so I have to be explicit and direct. It's changed, a little bit, how I do things in the classroom."

Panici was also aware of the limitations of communication in online education.

"It's very difficult to create a true dialogue," said Panici. "I think dialogue takes place face-to-face because when you're there in the room you can read nonverbal [cues]. When it's asynchronous online, I don't think you can mimic that kind of dialogue, the give-and-take, Socratic method that a lot of us like to use in terms of asking and getting feedback."

Rucha Modak agreed the in-person conversation is a different experience than discussions generated in an online classroom. When it comes to student-professor connection, however, she believes that careful planning can produce an online course that achieves the same results as traditional classes.

"A common misconception is that in any online course students will feel like they are in the middle of nowhere, in no-man's land... In a well-designed course, you will know who your fellow students are. Your professor will know what your weaknesses are, or call you out if you're doing well. Even in a face-to-face class you can be lost in a crowd if it's a bad class. If your professor knows how to teach well, then it's a very good experience." said Modak.

As one way to improve online education, Modak said she would like to see students use their freedom from the classroom to get outside.

"Because your online course doesn't limit you to sitting in a room on a certain day at a certain time, you could be outside and doing a lot of experiential learning that may not be possible in an in-person course," she contended.

'Please Turn off All Devices'

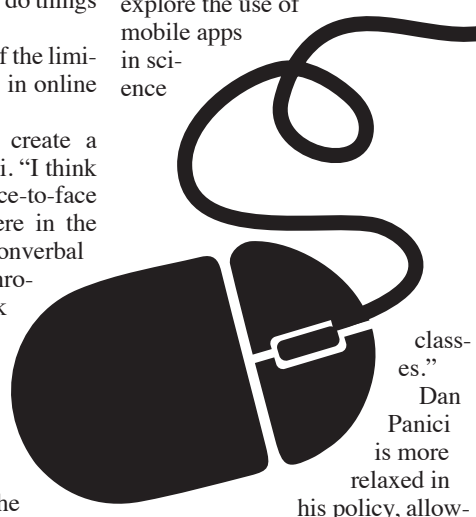
The amount of information available through the Internet can serve as a distraction. At times, it seems like everywhere we turn there is a screen in front of us. Allowing the use of laptops or other devices in the classroom is at the professor's discretion.

If you walk into one of Joseph Staples' environmental science lectures, you won't find a single laptop open. Staples, a Professor of Environmental Science at USM, prohibits the use of all devices.

"I have had numerous students complain when their neighbors are using these devices that it is distracting to them," wrote Staples, in an email. "As an instructor, it is extremely distracting for me to see somebody with their heads down texting away while I am talking."

Staples added that he has allowed students to spontaneously use their phones to check facts or answer questions during a lecture. He also expressed optimism in regards to higher education incorporating such technologies into the classroom, but that it will require a great effort.

"Mobile applications in particular offer some promising ways to engage folks with the materials they are studying and I am working on a few things to really explore the use of mobile apps in science classes."



Dan Panici is more relaxed in his policy, allowing students to use laptops for note-taking if they prefer to. He did, however, acknowledge the distraction they can create.

"What I do mind is if someone pulls it out and they're not paying attention," he added, "because it tends to suck the energy from the people around them. The way I control it is, if somebody pulls out a laptop, I'll walk around to see what they're doing."

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Airbnb makes finding vacant rooms easier for tourists

Brian Gordon
Free Press Staff

Portland's booming 'brand' as international tourist destination and also concurrent housing shortage can be illustrated in the rise of Airbnb, the website that lets tourists book people's homes with a click of the mouse.

As of the third week in October, Portland has over 300 properties listed on Airbnb and more than 200 of those are entire homes or apartments.

> **"Having options for accommodations seems like it would be a positive thing, but there is a risk of bringing lots of visitors into neighborhoods that might not want them or be ready for them."**
>
> **Tracey Michaud-Stutzman**, *Chair of Tourism and Hospitality department*

Entrepreneurs like John Clark started renting half of his turn of the century duplex to augment his income he makes from giving surf lessons, making pottery and gigging around town playing stand-up bass. His unconventional life can always use more cash and that's why Airbnb has been great for him.

"It's a wonderful thing, it's a great website. Right now it's a good chunk of my income," Clark said. His partner normally uses the apartment as an art studio, so they rent it half the month to earn extra money.

"Portland, Maine is the new Haagen-Dazs, it's the new Starbucks coffee – really. It's been promoted as the hippest New England town," said Clark, the twenty- year resident of Maine's biggest city. "It's a hotspot, you know?"

People from all over the world are coming to Portland. Clark has had visitors from Tokyo, France, Denmark, Scotland, Germany and California, among others.

"It's a double-edge sword, it's a good boon for economy, there's a lot of money coming in, but it's not the esoteric, funky town that it used to be," Clark said of Portland.

He said he's seen the same thing happen to Santa Fe, New Mexico in the 1980s, which used to be a "bohemian paradise, it was cheap, everyone was an artist," he said. But once people from bigger cities moved there, the prices went up and drove out the artists that could no longer afford it.

"Everything went through the roof. Rents, real estate, cost of living went up, but the wages stayed the same." Clark is worried the same thing could be happening to Portland, as people from Boston and New Jersey move here permanently.

"Airbnb, like Uber, the taxi-app, is like the Wild West because they're not regulated, because it's new and [the city] doesn't know quite where it fits. But they're going to clamp down on it."

City spokeswoman Jessica Grondin said Airbnb is regulated with the city's zoning code, like other short term rentals, but "the real issue is that, like many other cities, our zoning code was not written with this new industry in mind."

The city recently held a meeting to look into how to regulate this new business.

"I don't anticipate the Housing Committee taking any votes right away - still in the research phase," Grondin said via email.

Another person who rents out his apartment is Gary Wagner. He devotes half of his home to an Airbnb apartment that rents for $159 during the week, $199 for weekends and up to $499 for a single night when demand is large.

Wagner's place is so popular his own mother and sister couldn't stay there this summer because it was booked up with people from Airbnb. He put them up in a local hotel. Within a week of first posting his apartment in June, Wagner's apartment was reserved through the middle of October.

"Short-term rental is not a new concept in the city. The new regulations the city is talking about, concern me, because what's changed that needs to be regulated?" said Wagner, the Lieutenant for Westbrook fire department.

He pointed out that people in Higgins Beach, Wells and Old Orchard Beach routinely rent out their homes during the summer.

The Airbnb hosts say they pay property taxes and income tax on their houses, so they're already regulated. They see it as just getting in on making money off visitors.

Tracey Michaud-Stutzman, chair of the Tourism and Hospitality department at USM said,

"Having options for accommodations seems like it would be a positive thing, but there is a risk of bringing lots of visitors into neighborhoods that might not want them or be ready for them."

Both neighbors would not like to see Airbnb regulated, they see it as a "Don't Tread on Me" issue. It is their house and they're free to do what they want with it.

Screenshot from Airbnb website

Portland as seen on the Airbnb website, showcasing nightly room rates.

"Airbnb is a chance for people to make some income off the new-found popularity of Portland, Maine," said Clark.

"If you ask me to make a choice for my family or for my community, my family comes first and I'll work to solve the community problems after that," said Wagner.

"It is unfortunate that there is not more accessible housing to all people on all income levels in the city and my answer to that is to build more," Wagner said. "Growth is not something to be afraid of."

Portland's vacancy rate stands at 1% and average rents increased the second most in the entire country. So called "market rate" apartments are being built such as the one on the corner of Pine Street and Brackett, where you can rent a one bedroom for $1,650, which the real estate website Trulia lists $59,400 as an 'ideal gross income' to afford the apartment.

Whether building more "market rate" condos will stop people from renting their apartments solely on Airbnb remains to be seen.

"My unit is not going to be rented on the market at any time. It's my guest bedroom and I rent it out on occasion," Wagner said.

"There is a measureable impact of Airbnb on the housing shortage," Wagner said. "However, regulating it isn't the solution. Portland is saturated with two types of properties, really high-end and subsidized housing."

Wagner would like to see all types of housing developments undertaken.

The city should see a slowdown in Airbnb users in the winter. As Clark said, "Who wants to vacation with six feet of snow on the ground?"

There is still available on the website a $400 a night hot tub suite overlooking the traffic on the Casco Bay Bridge.

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USM goes the extra mile to help its veterans

Krysteana Scribner / *Editor-in-chief*

The veteran resource center, located in the Woodbury Campus Center.

Zachary Searles
News Editor

USM has roughly 400 students currently enrolled that have served in one of the many military branches. Regardless of this large demographic, the veteran center located in Woodbury campus center is finding student participation to be a challenge.

The veterans office was created to assist veterans with the various needs and services that they require, such as GI bill questions, scheduling, housing and health insurance.

According to Camden Ege, Leader of the Student Veterans of America Chapter at USM, the veteran community has a diverse group of students, faculty and staff that come from all different backgrounds.

"The biggest challenge with the veteran community here at USM is participation," said Ege. "For any number of reasons a lot of veterans do not participate or take advantage of the resources available."

Lorraine Spaulding, Coordinator of Veteran Services, explained that there are potentially three different type of veterans on campus.

"There are those that are very proud of their service, and then there are people who did serve but are moving on to a new chapter in their life as a student," she explained. "The third type of veteran is one that wants to put their past behind them; they typically don't want to talk about their service."

Junior English major, William Zachary Griffith served in the Marines right out of high school as a combat correspondent. He stated that there may be a scale for the kinds of veterans at USM where some individuals are more vocal about their service while others continue to leave their past unaddressed.

"There are some vets who wear it on their sleeve a bit more, so it's the first thing you know about them," said Griffith. "There are vets where it's just kind of a thing they did while others had a really rough time and don't speak much about it," said Griffith.

While Griffith doesn't mind discussing his service, he did state that he tries to not let it be the only thing that he talks about.

"I find that there are some vets who kind of set themselves apart from the student population by being a little too hardcore about it,' said Griffith. "They assume their service means they're more hardcore than everybody else. That kind of creates a divide."

There are many opportunities for veterans to be involved, as well as many opportunities to raise awareness for veterans around campus.

The Student Veterans Organization, run by president Orrin Palmer III who served in the Air Force before coming to USM, has ten events planned this year, all of which are fundraisers for local charities.

Their next event is on October 30 in which they will be hosting a screening of The Rocky Horror Picture Show. The event is free for students, but they will be collecting canned goods to help support the local homeless shelter.

In order to raise awareness for a veterans transition from soldier to student, USM has been hosting Green Zone trainings which is a presentation for faculty and staff that attempts to raise awareness for a veteran's transition from service to student. It also provides an understanding of life in the military.

"I think this is a more challenging time for veterans than a lot of people understand," said Camden Ege. "I don't believe you can really begin to support veterans until there is a basic understanding of the problem at hand."

Spaulding commented, saying that it has been hard to get faculty and staff to take part in this training because they are so busy already with teaching and office hours that some staff just don't have the time.

Griffith and Palmer both stated that USM goes above and beyond to support their veterans. Griffith explained that whenever he has a question, all he has to do is call Spaulding and she will take care of it.

"When compared to other Universities, USM goes the extra mile to provide its veterans with the tools needed to succeed," said Palmer. "I am thankful for all of the great faculty and staff members who go out of their way to help veteran students."

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Analyzing Maine's new gun laws in a national context

Zachary Searles
News Editor

In the state of Maine, if you are a law-abiding citizen with no felonies or mental health issues, you are allowed to open carry a loaded firearm in any public place where it's permitted.

Last Thursday, October 15, a new law went into place in Maine that allowed citizens that can open carry to conceal a handgun without having to obtain a concealed weapon's permit. The law also permits people to have a loaded handgun in a vehicle with them.

"I think there's been a big deal made about it, but in truth I think the change is a very moderate one," said Eric Brakey, a Republican member of the Maine State Senate at a panel discussion on the constitutional carry law that took place at USM earlier this month.

At the panel discussion, Brakey told a story about why he is in support of this law. He swaid that one of his friends had a stalker, but she didn't have a concealed weapon's permit. He claims that her choices were between breaking the law in order to protect herself, or following the law and face potential harm from her stalker.

"I think that when the law is presenting people with this choice of being able to defend yourself or being in compliance of the law, that suggests to me that maybe there's something wrong with the law itself and we need to really analyze that and that's what this law change does," Brakey said.

Other members of the panel did not share the same views as Brakey.

"I don't call it concealed weapon and I don't call it constitutional carry, it's a hide-a-gun program. You want to hide a gun and put it in your pocket, now you can do that," Stan Gerzofsky said, a Democrat in the Maine State Senate.

Maine now joins a group of four other states - Alaska, Arizona, Kansas and Wyoming - that allow citizens to conceal a firearm without having to secure an additional permit to do so.

According to the Bangor Daily News, people that are carrying a concealed handgun will be required to inform law enforcement if they are stopped or questioned or they could face a fine of up to $100.

"My concern is some young fellow will accidentally shoot himself or will grab a gun, instead of a knife, and shoot someone else without really knowing what he is doing," Dusty Rhodes, a retired Old Town police officer, said in an interview with Bangor Daily News. "It's just going to cause more problems. I hope I'm wrong. Only time will tell."

Constitutional carry was just one of three laws to go into effect on October 15. The other laws lifted the ban on switchblade knives and allow for hunters to use noise suppressors on their guns.

Despite the law change, guns will remain prohibited at a majority of all public universities, USM included.

Impact on concealed weapon permits

Now that citizens can conceal their handguns, what is the likelihood that people just abandon the process altogether?

Senator Brakey stated that this new law would help combat the problems within the permit system, specifically stating that permits were taking months to obtain and that was too long.

Mark Dion, a Democrat in the Maine House of Representatives, was quick to refute this. Dion worked for two years to restructure the permit process, making it more efficient so people were getting their permits more quickly.

"I thought the permit system worked. I thought it made sense, I thought it ensured competency, and it allowed for the presence of firearms in the community without creating alarm," Dion said.

Prior to October 15, anyone who wanted to conceal a firearm had to go through a series of processes- such as background checks, fingerprinting, investigations into drug use and mental health disorders, as well as proof that the applicant completed a safety course and paid a $35 fee.

This process, though designed with people's best interest in mind and aimed to keep guns from getting into the hands of people who would misuse, is not a perfect system.

In less densely populated parts of the state, concealed weapon permits are issued by people that typically know the ins and outs of the lives of the people in these small, rural towns and it wouldn't be uncommon for someone to be rejected a permit under the good moral character clause.

This clause is used at the discretion of the person issuing the permits. All three panelists agreed that it was a problem and should be revised out of the law.

According to Brakey, a friend of his was an outstanding member of his community and also happened to be gay. When he tried to receive a permit, he was denied per the good moral character clause. Although Brakey can't say for sure why his friend didn't receive his permit, the only logical reasoning he's concluding is that he was denied based on his sexual interests.

Krysteana Scribner / *Editor-in-chief*

The wide selection of handguns available at Cabelas in Scarborough.

Guns and Self Defense

The main argument against gun control laws is that without guns the average American won't be able to defend themselves.

There are two main statutes in the United States when it comes to using guns, or weapons in general, for self defense: stand your ground and duty to retreat.

In a duty to retreat state a person must try to get away from the dangerous situation before they can use deadly force, unless it's on private property or in their own home.

The other scenario, stand your ground, doesn't require any attempt to flee the situation and offers protection to someone that uses deadly force in a self-defense scenario.

According to an article published in the National Journal, in states with no stand your ground laws, the average rate of gun the homicide rate is 1.35 lower per 100,000 people than in states that do have these laws.

Background checks for all gun sales

Background checks are required by the Federal Government for any commercial sale of guns, but that doesn't take into account guns that are sold by unlicensed sellers, which make up an estimated 40 percent of all gun sales, according to the National Journal.

"I believe in universal background checks," Mark Dion said.

He then went on to say that he wasn't an idealist and understands that universal background checks won't stop mass shootings completely.

"The reason I strongly object to increasing background checks is because, first of all, it wouldn't have stopped any of these incidents," State Senator Brakey said.

Dion answered back by saying he doesn't think universal background checks will be the panacea for these mass shootings, but he said he strongly believes that it will make them less frequent.

Mass Shootings

According to the National Journal, there have been more than 200 mass shootings in the United States alone so far this year.

This past summer the country dealt with shootings in Charleston, South Carolina nine people were shot and killed at Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church and Vester Flanagan shot and killed two coworkers, a reporter and cameraman, at a local Virginia TV station.

Hannah Lyon / *Design Director*

Earlier this month there was a mass shooting at Umpqua Community College in Oregon where nine people were killed and another nine were injured. According to the New York Times, the gunman had brought six guns with him and another eight firearms were found at his apartment, all of which were obtained legally.

After the shooting, President Barack Obama said in a press conference that there had to be a bigger push for more common sense gun control legislation.

"I'd ask the American people to think about how they can get our government to change these laws, and to save these lives and let these people grow up," President Obama said.

After the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. that killed 26 people, 20 of which were children, President Obama proposed gun laws that included universal background checks and other measures that he claimed would help prevent these mass shooting from taking place, according to The New York Times.

The laws were rejected by lawmakers from both parties.

Maine State Senator, Eric Brakey, said that a gun is just a tool that can be used as a weapon and stated several times that he didn't think more gun legislation would prevent these types of incidents.

"When we hear people say that states with more guns have more gun incidents, well, that's kind of like saying that houses with swimming pools in their backyard are five times more likely to drown," Brakey said.

According to data published in the National Journal, states that have the most gun laws tend to have the fewest number of gun related deaths. For example, as of 2013 Hawaii had the lowest gun related deaths with 2.5 per 100,000. In Hawaii, in order to obtain a gun, a person must have a permit for the gun; they must pass a universal background check; they have to register the gun, and it's considered difficult to obtain a concealed weapon carry permit. Hawaii also has no stand your ground laws.

Arkansas has the most gun related deaths with 19.8 per 100,000. In Arkansas, you don't need a permit to purchase a gun. There is no background check before the purchase of a gun and you don't need a permit to conceal carry. Arkansas also passed stand your ground laws just this year.

The Future for Guns and Gun Control

What does the future of guns look like in this country? Recent polls say that a majority of Americans agree that there should be some form of gun control laws passed in this country.

With the latest development of technology, a German entrepreneur, Bernd Dietel, has developed a smart gun that will only fire if the user was wearing a wristband that broadcasted a certain frequency, according to the LA Times.

So far, no gun store in the United States currently carries this model of gun, but perhaps this is what Americans will look to in the future to continue to practice their second amendment right, while also trying to reduce the amount of gun violence in the country.

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In Brief...

USM President takes trip to Iceland

Thomas Fitzgerald
News Intern

Economic and educational ties are looking to be made, while a gathering of USM staff, including President Glenn Cummings, visit the country of Iceland.

"We're traveling to Iceland to build strong educational partnerships that will both create exciting new opportunities for our students and set the stage for economic growth between our two countries," said President Cummings in a recent press release.

Many delegates left on October 14th, and will be returning early next week after participating in a three day Arctic Circle, which is a non politically biased meeting with representation from all over the country. Portland is planning on hosting this meeting in the Fall of 2016

Judy Tupper, the managing director for Population Health and Health Policy at the Muskie School of Public Service, is representing USM while meeting Icelandic academic members to help get an idea how Iceland runs their health care system.

"There are many similarities with Maine," said Tupper. "We hope to learn from their expertise."

This is far from the first time that there has been educational representation in Iceland from Maine, as Governor Paul LePage visited Iceland's largest city, Reykjavík.

There has been a relationship between Iceland and Maine developing since 2013, when a shipping company named Eimskip appointed a location in Portland for importation of trade.

President Cummings made a presence alongside other educational leaders aboard the bridge of an Eimskip ship in a signing of a partnership in support of the New England Cluster House in Portland.

Former Governor of Maine Angus King will be attending the mission, as students and staff remain curious to the findings that will be made overseas.

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Know your new administrators

Why did Chris Quint resign from his position at USM?

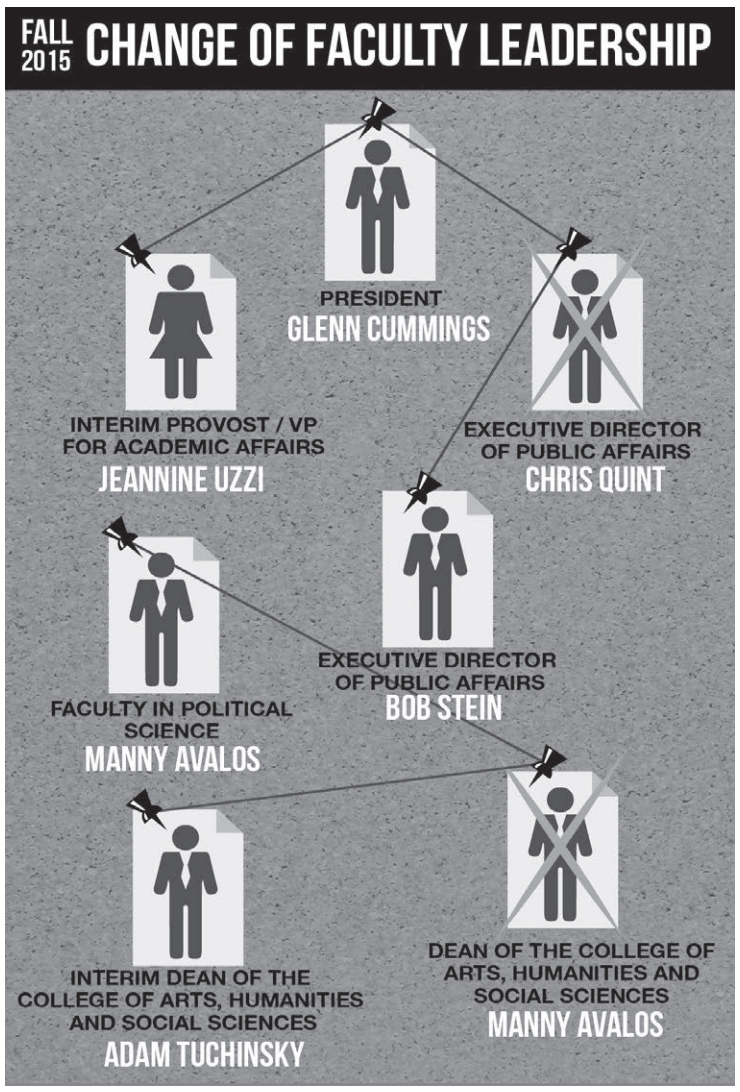
"I came to USM at a point in my career where I was looking for a change and looking to be closer to my family. I had spent over 6 years commuting back and forth to Augusta from my home in Biddeford, mostly on a daily basis, and I needed to find something that afforded me more time with my wife and young daughter and son.," said Quint. "Former President Flanagan gave me that opportunity and I will be forever grateful to him. My short time at USM has been a great experience."

As replacement for Chris Quint, Robert Stein will be the new Executive Director of Public Affairs, wants students and faculty to know that USM is a place that is thriving.

"With our new President, Glenn Cummings, this University if already starting to thrive Our University is unique and I can't wait to see what this year brings for the success of our metropolitan University."

Jeannine Diddle Uzzi, Ph.D. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, talks about what she hopes to accomplish in her new position.

"One thing I am focusing on in my new role is academic support services. I am working to partner closely with academic advisors and writing centers to make certain students have plenty of tutoring and plenty of access to academic support, particularly in math and writing," said Uzzi. "Student success IS academic success, and my philosophy is that student life and student services must have close ties to the academic side of the university."



Nancy Griffi, vice president for enrollement management, graduated from USM in 1982. She feels USM is the right palce to be.

"I am honored to be back "home". This is an amazing university with great students, faculty and staff. Go Huskies!"

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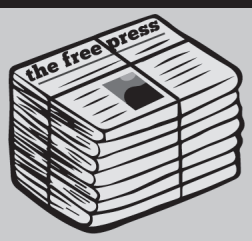

IF INTEREST PLEASE CONTACT:
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Police Beat

Selections from the USM Department of Public Safety police log September 22 to September 28

Tuesday, September 22

Free car wash
Vandalism, G12A. Caller reports Criminal Mischief to a vehicle. Left a message for Vehicle owner. Officer investigating.

Wednesday, September 23

Don't wear your sunglasses at night
Theft, Bailey Hall. Report of the theft of Sunglasses. Report Taken.

But it's my right!
Suspicious Incident, Robie Andrews Hall. Report of a Student with a possible Weapon. Officer confiscated an Air Soft Pellet Gun.

Friday, September 25

Suspicious Minds
Suspicious Incident, Parking Garage. Caller report a suspicious incident in a motor vehicle parked in the garage. Officer Handled.

Leave Britney alone
Disorderly Conduct, 246 Deering Ave. Caller reporting harassment. Trespass paperwork prepared.

(Stomach) pumped up
Rescue Call, Upton Hastings Hall. Intoxicated Student transported to Maine Medical Center. Report Taken.

Yeah I just "found" this
Drug Complaint, Sullivan Gym. Caller reporting finding drugs on Campus. Officer Handled.

Tow cool 4 you
Parking Violation, P3 Parking Lot. Vehicle towed for outstanding Parking violations. Report Taken.

Saturday, September 26

If you like Pina Coladas
Liquor Law Violation, Anderson Hall. Student intoxicated. Rescue called. No Transport. Report Taken.

If you REALLY like Pina Coladas
Liquor Law Violation, Anderson Hall. Rescue called. Student transported to Maine Medical Center. Summons to court issued. Report Taken.

Sound the alarm
Security alarm, Upperclass. Alarm sounding. Officer handled.

Monday, September 28

Husky Huddle
Drug Complaint, Anderson Hall. Caller reports the smell of Marijuana. Investigation pending. Report taken.

Black Bears Sux
Vandalism, Baseball field. Investigation pending. Report Taken.

You are cordially invited to...
Paper service, Luther Bonney. Court paperwork. Officer advises no contact.

Local top 5 / 8
Album & film reviews / 9

Arts&Culture

Student production gives new meaning to a 'first kiss'

Dora Thompson
Arts & Culture Editor

Last weekend a heart wrenching love story unfolded in Russell Hall's intimate black box theater. Senior theater major Callie Cox makes her directorial debut in Diana Son's Stop Kiss. Captivating Gorham's audiences, the play was small and intense. Completely student done, from the lighting to the set design, Stop Kiss was a true testament to USM's student theater power.

Student Performing Artist productions (SPA) are made up of a collection of majors, non-majors and minors and rubs elbows with USM's main theater program. It is a great way for students to try out professional roles in directing, designing, stage managing and more.

Stop Kiss flickers back and forth through time, drawing the audience from the budding romance of Sara, played by sophomore theatre major Hollie Pryor, and Callie, played sophomore theater major Brittany Burke, to its eventual eruption.The girls meet because of a cat sitting arrangement, in a downtown New York City in the 1990s. As native New Yorker Callie shows Sarah around the city, the two begin to develop feelings for one another, each never having loved a woman before. Eventually they share their first kiss, directly after which they are assaulted by an angry and homophobic bystander, and Sarah goes into the hospital in a coma. The play progresses in far from chronological order, as audience members switch from before and after the assault.

"Callie is socially awkward and corny," explained Burke. "Before Callie met Sara, I don't think she had feelings for another woman, and she's just confused about it the entire play.

Pryor describes her character Sarah as put-together and bold and thrown off by being out of control.

There is a superb chemistry between the two. Burke and Pryor both did a elegant job of conveying the subtleties of their characters backgrounds. They handled the heavy themes beautifully, with a deep understanding of the emotions of their individual characters as they struggled through the process of falling in love.

"This show is a collection of scenes," said Burke. She said that the hardest part of the show was switching between sets, costumes and emotions so quickly.

"When you go from being beside the person you're in love with in a coma, to post making love with the guy you're engaged to, it's difficult to do that in such short time periods," she laughed.

Pryor agreed. To get into her character, she said she needs to do a lot of thinking about what Sarah would be feeling in that particular scene.

"I have to bring it all together, moment by moment, and then start completely over for the next scene."

Cox suggested that the play came together in the last minute, but from opening night's performance, you couldn't tell. She chose Stop Kiss because it was original, but could appeal to everyone.

"I think this story is really beautiful and different. Love stories in film and TV are often times heterosexual," she explained. "Telling the story of two lesbians is something that doesn't happen as often as it should. It's also extremely relatable."

Though this is her first play directed here at USM, Cox has acted in several and prop directed for one.

"It was really cool to be directed by someone who I admire so much as an actor," said Burke, on being directed by a student director.

In the future, she hopes to teach theater. She explained that she really enjoyed the environment of helping freshman, sophomores and non-majors come into their own. Cox said that sometimes the cast and crew would help her convey and idea and everyone would bounce ideas off each other.

From lighting designs, stage managers, to the director herself, the cast and crew is full of students in full- time classes and jobs. Most are even in other plays at USM currently. Cox said finding the time for rehearsals was difficult, but that the cast was all extremely dedicated. Among other obstacles the cast overcame were a limited budget and design challenges in the small black box theater. They managed to pull Stop Kiss together in relatively little time.

"I had to oversee this whole package come together, and I had never tried that before. It was a big job," Cox explained. "Thank god for my team. Everyone is super hard working and I could not have done it without them."

The closeness of the cast and crew was blaringly obvious evident in the production, and the crew of student handled limited budgets and time, and tough subject material beautifully. Keep an eye on these students in the future. It make seem like a small production, but you could be witnessing future stars.

Photo courtesy of Samantha Roche

Callie (sophomore theater major Brittany Burke) and Sara (sophomore theater major Hollie Pryor) was watched as they share their first kiss together

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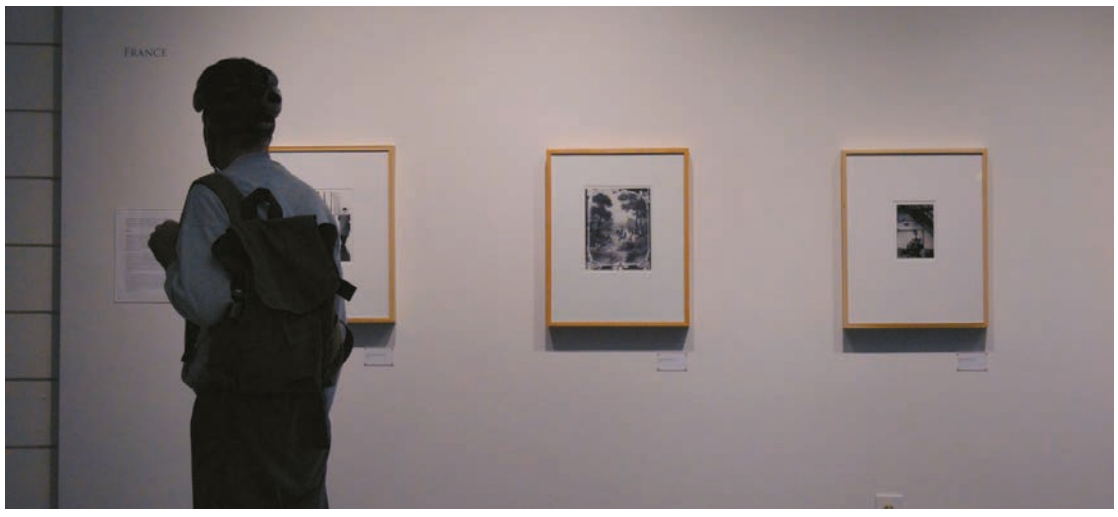
Photos left behind tell a story of exploration



Krysteana Scribner / Editor-in-chief

The walls of Woodbury Campus Center are lined with the works of Todd Web. This exhibit is free to the public.

Anora Mortin
Free Press Staff

The AREA Gallery at the USM Woodbury campus center currently exhibits Todd Webb:A Historian With a Camera, a photography exhibit curated by Carolyn Elyer. This past week, a reception was held in the gallery, attracting many students, faculty, and friends of the late photographer, Todd Webb. The atmosphere of the reception was relaxed and accepting, as even those in attendance with no prior knowledge of photography could enjoy and discuss the photographs. The exhibit itself is separated by the general geographic location the photo's were taken, from New York City to New Mexico, from Paris to London, each wall of the exhibit showcases the intuitive "slice of life" photo's, many as much as 50 years old, these 24 photographs spanning from the 1940's to the 1980's

Though the resounding "theme" of the exhibit is Todd Webb's work throughout the years, there is a sub theme that carries throughout the exhibit. "He was always trying to tell a story,"Betsy Evans Hunt, the executor of Webb's estate, related when she spoke at the reception. "If you look at his photographs, even when there are no people in it, there is always the presence of a person and a story there," this is especially true of Webb's work. Whether an empty french dining room or Webb's good friend Georgia O'keeffe's patio door, there is an overwhelming sense of occupancy; of human presence. This theme holds true thought the exhibit, throughout the many years of photographs, and even from each city though Betsy Evan Hunt admits that Webb's photographs reflect him "riffing off the energy of each individual city."

Betsy Evans Hunt spoke of Todd Webb's attitude towards his fame, that "he didn't want anything from anyone.""Todd was completely without guile, and very humble, but also a lot of fun to be around," this resounding with the many reception goers that knew him. In this exhibit, there is only one photo where the subject is seemingly aware of Webb's presence (Wedding Party, Paris, 1950), and this factor resonates that Webb loved his work for the sake of sharing it not to be recognised, though he is certainly remembered, fondly and with much admiration.

Todd Webb used to say when asked how to take quality photographs; this quote was remembered and shared lovingly by many at the reception, how Webb never spoke down to an inexperienced photographer, just encouraged them.

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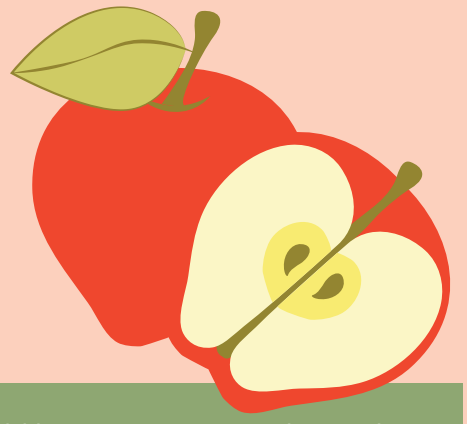
Local Top 5:



Apple Orchards

Amanda Melanson
Contributor

Fall usually means a variety of things – warm sweaters, leaves changing color and fruit, ripe for picking. There are several orchards scattered across the state but these five are within the Greater Portland Area and come highly recommended. If you are looking for somewhere fun to go apple picking before the winter chill hits or to create a new experience for the young ones in your family, these are the places to go.

1.) Randall Orchards, Standish

Randall Orchards has been operating since 1906 and is located off Rte 25. They typically have apples available to "pick your own" from Late August until November 7 pm. Not only do they offer the chance to pick your own apples but they also provide a fun trailer ride during good weather and a cider mill. Also for sale is a selection of gourds, pumpkins, and squash to pick from. The variety of apples they have is plentiful.

2.) Orchard Ridge, Gorham

Orchard Ridge is located at 236 Sebago Lake Road. It was has fruit available to pick between September and early November and different apples can go rather quickly. They offer Apples for sale during season at $2 per pound and also offer blueberries and raspberries at $4 and $5.50 per pound, respectively. Their Facebook page has over 1,000 followers currently.

3.) Brackett's Orchards, Limington

Brackett's Orchard can be found at 224 Sokokis Avenue. The season started on September 15. They are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The orchard has been in operation since 1783. Brackett's Orchards offers a pickyourown service for their apples and blueberries, priced at $3 per pound for over 10lbs and $3.25 per pound for purchases under 10lbs. Their varieties include Honeycrisp, McIntosh, Cortland, Golden, Delicious, and Northern Spy apples. They also offer a farm store which is well stocked with all apple varieties, pumpkins, squash, cider, potatoes, honey, jams

4.) Snell Family Farm, Buxton

Snell Family Farm, located at 1000 River Road off of Rte. 112. Their apple season starts Mid September and runs to Mid October according to their website. Their hours run from Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m, Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. And Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. They can also be found at the Portland Farmers Market on Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. They offer a PickYourOwn selection while apples are in season and also sell a variety of vegetables, raspberries, herbs, flowers, pumpkins, and other plants.

5.) Doles Orchard, Limington

located at 187 Doles Ridge Road, in Limington, is owned by Earl Dunting and offers a variety of fruits. Apple season starts in August through October. Their hours of operation are seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. They offer a 'pick your own' service that is $1.30 per pound with a card and $1.25 per pound with cash. Operation hours run from Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. In 2016 they will be offering a cherry/plum hybrid fruit "an experiement" of theirs, according to Dunting. The Orchard was purchased in 1993 and started growing apples as early as 1910.

Krysteana Scribner / Editor-in-chief

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A&C Listings

Monday, October 19

WMPG: Bluegrass Spectacular
One Longfellow Sq.
181 State St.
Starts: 6:00 p.m.

Shellshag, Fur, Gary Bangs
Space Gallery
538 Congress St.
Starts: 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 20

Local Food Networking Breakfast
Local Sprouts Cooropritive
649 Congress St.
Starts: 8:30 a.m.

Josh Ritter & The Royal City Band
State Theater
609 Congress St.
Starts: 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 21

Ingrid Michaelson
Thompson's Point
501 Danforth St.
Starts: 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 22

Debo Band
Space Gallery
538 Congress St.
Starts: 8:00 p.m.

Erotica Writing 101 Workshop
Nomia
24 Exchange St. Suite 215
Starts: 7:30 p.m. / Ends: 9:00 p.m.

Friday, October 23

Preformence: Tense Vagina
Space Gallery
538 Congress St.
Starts: 8:00 p.m.

Three Tales By Poe
Portland Ballet
517 Forest Ave. No. 2
Starts: 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 24

Saltwater Celtic Music Festival
State Theater
609 Congress St.
Starts: 7:00 p.m.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat
Corthell Hall
37 College Ave.
Starts: 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 25

Film: The Great Man
Portland Museum of Art
7 Congress Sq.
Starts: 2:00 p.m.

Want to submit an event?
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Film Review

Animal Kingdom Traction Media

Aaron Halls
Free Press Staff

Short Term 12, released in 2013, is a drama written and directed by Destin Daniel Cretton.

The movie follows Grace, played by Brie Larson, who is a supervisor at a home for troubled adolescents called Short Term 12; due to certain events, Grace is forced to confront her own personal demons while also attempting to help the young adolescents she supervises confront their own.

One of the standouts of this movie was the direction and script by Destin Daniel Cretton. Starting with the script, it was incredible how natural the dialogue was. Every word coming out of the characters' mouths felt real and authentic. The cinematography complemented the dialogue very well; its handheld style of shooting and the realistic script

blending together. At times, the audience might feel like they are watching a documentary. Cretton did a great job balancing all the characters throughout the film; this movie ultimately focuses on

Brie Larson's character Grace, but Cretton still finds time to make the audience invested in the kids she supervises as well as her co-workers. Another standout of this movie is the acting from the whole cast. Brie Larson gives an incredibly multi-layered performance as Grace. One of the aspects of Larson's performance that was noteable was how nuanced she was at times; Grace says very little in some scenes, but due to Larson's facial expressions and body language the audience knows exactly how she is feeling. Larson has exceptional chemistry with everyone in the cast including John Howard Gallagher Jr. who plays Grace's co-worker and boyfriend Mason; Gallager Jr. does a wonderful job here bringing an instant charm to his character and a warmness that helps lighten the mood in some emotionally heavy scenes. Also impressive were the performances from Kaitlyn Dever and Keith Stanfield who play adolescents at Short Term 12; they both bring a rawness and likeability to their characters which in turn makes the audience care about them just as much as Grace does.

Stephanie Beatriz and Rami Malek also do a great job in minor roles as Grace's co-workers. In the end Short Term 12 is a spellbinding experience with its natural script, great direction, and fantastic performances led by Larson; among the countless movies to stream on Netflix this is one of those hidden gems that you will wish you had heard about sooner. Although the movie deals with some heavy subject matter, you won't come out of this feeling sad; you might end up feeling just the opposite. Add this to your queue.

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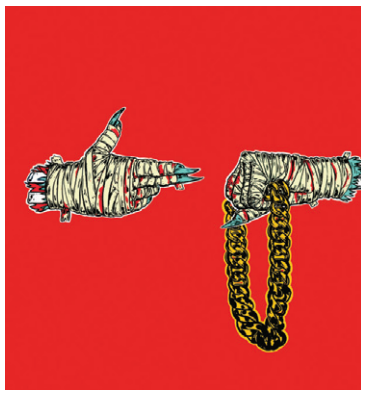
Album Review

Satirical rap album filled with meows and social justice


Mass Appeal Records

Bradford Spurr
Contributor

This album is not traditional in the sense that it is an entirely original idea. It is in fact a remix of the well received album Run the Jewels 2 by rap group Run the Jewels composed of Killer Mike and El-P.

What makes this remix album special is that it came about as something of a joke for the group. Back in 2014 when their sophomore album dropped some creative deluxe album packages were placed on-line such as the "Housesitters Deluxe" package which entailed a pressed vinyl copy of the album, one of each tour merch item, and of course the privilege to have Run the Jewels house sit for a weekend and consume all of your illicit substances, eat your mother's cooking, and listen to your crappy music. There are a dozen or so other packages like this one in varying degrees of ludicrousy (one package costs 10 million dollars) with the group stating that they have the right to take your money and not honor the package for anyone valued at 35 thousand dollars or more. Now originally these packages were intended to simply be a series of shareable publicity stunts in order for their name to gain exposure but several thousand people turned to the group funding forum Kickstarter to get the funds necessary to complete the project. Once the funds were in order Killer Mike took to twitter to announce that he would attempt this incredible task.

They ended up changing their song titles to alternatives that were newspaper publishable. Recently Run the Jewels was thrust into the limelight after Killer Mike came forward as an outspoken critic of the events surrounding Michael Brown's death. Mike was invited onto the slew of late night shows, gave speeches at universities like MIT and even received an invitation to the White House Correspondents' Dinner. We see Killer Mike's influence shine through on tracks like "MEOWRLY (Boots remix) which details an exhibition of unprovoked police brutality. Mike, seemingly yelling at the mic, bangs out "Could it be that my medicine's the evidence/ For pigs to stop and frisk me when they rollin' round on patrol?/ And ask 'why you're here?'" But in the background you can hear the 'purrs' of kittens and the growl of a cat stuck in a corner and the whole thing becomes surreal. If you listen hard enough to get what it is that Run the Jewels are attempting to get out to the public you begin to understand that this rap group represents something much larger than another rap duo, and quite frankly we need more of that for this generation of millennials that are struggling to differentiate themselves from the past.

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Film Review

Simon Kinberg

Hannah Lyon
Design Editor

If you're a fan of science fiction, The Martian is definitely a film you need to watch. This survival story is realistically set in outerspace. When a sandstorm comes to Mars, astronauts are forced to abort their mission and leave Mark Watney (Matt Damon), who is presumed dead, behind. For his survival, he needs to use his own wits and "science the sh–" out of his situation. He has to figure out how to grow plants on a planet where nothing grows and find a way to communicate with NASA. Once NASA realizes that Mark Watney is alive, they do everything possible to bring him back to Earth.

Matt Damon will touch and inspire you with his humor in a near-death situation. You'll be on the edge of your seat as he figures out a way to get water, how to drive a rover across the planet, and tries to communicate with Earth. "The Martian" has beautiful cinematography as well. With its clear and sweeping images of Mars and space that will make views want to pirate their way through the stars with Matt Damon.

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Perspectives

Our Opinion

Technology is distracting for students in the classroom

Editorial Board
Free Press Staff

Technology is in our face no matter where we turn. Everyone has the newest iPhone, a laptop, tablet, iPod all at their disposable 24 hours a day. And most people are constantly connected to it like some sort of lifeline. Does technology really have a place in the classroom? We argue that most of the time, it's not a necessary tool to bring to class.

When you walk into a classroom on the first day of classes, the first thing you see is people buried in their phones. Even when class begins, people insist on using their laptops to take notes and with just a quick gaze around the room you can see that a majority of those with their laptops aren't taking notes. They are checking Facebook or their email. Some of us have even seen people do puzzles on their laptops while a professor is giving a lecture.

When it comes time to have a discussion, no one has any sort of input because they have no idea what was just discussed because they are too busy doing puzzles to care about the lecture. So instead you get to sit in an awkward silence while the professor looks desperately around the room for someone who has any sort of vague notion as to what's going on.

The biggest rebuttal for letting students have laptops in the classroom is that they keep all their notes on their; it is, after all, a technological age where almost everyone uses their laptops and cell phones at every moment of the day. As college students, we are paying for an education, not a place to goof off on our laptops. We've found from our own experiences that without the distraction of our laptops, we learn more.

Taking notes in the classroom means writing everything down by hand, and giving yourself a second time to go over them after. It means being completely focused on what your professor is saying and writing down details.

It won't kill you to write down your notes with pen and paper. Granted, you may not be able to force people to take notes, but without the distraction of a computer at least they will have to listen a little bit, so they'll vaguely know what's going on.

One of our professors said that in masters programs and professional environments, it is respected and expected for people to take notes using a basic pen and paper. It shows that you are fullying listening to what is being heard, and doesn't have to ambiguity of the back of a laptop screen, where the professor has no idea if you're copying what they said or surfing Pintrest.

Professors should be able to choose what flys and what doesn't in their classrooms. If they ban digital notetaking, then students should comply.

We've also had experience with Professors not truly understanding how technology works in the classroom. On many occasions over our years at USM, we've shared stories of Professors pushing buttons on their computers trying to figure out how to screen information on the whiteboard while they wait for tech support.

Half the class time gets wasted while the professor tries to set up the powerpoint or the video. You lose class time and information, which you will most likely get tested on and you just won't have any clue about it because your professor can't, or wasn't properly instructed to, work the technology in the classroom.

Although we believe laptops shouldn't be allowed in classrooms, we do think that kindles should be exempt from this rule. Some professors don't allow E-books - for example, a criminology class one of us was in two years ago didn't allow e-book editions on kindle because it was "far too distracting." But the kindle itself often offers textbooks at cheaper prices, and decreases the amount of heavy textbooks we need to carry around campus.

Why ban this? Some kindles have the ability to access online content and games in a similar way to laptops; but if teachers only allowed for kindles to come out when they were reading specific excerpts from the text or told students they could, it shouldn't be a option to disclude from the classroom.

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Anarchist Luddite

Let's make Portland a foot-friendly city

Brian Gordon
Free Press Staff

The bright green bike lanes that have been painted outside Glickman Library are a god-send. It's now vaguely safer to bike on Forest Ave. While the lines don't stop cars coming on or off the interstate ramps from going 40 mph, it certainly increases bikers' visibility and that, sweet baby blue jeans, is a good thing.

While a ton more bike lanes are needed or need to be repainted, or touched up with the city's lovely choice of neon green, some just need to be swept. Lately I've been riding my horse straight up Forest, where the green lanes take me. Rather than continuing next to the park where the bike lanes are covered in rocks and sand, and are a bit too tight for comfort with the oblivious little metal coffins speeding their owners home to another screen.

At a time when the population is at its highest and more people seem to be favoring four wheels, Portland is realizing there are other people trying to commute on two legs or two wheels and not get killed. More people are moving here from larger cities and they're used to relying on public transportation to get around. Right now they'll certainly find it lacking in town, but at least Portland seems to be getting around to making the peninsula feel more like a pedestrian friendly enclave amongst a sea of asphalt highways.

I'm all for the proposed changing of State and High street to two-way streets. Yes your commute to South Portland will slow dramatically, but I don't care because anytime I cross on my bike or feet from the West End to go downtown I put my life in the hands of someone who is probably staring at their phone while operating heavy machinery. Is it fair to make city citizens cross highways to get to happy hour?

Yeah it's a bummer you would no longer be able to speed over the hump of Portland to get home to your ticky-tacky box where you will trade your smaller screen for a bigger blue screen, but I don't believe your death machine should have any rights. I favor humans over metal.

The city seems to be keen on rerouting traffic around the edges of the peninsula on Fore River Parkway to Commercial Street, where you would then cross over the Casco Bay Bridge. Sounds good to me - let's make Portland a foot-friendly city and banish the roller coaster of State and High Street to Funtown USA.

Another thing I'm curious about is why you people who drive out of town on routes 302, 22 and 25 (outer Forest, Congress and Brighton, respectively) don't advocate for a light-rail system? Do you enjoy that slog five days a week? Are you so unique that you prefer to be trapped by yourself, paying gas and breathing fumes rather than car-pooling? Imagine riding a train into town instead. How sweet it could be.

I've driven into town at rush-hour and seen the slowly dying faces of single-occupancy cars stretching for miles all the way to Buxton. How much time has been wasted sitting in your car?

Get out breathe the air and live like a real human – screen-less and free.

Advising Advice

Know the basics of advising

This week Advising begins a regular column. We thank the Free Press for this opportunity! The column's overall purpose will address how to use your advising resources to help your experience at USM. The topics will provide practical tips and logistics, offer ways you can explore majors and careers, explain new initiatives and resources, and share areas of interest suggested by you. The column will feature input from faculty advisors, academic advisors, staff, and students. We invite you to ask questions and suggest topics relating to this column. Please send them to the contact information at the end of this article.

Previous articles about advising explained that students who have declared a major will have a faculty advisor within their department and an academic advisor from Advising.

The only exception to campus advising is if you are enrolled in an online program. Students enrolled in online degree programs are assigned an online academic advisor and a faculty advisor listed on your Student Center.

Faculty advisors are located within their academic department. Check out the people section of your department's website to discover your faculty advisor's contact information, if you are in a major. You can also contact the department directly for assistance.

You can make academic advising appointments by calling the numbers listed above or by directly e-mailing your advisor. When you make the appointment it is helpful to state the purpose of your appointment, and to provide your phone number and student ID. Currently Academic Advising is working on a self-booking appointment feature for on-campus advising. Stay tuned, because it will soon be on the web page: www.usm.maine.edu/advising.

Advisors can help you develop an academic plan, discuss your educational and professional goals, explore majors, careers, and opportunities, connect you to support services, and just be someone to talk with.

Occasionally, you may prefer to speak with someone the same day. Academic Advising on the Portland and Gorham campuses have established walk- in hours where you can meet with an advisor in person, over the phone, or Skype or Google hangout. Advisors work closely as a team.

However if you prefer to see your assigned advisor, we will work hard to accommodate you, if she or he is available. (Please be patient during priority registration or during orientation days.)

One thing we know is you are busy! If you are a new student and have never met your advisor, we recommend meeting in person for your first appointment, but would be happy to meet via phone, Skype, or Google hangout. When you set the appointment, please indicate your preference. Finally if you have to cancel your meeting, please notify us at least 24 hours so another student can use that appointment slot.

In summary, we are excited to meet you and are very invested in your success. If you have questions, or ideas for future articles that you would like addressed, please e-mail us (care of): janisa@maine.edu.

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Sustainability and ME

USM's surplus store and student swap shop facilitate treasure

Photo courtesy of Tyler Kidder

There are tons of affordable office & college supplies in the Portland Surplus Store, so stop by!

For the last ten months a small and dedicated core team of staff representatives from the seven UMaine System campuses have been working to create a Request for Proposals (RFP) to address the approaching end of the dining services contract. Currently, Aramark is the vendor who holds the contract for six of the seven 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 dining, to-go kiosks, late night snacks and catering to our campuses. They order, plan and prepare the food as well as employing the staffers who 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 put large purchases and contracts out for public bid process to ensure transparency.

Over the last year, a consultant was hired to help the campuses assess the current state of their food programs. This investigation looked at equipment age and condition, hours of operation, types of food served, style of menu, number of meal plans, student population, 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 in the future.

Using all this data, as well as information researched and provided by expert community groups, the 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 respond with their proposals. The proposals will be long and complicated documents with the vendors asked to show how they will deliver on the various demands of the UMaine System right down to the specific needs of each eatery on each campus each System campus (Bailey & Luther Bonney Kiosk operation, for example). The confidential proposals will be extensively and fairly evaluated by the core team, and a decision will be reached on the winner later in the winter.

Multiple vendors have expressed interest in submitting proposals and each proposal will be very different in terms of solutions being presented to solve current challenges. Excitingly, one of the vendors who will be bidding is a Maine-based cooperative which offers collective membership to employees, students and the community. Others are corporations like Aramark who specialize in institutional food service (colleges, hospitals, prisons, etc).

So, what will change? Although the specifics of the contract won't be ironed out until the proposals are evaluated, one thing we do know is there is a much larger emphasis on local food in this contract than in previous contracts. Local food is defined as being any food generated within 175 miles of any UMaine system school. Therefore, UMPI could buy corn from New Hampshire and USM could buy fish from Canada if they really wanted to. Most of the foods that qualify as local, however, will be from within our own state. Having the local foods definition extend beyond our state lines encourages more of a regional food system approach which is beneficial for long-term resilience and connectivity.

In addition, the amount of local food found on university plates is going to increase significantly. Exact current local food purchases across the system are are moving target and not well measured. Within the first year of the contract, however, vendors must purchase 15% of their food from local sources. The 15% is measured in cost and averaged out over a calendar or fiscal year so there may be more local products during certain seasons. The 15% must be spread out between these categories: Produce, dairy, eggs, fish/seafood, poultry, meat, baked goods/grains and grocery. Each year, the vendor must increase the percentage of local food purchase by 1%, reaching 20% local food by 2020 (year five of the contract). This is great news for farmers, processors, fisherfolks 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 vendor is made this winter the winner will be announced. The new contract for food service will take effect July 1 2016. So next summer and fall, expect to see some new menus and more local and sustainable foods for sale on campus! There will still be a large percentage of food served on campus that is not local, so be sure to choose local 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 Kidder is the Asst. Director for Sustainable Programs at USM. She works on the three USM campuses to reduce environmental impact.

Self Exploration

Winter is a matter of perspective

Nicholas Beauchesne
Free Press Staff

As summer slips away into memory and fall seems in a hurry to be done with us, I can't help but look toward the impending winter season with a confused sense of both doom and desire. Yes, winter can be miserable. Icy roads, power outages, the dreaded shovel…(feel free to pile on any other negative character trait of winter that I failed to mention here). All of these misery makers will surely come, and go, as they always do. What of it, though?

Yea- it gets dark before most of us get done class. True- those boots and gloves with holes in them need replacing, just like they did last January when it was decided that they can make it one more winter. Sure- the shovel…. not the shovel, anything but the shovel- so what, though?

Those are just a few of the things that make up a Maine winter here at USM.

There is also the beauty of nature, blanketed by freshly fallen snow, adjusting itself to the creeping, cold climate as we ourselves will do. That beauty resides also in the streets and the shops of the city or town we call home. Gorham and Portland each in their own way acclimate to the winter season.

The Gorham campus, even in the depths of winter, still stokes the intellectual fires of the students studying on its grounds- synapses firing, fueled by caffeine and the realization that we are all grinding through this together. Portland, with the winter at its back and the ocean crashing in, hunkers down. The streets narrow, the sidewalks disappear underneath a sea of snow- yet the people carry on.

Better than that, people often thrive during the winter season. Activities abound, from snowshoeing in any of the many parks that in the surrounding area to visiting the multiple "corners of culture" that do not disappear when summer does.

Art exists regardless of the temperature outside. The architecture of downtown Portland takes on a special air of both strength and elegance in winter. The buildings, some well over a century old, have weathered such cold before. Long after the last frost leaves, the buildings remain- defiant and determined to do it again once Old Man Winter comes back.

Adventure awaits for any and all that fear the cold and the snow less than the idea of that cold and that snow forcing them inside. To go out and explore each day, whether in the heat of summer or the heart of winter, is to both overcome the elements as well as to become one with them. I'm not saying here that you should climb to the top of Munjoy Hill in shorts, sandals and a tank, run to the rocks and and whip the ocean into submission a la Xerxes….

Then again, I'm not saying you shouldn't. Wear proper footwear, though, and cover up. The aim is to overcome the winter weather by exposing yourself to the beauty and opportunity it has to offer, not to be overcome by the winter weather due to exposure.

Explore, though. Find the secret beauty hidden beneath the harsh exterior of things. Winter blankets our environment in white, seeming to cover up everything in its wake.

That's only a matter of perspective, though. When looked at through a different slant, that enveloping snow is not a blanket, but a blank slate- one on which anything can be written, as long as there are writers to do so.

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Semester at Sea

"Has social media turned us all into selfie centered travelers?"

Joie Grandbois-Gallup
Free Press Staff

You have paid 15 euros to walk the wall that surrounds the medieval city of Dubrovnik. You are anticipating the views of blue Mediterranean water as far as the eye can see to the west and the charming orange rooftops of the town to the east. It is hot, nearly 85 degrees, and as you follow the crowd of tourists up the narrow stairs sweat begins to form on your forehead. You are looking forward to the sea breeze that will refresh you. Finally you are nearing the top step, your reward is in sight when…

Down the line it comes, one person after another bumping into each other. The line stops dead. For a moment you wonder why but you know, you know. You look ahead to see what is holding things up. Knowing just what you will see, and yes, yes there it is, stretched out over the wall, above the heads of your fellow tourists.

The selfie stick.

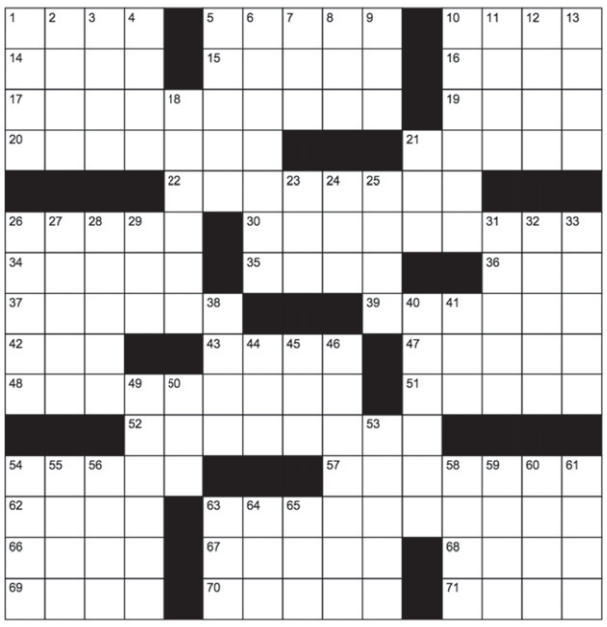
I have seen the selfie stick on the ship and in every port. It has caused me to trip over cobblestones in Civitavecchia, stumble up stairs in Dubrovnik and skid to a stop on the marble walkways of the Acropolis.

It isn't the selfie that I have any issue with. In fact I have taken a few on this journey, and really, I don't even have issue with the selfie stick itself. It is merely an object that allows one to take photos of oneself from a distance. It's the oblivious behavior that seems to go along with it. The seeming total unawareness of how the act of stopping abruptly in the midst of a crowd impacts those behind you. The selfie stick, or rather those who utilize it, are responsible for countless stubbed toes and mobs of frayed nerves.

I know I am not alone in my frustration. I have heard the sighs, the swearing and the outright, "Get a move on," from my fellow sightseers. One might think that with America's 'ugly tourist' reputation we'd be most at fault for this traveling faux pas. But no, the groups pushing their cheeks together, giving a thumbs up, peace sign or throwing horns while looking up their now five foot distant cell phones are of all nationalities.

Has social media turned us all into selfie centered travelers?

Crossword



Across

1. Triangular sails
5. "In Pharaoh's Army" author Tobias
10. "___ to differ"
14. Reply to "Are you awake?"
15. Make ___ of (jot down)
16. ____ fide (in bad faith)
17. Sandwich spread
19. Broadway's Linda
20. Prepare for use, as software
21. W.C. Handy's style
22. Reuben requirement
26. Type of chest
30. Rent splitters
34. Mexican friend
35. Idiot
36. Phone no. follower
37. Cast off
39. Obama was in it until November 2008
42. Antlered critter
43. Homes for mil. planes
47. Mollusk creation
48. Chuck Yeager, e.g.
51. "___ to Be You"
52. Fastening
54. Easy ___
57. Fall symbol
62. Signing gorilla
63. Crucial
66. Prefix meaning "personal"
67. Bright fish
68. Cost an arm and ____
69. Puts on
70. Move without effort
71. Some beans

Down

1. Rock icon Hendrix
2. One-named supermodel
3. Pays the price for
4. Parking place
5. Without much energy
6. Primed
7. French statute
8. Mil. installations
9. Doctor's charge
10. Ferdinand's wife
11. Singer Erykah
12. Robert ____ (Civil War general)
13. Long-snouted fishes
18. Like an isthmus
21. Emeril's exclamation
23. Cave under weight
24. Marseilles monarch
25. Ambulance staff (abbr.)
26. Military academy student
27. French author Zola
28. Frisbees, e.g.
29. Prior to this point
31. Educate
32. Bonus
33. Charger
38. Unsophisticated one
40. World War II encoding machine
41. Slave Turner
44. With "Max," a golf brand
45. Carton
46. Salary
49. They're forbidden
50. Low mil. letters
53. Nightingale, for one
54. "You're too young. You're just ____!"
55. "And ____ I!"
56. Similar (to)
58. Elementary school gps.
59. Metric weight
60. Tony-winner Judith
61. Refusals, in short
63. Gerund end
64. Blanc who voiced Bugs Bunny
65. Hawaiian food

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.

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

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

Cryptogram

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

GYUQ VC RAPHCFZAH LHZ QC EUMM ZUEY CQYZA? EZMM RYCFZH.

And here is your hint:

L = U

The solution to last issue's crossword

Weekly Horoscope

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

Aries ★★★★
March 21-April 19
Take the family portrait, give your lover a sexy boudoir photograph, or create some pleasing visual memories.

Taurus ★★
April 20-May 20
You expect the best in your relationship. Don't focus on what's wrong; work toward your ideal (but recognize perfection is impossible).

Gemini ★★
May 21-June 20
You may be feeling a bit frustrated today if you are thinking only of what you don't yet have. Face reality, while working to improve it.

Cancer ★★★★
June 21-July 22
Your persuasive abilities are in focus. Sales go well. You can play the comedian or entertainer for colleagues.

Leo ★★
July 23-August 22
Clearing the air is a good idea. Bring up that topic you've been hesitant to discuss and talk it over with the one you love.

Virgo ★★
August 23-September 22
You find a family member pulling away when you want to be close and supportive, or you want to separate when others seems needy. This, too, shall pass.

Libra ★★★★
September 23-October 22
Your mind is sharp today, yet also precise. Plan to accomplish problem-solving that requires both speed and exactitude.

Scorpio ★★★★
October 23-November 21
Power plays or manipulations by loved ones are likely, so be extra empathic and cooperative tonight. Look for chances to be a team.

Sagittarius ★★★
November 22-December 21
Relationship and achievement needs seem at odds today. Keep a balance between love and work and remember you're not superhuman.

Capricorn ★★
December 22-January 19
Important papers require your attention today. Legal matters may be involved. Read everything carefully.

Aquarius ★★★★
January 20-February 18
You're inclined to take it a bit easy on the job today. Your good taste could be called upon, or diplomatic skills may be necessary.

Pisces ★★★★
February 19-March 20
Inspirational activities will give you a lift. Seek out nature, art, beauty, or religious or spiritual settings.

Poetry Corner

Empty Canvas

by Dustin Kelly

My heart guides a love filled brush to caresses the empty canvas
Blonde in addition to blue will stroke and kiss the white sky
It prevails colors and beauty so true though its landless
Only her natural elegance can fill this volume and get one high
Mark after mark the imagination will merge with reality
Art comes to life and brings her eyes into focus with mine
Yearning to touch the creation would break my morality
Reaching out helps none but reading her signs help every time
I think our skins touch I think our lips touch I think she's mine now
She is unable to crawl out until I put the final touch on this fantasy
Paint paint paint many shades but trapped she is why, no how
Colors are splashed reaching the page but perfection has no vanity
Blinking wakes me as I stare at the nothing on my thought
Again I dreamt of the perfect fusion dealing with love and art
I cant count how many times I've envisioned her rather than not
Perfect this and perfect that I certainly believe she may hold my heart
Hanging my head I understand the meanings this metaphor has taught
True love will not be found if the brush never touches a soul from the start

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USM Community Page

Multicultural center event discusses difficult topics

Diversity dialogue hopes to increase community outreach

MaryAnn Silliboy
Free Press Staff

At the Multicultural Center, the USM's Diversity Dialogue is a way to engage in a meaningful discussion about race related issues. It is where students can express their pent up frustration, anger and irritation of mistreatment on a campus, the place they are supposed to feel the most safe.

According to Reza Jalali, Coordinator of the Multicultural Student Affairs, the event went well and helped students.

"I do hope, and pray, the discussion, as painful as it was, helped the students who participated," said Jalali. "The participants were honest, took risks, and shared their inner fears and thoughts on feeling invisible, not valued and not accepted by the USM community."

This discussion is just one of the many events the the center holds. It is open to all students and gives multicultural students the opportunity to talk about their positive or negative experiences on campus without being judged.

The Multicultural Center began in 2000 and has been growing ever since, providing a space for students from all over to congregate. It's a place for students from marginalized and invisible communities to meet, gather for socials events, have discussions and student group meetings.

"I believe it benefits those, who feel marginalized to find a safe place and time to talk about racism and exclusion," said Jalali. "It benefits them as they share their views and, at times, it creates a better sense of community by doing so."

Yet many people are intimidated to enter because of lack of acceptance and the overall clique mentality.

"I walked into the multicultural center and felt very uninvited in a place that is meant to be inviting to all cultures and all people," said an anonymous USM student. "Everyone was very distant, and there was a true lack of communication between the obvious grouping of students within the center."

Katelyn Wiggins / Free Press Staff

Students and staff gather together in the Multicultural Center, where anyone can openly discuss racial issues.

> **"The participants were honest, took risks, and shared their inner fears and thoughts on feeling invisible, not valued and not accepted by the USM community."**
>
> **Reza Jalali,** *Coordinator of the Multicultural Student Affairs*

The Diversity Dialogue meeting was an idea by Abdelaziz Rhazzali, a senior Mechanical Engineering major. He explained that his idea was to start the Diversity Dialogue so students could have a safe place that they could discuss the problems they face on campus.

"I felt that this dialogue was much needed within our university especially for the multicultural students, " said Rhazzali. "The goal was to provide safe space for multicultural students to discuss issues that they face as being part of USM community."

Susan Lewey Hamilton the Coordinator of the Multicultural Student Affairs and Native American Waiver and Educational Program, helped Rhazzali put the Diversity Dialogue together.

"Aziz and I were thinking about a format to have a student lead discussion allowing students to air their frustrations and to see if we could come up with solutions to make life at USM a bit easier and more fulfilling," said Hamilton.

As the discussion went on at the event it started to become opinionated, everyone wanted to voice their opinions and talk about the many issues related to discrimination and race on campus that was currently bothering them. It began as a calm discussion about the differences everyone has, but some students got defensive when certain touchy topics were brought up.

"It didn't go very well for me personally, because of how it was facilitated, not in a way that it was open enough," said Nancy Umba, a sophomore theatre major. "I didn't think it went anywhere, or solved anything. There was a lot of arguments, and people weren't being receptive enough to what others were saying, people were quick to get angry with certain things others said."

Hamilton disagrees, saying she has a much different view on the center and what it is supposed to bring to the campus as a whole. She also explained that the event was aimed at discussing and bringing to light issues of inclusiveness and racism on campus.

"The Diversity Dialogue went as expected, great conversations happened and students weren't afraid to speak up about things that were bothering them," she said. "A lot of it is the typical issues of inclusiveness on campus, how other people look at them, stare at them, issues of racism."

Photo courtesy of Multicultural Student Affairs

According to USM enrollment totals in 2013-2014, there was a total of 410 male minority students, and 2929 male white students. There was a total of 505 female minority students, and 3939 white female students on campus.

"What should come out of this are individual decisions or workshops that they can begin to understand themselves a bit more and why they react to certain events that happen to them," said Hamilton. "What they can do to resolve the issue and that's prominently, why we want to do these decisions, more self-awareness for each individual student, understanding what oppression does to people, and to show how it affects the community."

The Multicultural Center is going to try to continue to put on Diversity Dialogues once a month, for students to come and voice what they believe, how they feel and maybe solve the issues of what is happening on campus. They plan on doing workshops and to begin educating students on oppression, colonization and to help the students better understand where the racism and pent up anger stems from.

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Community Spotlight:

Gamma Iota Sigma, USM's newest fraternity

Zach Abbotoni
Free Press Staff

A new fraternity is coming to campus next month called Gamma Iota Sigma. Previously known for being a nationally recognized fraternity that chartered in 1965, it has since grown to over 60 schools and over 22,000 alumni. With a strong student interest already accumulating, the group still hopes to expand its prominence at USM.

The fraternity is an academic fraternity that caters to students majoring in risk management and actuarial sciences. As an academic fraternity, Gamma Iota Sigma provides its members with a multitude of opportunities that include networking, opportunity to travel, advising, and mock interviews.

Last week, members of Gamma Iota Sigma members traveled to Chicago for a conference. This meeting gave them opportunity to learn a great deal and enabled them to network with seasoned industry professionals. These conferences provide students with real world experience all while learning leadership skills and interviewing skills.

Matt Swan, the president of USM's chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma, attended the conference in Chicago. This conference attracted nearly every Gamma chapter, along with a massive job fair that drew over 50 large corporations actively looking for Gamma members to hire, connect and network with.

Swan stated that the switch from risk management club to a chartered fraternity gives it much more validity, as well as gives them the access to a large national outreach of like minded students and industry professionals.

Swan said that this fraternity has been an excellent experience for him thus far and he is excited for his post graduate experience as well, stating that "many hiring managers actively look for Gamma Iota Sigma members. It really is a great group to be a part of, they provide you with a culture, and tools that really set you up to succeed."

Krysteana Scribner / *Editor-in-chief*

A few members of the Gamma Iota Sigma posed for a photo at their meeting Thu

Professor Dana Kerr, Associate Professor of Risk Management and Insurance has been a catalyst in forming Gamma Iota Sigma. He was a strong advocate for forming this group on campus and has served as an advisor to another school's Gamma Iota Sigma chapter in previous years. He believes that every student should look into joining. For anyone with an interest in risk management, finance or any business major or minor would greatly benefit from joining this fraternity, as it provides one with excellent opportunities.

Tre Whitney, a freshman undeclared major at USM said that the idea of an academic fraternity seems interestingly unique.

Currently the group meets every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. in Luther Bonney room 509, but there will be many more upcoming activities that Gamma will be hosting and attending in the future.

On November 12, the group plans to travel to Atlanta Georgia, to a conference that is being held by Troy University. This conference, much like the one in Chicago, will have many industry leaders speaking and will be an excellent opportunity for the group to travel and network. This trip, and many other opportunities in the future will be extremely affordable, as this trip will only cost $25 total for Gamma Iota Sigma members,

If anyone is interested in joining the Gamma Iota Sigma fraternity, you can reach out to the president of the fraternity by emailing him at Matthew.Swan1@maine.edu

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@USMFreePress

Students of USM

Moutwei Chap, Sophmore Computer Science major

Rahma Ali
Community Editor

As a student at USM, Moutwei Chap is inspired by his fathers determination to work his way up the ladder of success.

"My dad came here from Cambodia when he was really young and he's always told me stories of how he started from the bottom and when he got here he didn't know anything," said Chap. "He graduated from SMCC. To me, that was an inspiration that helped me go to school too. Since my dad did it from nothing, he was able to show me that I could as well."

As he progresses through his college career, Chap has found that his love for dancing keeps him motivated and inspired with each passing day.

"I love performing and dancing is my passion. When I was younger, I watched a lot of videos of people dancing and it caught my eye. I would copy it and then I would then try to make my own thing. I am part of a dance crew now down in Massachusetts called Rice Paddy Heroes. We're getting out there and we've been performing a lot at various colleges."

Rahma Ali / *Community Editor*

Jake Mitchell, Freshman Physics major

Rahma Ali
Community Editor

For Jake Mitchell, his struggles with substance abuse have given him incentive to go back to school and work on bettering his life goals. "I used to struggle with substance addiction. At one point, I went and lived in the wilderness of Oregon for a couple of months. I also lived in Chicago, which is where I have recently moved from," said Mitchell. "I'm living in a sober house right now, and that's why I am going to USM. Maine was my only option to stay out of trouble. I was getting into bad situations in the last city I lived in, and this geographical change is just what I needed. I'm happy to say I am six months sober."

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

Campus Events

Monday, October 19

Safe Zone Project Training
Room 200 Payson Smith Hall
USM Portland Campus
Starts: 11:30 a.m. / Ends: 1:00 p.m.

Internship Informational Meeting
LAC Campus Room
Room 185
Starts: 11:45 a.m. / Ends: 12:45 p.m.

Community Garden Soil Building Workshop
Community Garden
USM Portland Campus
Starts: 3:00 p.m. / Ends: 5:00 p.m.

Sixth Annual Conversation about Reading
Talbot Lecture Hall , Luther Bonney
USM Portland Campus
Starts: 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 20

Women Speak Up: Portland Mayoral Forum
Hannaford Hall
USM Portland Campus
Starts: 6:30 p.m. / Ends: 8:00 p.m.

2015 FIG Informational Session
Faculty Commons, 312 Glickman Library
USM Portland Campus
Starts: 2:00 p.m. / Ends: 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 21

Private Violence Screening
Room 170
USM LAC Campus
Starts: 10:00 a.m.

Food & Thoughts: Research and Creative Activities
301 Bailey
USM Gorham Campus
Starts: 12:00 p.m. / Ends: 1:15 p.m.

Stone Circle Society Meeting
Southworth Planetarium
USM Portland Campus
Starts: 7:00 p.m. / Ends: 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 22

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

Husky Hysteria
Hill Gym
USM Gorham Campus
Starts: 9:00 p.m. / Ends: 11:00 p.m.

Friday, October 23

"Stop Hazing" Presentation with Dave Kerschner
Alumni Reception Center
USM Ice Areana
Starts: 11:00 a.m. / Ends: 12:00 p.m.

Visiting Artist Ellen Babcock
Burnham Lounge, Robie Andrews Hall
USM Gorham Campus
Starts: 12:00 p.m. / Ends: 1:00 p.m.

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

Sports

Home Games

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Men's Soccer vs. UNE 4 p.m.	**Field Hockey** vs. Salem State 4 p.m.	**Women's Soccer** vs. Framingham St. 3 p.m.	**Field Hockey** vs. Bates 3 p.m.

Quick Hits: The Huskies' week in review

Nicholas Beauchesne / *Free Press Staff*

At the beginning of the game, the USM lady Huskies' played their hardest, working together as a team towards the common goal of winning.

Soccer team struggled to withstand UNE

Nick Beauchesne
Free Press Staff

On an afternoon where each passing minute the skies appeared poised to pour down on Hannaford Field, the USM Lady Huskies soccer team struggled to withstand the deluge of shots from UNE in a 7-0 defeat.

USM (3-9) dropped their sixth consecutive contest, due in large part to a 28 to 3 shot differential in favor of the Noreasters. Of those 28 shots for UNE, 19 of them were on goal. Senior goalkeeper Marissa Temple (Grafton, Mass/ Sport Management) turned away 12 of the 19 shots on goal she faced, but the Huskies were unable to keep up with the relentless UNE attack.

Paced by two goals from senior midfielder Kayla Hamel (Lewiston), The Noreasters improved their record to 10 and 3 on the season. The winners of 4 straight, and 7 of 8 overall, UNE finds themselves in sole possession of first place in the Commonwealth Coast Conference (CCC).

As overwhelming as the UNE offensive attack proved to be throughout, their defense was equally impressive. The Huskies were unable to put a shot on goal throughout the contest, their three shots all having missed the target.

Things do not appear to get much easier for USM as they prepare to head south Saturday to take on the conference leading Eastern Connecticut State Warriors.

With three days to prepare though, the Huskies remain focused on their goal to make a push for the conference playoffs. Five regular season games remain on USM's schedule, and Saturday presents an opportunity to take on the conference leaders, in their place, and start a late season push.

"It was disappointing (the loss), yes, but we are still focused on finishing the season strong," said senior captain CC Pelletier, Sport Management major from West Newfield.

Pelletier emphasized hope for the future for USM, rather than focusing on the disappointment of Tuesday's defeat: "We have 5 games left before the end of the season, and we are focused on doing our best at Eastern Connecticut this Saturday."

The forecast calls for cold and overcast weather for the game Saturday. If the Huskies' hope to make the playoffs is to be realized, they will have to be able to withstand the elements and the opponent from here onward.

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Stop Hazing presentation

This presentation will take place on October 23, where the mission is to promote safe school, campus and organizational climates through research and the development of data-driven strategies for hazing prevention.

Pre-championship poll

The Huskie's golf team is prepping for the 2015 Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Championship this coming weekend on Saturday and Sunday. For more info, visit the USM athletics website.

Husky Hysteria

Come on out to Hill Gymniasum on October 22 (9:00 p.m.) and join the Huskies' men's and women's basketball, men's and women's ice hockey, wrestling and men's and women's indoor track & field teams for the first Husky Hysteria Event!

We are looking for sports writers and photographers.
email:
editor@usmfreepress.org

Scoreboard

October 11

Field Hockey

USM	1
Western Conn St.	2

October 12

Golf- USM Fall Classic
USM placed 2nd out of 8

October 13

Women's Soccer

USM	0
UNE	7

Field Hockey

USM	1
Bowdoin	2

Women's Volleyball

USM	0
Mass- Boston	3

Upcoming

October 19

Men's Soccer
UNE
@ USM
4:00 p.m.

October 20

Field Hockey
Salem State
@ USM
4:00 p.m.

October 21

Women's Soccer
Framingham St.
@ USM
3:00 p.m.

Women's Volleyball
USM
@ Colby-Sawyer
7:00 p.m.

October 22

Field Hockey
Bates
@ USM
3:00 p.m.

Men's Soccer
ME-Farmington
@ USM
7:30 p.m.