Paris struck with worst terrorist attack in Europe since 2004

Residents in Paris are being asked to stay in their homes and more than 1,000 military personnel have been deployed across the city.

According to the BBC, police are saying that all gunmen involved are dead, with seven killing themselves with explosive vests and an eighth being killed by security forces. Police are still unsure if any accomplices are on the run.

President Hollande said the attacks were an act of war and said ISWS were responsible for the attacks. In an internet statement from the terrorist group, they claimed credit for the attacks, saying they set up precise attacks in the French capital.

The Islamic State also claimed responsibility for the attacks. In an internet statement they set up precise attacks in the French capital. President Barack Obama, Pope Francis and Russian leader, Vladimir Putin, have spoken out against the heinous attacks and have offered their condolences to the citizens of Paris.

Bradford Spurr
Free Press Staff

Located in the heart of the Old Port, a heroes memorial was unveiled to the public last Tuesday, just in time for the Veterans Day remembrance. The monument is located right off of Commercial Street by DiMillo’s restaurant on the waterfront and was erected in honor of the men and women who have fallen in combat since WWII.

Veterans Day began at the end of World War One as Armistice Day, which marked the cease of fighting in WWI. At the unveiling last week, Governor Paul LePage addressed the crowd of proud servicemen and women. He stressed the importance of increasing benefits for our disabled veterans.

“A thank you will never repay what you’ve done for us,” said LePage as an introduction to his speech. “It’s just a small token of appreciation, we can never repay the freedom that you’ve given this nation.”

Governor LePage explained that it is important for a community to learn something from these men and women, saying that this understanding should be passed onto future generations to inspire respect and appreciation for these brave individuals.

The Easter Seals of Maine have plans to build several more ‘hero walls’ along the waterfront and have even discussed expanding into different cities like Lewiston-Auburn and Gardiner. A spokesperson speculated that about eight independent monuments could fit in the allocated space in the DiMillo’s plaza.

Ponda Stanhope, a resident of Old Orchard Beach was in attendance to commemorate her father Bernard Cilley, whose picture is immortalized on the wall. At the time of the gun attacks, President Hollande was attending a friendly international game between France and Germany. Two explosions went off right outside the venue and the President had to be evacuated.

“128 people have been confirmed dead and 180 injured after gun and bomb attacks that took place Friday night.”

Bataclan concert hall was stormed by gunmen who opened fire on the crowd, killing 80 people and taking hostages before security could get into the hall.

“They didn’t stop firing. There was blood everywhere, corpses everywhere. We heard screaming. Everyone was trying to flee,” said Pierre Janaszak told the Agence France Presse.

Janaszak also said that the gunmen blamed the president of France, Francois Hollande, for the attacks, claiming that it was his fault the attacks were happening and that he should have never intervened in Syria.

Not far from the concert hall, gunmen stormed three restaurants and a bar. In this part of Paris, 40 people were killed by the attackers.

“We heard the sound of guns, 30-second bursts. It was endless. We thought it was fireworks,” said Pierre Montfort, a resident of Paris, in an interview with the BBC.

At the time of the gun attacks, President Hollande was attending a friendly international game between France and Germany. Two explosions went off right outside the venue and the President had to be evacuated.

Many more than 1,000 military personnel have been deployed throughout Paris, citizens are being asked to remain in their homes.

Photo courtesy of Bangor Daily News, Christian Hartmann/Reuters

Zachary Searles
News Editor

Paris was the victim of the worst terrorist attack in Europe since the Madrid bombings of 2004. At least 128 people have been confirmed dead and 180 injured after gun and bomb attacks that took place Friday night.

Bataclan concert hall was stormed by gunmen who opened fire on the crowd, killing 80 people and taking hostages before security could get into the hall.

“They didn’t stop firing. There was blood everywhere, corpses everywhere. We heard screaming. Everyone was trying to flee,” said Pierre Janaszak told the Agence France Presse.

Janaszak also said that the gunmen blamed the president of France, Francois Hollande, for the attacks, claiming that it was his fault the attacks were happening and that he should have never intervened in Syria.

Not far from the concert hall, gunmen stormed three restaurants and a bar. In this part of Paris, 40 people were killed by the attackers.

“We heard the sound of guns, 30-second bursts. It was endless. We thought it was fireworks,” said Pierre Montfort, a resident of Paris, in an interview with the BBC.

At the time of the gun attacks, President Hollande was attending a friendly international game between France and Germany. Two explosions went off right outside the venue and the President had to be evacuated.

More than 1,000 military personnel have been deployed throughout Paris, citizens are being asked to remain in their homes.

Resident Paris are being asked to stay in their homes and more than 1,000 military personnel have been deployed across the city.

According to the BBC, police are saying that all gunmen involved are dead, with seven killing themselves with explosive vests and an eighth being killed by security forces. Police are still unsure if any accomplices are on the run.

President Hollande said the attacks were an act of war and said ISWS were responsible for the attacks. In an internet statement from the terrorist group, they claimed credit for the attacks, saying they set up precise attacks in the French capital.

The Islamic State also claimed that the attacks were the “first of the storm” and then mocked France, calling them a capital of obscenity and prostitution.

President Barack Obama, Pope Francis and Russian leader, Vladimir Putin, have spoken out against the heinous attacks and have offered their condolences to the citizens of Paris.
WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 25TH

COME JOIN US FOR A
THANKSGIVING PARTY

WITH SPECIAL GUEST DJ’S
DJ ASIA  DJ BUSCH
PEARLULTRANIGHTCLUB • MARKS PLACE

PEARL ULTRA
nightclub

MARKS PLACE

442 FORE ST • PORTLAND, ME 04101  416 FORE ST
Racism at University of Missouri sparks rally in downtown Portland

150 students gather to bring awareness and stand with Mizzou and #ConcernedStudent950

Krysteana Scribner
Editor-in-chief

Last Friday, 150 students gathered in Monument Square to protest racial discrimination on university campus’s across the country. With the conflict growing at the University of Missouri and racial tensions rising, the group marched together down the streets of Portland chanting, “No Justice, No Peace” and “Black Lives Matter” in hopes to bring awareness to these issues and to stand symbolically with Mizzou.

At the University of Missouri a lot has unfolded since the start of their semester. Although these issues are just recently coming to light, they have always been a problem. In September, President Tim Wolfe resigned after providing limited help in the university in their attempts to end the white supremacy’s legacy has been Band-Aids on an unhealed wound.

Ashley Bambosa, Bowdoin Student

I have spent too many hours trying to explain to administrators and staff that every solution they have given us in their attempts to end the supremacy’s legacy has been Band-Aids on an unhealed wound.

I come from Sudan, we don’t have rallies and marches about causes so big like this, so it’s an opportunity to do something really special

Lily Biancho, Student at Deering High School

of the Missouri Students Association Payton Head posted on Facebook about being called a racial slur. Days later, concerned students and faculty started to address the problem that their administrators were avoiding: racial discrimination still existing on an institutionalized campus.

In October, Legion of Black College members from the University stated they were called racial slurs by local authorities during their homecoming practice. Other forms of racism include the drawing of a swastika on campus walls. The list of incidents goes on and on: but the desired influence for change is catching on quick. Protests soon began: MU student Jonathan Butler began a hunger strike and several members of the Mizzou football team refused to play until the President resigned.

This group, who have deemed the online hashtag #ConcernedStudent950, created the name to honor when African American students were first allowed to attend the university. On November 9, the University President Tim Wolfe resigned after providing little help in the fight against racism and white supremacy. Regardless, the university still has a long ways to go before it reaches its desired goal of creating a more racially diverse campus.

Rallies and protests have been taking place around the country and the one in Portland last week was bustling with people ready to speak out for a cause they believe in. Kendall Schurzter, a student at Bowdoin college, has been working closely with a lot of the people spoke at the rally in Portland. She hopes it will bring to light an issue that is happening not just in Missouri, but across the nation.

“I’ve seen a lot of the emotional reactions to bias incidents on campuses and I am constantly asking myself how I can be supportive,” said Schurzter. “The primary answer I got was that showing support and showing up at rallies is the best way to raise awareness.”

University of Southern Maine sophomore Hamida Hassin was the first to speak at the rally, explaining how white supremacy has got to go in order for all individuals to feel free from the struggles of discrimination.

“Those in power are disrupting my life, people of color’s lives and the futures of our children,” said Hassin. “We must keep on fighting so that those of us don’t have to face poverty, police brutality, deportation, violence and discrimination because of our racial identity.”

Lily Biancho, a student at Deer- ing High School, stood with her friends in the back of the crowd and cheered as Hassin spoke. For Biancho, the realities of racial discrimination are more obvious than ever, and the opportunity to participate in rallies is the chance to share an opinion.

“I come from Sudan, we don’t have rallies and marches about causes so big like this so it’s an opportunity to do something really special,” she stated.

Andrew Mills, a junior criminology major at USM, believes that the teaming up of universities to rally for a movement so important will make cause for change around the world. He’d like to stop seeing people hate on others because of different religious, political and cultural life views.

“A lot of people don’t realize what is happening because it doesn’t happen in Maine like it does elsewhere, but I think if people take the microphone and express their opinion. They have asked allies to speak at the rally in Portland. She spoke at the rally, explaining how white supremacy has got to go in order for all individuals to feel free from the struggles of discrimination.

I come from Sudan, we don’t have rallies and marches about causes so big like this, so it’s an opportunity to do something really special

Lily Biancho, Student at Deering High School

students are still proving it to be otherwise.

“I stand before you today exhausted and enraged. I have spent too many of my classmates breaks down in tears and rage. I have spent too much time responding to anonymous and racist threats,” she stated boldly. “I have spent too many hours trying to explain to administrators and staff that every solution they have given us in their attempts to end the white supremacy’s legacy at our institution has been Band-Aids on an unhealed wound. We’re tired of waiting. Black lives matter.”
Paul D’Amato tries to dispel the myths of Marxism

I believe that it is a really good idea.” Junior health science major Brian Doyer said regarding the plan. “It would be nice to know where all of that money is going to even though if President Cummings is telling the truth about student fees going towards better public schools and higher education for everyone.”

Students in their junior and senior year who are academically advanced, the ability to take post-secondary courses provides them with a perceived advantage.”

Hannah Lyon / Design Director

New USM program hopes to draw in more international students

The reason that the CIEE is entitled to compensation from the program is because they will be working alongside USM to find people with potential interest. As well as recruiting, the CIEE will also be offering orientation programs in order to ease the transition process for students. President Cummings has already presented his plans for the program to the academic and student affairs committee of trustees, and if his presentation is considered a success, the recommendation will be forwarded to the entire board to vote for its approval.

For international high school students would be taking in this program would be very similar to courses that a traditional freshman would be enrolled in, with many different entry level course options.

This idea has been one that President Glenn Cummings has been advocating for even before his presidency. Each student that is accepted and enrolled in the program will be required to pay fees that are portioned out between tuition, room and board, but also fees that need to be paid to the Council on International Education Exchange.

The program itself was not structured correctly, could greatly improve the economy, getting big money out of banks being able to gamble with people’s savings, high healthcare and education costs, lower tax cuts for the rich while higher taxes on the middle class and money in politics being used to corrupt politicians.

“The system of capitalism is inherently unfair to average working middle class American,” D’Amato explained. “To achieve a socialist economy, getting big money out of politics is the top priority. Once corporate money is banned, then we must focus on reaching out to all Americans on why we should become a socialist country.”

D’Amato concluded his lecture by allowing the audience to participate in a seminar style discussion. Audience members could ask questions to D’Amato or others in attendance and talk about their own personal views.

Thatcher Platt was one of the audience members who participated in the discussion. Platt expressed his dissatisfaction with the Democratic and Republican Parties for their failure to address the gap between rich and poor.

“Both major parties are being brought off by corporations and that’s why the greedy bankers aren’t in jail. The Republicans are pro-deregulation and business so that’s not the surprising, but the Democrats claim to be the champions of the middle class yet take corporate money and refuse to prosecute the bankers responsible for the recession. So really when you’re voting democrat, you’re only voting for the lesser of two evils,” Platt said. Despite his dissatisfaction with the democrats, Platt said he supports outspoken democratic socialist Bernie Sanders for president over front-runner Hillary Clinton, even going as far as supporting a third party candidate for president.

If Sanders is not the democratic nominee.

“if we just keep voting for the same old establishment politicians, no real change will ever come and socialism in America will never become a reality,” Platts said.

New USM program hopes to draw in more international students

Thomas Fitzgerald
News Intern

Students at USM may see an increase in the number of people residing on campus in Gorham next fall, as President Glenn Cummings is seeking an approval from the University of Maine System to integrate a two-year high school program that welcomes international students.

The program will initially be open to fifty students who are looking to learn English, as well as being able to meet standardized academic requirements. The courses that international students looking to join the STEM program will be able to enter a two year program at USM.

New USM program hopes to draw in more international students

If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact the University of Maine System at 207-628-3000 or visit their website at www.maine.edu.

International students.

The program will be required to pay fees that need to be paid to the Council on International Education Exchange.

As long as they also have the ability to transfer those credits towards their college of choice, I believe that it is a really good thing that the CIEE is entitled to compensation from the program is because they will be working alongside USM to find people with potential interest. As well as recruiting, the CIEE will also be offering orientation programs in order to ease the transition process for students. President Cummings has already presented his plans for the program to the academic and student affairs committee of trustees, and if his presentation is considered a success, the recommendation will be forwarded to the entire board to vote for its approval. For international high school students would be taking in this program would be very similar to courses that a traditional freshman would be enrolled in, with many different entry level course options.

This idea has been one that President Glenn Cummings has been advocating for even before his presidency. Each student that is accepted and enrolled in the program will be required to pay fees that are portioned out between tuition, room and board, but also fees that need to be paid to the Council on International Education Exchange.

The program itself was not structured correctly, could greatly improve the economy, getting big money out of banks being able to gamble with people’s savings, high healthcare and education costs, lower tax cuts for the rich while higher taxes on the middle class and money in politics being used to corrupt politicians.

“The system of capitalism is inherently unfair to average working middle class American,” D’Amato explained. “To achieve a socialist economy, getting big money out of politics is the top priority. Once corporate money is banned, then we must focus on reaching out to all Americans on why we should become a socialist country.”

D’Amato concluded his lecture by allowing the audience to participate in a seminar style discussion. Audience members could ask questions to D’Amato or others in attendance and talk about their own personal views.

Thatcher Platt was one of the audience members who participated in the discussion. Platt expressed his dissatisfaction with the Democratic and Republican Parties for their failure to address the gap between rich and poor.

“Both major parties are being brought off by corporations and that’s why the greedy bankers aren’t in jail. The Republicans are pro-deregulation and business so that’s not the surprising, but the Democrats claim to be the champions of the middle class yet take corporate money and refuse to prosecute the bankers responsible for the recession. So really when you’re voting democrat, you’re only voting for the lesser of two evils,” Platt said. Despite his dissatisfaction with the democrats, Platt said he supports outspoken democratic socialist Bernie Sanders for president over front-runner Hillary Clinton, even going as far as supporting a third party candidate for president.

If Sanders is not the democratic nominee.

“if we just keep voting for the same old establishment politicians, no real change will ever come and socialism in America will never become a reality,” Platts said.
USM to cover $6 million budget gap without making cuts

Majority of the budget gap is due to enrollment still being down 6.5 percent

Zachary Searles
News Editor

Enrollment at USM has been on a steady decline over the past few years, with a 6.5 percent decline this year. This decline has contributed to the almost $6 million budget gap that USM is currently facing with.

This gap is much smaller than what USM faced last year when 51 faculty members and five academic programs were cut to close a $16 million gap in the budget.

Unlike last year, most of the budget shortfall will be able to be covered by leaving open positions vacant for the time being, deferring maintenance on some buildings around campus, cutting budgets in administration and using almost all of USM’s $3 million in reserves, Buster Neel, Chief Financial Officer, said at a Faculty Senate meeting earlier this month.

“We were able to find enough to avoid any layoffs this year,” said President of USM, Glenn Cummings. “The idea behind that is to strengthen our employee morale, to give a sense of hope and to get a new public image of USM.”

President Cummings also said that he thinks these plans are working, he thinks faculty are now coming together to strengthen USM.

“As best we can judge, without taking drastic measures, we could get through next year,” Neel said at the Faculty Senate meeting that took place earlier this month. “My concern is that we are starting to run out of options.”

Part of the budget gap is also coming from a two percent increase in faculty salaries, along with the general expense costs going up, so even if USM was to get to zero percent decline in enrollment, USM would still be looking at a budget shortfall of a couple million dollars.

“If we make it back to zero percent loss, we’ll still have to make some pretty tough decisions, but we could probably come up with a number of things that would prevent us from having to do any major layoffs or cuts,” President Cummings said.

President Cummings also said that he believes USM can do better than a six percent drop in enrollment, but if enrollment continues to stay down then President Cummings said there may have to be some cutbacks, but he stressed that they would not be to the magnitude of what happened last fall.

Other than an increase in enrollment, if USM were to face a gap like this in the future, they could look towards private fundraising or state appropriations to cover the gap, or another option would be raising the tuition.

President Cummings does not make any decisions about whether tuition is raised or not; those decisions come from the Board of Trustees.

President Cummings did say that no Board of Trustees member has said anything to him regarding the increase in tuition costs, but he did state it is a topic that will continue to be discussed in the near future.

“At USM, we would like to meet with student leaders and get some feedback from them, some of them might have some strong feelings either way,” said President Cummings.

USM isn’t the only university in the UMaine System to face a budget gap. The University of Maine is looking at a budget gap of $7.2 million, $2.8 million of that is a direct result of the 2 percent increase in salaries.

The gap in the budget comes despite a 7 percent increase in the amount of out-of-state students that enrolled at UMaine this year, students that typically pay three times as much as in-state students.

According to the Portland Press Herald, University of Maine President, Sue Hunter, said that it’s too early to tell how exactly they will close the gap, but the plan is to close it without having to make any cuts.

The University of Maine System as a whole will be facing a $52.6 million budget gap by 2020, according to a five-year projection.

President Cummings said that as budgets continued to be discussed, it’s important to make sure that students are at the center of every decision made.

“As we develop the vision for USM, going forward, what is best for students has to be our top priority and it’s about student success, building a university that can really help students get to their goals and feel like this is a place where they are known, respected and growing academically, that’s the key thing,” said President Cummings.

Glenn Cummings, President of USM
In Brief...

State

USM mourns the loss of Police Academy student, David Zysk, Jr.

A funeral was held this past Saturday for 23-year-old David Zysk, Jr., a student at USM who passed away recently. Zysk was in the social work program and a staff member at the Preble Street Resource Center, where he helped those that battled with addiction and substance abuse.

Zysk knew first hand what it was like to battle with addiction. He had been sober for four years before that addiction took his life. “He saved so many others, but he could not save himself, ultimately,” said Mary Jeralds, the mother of Zysk. She went on to say that it was a one-time relapse that had killed him.

Zysk’s death involved with many committees and task forces in the area that helped everyone from teens to the elderly deal with their substance abuse problems.

“Just wanted people to be treated with dignity and respect,” Zysk’s partner, was the only one to give a definite answer, saying he would “absolutely not” bail out the banks again. Despite being a debate on the economy, candidates were asked about their foreign policy. Many of the candidates supported the new TPP that will boost Maine’s exports.

Environmentally groups push to get thoron skate on endangered species list

Animal Welfare Institute and Defenders of Wildlife have put a request in front of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to give the thorny skate protected status for endangered animals.

NOAA has one year to decide if they will grant the fish protections.

Federal surveys found that the fish’s population has been on the decline since the 1960s and it was only at 3 percent of its target level in the early 2000s. The thorny skate is one of three species that can be found in the Gulf of Maine that is up for protection.

If protections are granted that means that there will be habitat protections and fishing restrictions, which some fishermen oppose because skate is commonly used as bait when trapping lobster.

With all the reduction in groundfish and the cutting houses slowing down, there isn’t as much bait,” said Beth Casoni, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Lobstermen’s Association.

Fishermen haven’t been allowed to fish the thorny skate since 2003, but it is a common bycatch when fishing for cod or scallops.

D.J. Schubert, Animal Welfare Institute wildlife biologist, said that protecting the skate is part of a larger effort to preserve marine species.

“There are a lot of species in the ocean, and unfortunately, a lot of them are in trouble,” Schubert said. According to the Portland Express Water Taxi’s website, water taxis are typically used to transport no more than six passengers, serving the islands of Casco Bay, but they can also be used for chartered tours or special events.

National

Wisconsin hosts fourth GOP debate

Eight candidates took the main stage in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to debate on issues regarding the economy last week. The debate was hosted by the Business and The Wall Street Journal.

Candidates were asked to answer whether they would bail out the banks again, if faced with another financial collapse, some candidates danced around the question, saying that banks shouldn’t be too big to fail.

Ted Cruz, Texas senator and husband of a Goldman Sachs partner, was the only one to give a definite answer, saying he would “absolutely not” bail out the banks again.

Local & State

Police Beat

Selections from the USM Department of Public Safety police log October 7 to October 17

Wednesday, Oct. 7

Should’ve parked in a no-art zone

Drug Complaint, Robie Andrews Hall. Officer investigating the Smell of Marijuana. Report Taken.

Satisfaction guaranteed

Drug Complaint, Robie Andrews Hall. Officer investigating. Report Taken.

Sunday, Oct. 11

Aren’t all trips accidental

Security Alarm, 21 Falmouth St Portland. Accidental Trip, Alarm Reset.

Tuesday, Oct. 13

Graaaaaay taxi

Liquor Law Violation, 28 Husky Drive. Subject intoxicated, summons was issued and called a Taxi for transportation.

And don’t come back!

Criminal Trespass violation, 32 University Way. Student was warned for trespassing. Report Taken.

They said they were looking for someone named Molly

Wellbeing Check, 16 University Way. Student not feeling well and confused. Rescue called. Report Taken.

Wednesday, Oct. 14

Or hit by a smooth criminal


Summons for being too awesome


Saturday, Oct. 17

Buying too much beer to carry

Assist Other Agency, Cumberland Farms. Assisted Gorham PD with a transportation.

The drunk doctors

Medical Emergency, Robie Andrews. Subject intoxicated, transported to Hospital. Report Taken. Summons issued for Alcohol Violation.
Instead of painting on a canvas, wrapping it in bubble wrap and stowing it away, my art is out in the public.

2RICH (the tag of a Portland graffiti artist)

An artist whose graffiti tag is “2RICH” remembers being fascinated with the idea behind the movement. The rise of graffiti is often associated with the rise of hip hop in the 1970s and ’80s. Break dancing, rapping and graffiti were all a counterculture movement that 2RICH wanted to be a part of.

Since spray paint isn’t sold to those under 18 years of age, 2RICH remembers stealing large amounts of spray paint to go cover abandoned buildings with artwork. He was having a rough time at home and didn’t want to be in his house, so he would spend long hours doing art. He remembers it being hard to avoid other people doing illegal things of a greater caliber in the abandoned buildings, when all he wanted to do was paint.

“It’s weird. There’s nothing like graffiti,” explained Turl. “Painting in a studio on a canvas doesn’t compare.” He compares it to the feeling he got when he was a kid and threw a snowball at a car and got away with it. “Instead of painting a canvas and wrapping it in bubble wrap and stowing it away, my art is out in the public.”

2RICH and Turl also do art professionally. Yet 2RICH says that he is often judged as a grafitti artist when hired. Professionals may not want to pay him as much or take his work as seriously, even though he can work with a variety of mediums and styles.

In defense of the art form, 2RICH points out that some property owners let their buildings crumble, and his art is better than moldy walls. He gets upset when artists get charged thousands of dollars for what they did, but it would take a gallon of paint and an hour to paint over. Turl points out that new condo buildings and the modernizing of the city is more harmful than his art work. “Grafitti is raw. It’s the community speaking.”

Right here in Portland, the concept of art is being challenged, it doesn’t have to be framed and price tagged to be legitimate or worth admiring. What people might think is a ragtag group of delinquents is a thought out art form, with no notoriety or credit, and oftentimes no pay.

“Art is better appreciated in moments where you would have never expected to see it, rather than when you go to an art show and expect awesome art and are underwhelmed,” said 2RICH. He points out that some of his biggest fans are people that are living on the street, that would never make it to an art show. He says that art shouldn’t be just for one type of person.

A good example legal grafitti style artwork is the side of the club Asylum, at 121 Center Street, and the side of Gorham Bike and Ski, at 693 Congress Street. Head down and appreciate this free and outdoor art show. Grafitti doesn’t wait for a gallery opening or showing. It demands to be seen all the time. Your city is talking to you, so take the time to read it.
Non-profit brings community together with poetry slam

People from all around Portland gather together to share their stories at Tuesday poetry readings

November 16, 2015

Arts & Culture

Dimmed lights, local brews on tap and an unmistakable vibe can be found mingled throughout the Port Veritas crowd gathered at Bull Feeney’s Pub on any given Tuesday night in the Old Port. This particular night, Nathan Amadon, the Port Veritas’ Slam Master, prepped the crowd for open mic poetry readers, to be followed by feature artist Billy Tuggle and the monthly Second Tuesday Poetry Slam. Nathan’s self-deprecating stage persona loosened up the crowd. A bystander could sense the type of camaraderie that is only built by time together and shared vulnerability.

A poetry slam is an informal competition judged by a selected group of unbiased audience members. The first National Poetry Slam competition happened in San Francisco in 1990 and today continues to be performed all around the world. The current Port Veritas (from the Latin meaning truth) slam has its roots in a group started by Jay Davis in 1998. With the help of many committed enthusiasts, Port Veritas registered as a certified non-profit organization in 2009.

On stage, several poets took turns with the open mic, reading or reciting original poetry or work credited to others. Amadon then introduces the evening’s feature poet, Billy Tuggle, “co-host of Chicago’s long-running open mic: In One Ear” and “the 2015 National Poetry Slam Head to Head Haiku Champion.” A lively-eyed Tuggle took the microphone with a veteran performer’s charisma speaking:

“Dear atheist, don’t argue… You literally have nothing to prove.”

The eager crowd erupted with laughter and applause as soon as the last word dropped. Tuggle’s haiku has delivered a humorous punch in just 17 syllables. He has been performing in slams across the country for 12 years and describes himself as a geek who likes the idea of using word games. When he first joined the scene, there was a movement away from reading directly off paper, focusing mostly on theatrics and the performance presentation. Over the last decade, he has seen poets returning to paper, with less of a focus on memorization and more attention to the writing craft and imagery.

The evening climaxes with the main event: preselected poets performing three original poems in multiple rounds. Judges rate each performance on a scale of 1-10, with crowd members booing or cheering each score. Poems range from tongue-in-cheek to scathing to poignant. Poet Ellyn Touchette shares a compelling poem about a childhood Halloween costume, which leaves the listener chewing on the reality of sexism in American society.

“Talking about past experiences in a poetic form on a stage in front of people is no joke. It takes courage and bravery.”

Aria Northrup, junior social and behavioral science major

Slam Poet Ellyn Touchette stands at the microphone and recites her work. Each Tuesday, Bull Feeney’s hosts the Port Veritas Poetry readings.

“Dear atheist, don’t argue... You literally have nothing to prove.”

USM student Aria Northrop is in her third year as a social & behavioral science major. She’s been part of Port Veritas slams for the last five years. As a 16 year old, she won a slam competing against adults.

“It was life changing to have my thoughts and feelings be so well-received coming from a place in my life where it felt like no one really understood,” says Northrop. “I used to get so nervous before performing I would be sick. People asked me why I kept reading and I always answered with the fact that it’s exhilarating... It takes weeks for me to memorize one poem, let alone three for a slam.”

For Northrop, the process of writing and reading her written work has allowed her to better understand herself and express herself in ways she never could before.

“Talking about past experiences or current experiences in a poetic form on a stage in front of people is no joke,” said Northrop. “It takes courage and bravery and for some reason is the one place I feel I have both.”

Other poets express similar sentiments regarding the Port Veritas community. Touchette enjoys “connecting with people on important issues.” Kirsten Uhde started competing in 2014 and said it all comes down to “the chance to share” about experiences. “[The poem] came out of you because you felt really alone,” and “it makes life nicer” to not feel alone anymore.

It’s not all rainbows and unicorns though. Northrop says there have been times when being vulnerable on stage has hurt.

“One time, I read a poem and on the last stanza, I broke down and started crying. The type of crying no one wants to admit to. I remember [someone I knew] coming up on stage and whispering, ‘You’re okay, but you can’t cry here. Your time is still going. Get off the stage. Cry outside.’ That was a big lesson I learned, and I guess it hurt me too,” she explained.

With so much at stake emotionally, some might wonder why slams are so popular with young people across the country. For Northrop, the connection she feels with this community has allowed her to feel safe about expressing her feelings.

“Someone may have just gotten on stage and talked about their rape or their ex-boyfriend or coming out to their mom,” said Northrop. “Maybe they talked about depression in a way that you had never thought about, but now will always think about. The fact that the community is also sharing their deepest parts makes it easy to feel safe. It’s like home.”

arts@usmfreepress.org
@USMFreePress

Photos courtesy of Ellyn Touchette
USM’s Our Town will have you calling your mom

Anora Morton
Free Press Staff

Just before World War II, Thornton Wilder wrote Our Town. Set before World War I, at the turn of the 20th century, Our Town is a three act play depicting life in the small New England town of Grover’s Corner. Each day starts off with a milkman delivering that day’s diary, just as reliable as the sun coming over the horizon.

With a full town of characters, Our Town is expansive, focusing more on the movement of life itself, and less on a particular life within the town. The town itself is quite small, with many mentions to the bigger Conway, and Boston across state lines, but Our Town utilizes the small town recognition many of us have to draw upon theatrical intimacy between audience and cast.

Ben Davis, a Junior English major who plays Mr. Webb, assures that even though Our Town takes place so long ago, doesn’t mean it is not relatable. “They talk about the mountains, they talk about the weather, they talk about time passing; and it’s that we seem to keep losing those connections as people” Harris explained, “We lose the connection of communication.”

Our Town asks the audience to reflect and appreciate these aspects of life we take for granted. The play’s three acts move throughout life, with childhood and growing, partnership, and passing on all appreciated and thoroughly explored.

Walking out of Our Town, it will not be surprising if audience members feel an overwhelming urge to go for a fall hike, or appreciate those whom we coexist with and possibly ellist a phone call or two to parents and other loved ones. Brittany Burke, a Sophomore Theater major, plays Emily Webb, a young citizen of Grover’s Corner, describes Our Town as very emotional, and that the play overall sends the message of “appreciate what you have, because you don’t know what’s going to happen.”

Our Town opened Friday the 13th, and runs until Sunday the 22nd on the Main Stage at Russell Hall on the Gorham Campus.
Excellent directing has audiences laughing one minute, crying the next

Don't go judging just yet: The Flash TV Series will blow you away

Hannah Lyon
Design Director

If you love superheroes, science fiction and binge watching TV shows on Netlix, you should check out the CW’s television series, The Flash. Rotten Tomatoes rated season one of The Flash with a 97% and the audience also praised the series with a 90%. The first couple of episodes may be shaky, but don’t give up - if you keep watching you will soon get hooked. You can watch all of season one on Netflix and watch the latest episodes of season 2 on the CW website for free. Once you catch up, you can view the newest episodes Tuesday nights at 8pm. The show stars Grant Gustin as police scientist Barry Allen with a secret identity as The Flash, along with his partner, Danielle Panabaker as Caitlin Snow and Carlos Valdes as Cisco Ramon. Barry’s Dad in the show, Henry Allen is played by John Wesley Shipp, the original Flash superhero. The Flash overlaps with the CW Arrow series, so if you like that show you will love to see Barry Allen (Flash) fighting along with Oliver Queen (Green Arrow).

When Barry is struck by lightning, he receive powers, but so did several super villains. He dedicates his time to protecting Central City and tracking down evil metahumans. This show has amazing special effects and probably wouldn’t be possible without it. The series includes a huge gorilla with psychic powers, a giant tsunami caused by a villain who can create weather from his hands, a raging wormhole in the sky and so much more.

Want to submit an event?
arts@usmfreepress.org
Service learning in the classroom is educational, but when required for credits.

Anarchist Luddite

Let’s stop pretending that panhandlers are a threat to society and help them out already

Brian Gordon
Free Press Staff

Have you ever stood on a median and begged for change? My god is it hard. I was trying to try it, to put myself in the shoes of those of us that are hand to mouth living and only get change on a daily basis. I didn’t have the nerve so I tried getting drunk to do it, but still I couldn’t bring myself to put out on the curb and ask for money.

What if my boss drove by? My ex-girlfriend? High school friends? My mother? I couldn’t do it because I’m not desperate enough. I live in an apartment, have a couple bucks in the bank and a steady-enough income to not need to ask people for help, and someone else needs that money a lot more than I do. I don’t envy anyone who has to stand on the median asking for change, no matter their reason for being out there. It takes guts. It takes being at rock bottom. It takes not knowing where else to go to ask for money.

“Get a job!” people yell, as if that’s always where you should be. Don’t put it in your place because your standing there isn’t part of the pretty scenery. Well it’s not so easy if you don’t have a job. Living in an apartment, with a shower and clothes, and your mental problems aren’t too major. To survive in Portland you need several jobs and even then you might not be able to afford the median income IRR of $1200 a month. The lack of spare change is the same as a normal person; the job that stand on the medians are selling their time for money. The black market is funded by the public. Nobody forces you to go to live in an apartment or restaurant job. You go because you enjoy the money, and you think it’s worth selling your time for a paycheck on Friday. You’ve convinced yourself you need it to survive, because you know it’s there if you want it. No one forces you to stand on the corner asking for money, they choose to do it in the hopes that they’ll get some money. This makes me respect them all the more because there is no guaran- teed wage, the city hasn’t passed an ordinance for a minimum wage for flying a sign. Hell, maybe they should.

The city recently dropped its lawsuit against panhandlers stand- ing in the median. As always the government says it’s trying to “pro- tect” you from danger. In reality it was because it doesn’t fit with our “brand” (I just spit up) of world- yuppie tourist destination. Yeah there is a danger from people who drive cars acting like maniacs, but that’s another problem. But if you’re desperate enough to stand at a stop light, go for it. It’s your choice. I hope you get enough for something to eat or do whatever substance you want to do. We don’t judge people who drink in their homes, why should we judge homeless people’s choices? They just don’t have the four walls to call their own, and everyone is blessed with. They’ve earned the money by selling their time, just like the rest of us wage slaves. Re- member the four walls you were forced to sleep in - that’s no more than they can ask for. It’s just more than I have in their career.

Self Exploration

There is something about the days becoming shorter and colder that makes me want to retreat.

Nick Beauchesne
Sports Editor

Is it just me, or does life seem to go by a bit faster this time of year? There’s something about the days becoming shorter and colder that makes me want to spend more time indoors. The thought of spending a long winter can be a significant obstacle to overcoming the chill of autumn. Why was I not consulted about this Daylight Savings Time change? If I had been, you could have assured me that I would have spoken up for the people, like myself, that don’t see the rationale in constructing an environment where most people would see the sunset from a classroom window, its rays gone before the class-day ends.

Summer seemed to be a full out sprint this year: days running into nights that seemed too short. As the days got shorter and the cold will come, and they will go, whether I get out of bed and into my books or not. There is too much to get done to get down due to drop- ping temperatures. When it gets dark out (at a ridiculous 5:00 pm now) I’ll just turn on the lights, or go to one of the many brightly-lit corners of Glickman and engage in a little mood lifting. I am here to im- merse myself in.

It really is all a matter choice. Despite the many excuses that we can be (and often are) created to retreat, there are many more im- portant reasons to push through. Many people find themselves in situations much more challenging than my own. I have a brother right now navigating through his first semester at Maine Law, log- ging around ten hours a day in class or in the library. Seeing him now, I recognize the fact that he does make me realize, in turn, why I am here. Back again to the coldness of the winter school, I am here to get my de- gree, master the craft that is my major and become the student and man that I am ready to be.

This may sound like a corny pep talk; something that you’d hear on the first episode of Night Lights (not that I ever watched that show or anything)- and maybe it is. I think though that sometimes the cliché fits the point in case to a degree where it can be allowed for.
Do you ever think about how much water you use each and every day? From washing your teeth in the morning to brushing them at night, if you were to turn the tap on for just a few seconds, it would still wasting water! By simply TURNING THE KNOB you can prevent water from being used for other, better purposes. A faucet that is left running or drips one drop per second wastes 10,000 gallons of water annually.

You do not really think about how important water is until someone gives you facts about it. Did you know that only 1% of Earth's water is freshwater available for drinking and 2% is frozen? Then the other 97% of water is salty ocean water. Doesn't this concern you and make you want to be more careful with how you are handling water?

Across the globe, two out of ten people do not have access to safe drinking water, and in the U.S., many states face water shortages and droughts. Meanwhile, Robert Glennon reports in Unquenchable: America’s Water Crisis and What to Do About It: Americans use 24 gallons of water each day just to flush their toilets—approximately half of the water the global population continues to grow and climate change results in more droughts in more and more countries. How can we ensure that everyone has enough water to meet our needs?

Here are some ideas on how to make a successful change on a global level:

- Reduce your water footprint:
  - Take shorter showers
  - Fix dripping faucets
  - Use a faucet timer
  - Install low-flow showerheads

- Conserve water in your home:
  - Fix leaky faucets and toilets
  - Install water-efficient appliances
  - Use a broom instead of a water hose

- Conserve water in the community:
  - Support water-efficient policies
  - Advocate for the protection of water resources

- Conserve water in the workplace:
  - Implement water-efficient practices
  - Use water-efficient equipment

- Conserve water in the environment:
  - Support conservation efforts
  - Reduce waste production
  - Promote water conservation education

In conclusion, it is crucial for everyone to do their part in conserving water. By making small changes in our daily lives, we can make a big difference in protecting this precious resource for future generations.
**Weekly Horoscope**

**Scorpio**

October 23-November 21

Mechanical items are involved in the financial picture. Repairs are possible. If shopping for a new object, check it out carefully.

**Sagittarius**

November 22-December 21

A mystical experience (through art, nature, beauty) uplifts you. A sudden sense of well-being overtakes you.

**Capricorn**

December 22-January 19

Hasty actions lead to later regrets. Curtail your impatience and take life one step at a time.

**Aquarius**

January 20-February 18

You feel the pull between a new, challenging project and tying up the loose ends on some old responsibilities. Make a compromise.

**Pisces**

February 19-March 20

A loved one requires extra sympathy. Be flexible and willing to help (but not too much).

A day for dealing with practical necessities. Authorities may be involved in your financial picture. Stay sensible and all will be fine.

**Taurus**

April 20-May 20

Conflicting stories abound. Excesses of information are tossed your way. Eliminate what you don’t need.

**Cancer**

June 21-July 22

You're a source of warmth and may carry the troubles of other people. Get your share of tender, loving care as well.

**Leo**

July 23-August 22

Romance is in the air! Plan for some candlelight, soft music, favorite movie, bubble bath, or whatever helps you feel cherished.

**Virgo**

August 23-September 22

A cooperative spirit gets household chores done more easily and efficiently. Create a game-playing spirit and family members will enjoy pitching in.

**Libra**

September 23-October 22

Retirement issues are in focus. Double-check your social security records, pension plans, IRA, and appropriate financial matters.

**Sagittarius**

November 22-December 21

A mystical experience (through art, nature, beauty) uplifts you. A sudden sense of well-being overtakes you.

**Capricorn**

December 22-January 19

Hasty actions lead to later regrets. Curtail your impatience and take life one step at a time.

**Aquarius**

January 20-February 18

You feel the pull between a new, challenging project and tying up the loose ends on some old responsibilities. Make a compromise.

**Pisces**

February 19-March 20

A loved one requires extra sympathy. Be flexible and willing to help (but not too much).

A day for dealing with practical necessities. Authorities may be involved in your financial picture. Stay sensible and all will be fine.

**Taurus**

April 20-May 20

Conflicting stories abound. Excesses of information are tossed your way. Eliminate what you don’t need.

**Cancer**

June 21-July 22

You’re a source of warmth and may carry the troubles of other people. Get your share of tender, loving care as well.

**Leo**

July 23-August 22

Romance is in the air! Plan for some candlelight, soft music, favorite movie, bubble bath, or whatever helps you feel cherished.

**Virgo**

August 23-September 22

A cooperative spirit gets household chores done more easily and efficiently. Create a game-playing spirit and family members will enjoy pitching in.

**Libra**

September 23-October 22

Retirement issues are in focus. Double-check your social security records, pension plans, IRA, and appropriate financial matters.

**Sagittarius**

November 22-December 21

A mystical experience (through art, nature, beauty) uplifts you. A sudden sense of well-being overtakes you.

**Capricorn**

December 22-January 19

Hasty actions lead to later regrets. Curtail your impatience and take life one step at a time.

**Aquarius**

January 20-February 18

You feel the pull between a new, challenging project and tying up the loose ends on some old responsibilities. Make a compromise.

**Pisces**

February 19-March 20

A loved one requires extra sympathy. Be flexible and willing to help (but not too much).

A day for dealing with practical necessities. Authorities may be involved in your financial picture. Stay sensible and all will be fine.

**Taurus**

April 20-May 20

Conflicting stories abound. Excesses of information are tossed your way. Eliminate what you don’t need.

**Cancer**

June 21-July 22

You’re a source of warmth and may carry the troubles of other people. Get your share of tender, loving care as well.

**Leo**

July 23-August 22

Romance is in the air! Plan for some candlelight, soft music, favorite movie, bubble bath, or whatever helps you feel cherished.

**Virgo**

August 23-September 22

A cooperative spirit gets household chores done more easily and efficiently. Create a game-playing spirit and family members will enjoy pitching in.

**Libra**

September 23-October 22

Retirement issues are in focus. Double-check your social security records, pension plans, IRA, and appropriate financial matters.

**Sagittarius**

November 22-December 21

A mystical experience (through art, nature, beauty) uplifts you. A sudden sense of well-being overtakes you.

**Capricorn**

December 22-January 19

Hasty actions lead to later regrets. Curtail your impatience and take life one step at a time.

**Aquarius**

January 20-February 18

You feel the pull between a new, challenging project and tying up the loose ends on some old responsibilities. Make a compromise.

**Pisces**

February 19-March 20

A loved one requires extra sympathy. Be flexible and willing to help (but not too much).
USM Scuba Club offers diving certification
From the coast of Maine to an Island in the Netherlands

MaryAnn Skillboy, Free Press Staff
Dora Thompson, A&C Editor

The dive community in Maine is vibrant and USM is a part of it. The Scuba club isn’t just a group of divers, dive instructors and interesting people connected to the USM community. There are a group of students, alumni, faculty and staff.

The club was founded in 2010 as a BSO student group by Greg Cavanaugh. The group’s current advisor, Cavanaugh worked at USM as a professional staff member for the Technology Leadership Program until 2014 when his position was eliminated.

He explained that the club was founded to make diving an accessible sport to everyone in the USM community. He enjoys being part of a vibrant community of people who are passionate about the sport.

“I continue to volunteer as an advisor, because I love the work and the students are amazing,” said Cavanaugh. “96.5 percent of our planet is covered in water and diving gives people a window into that world.”

The group’s mission is to help educate the USM community about the sport, to help students gain an understanding of underwater stewardship, to make the sport accessible to students and to have fun through diving adventures.

The group has sponsored upper level and specialty training courses for USM divers who want to continue their training beyond the basic level. They dive as a group regularly along the Maine coast. The dive season starts in May and runs through October.

They have already certified approximately 40 new divers and impacted hundreds of students through the discover scuba events. The group has also extended their reach to faculty, staff and to the families of USM community members.

They hold “Discover Scuba” events each semester, which provides an opportunity for those interesting in diving to try in a pool environment before signing up for a full certification class.

“You have to get out of your comfort zone and everyone is helping everyone to put on their gear to dive,” said Cavanaugh. “People really end up coming out of their shell during this.”

The Scuba Club works in a partnership with a commercial dive shop located in Auburn, Barclay’s Skindivers Paradise. This is where Cavanaugh works as a dive trainer.

The company collaborates with Barclays Skin Divers and gives access to NAUI certification, which is an internationally recognized dive certification body.

Once an individual has earned the certificate, they can keep it for life. The club works with them to receive items at a student rate, which would normally be expensive for dive certification classes.

The group has been discussing and raising money to go on a diving trip abroad to Bonaire. There are several folks from the USM community who are planning to attend and the club and are trying to make the trip more affordable to USM students.

Becoming involved in the scuba club has given students many opportunities. Students have found many job opportunities with their scuba certifications. Some students even get summer jobs on boats.

Others get full time jobs. Casco Bay Estuaries, for example, is currently looking for divers to work for them.

The dive community is a great way to make lifelong friendships, learn interesting and fun skills and to get credentials that can be used to get fun and well paying jobs.

Interested students can get on the email list to find out when events are happening by sending an email to usmscubaclub@gmail.com. Or by going on the Facebook page, where events and classes are announced (search USM Scuba).

96.5 percent of our planet is covered in water and diving gives people a window into that world.

Greg Cavanaugh, Advisor of USM’s Scuba Club

The scuba club helps educate the USM community about the sport and makes it easily accessible to students.
WELCOME HUSKIES!

UCU is located right on the USM campus in Gorham! Come join the fun in the Brooks Student Center!

Mom & Dad probably had a similar reaction

We also have 2 branches in Portland!
• 1071 Brighton Avenue
• 391 Forest Avenue

ucu.maine.edu
800.696.8628

ORONO | BANGOR | FARMINGTON | GORHAM | PORTLAND | PRESQUE ISLE

Federally insured by NCUA
Athletes engage beyond the playing field

Nick Beauchesne
Sports Editor

The University of Southern Maine Athletic Department has launched an initiative that aims to foster success both on and beyond the field of play for its student athletes. The Full Potential Program, as it is called, ran as a pilot last year. The program’s success, combined with the university’s desire to establish the initiative as a staple of the athletic department’s over-arching goals concerning the development of the student-athlete, ensured that the program would be back in 2015-2016 for a second year.

The program, a combination of the athletic department’s over-arching goals concerning the development of the student-athlete, ensured that the program would be back in 2015-2016 for a second year.

The Full Potential Program provides an opportunity for our student-athletes to develop skills that will make them successful citizens long after they finish athletic competition as a Husky. The program (Full Potential) provides an opportunity for our student-athletes to develop skills that translate beyond the field of play,” said Beane. “Our goal is to develop young men and women that will serve their community both during and after their time at USM.”

Each pillar of the program is a building block that, on its own, stands as an important aspect of creating healthy, successful individuals. When compiled together, these five pillars will provide a base by which the young men and women that participate in the program can develop and translate those skills that served them well on the playing field into aspects that make them leaders off of it.

“It is very important to us that we provide opportunities and programs for our athletes that will prepare them for a lifetime of leadership and success,” said Beane.

All too often, college student-athletes come to school with their priorities in reverse. Universities across the country are filled with cautionary tales, both past and present, concerning athlete-students that come to play full-time and learn part-time.

“Kids come to school with the idea that they will become professional athletes, which is a dream that less than one percent of them will realize,” said Beane. “It is our goal, as coaches and as teachers, to help them to realize that athletics is only one aspect of what will help to make them successful adults.”

The Full Potential Program offers guest lectures that run throughout the course of the academic year. As of now, the program is offered on a volunteer basis, but some coaches have chosen to make matriculation through it a prerequisite to being able to participate in their athletic programs.

The wide range of skill-development opportunities, along with presentations from people that are experts in various fields from psychology to nutrition, and many in between, aims to create a culture at USM where scholastic sports participation is focused toward emphasizing the importance of developing the student first, and the athlete second.

USM students in the Full Potential Program attend a guest presentation by Dr. Erin Hatch on Sports Psychology in September.

USM students in the Full Potential Program attend a guest presentation by Dr. Erin Hatch on Sports Psychology in September.

Upcoming

Men’s Basketball
Southern Me. @ U. of New England 5:30 p.m.

Women’s Basketball
Southern Me. @ U. of New England 7:30 p.m.

November 17

Men’s Basketball
Southern Me. vs. Colby-Sawyer @ Rivier College 8:00 PM

November 21

Wrestling
Doug Parker Invitational 12:00 pm @Springfield College

For more listings of upcoming Husky sporting events, please refer to the official USM athletic’s website.

Men’s Basketball explodes for 6-2 win over U. New England

Sophomore goalie Kyle Shapiro (pictured) turned aside 29 of 31 shots en route to the Huskies defeating UNE. With the win, USM moves to 3 and 2 on the year. A balanced attack, with six different players scoring, bodes well for the team as they secured red their second consecutive win.

Huskies fall in season opener

The USM girl’s basketball team lost to Castleton St. 43-28 Friday night during their season opener at Costello Gym. The Huskies (0-1) travel in the Salem State Tip-Off Classic, an early season yearly tournament. They will compete against Thomas college at 1:00 PM, seeking their first win of the young season.

USM shuts out St. Michael’s

The USM women’s hockey team won their first game of the season Friday night, defeating St. Michael’s college 3-0. With one goal in the second period and two in the third, USM controlled the game from the onset. First-year player Julia Buffalini (pictured) assisted on the first goal of the night for the Huskies (1-2-1).

Reported by the staff of the USM Free Press
Nick Beauchesne
Sports Editor

The Full Potential Program is offered on a volunteer basis, but some coaches have chosen to make matriculation through it a prerequisite to being able to participate in their athletic programs.