Students gather to weigh options abroad

Scott Thistle  
Sun Journal

LEWISTON, Maine — Maine Gov. Paul LePage made a full-on sales pitch for consolidating Lewiston and Auburn into one city during a lunchtime meeting with the mayors of both cities Wednesday.

LePage met with Auburn Mayor Jonathan LaBonte and Lewiston Mayor Robert Macdonald during a visit to downtown Lewiston’s iconic hot dog stand, Simones’.

“Man, I would be so pleased to see Lewiston and Auburn become one,” LePage told LaBonte and Macdonald as he encouraged them to go to their respective city councils and offer support for an ongoing effort to design a new charter for a combined city.

LePage also agreed both city councils should have some representation in that process and suggested the current six-member charter commission should be expanded to at least 12 people.

“No is not an option,” LePage told the mayors.

“I think these two cities would be the strongest city in Maine,” LePage said. “They would be the next Portland and you would see 150,000 people around this city in five years.”

LePage also offered to come back to Lewiston and Auburn to meet with city councilors on both sides of the Androscoggin River to discuss the issue.

LePage later told reporters the process to merge Lewiston and Auburn should be one that is carefully vetted with public hearings and it should be based on facts and not political rhetoric.

White Macdonald said he fully supports creating a single government for Lewiston-Auburn, LaBonte, who also works for LePage as his director of policy management, is more skeptical.

“I think we would really prosper — we would become a political powerhouse up there [in Augusta], maybe even replacing Portland, that’s why I’m 100 percent for it,” Macdonald said.

Macdonald said he believes older residents of Lewiston-Auburn were more resistant to the idea of a single city government, while younger residents see the potential for a stronger city.

Governor LePage suggests Lewiston and Auburn merge into one city

For full story, see page 14

Workshop aims to dispel stereotypes around disabilities

Erica Jones  
Free Press Staff

Last Wednesday, the University of Southern Maine hosted an interactive workshop on disability education and disability ally work. “Moving Beyond Pity & Inspiration: Doing Disability Ally Work.”

The workshop was facilitated by author and disability activist Eli Clare and focused on “exploring both what we need to unlearn and how to disability ally work.”

The workshop was made possible through collaborations between the USM Center for Sexuality and Gender Diversity, the Disability Services Center, USM’s Dean of Students, and USM’s Women and Gender Studies department, as well as the University of New England and the Maine College of Art.

“Disabled people are everywhere, and yet are mostly invisible to the non-disabled world,” reads the first line of Clare’s workshop hand-out.

It is true that disabled people are prevalent in our population; according to 2010 Census data, about 56.7 million people in the United States — 19 percent of the population — had a disability, “with more than half of them reporting the disability was severe.”

Yet people with disabilities are very often subjected to a world that does not accommodate them, alongside stereotypes that are often harmful and also limiting. These generalizations, masked as positive assumptions, such as that all disabled people are inherently optimistic or inspiring and this is just some of what Eli Clare hopes to change through his workshops.

Sarah Holmes, USM’s Assistant Dean of Students and Deputy Title IX Coordinator, attended the workshop and the dinner held afterwards with Clare and many other people passionate about changing the way disabilities are perceived by able-bodied people, and about teaching able-bodied people how to be supportive allies.

“In its essence, it was a workshop on how to do ally work around disability issues,” said Holmes. “Eli really focused a lot on what we need to power unk, like what are our assumptions and stereotypes about people with disabilities, both positive and negative, and what are some of the implications of some of that language.”

Workshop participants went over how actions and words that may not seem intrusive or offensive to an able-bodied person could very much seem that way to a disabled person. Clare emphasized that it is important to always ask before attempting to help a disabled person, because while assistance may sound or look like a good idea, if unwarranted, for the person on the receiving end this behavior can be demeaning and upsetting.

Stereotypes such as disabled people being objects of pity for their condition or sources of inspiration for “overcoming” their disability may seem positive, but as Clare explained, these and other “positive” assumptions can be just as limiting for people with disabilities, and still propagate ableism and ableist language. Participants listed some disability-related words they have heard used, and also created hypothetical scenarios in which ableist behavior can be demeaning and upsetting.

Clare emphasized that it is important to always ask before attempting to help a disabled person, because while assistance may sound or look like a good idea, if unwarranted, for the person on the receiving end this behavior can be demeaning and upsetting.

Clare has held his “Moving Beyond Pity & Inspiration” workshop at many other schools across the country with the aim of educating more people on disabilities and training inclusive able-bodied allies.

For full story, see page 14
Professor's showcase vast knowledge in their field by publishing books

Jimmy MacDonald
Contributor

When we are young, our parents and teachers seem like machines. It seems that the sole purpose of these magical beings is to tend to our various wants and needs. Of course, the reality is that these are people – fellow human beings with ambitions and faults.

Yes, our professors’ goals are to educate us, their students, but much more work and dedication goes into that process than many students are aware of. Here at the University of Southern Maine, we have been lucky enough to have had several professors release books in recent months. Indeed, the writing process for these professors is considered by them to be an invaluable part of who they are as people and who they are as educators.

Professor Shelton Waldrep, a professor of English at USM, recently released a book entitled Future Nostalgia: Performing David Bowie. Professor Waldrep’s book is not a “fan book” or “biography,” but rather an “academic study of influences made on and by David Bowie.”

With his book, Professor Waldrep gives his readers some sense of Bowie’s persona by expounding on the various “masks” David Bowie wore throughout his celebrated career. Professor Waldrep spent two years working on his book, mostly doing so during the university’s breaks. Included in this work were various trips to Toronto in order to see the David Bowie exhibition, which similarly discusses the various influences David Bowie had on artists as well as who Bowie’s own idols were. “The students deserve to have new research available to them,” said Waldrep. “Luckily I’ve always had an opportunity to teach things that interest me.”

Having an opportunity to teach things that interest them is a sentiment echoed by the other professors interviewed, including Professor Daniel Martinez, a professor of environmental science at USM, who released his own book, titled Valuing Energy for Global Needs: A Systems Approach, in December 2015.

The book discusses an unbiased method for evaluating the pros and cons of current energy solutions, or fossil fuels, as well as renewable energy methods that have been developed in recent years, such as solar or wind power. As he goes on to explain, this was a project that consumed his “every waking and sleeping moment over the last four years.”

When asked how he managed his time while concurrently writing the book and teaching courses, Professor Martinez gave credit to his colleagues in the environmental science department, stating that they really helped him manage the various responsibilities he had, such as “teaching, advising, research, and service.”

Professor Jane Kuenz, who is the head of the English department here at USM, is equally well aware of the work associated with being a professor. Professor Kuenz not only teaches classes and works on research, but is simultaneously active in the process of hiring new faculty. Additionally, as she went on to explain, there are almost always requests to “review service work such as manuscripts for journals or press.”

With her co-authors, Professor Kuenz released Strip Cultures in 2015, a book that investigates subjects that have always interested Professor Kuenz, such as surveillance in Las Vegas and how that applies generally to our culture at large. When describing her typical work day, Professor Kuenz remarked, “A professor’s work time includes both the routine and predictable and the occasional and unexpected.”

In addition to her scholarly work, Professor Kuenz spends much of her time on the weekends – when she isn’t grading papers – attending meetings that deal with systems level issues across the University of Maine campuses statewide.

Although a professor’s schedule is hectic and time consuming, whether it is grading papers, doing research and using that research to develop compelling, new scholarly material, one fact is abundantly clear: Our professors are dedicated to being on the cutting edge of their respective fields. They do this for the satisfaction of knowing that they are bringing the absolute best and latest information to the classroom, which their students will benefit from.

If you walk into Glickman Library, on the first floor, you will see a wall that showcases many of the books that have been published by professors of the university, displaying that their job stretches beyond the classroom, many of whom are constantly doing research and working on their next project.

For local information visit usm.maine.edu/armyrotc, call 207-780-5726, or go to qarmy.com/rotc/dn38.
Potential changes coming to USM after Board of Trustees meeting

Trustees show their support for International Early College, plans can now move forward

Zachary Searles
News Editor

The Board of Trustees for the University of Maine System held their first meeting of the year, and of the semester, last Sunday and Monday, Jan. 24 and 25, at the University of Maine in Orono. During the meeting, the board voted on matters that will potentially impact the future of USM. The board gave unanimous support for the plan of a two-year International Early College at USM. With their support, the plan for the early college can now move forward.

The goal of the early college program is to attract international students who are interested in studying at United States colleges. As of now the plan is to get 50 students to enroll, and these students would be housed in Anderson Hall on the Gorham campus.

“We have fantastic opportunities to grow our university and our state’s economy by strengthening our global ties,” Glenn Cummings, President of USM, said in an article in the Bangor Daily News. “Our International Early College program leverages our excess capacity and ingenuity to bring more talent and tuition dollars to Maine.”

Students who enroll in the program will take 100 and 200 level classes at the university, and at the end of their two years, they would graduate with a high school diploma and two years of college credit that could then be used to transfer to another college somewhere in the United States.

President Cummings said in a Portland Press Herald article, “They believe they will be better off as part of this graduate center as well.”

Chancellor Page also gave his support for adding the Muskie School of Public Service to the proposed graduate center being spearheaded by Eliot Cutler.

“We think it strengthens the attractiveness of the Muskie School of Public Service to the graduate community,” he said. "I believe my administration would be more likely to be attending board meetings for the Alfond Foundation, which will provide most of the financial backing for the new graduate center, to answer any questions the foundation’s members might have about the center. "If appropriate, I will reflect the strong feelings of faculty and USM’s student BOT representatives to keep the Center on campus and include all of our graduate programs," President Cummings said in his weekly email to all students.

From LePage on page 3

LaBonte said he believes the two cities should not be looked at closely if the cities were to be one city bandwagon. After a near 40-minute discussion among the three mayors as they sat huddled at a dining table in the public works director’s office, LePage reiterated past assertions that Lewiston and Auburn don’t have a full and fair vetting of the various quasi-municipal agencies that deal with drinking water and sewers in both cities.

``I think we want to put those sacred cows on the table,' LaBonte said. LaBonte also said he believes both cities could save costs for public education, especially in administration costs, by looking at a combined school system as well.

Auburn has 50 percent more land and 50 percent fewer people than Lewiston, LaBonte said. He said the two cities shared a similar property tax rate but Auburn had a greater property valuation and residents there paid lower sewer and water rates than their neighbors in Lewiston. LaBonte said he wanted to be sure all areas were looked at carefully if the cities were to merge.

"Personally, I’ve long had a concern that some of the joint venues that Lewiston-Auburn have embarked upon are not a model of efficiency and some of the political elite here in town have kind of kept those sacred cows off the table and out of the merger," LaBonte said. "We think we want to put those sacred cows on the table.

LaBonte voiced his reservations about the whole lot of things that could happen.

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LaBonte reiterated past assertions that Lewiston and Auburn don’t each need their own fire chief, police chief and public works director. He also keyed on a point LaBonte made regarding the various quasi-municipal agencies that deal with drinking water and sewers in both cities.

"By consolidating here, I see a whole lot of things that could happen," LePage said. He said for Maine to be prosperous it needs to find a way to become more efficient at all levels of government, including at the municipal level, and that Lewiston and Auburn were on the cusp of an opportunity that could demonstrate that.
Could cost of books lead to more theft in campus store?

Go to college is seen as an investment in oneself and in one’s future. Knowledge is power, and with that comes an educated consciousness that forms the foundation of a well-informed democratic society.

However, with a commitment to any major, comes the implied obligation of increasingly expensive textbooks and other bookstore materials. NBC News reviewed the Bureau of Labor Statistics data that shows that since 1977, textbook prices have increased by 1,041 percent. This trend is three times greater than what natural market inflation normally would allow.

The College Board published its own findings that, on average, a student attending a four-year university will pay $1,250 a year for textbooks and materials alone.

This cost has been mitigated in recent years with the advent of online retailers like Amazon, renting services Chegg.com and Textbookrush and with clever Google Chrome extensions, such as Ocupp the Bookstore, which is an extension that will automatically display six to seven alternative book marketplaces for books based on a student’s university’s own bookstore website.

Regardless of how accessible responsible price comparison tools are, there is the fact that textbooks have now become an inordinate expense because students fall into the special category of captive consumers. This means that little marketplace competition exists because these textbooks are widely adopted by hundreds of universities and colleges, and one book is not the same as another.

Student consumers are then placed in the difficult position of being stuck between a rock and a hard place. Compounding this economic struggle is the uncertainty of whether or not this current trend will continue. All that is clear is that book prices will certainly not drop anytime soon.

With the implementation of a newly revamped security policy, the inescapable reality of increasing textbook prices has been on full display at the USM bookstore for the past several weeks. Official uniformed USM police guard the entrance of the store with an intimidating authority that seems excessive for a place that sells stuffed animals.

These police officers ask each and every student to leave their backpacks in a series of small, black cubbies before the student can go off to locate his/her $200 McGraw Hill biology book.

Catherine Johnson, bookstore manager here at the USM Bookstore, has been involved with the university in some capacity for nearly 16 years. She was the one who decided to have a security presence in the store in order to, as she said, “cut down on theft.” Johnson also stated that “most theft is done by non-students,” citing an alleged textlifting ring operating along the coast.

The bookstore does not necessarily have a way to track these “book lifting” crimes because, according to Johnson, “It is not an obvious thing, it is not something entered into the computer. Seeing people lift books, happens more often than I’d like.”

And as far as what kind of profit margin is seen on these high-priced commodities, Johnson said, “We have to make a profit to pay our staff, I’d rather not comment on the profit. But it is probably not as much as most people think.”

The bookstore is not an independent company in the respect that it does not have any affiliation with big-box stores like Borders or Barnes & Noble. However, in her closing statement, Johnson remarked, “We are directly an extension of the school, because we work for the school and for the students.”
Academic horizons expanding for interested students

USM trying to make it easier for refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers to get an education

Thomas Fitzgerald
Community Editor

On Jan. 28, a collection of students and prospective individuals who are interested in attending school at a college level gathered together on the seventh floor of the Glickman library to discuss their options with many different representatives. This event was organized with the association of the Martin Luther King Jr. day of service, and is aimed to assist the diverse changes that USM is seeking in order to further pursue this school as a metropolitan university.

There are some challenges that are more difficult to overcome when entering the United States from a foreign country and Reza Jalali, the coordinator of multicultural student affairs, outlined many of these challenges when asked.

“The greatest challenges seem to reflect the workshops we are offering: Language, cost of education and paying for it, and transfer of degrees from other countries.” Said Jalali, who was present throughout the workshop to answer student questions and emphasize the programs that are being offered. “Others include cultural adjustment and navigating the complex American educational system.” It is still crucial that although USM is also finding solutions to these problems as well as recognizing them, and Jalali clearly stated with confidence that USM will do their part to assist cultural adjustment for all students who are adapting to a new lifestyle among the community.

“The best ways include changing USM’s culture to be more welcoming to newcomers is by offering courses on issues they seem to be familiar with,” continued Jalali. “For example, classes in Arabic, World religion, international politics, immigration, hiring staff and faculty members, who resemble them, creating scholarships to attract them and retain them, creating a one-stop-shop where immigrants can get their degrees from abroad looked at, evaluated, did a thorough job at explaining the important steps toward applying for financial aid, what kind of financial aid is available, and how to reduce college costs overall while spending time at USM.”

From a national perspective, the amount of diversity in the college classroom is making great levels of progress. According to the National Center for Educational Statistics, students that are Hispanic have risen by more than twenty percent since statistics were reported in 2010. This growth has mainly been accountable of students who are attending public four year colleges or universities, such as USM.

The workshop also took time to examine the possibilities of education from a broader perspective: college for families who have young children, and are thinking in advance about how they can afford education once their child reaches the appropriate age. This program is called the NextGen College Investing Plan, and it outlines how parents can open an account with a small start-up fee, and collect financial assistance as years pass with grants that match the money being saved within the account. Whether you are an immigrant, a refugee, asylum seeker, or just an individual who is concerned about their ability to financially afford college and culturally adapt to the change in surroundings of a new area, this workshop was incredibly beneficial.
Local & State

USM sports teams play for good causes

Over the weekend, USM’s basketball and track teams played their “Think Pink” game in order to raise money for cancer research. The teams were encouraged to wear pink to the game, and all proceeds went to the American Cancer Society.

“Our Think Pink events are the athletic department’s opportunity to give back in a small way, and bring together athletes and the community,” said USM Athletics Director Katie Keating.

The annual events mean a great deal to our student-athletes, and they take great pride in being able to show their solidarity through raising funds and awareness,” Mercedith Bickford, associate director of athletics, said.

The USM women’s ice hockey team also played games for the United Services Warrior Foundation over the weekend, selling t-shirts and collecting donations to make care packages that would be sent to soldiers who are currently deployed overseas.

Gov. Paul LePage says Maine should have death penalty for drug dealers

Last Tuesday, Gov. Paul LePage came out saying that he was in support of reinstating the death penalty. This was said just one day after he made comments about bringing back the guillotine, but he clarified that it was only a joke.

LePage said that the death penalty should be used in cases of drug trafficking, home invaders who sexually assault the residents and people convicted of murder.

“I talk about people dying (from drug overdoses) every day, but no one asks us to want to bring back the guillotine,” LePage said.

LePage went on to say that he would be willing to support capital punishment as long as it was not used for drug trafficking.

“People in the town of Maine,” LePage said.

This statement comes just a few days after Gov. LePage said he wouldn’t be giving a State of the State address this year, opting to have his speech delivered by the state’s lawmakers instead.

In the state of Maine, the death penalty has been abolished since 1881.

A new report shows that veterans’ agencies are underfunded

Maine has an estimated 140,000 veterans, and in a new report released last Friday, the report recommended to expand Maine’s Bureau of Veterans Services to better serve those who need it.

The bureau last updated its policy in 2011, and a report is a result of a committee that met five times during this past summer and fall, and its focus was to show how the bureau could be enhanced, not to criticize the work that the bureau was doing.

“We have to increase coordination and communication,” said Rep. Jared Golden, a Marine Corps veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. “One of the biggest findings was that young veterans were feeling ignored.”

According to Sen. Ron Collins, one of the biggest problems is that young veterans have very little information on the types of services that are available to them.

National

Seventh Republican debate takes place just days before caucus votes

During the most recent Republican debate, which took place on Jan. 28 in Iowa, just days before republican caucus voters will cast their ballots, the candidates vied to be the nominee in their party. The debate featured all the remaining candidates except for front runner, Donald Trump, who decided not to participate in the debate.

During the debate Senator Marco Rubio of Florida said that Hillary Clinton wanted to put Barack Obama on the Supreme Court, noting that when she was asked about it, she claimed that she would consider it.

Senator Ted Cruz claimed during the debate that millions of people had lost their jobs and, in turn, had been forced into doing part-time work because of the Affordable Care Act was instated, and that now fewer people were working part-time jobs.

One Oregon protester killed, others arrested

Protests at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon have been going on for weeks, but last week the group suffered two losses, as one of their members, LaVoy Finicum, was shot and killed and their leader, Ammon Bundy, was arrested.

Bundy and others were pulled over by police last Tuesday. Everyone obeyed orders to surrender except for Finicum and Bundy’s brother, Ryan Bundy. At this time it is unclear who shot who first, but one thing is certain: Finicum died supporting his beliefs. “He was a wonderful man,” he said. “He was a student of the Constitution. He was interested in freedom, and I think he gave his life where he felt it was best.”

State Department holding 22 Clinton emails

Last Friday, the Department of State said that it would not release 22 emails that were sent by Hillary Clinton because they contain “top secret” information. The emails total 37 pages in length and were never marked as classified at the time they were sent, but are now being upgraded at the request of the United States Intelligence Community because they likely do contain sensitive information.

The news of the emails not being released comes just three days before the Iowa caucuses, and many believe that the news can only hurt Clinton and her chances of getting the necessary votes in Iowa to defeat opponents Bernie Sanders and Martin O’Malley.

International

NSA documents show that US and UK have been spying on military drones in Israel

A recent report put out by The Intercept shows that American and British spiers have been secretly monitoring military drones in Israel. Until now, Israel had refused to even say that they use drones in war, and now they are confirming they have a drone program completely secret.

 Classified documents displayed by Edward Snowden show actual images of Israeli drones in action. The NSA has refused to comment on the authenticity of the files, and the Israeli Embassy has yet to comment on the photos released. The documents also show that American spiers were able to tap into the communications of an Israeli fighter jet and to spy on an Iranian drone.

A town in Northern Italy welcomes its first baby in nearly 30 years

Ostana, a small town in northern Italy, has welcomed the first baby born there in 28 years. The baby, Pablo, is the youngest resident of Ostana, and when he was brought home from the hospital, doctors gathered to celebrate his birth. He is the town’s 85th resident.

“At first I couldn’t believe it was true,” Giacomo Lombardo, the town’s mayor, said. “The news almost shocked me. It’s a dream come true.”

Since about half of the town’s population is seasonal and doesn’t live there year round, Pablo, his parents, and his two sisters make up 10 percent of the town’s permanent residents. Ostana residents have said that they hoped that with the birth of Pablo, more families will decide to have babies there.

Chinese miners rescued after being stuck for 36 days

On Dec. 25, a mine in Eastern China, where 29 people were known to be working, collapsed, trapping the miners 700 feet underground. After 36 days, four miners who survived the collapse were pulled to safety last week.

For those 36 days, the miners were relying on food and water that was lowered down to them while rescue workers figured out a plan to get them out.

At least one miner was killed, 11 were able to escape the collapse, leaving 17 miners trapped underground. After infrared cameras were lowered into the mine, they found four survivors, while the other 13 are considered missing.

All info for this was taken from CNN, Bangor Daily News, Portland Press Herald and the BBC.

Have any news tips?
Email: editor@usmfreepress.org

Police Beat

Selections from the USM Department of Public Safety police log January 18 to January 24

01/18/2016
I Love You Mary Jane
Drug Complaint, Upper Class Hall. Report of the smell of Marijuana coming from Dorm room on second floor.

01/19/2016
Blood On The Ice
Medical Call, Ice Arena. Gorham Rescue called. Officer and Rescue responded, No transport.

01/20/2016
Kicking Concrete is a No No
Vandalism, Report of damage in the Parking Garage.

01/21/2016
Kicking Poo-Box Also No No

01/22/2016
Dissecting Frogs Ain’t For The Faint
Medical Emergency, Science building. Portland Medcu dispatched for female that passed out.

01/23/2016
“He May Have Touched My Bum”
Harassment complaint, Student reporting possible harassment, investigated by the officer.

01/24/2016
Taking Hits From the Bong

01/25/2016
Cypress Hill on Campus
Drug complaint, GS1 parking lot. Officer investigating report of people using marijuana.

01/26/2016
“What? Is this Not a Reasonable Place to Park?”
Motor Vehicle stop, Parking lot P8. Verbal warning issued for operating on sidewalk.

01/27/2016
Bogarting: “He Didn’t Puff-Puff-Pass”

01/28/2016
Leave the Funnelling Whiskey to the Seniors

Meth Lab in Anderson

Police Beats are edited for grammar and style.
Two heads are better than one: USM collaborates

Not pretty enough for Whole Foods: Wayside to the rescue

Food Programs use multiple methods to eliminate food waste, hunger and loneliness in Portland

Dora Thompson
Arts & Culture Editor

Last Thursday night in Portland, restaurants were abuzz as usual. Oysters were slurred by candlelight, steaks washed down with red wine, and baked stuffed lobsters sat proudly on well-garnished plates. Down in the Deering Community Church basement, amongst a cluster of foldable tables, a feast was also being served.

“Spaghetti with meat sauce, soup, salad. For dessert: blueberry cake,” The menu read, written up on a whiteboard. The night was chilly and guests filed in, stamping the snow off their boots.

“How’s your granddaughter, Carolyn?” someone in a hairnet and apron yells from inside the kitchen. A group of older women huddled around the tea and coffee station discuss the warm winter we’ve been having.

The meal was put on by Wayside Food Programs, an organization that works to provide food for those in need in the Portland area. They take several creative approaches to offer an alternative to the tradition soup kitchen model. Thursday’s dinner was one of their thirteen weekly community meals, which are scattered throughout the city. Wayside, which operates in a large building off of Walton Street, used to own the Preble Street soup kitchen.

“The soup kitchen was no longer a safe space to bring your children,” said Mary Zwolinski, Wayside’s Executive Director. “This is a way to decentralize that model.”

The community meals offer free meals to people all over the area, with no lines and more food. They also give children, senior citizens and women a friendlier space to congregate.

The community meal at the Deering Community Church was mostly elderly people, with an occasional grandkid running around the tables. Prayer requests were taken at the beginning of the meal, and several guests raised their hands with problems they’d like the group to pray for.

“It’s the same crowd every week,” observed Julie Harrison, the Community Meals manager. “So over time the guests make friendships, support each other, have conversations about things that are bothering them.”

Community is a big factor at the meals. People don’t just show up because they are hungry. Some are looking for a sense of belonging. As of 2013, 41% of Wayside’s Food Programs’ guests were seniors. Many of the guests were those who lived alone.

One guest who chose to not disclose her name, “for some of these people, this is the only human contact that they have all day.” And that can make the difference between a life and no life at all. “If some of the seniors don’t come to a few meals in a row, the volunteers know to check on them.

After the kitchen volunteers serve the meal, the basement comes across with talk. “It’s all really family oriented. The community is expanding everyday. In 2013, Wayside had provided over 26,000 free community meals. Still, many stereotypes are perpetuated about people who go to these free meals. Zwolinski assures that these beliefs are not true. She explained that some people who go and eat the free meals have a house and sometimes even a car.

“One doesn’t just want to spend the extra money that week,” she said. “A lot of them have kids. It’s important to ask yourself if you really know what’s going on in their lives. I think there’s a lot more...”

See Wayside on page 8

Nathan Baril / Multimedia Editor

Right: James Flahavens of USM Art Faculty and David Estey of UMWA, reluctantly collaborated on this piece for the Forging Affinities gallery left. Details of another art piece.

Not so typical jazz album / 10

Arts&Culture

February 1, 2016

Anora Morton
Free Press Staff

Many of us dread partner projects. The thought of unevenly splitting responsibilities, difficulty communicating and clashing ideas is enough to induce a slight panic in most and an end result just short of a disaster. This is far from the case at the USM UMVA: Forging Affinities gallery at the Gorham campus Art Gallery. In a well attended reception this past Thursday evening members of the Union of Maine Visual Artists (UMVA) and USM Art Faculty exhibited collaborative pieces, each a testament to the better outcome of working together on a group project.

A project founded by USM director of exhibitions and programs Carolyn Eyler and UMVA alumnum Nora Troyo, collaboration meant something different to each project. James Flahaven (USM Art Faculty) and David Estey (UMVA Member) were both apprehensive.

“I knew Estey’s work, so I contacted him and I asked him about doing this collaboration, and he said ‘You know, I really don’t like to collaborate’ and in that conversation I said ‘You know, I really don’t like to collaborate either’ and my internal dialogue said ‘This is the perfect guy to collaborate with.’” Flahaven recounted.

Their collaboration came into being with the swapping of unfinished work, each artist producing a finished piece from the others beginnings. On the far right, a solo piece belonging to Estey, and the far left a solo piece of Flahaven’s, and the four in the middle the product of their swap.

For Tracy Ginn (UMVA Member) and Richard Wilson (USM Art Faculty), collaboration came from existing work, and how they could create a collection that was complementary. “Humor, people, odd situations, both of us (are) sort of photographic right now” Ginn explained. Each artist chose six pieces of the others, creating a row of twelve pieces of situations that allow delightful interpretation.

David Schneider (USM Art Faculty) and Stephen Walsh (USM Art Alumnus 2010) exhibited a Surrealist Exquisite Corpse, a technique where two artists collaborate with only an agreed upon subject (a head in this case), five common meeting points and no viewing of the other half of the piece until it was hung up in the gallery.

“As I was working, the mechanism of this corpse allows anything to happen, so I had this freedom to do whatever I wanted.” Walsh commented.

Jan Piribeck (USM Art Faculty) and James Kelly (UMVA Member) worked with each other to create a cohesive companion collaboration out of existing work. This companionship is expressed with Kelly’s urban scene call, juxtaposed next to Piribeck’s scroll piece of the Blue Danube Waltz piano roll.

“The background was a of a strip map, in the Osher Map Library collection, of an actual survey of the Blue Danube river,” Piribeck explained.

The USM UMVA: Forging Affinities gallery will be at the Gorham campus Art Gallery until March 6th (Closed between February 15th and 19th for winter break) between 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, and 12pm and 4pm Friday through Sunday. The gallery is open to the public, with a suggested two dollar donation. So stop in and witness the true power of well matched collaboration, and take some inspiration with you for your next group project.

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volunteers at the wayside food program cook up a community meal.

Photo courtesy of waysidemaine.org

artsu@usmfreepress.org

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Rockier film reviews / 9
Not so typical jazz album / 10
judging that goes on, and a lot of misconceptions.”

But being hungry in Portland is certainly not caused by a food shortage. Wayside uses the concept of food rescue to retrieve the large amounts of food that would otherwise be thrown out by large corporations. Hannaford, Shaw’s and Whole Foods are among some of the top donors. Any food that doesn’t look aesthetically pleasing enough, or comes in a box with a slight dent in it will be donated to the Wayside Food Programs.

Most packaged food is labeled with expiration dates that are far earlier than when the foods actually expire. The majority that still edible long after their sell-by dates are shipped to the Wayside warehouse, where they will be inspected and sorted. From there, they are distributed to food pantries, or used to make their community dinners. Quality of food is one of their top priorities.

What they don’t use, Wayside Food Programs compacts or donates to local pig farmers. As a company, they produce zero waste. This fact would thrill Corporate Brothers. Hannaford, Shaws and Whole Foods are among some of the top donors. Any food that doesn’t look aesthetically pleasing enough, or comes in a box with a slight dent in it will be donated to the Wayside Food Programs.

“Forty percent of all food produced in the United States each year is wasted,” Pingree said. “The Food Recovery Act takes a comprehensive approach to reducing the amount of food that ends up in landfills and at the same time reducing the number of Americans who have a hard time putting food on the table.”

Wayside Food Programs offer many other services too. They provide mobile food banks, which deliver nonperishable food to Portland housing sites for people that might not have transportation. The bags are numbered, to help with the frequent language barrier between the truck drivers and the recipients. The packages provide enough food for the individual families for a week at a time.

“I know which ones like their milk,” laughed Peggy Drake, a company, they produce zero waste. This fact would thrill Corporate Brothers. Hannaford, Shaws and Whole Foods are among some of the top donors. Any food that doesn’t look aesthetically pleasing enough, or comes in a box with a slight dent in it will be donated to the Wayside Food Programs.

“In the summers, Wayside tends a community garden. The organization hosts meals especially for children, which for many of them is their last meal of the day. At their free dinners, Wayside sometimes also offers free blood pressure testing, nutrition classes and smoking prevention classes. Z wolinski said that each meal has a different community. At some meals, people sing karaoke,” she said.

Harrison mentioned one of her favorite meals at the Salvation Army for seniors citizens. The volunteers are mostly African American, trying to practice their English and gain connections. She explained that it was so rewarding to watch the volunteers befriend the Maine elderly, despite the language barrier. “These meals are kept up by extremely hard working volunteers,” said Harrison. Wayside has over 1,000 volunteers that cook meals, organize pantry items, tend community gardens and more. “They are like a team.”

This was definitely evident at this meal frequently. “It’s very rewarding,” she said.

Drake’s fondest memories are of a woman named Fran who still attends the meals. When she first met Fran she went to remove her place setting and Fran slapped her hand. Ever since then, Drake has known not to touch Fran’s plate until she was ready. Drake even jokingly put “caution” tape around her place setting.

“As the Thursday night dinner at the church winds down, people sip coffee, say their goodbyes and their see-you-next-weeks. A coat rack is filled with hand-me-down winter coats that people can use. There is a table full of bread and rolls down the hall the invites folks to “take what they need.”

“It’s a good place to come to if you’re feeling sorry for yourself,” said an anonymous guest. “It reminds you that someone else has had a worse day than you.”

And that’s more than you can get from a stuffed lobster.

Sundance Film Festival

Amanda Melanson
Free Press Staff

The Sundance Film Festival has been off to a great start this past week. The program runs from Jan. 21 to Jan. 31, 2016. This is the 31st year for the festival, after it was renamed when the Sundance Institute took it over in 1985. It grew into a large event over a ten-day-period, featuring International films as well as American films. The number of films and theaters that held screenings in subsequent years has steadily grown as well.

Previous winners include hit such as last year’s Me and Earl and the Dying Girl, Dope, and Slow West. In 2014, Whiplash was the big winner of the ten-day-long festival; the year before, it was Fruitvale Station and before that Beasts of the Southern Wild, directed by Benh Zeitlin. Another famous film - directed by Danny Boyle - to make Sundance history is Slumdog Millionaire. This year, it looks like The Birth of a Nation, a film that centers around slave rebellion, could become the next in a long line of Sundance successes. With the festival still in full swing, it might still be early to determine a clear winner to be added to the ranks.

Competition for Birth of a Nation includes: As You Are, Christine , Equity, The Free World, Goat, The Intervention, Joshy, Lovesong, Morris from America, Other People, Southside With You, Spa Night, Swiss Army Man, Tallulah, and White Girl, for the Drama Premieres Category.

This year there are well over 100 films presenting at the festival that make up the lineup of Narrative, Documentary, and Drama titles. With so many diverse titles, some have drummed up both ex- clusion, controversy, and divis- ion in the media. Swiss Army Man - starring Daniel Radcliffe, best known for his Harry Potter fame - had an en- tire theater walk out of the screen- ing for the fact that the movie took itself so lightly, with Radcliffe staring as a literal farting corpse.

The second controversial piece showing at Sundance this year was You Are, Christine a true events story about a reporter who committed suicide on television that has received a lot of criticism. Christine Chubbuck’s is a caution- ary tale of why it is important to understand and treat mental illness before it is too late in the film. Films like it call to attention why it is important not to overlook indie films.

A useful tool is to sit in a theater and enjoy mainstream cinema with its loud action scenes and theatrical love stories, indie films tend to be underappreciated because of their lack of draw to mainstream viewers. It becomes difficult to become a large name actor, director, or other film posi- tion when the audience with ac- cess to the film is so small. In a culture built upon sensationalism in the news and in films that are often a dramatic retelling of past or recent events, indie films become important when they tell the real and honest truth of a story to the viewer.

Lesser known filmmakers don’t stand a chance if their vision isn’t as exposed to the masses as they would like it to be. That is where so- cial media comes in, when view- ers spread the word at the click of a mouse or the tap of a touch screen. That is where creativity can flourish. Sundance has been the central hub for this creative mindset for many years and is of- ten the first festival any filmmaker might think of when it comes to what is next. Thirty-one years is a long time to build a solid reputation.

For the curious film lover or filmmaker who unfortunately could not make it to the festival this year, the Sundance Institute’s website gives more in-depth back- ground on films featured in the 2016 showing, along with a full synopsis. You can also read about the history of Sundance. Whether you are a film buff or like to stay in the know about festivals going on throughout the year, Sundance is an event worth attending.

A screenshot from Jim: the James Foley Story film, directed by Brian Oakes

Bottom: A screenshot from Christine, directed by Antonio Campos.

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Tallulah, Other People, Southside With You, Spa Night, Swiss Army Man, Tallyulah, and White Girl, for the Drama Premieres Category.

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Rocker reviews: Must see or wait until DVD?

John Rocker
Free Press Staff

13 Hours

13 Hours is a biopic of the events that occurred in Benghazi, Libya in September of 2012 and is directed by Michael Bay. For those that didn’t know what happened in Benghazi, a United States diplomatic compound and aconsort, at the time, CIA agents were attacked. The story focuses on the CIA contractors (all formerly involved in the Armed Forces) as they do what it takes to survive the horrible scenario they were in.

Considering what Michael Bay did with Pearl Harbor, in which he created a fake love triangle story and scattered the events around the love story as the main plotline, there was some skepticism if 13 Hours would have a more accurate portrayal. However, this film, unlike Pearl Harbor, does the job of portraying the events well and actually pays respect to those involved. This includes showing the true brutality of the situation. In the reality of the situation, in Benghazi, there were people that died, there were people that were injured and there was bloodshed and loss on both sides. This film doesn’t hold back on any of these aspects.

That being said, there are a lot of “Michael Bay-isms” such as some extreme low angles, American flags, and of course, explosions. Some things were tamer than others, like the explosions were used to show the story and that’s understandable. There is also a lot of shaky camera work. It’s not overdone, but it becomes more of a nuisance to the audience watching after a while. The performances were good, especially John Krasinski and James Badge Dale. They had the most screen time out of all the actors, so they were able to develop their characters the most in the cast. That being said, the character development was rather lackluster.

The movie shows that the characters have something to fight for to motivate them, such as their families back home, but that’s all that it is shown. Nothing is really elaborated on from there and it keeps the viewer distant from the character. This is only applying to what’s happening in the movie, not the actual scenario. A loss of life is tragic on its own, but in the context of the movie, with the characters not being developed, it becomes more of a nuisance to the audience.

The other thing that has to be mentioned is the pacing, which is a bit inconsistent. When the film is tense and the action sequences are happening, the film keeps itself at a nice pace and keeps the audience engaged. When the film tries to slow down and build character, that’s when it suffers, because the development is lackluster, the scenes feel like they bog down the movie. Sure, one can argue that it’s just breathing time for the viewers, but this movie is nearly two and a half hours.

Overall, 13 Hours is a good film, but it does have some flaws. This is definitely one of Michael Bay’s better films in recent years. The main point was to respect the story and those that were involved, and in that case it was a success. If you’re into war movies or have any interest in this film, then you’ll enjoy this film. Otherwise, it can wait. Recommendation: Wait Until DVD/Netflix.

Brooklyn

Brooklyn follows a young Irish-woman named Eilis Lacey ( Saoirse Ronan) as she makes the journey from Ireland to the United States in the 1950s. While adjusting to her new life in Brooklyn, Eilis meets a young Italian man named Tony (Emory Cohen), and they develop a close relationship. As this relationship blossoms, Eilis goes back to Ireland, and she realizes that she may have missed her old life in Ireland more than her new life in Brooklyn. This movie can simply be defined as a love story, but it certainly is an effective one. After all, this film did get nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture, and there are plenty of reasons why.

As mentioned, the story is well made and well written. Early on in the film, Eilis is stricken with homesickness, which is conveyed so well that you can feel the emotion that she’s feeling. Perhaps homesickness just a feeling that most people understand, but there are plenty of other emotions at play here that most people have experienced at some point in their lives, which allows the film to hit memorable emotional notes that makes the story so engaging. What further enhances the story is the fantastic performance of Saoirse Ronan, who makes Eilis’s sincerity feel believable. Really, all the characters feel genuine. Even if certain actors are only in the film for a few short scenes, they commit to their roles and that’s something that can be appreciated. The film also has some humorous moments, which is helpful by the writing. One thing that this film shows is how difficult adapting to a new lifestyle is. Living in Ireland and living in the United States in the 1950s were two different things, and the differences are shown well in this movie. One example is when Eilis and Tony plan on going to the beach and Eilis’s boarding house roommates suggest that she get sunglasses because if she doesn’t, it would look weird. That’s just one of the many examples.

The pacing for this film is also good. The runtime is under two hours, and each scene felt like it mattered to the story and weren’t plodding.

If there’s anything negative to say about this film—and there really isn’t much—it’s the lackluster direction. With how the camera shakes sometimes, it seems like the film was recorded on a handheld camera at points. This is more of a personal gripe than it is legitimate criticism, and it’s a very minor thing. This really didn’t ruin the experience of watching the film, but it is noticeable if you start to pay attention to it very carefully.

Overall, Brooklyn is a charming film with great performances and a good story. If you’re looking for a heartfelt film, then this is the film for you. Recommendation: Go see it this weekend.

Graduate Studies Open House

Monday, February 8
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
2nd Floor, Alumni Center, Portland
(Snow date: February 10)

Meet renowned faculty from USM’s master’s, doctoral and certificate programs, including Business, Education, Leadership, Fine Arts, Policy, Planning and Management – as well as Public Health, Social Work, Counseling, Biology, Nursing and Occupational Therapy and many others. Refreshments will be served.

Register at: usm.maine.edu/openhouse
Arts & Culture
Louis Armstrong, Miles Davis and H. Jon Benjamin: one of these men is unlike the others, mostly because this individual has never influenced generations of jazz musicians and hasn’t won the whole world over. The man in question is, Jon Benjamin, whose main claim to fame is that fans will come up to him during his everyday life and yell “DANGER ZONE” or something about “phrasing”. Jon Benjamin is a distinctively noticeable voice actor, known for lending his talents to the womanizing and perpetually drunk secret agent Archer on the FX show of the same name, as well as the 40-something fry cook and father of three on the show Bob’s Burgers.

So when someone says that Benjamin made a jazz album, and that none other than Sub Pop Records has agreed to release it, you tend to pay attention. This is the same Seattle-based record label that discovered Nirvana, The Shins, Modest Mouse, Fleet Foxes and others, the list goes on and on. Sub Pop is positioned firmly in the annals of indie rock history, so naturally you would assume that they knew what they were doing with this project that seemed more like a publicity stunt than artistic expression.

Jazz music as a whole seems very esoteric compared to Katy Perry and One Direction (RIP Zayn). At one time, jazz was the music of an entire cultural movement. Jazz was something that came from deep within the musician. Even if you know nothing about jazz music, you can still appreciate the talent and musical merit of the genre. This is not the case with Jon Benjamin’s Well, I should have…* (learned how to play piano).

The album, which clocks in at exactly thirty minutes, opens with a skit called “Deal With the Devil” where Benjamin calls the devil’s hotline in order to sell his soul and become a great jazz pianist. Kristen Schaal answers the phone and transfers Benjamin to the soul-selling division. Schaal is another Bob’s Burgers veteran, also known for her role in the TV series Portlandia. Aziz Ansari as the voice of the antagonistic Devil who tells Benjamin that, “I don’t just buy any soul.”

The best song on the album, is “I Can’t Play Piano, Pt. 3” where Benjamin engages in this hilarious call and response with a genuinely talented saxophone player. Over the single notes and key playing, you can hear Benjamin in the background yelling things like “you can play better than that!”

The whole album is reminiscent of what happens when a five year old plays their grandmother’s piano and thinks that they are as talented as Billy Joel. Except in this case, that child is just a forty-nine year old man from Worcester, Mass. Jon Benjamin, don’t quit your day job, you’re much funnier when you’re nowhere near an instrument.

What caught your eyes and ears this week? Email arts@usmfreepress.org
Gov. LePage is racist, uneducated and needs to leave office

Editorial Team

USM Free Press Team

Gov. LePage needs to be leave office - no questions about it. How can a man so discriminative and ignorant have even been elected? In fact, why was he even re-elected in 2014?

His political positions are absurd, his decision for pro-life (and taking advantage of Syrian refugees, his uneducated opinion on the use of solar and wind power, his now unimportant opinion on opposing LGTBQ marri-age) and so many other things. LePage is receiving national at-tention - and not in a good way. When a governor like LePage says everything that is on his mind, without filtering his thoughts first, those opinions reflect back on the community members of every city and small town in Maine. In fact, I would be surprised if you could find anyone who completely agrees with his statements who lives in the informed, open-minded state of Maine. His statements are not voiced in the open, but to the unsuspecting. These issues that he stereotypes and stigmatize so greatly deserve more attention and understanding than simply saying, “Guys with the name D-Money, Smoothie, Shifty; these types of guys, they come from Connecticut and New York, they come up here, they sell their heroin, they go back home. Incidentally, half the time they impregnate a young, white girl before they leave, which is a real sad thing because then we have another one we have to deal with down the road.”

If we keep Paul LePage in off-ice, our inaction symbolizes that we, as Mainer’s, are buying into his lies and discriminatory actions. The drug problems that have been repeatedly occurring in Portland, and around impregnating white women. There are many other statements LePage has made that make his constituents cringe, but his drug issue comments have rattled us heavily.

More disturbing is LePage’s most recent statement on drug dealers - in which he stated, “Everybody in Maine, we have constitutional carry. Load up your guns and get rid of drug dealers.”

Here stands a man who is supposed to represent our beautiful state of Maine, who is supposed to be leading us - but who is instead encouraging a sense of hatred. How can the only ways to solve a prob-lem, if LePage is not impeached, we will see incredible hatred and con-descension grow for our state - even if we don’t believe what he says to be true. We need a Maine leader who reflects the values of an intellec-tual, not a bigot.

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Visit our website at www.usmfreepress.org for a listing of available positions or email us at editor@usmfreepress.org with a copy of your resume and cover letter to apply directly.

The Free Press is a weekly student-run newspaper printed in part with the Student Activity Fee. One copy of The Free Press is available free of charge. Up to 10 additional copies are available for $.25 each with at least 50 cents at the midst student union, The Free Press, 92 Bedford St., Portland, Maine.
Students are encouraged to look into study abroad programs.

Janina Albright
Academic Advisor

In this week’s Advising Advice column we delve into some common scenarios involving academic placement and the study abroad program.

Scenario One: Dora is a first year student who has not declared a major. She is interested in studying abroad but has no idea where to start. She only does that later on in college, so she hasn’t brought it up with her Advisor. She thinks she’ll just wait until she’s declared a major and a little further in to start her research on it. What would the advisors say about this?

Blaise: I want my advisees to tell me their whole plan, right from the start. Even if it’s tentative, or they think it’s a silly or a long way in the future, it is still important for me to know so I can start guiding them. I want to see what their interests are and what their major is. Study abroad also requires a fair amount of preparation, so bringing these ideas up sooner than later can help us plan together.

Laura: I agree -- discussing study abroad early on is crucial! It allows you to plan ahead both academically and financially.

For some students, knowing in advance that they will spend a semester abroad helps steer the course choices they make now. I often recommend that students wait to take Core courses, such as those offered in history, math, English or language. That way you’ll have greater flexibility in choosing your study abroad program and be able to acquire the necessary knowledge to satisfy this requirement, such as British Heroes: From King Arthur to Sherlock Holmes.

Scenario Two: Daniel’s friends have told him about their study-abroad experiences. The programs ranged from one to two semesters abroad, and he wants to know how these programs stand on campus.

Blaise: Lots of people feel like study abroad is a better way to improve your financial or academic skills. I encourage students to check-in with their Academic Advisor before abroad advice runs thin. It is an important skill to learn about and getting informed is a good place to start.

Want to know more? Go to: https://usm.maine.edu/interna
tional/study-abroad/

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USMFreePress

Environmental Issues: Give storm water some credit

Heather Leonas
Sustainability and ME

The state of Maine is full of promise in the world of environmental sustainability. We take pride in our loving waterways, renewable energies, and our pristine lands. Here, people are genuinely interested in doing things in a manner that is kinder to our environment.

However, in our wildest dreams we did not make this person feel like their voice was important. They had brought to my attention something that everyone is probably thinking — we need to better and we need to have more subject matter on those who feel marginalized.

I will say this: We’re working to recruit more students to copy edit. We are trying to get a variety of interesting and unique perspectives to join our team. We’re working harder than ever to be the campus newspaper that everyone respects and relies on for information — but we are most certainly not writing garbage.

We cover controversial changes on campus, student accomplishments and local art and theatre events. We write about USM campus events and highlight the importance of relevant topics happening throughout our campus and the state.

Our copy editors, staff, my friends, are motivated to learn and grow that comments like these only make us stronger. So I would encourage you to submit your comments to us through editor@usmfree press.org. Good or bad. Critical feedback is helpful to us, and allows us to be constructive or not, or will only push our staff further in our at tempt to provide journalism that is thorough and interesting.

In the end, all we can do is accept these statements and make changes where needed — but it cannot happen without the voices of USM.

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Sudoku

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

Cryptogram

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

LCZ RCZYW EBSOEQK JMSJ ZKZSBK XFSITHT ICZYW FCQEOOY VK TCRQ SH JXKKCSYXKH.

And here is your hint:

H = S

Weekly Horoscope

Aries
March 21-April 19
You home in on areas needing improvement. Do keep the critical eye on things or tasks rather than on people.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
You’re more sensitive to “vibes” at work today and could pick up real (and imagined) feelings from others. Use your perceptions wisely.

Gemini
May 21-June 20
Focusing only on performance leads to anxiety and feeling inadequate. Relax with the one you love, and good times are likely.

Cancer
June 21-July 22
Your family can be more detached about what’s going on now and can take steps to improve a tense situation. Be open to change.

Leo
July 23-August 22
Both work and home demand attention today. You find yourself giving support and assistance to other people’s ideas.

Virgo
August 23-September 22
Enduring excitement is a possibility, but a critical eye could set up roadblocks. Focus on what you love in a partner for best results.

Libra
September 23-October 22
Today you are more aware of your strength, determination, and willpower. A bit of self-indulgence is OK.

Scorpio
October 23-November 21
Give yourself some quiet time to contemplate. A pet can bring great comfort and help you regroup.

Sagittarius
November 22-December 21
Your skills at diplomacy or peacemaking may be used today. A feeling for ease and harmony contributes to your effectiveness.

Capricorn
December 22-January 19
A loved one demonstrates caring and commitment. Your bonds of attachment are strengthened.

Aquarius
January 20-February 18
Soltude refreshes you. Private sharing will be more rewarding than public interactions or loud entertainment.

Pisces
February 19-March 20
Pleasure, beauty and the desire for a smooth flow in relationships are highlighted. You can’t avoid all conflict.

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As you walked farther into the dining hall, Center dining hall for a study abroad fair. occasional Tuesday availability or make Portland campus, but students on the Gor-Phila originally from Japan, was an exchange student herself when she was in college and cited her experience as a way to broaden horizons, builds resumes, enrich cultural experiences. 

If she could advise a student who is thinking about studying abroad, she would say to “take advantage of this opportunity the university provides.” There are unlimited resources in the international program’s office and USM currently has exchange programs with universities in five countries including South Korea, Netherlands, Japan and Canada. 

Students who participate in these programs will pay USM’s in-state tuition even if they are an out-of-state student. This allows students to utilize not only financial aid, but the scholarships they have received as well. Financial aid is always a resource for students who are eligible.

In the Presidential Dining Hall on Tuesday night was Dilara Isik, a Senior from the Netherlands. The way people speak is “more direct” and although people are incredibly polite, those who visit the Netherlands, or any foreign country, should be prepared for the differences in speech, behavior and mannerisms.

It is common for students to experience culture shock while abroad, but USM and providers of study abroad programs have a team of people who help with pre-depar- ture and many have residential staff on location for emergencies and concerns. A representative for CAPA the global education network specializes in study abroad programs in large, was present at the event, and described that urban environments like Sydney, London, Shanghai and Buenos Aires, ensures that studying abroad helps students “understand who they are as a person in a global world.”

Many representatives of study abroad at each table on Tuesday night had studied abroad themselves when they were in college and cited their experience as a way to enrich cultural experiences.

Isik pointed out that there are some distinct cultural differences compared to the Netherlands. The way people speak is more “direct” and although people are incredibly polite, those who visit the Netherlands, or any foreign country, should be prepared for the differences in speech, behavior and mannerisms.

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USM united in response to Gordon discrimination

By: Nick Beauchesne
Sports Editor

Last year was the first in decades that the University of Southern Maine did not face Gordon College in some form of athletic competition. This year and for years to come will be the same, so long as Gordon maintains its discriminatory stance concerning individuals without federal funds being permitted to discriminate against current and prospective employees based on their sexual orientation. In other words, the college sought permission to discriminate against LGBTQT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning) community members, either on or off campus.

In the summer of 2014, Gordon College president Michael Lindsay was one of fourteen that signed a letter, addressed to the White House, seeking exemption on religious grounds concerning an Executive Order that banned federal employees (universities included) from discriminating against current and prospective employees based on their sexual orientation. Since then, Gordon College’s position has remained the same. President Lindsay has since spoken out about initiatives at his college to prevent harassment of LGBTQT students and faculty, yet the institution maintains its stance prohibiting “homosexual practice” and still seeks the exemption.

While Gordon’s leadership has gone unchanged since the summer of 2014, there was some degree of uncertainty concerning USM’s position, with Flanagan being replaced by President Glenn Cummings with its findings. USM will no longer compete in any athletic events with Gordon College (pictured), a private, evangelical institution in Wilham, Massachusetts.

In a letter addressed to Gordon College President Lindsay, and later shared to the USM student-body and faculty, Cummings articulated the findings of the task force, as well as the official position of USM:

“The (the task force’s) strong recommendation is that we continue the decision of last year to suspend our participation with Gordon College in regular season sporting events,” Cummings said in the letter. This decision, now made, will not be one that is readdressed on a year to year basis, though it has been for the past two years since Lindsay first signed the letter to President Obama requesting the religious exemption. When asked about whether USM’s decision is one that will continue beyond this school year, Cummings was unequivocal:

“Our position will remain intact and hold for so long as Gordon College maintains its position in terms of discrimination against any minority groups on its campus.”

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Sports

Upcoming

Women’s Indoor Track and Field: State of Maine Championship
@ Bates College
Starts: 6:00 p.m.

Women’s Ice Hockey
@ Plymouth State
Starts: 6:00 p.m.

February 6

Men’s Basketball
@ Keene State
Starts: 1:00 p.m.

Men’s Basketball
@ Keene State
Starts: 3:00 p.m

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

Nouchanthavong buzzer-beater secures third straight win

The USM men’s basketball team defeated Plymouth State Wednesday night 75-73, in a contest that saw senior Jose Nouchanthavong (Westbrook) score 31 points, including a pull-up jumper as the clock expired. With the win, the Huskies improve to 5 and 3 in conference play. USM will host Colby College on Tuesday night.

Gibeault sets PR for second time in seven days

Junior Molly Gibeault (Brooklyn, Connecticut/Woodstock Academy) vaulted 11 feet 9 3/4 inches (3.60 meters) Friday night to set a new personal best for the second time in the past week. Her vault was good for ninth place out of 36 competitors at the Boston University John Thomas Terrier Classic.

USM “Think Pink” event held Saturday, Jan. 30

USM hosted its annual event this past Saturday, collecting donations and raising awareness for cancer research. The men and women indoor track and field teams, as well as both basketball teams, wore pink during their home competitions. All proceeds from the events went to the American Cancer Society.
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